WORKING GROUP 3

PRELIMINARY REPORT – M12

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Introduction

In the second year of the COST Action Network, AlertHub's Working Group 3 (WG3) has moved from the conceptual design and partnership-building that characterized Year One toward the practical development and implementation of the AlertHub Knowledge Platform. During Year One, WG3 established the principle that the platform should add value to, rather than duplicate, existing European resources, and developed cooperation with the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network (UCPKN). By September 2025, the conceptual design of the platform had been finalized and initial steps had been taken toward linking AlertHub with the UCPKN Knowledge Library.

In Year Two, the main priorities have therefore been to develop and launch the technical platform, establish a practical workflow for populating it with AlertHub resources, develop the country profiles that will provide important comparative content, coordinate contributions from the other AlertHub Working Groups, and broaden cooperation with relevant European and international knowledge networks.

Development of the AlertHub Knowledge Platform

A major achievement during Year Two has been the development of the AlertHub website from the prototype demonstrated at the WG3 workshop in Oulu in August 2025 into a functioning web platform. By June 2026, the basic concept for the structure and format of the Knowledge Platform had been completed and the AlertHub website that will host it had been designed and launched.

The platform is intended to provide an open-access resource on disaster communication and warning systems across Europe for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers. An important target audience consists of European emergency responders and emergency response planners, particularly civil servants working in public agencies. The aim is therefore not simply to archive academic research, but to make relevant knowledge accessible to people involved in designing, managing, and evaluating emergency warning systems.

The collaboration with the UCP Knowledge Network developed during Year One was formally announced during Year Two. An important element of this cooperation is the use of the UCPKN Knowledge Library as the document archive underpinning the AlertHub Knowledge Platform. A dedicated resource-type tag, "Emergency alert," was established to make it possible to identify materials of particular relevance to AlertHub. Relevant resources stored in the Knowledge Library can then be selected and showcased through the AlertHub website alongside outputs produced by the Action.

During Year Two, WG3 also developed a clearer workflow for populating the platform. The process consists of three main stages. First, AlertHub members contribute relevant resources to the UCPKN Knowledge Library. Second, WGs 1 and 2 help identify and organize resources and data that are particularly relevant to the Knowledge Platform. Third, WG3 presents selected materials on the AlertHub website, linking back to the resources archived in the UCPKN Knowledge Library, with WG4 contributing to website design and communication

where appropriate. This division of tasks connects the Knowledge Platform directly to the work of all four Working Groups and makes the platform a shared Action output rather than a stand-alone WG3 activity.

A comprehensive *AlertHub Django Admin Dashboard: User Manual for Data Management* was completed in July 2026. The administrative system allows different kinds of AlertHub material to be managed through the same platform, including blogs, case studies, events, Working Group information, newsletters, grant calls, member information, and downloadable resources. It also allows structured content combining text, images, lists, headings, highlighted information, and links. The platform can consequently develop as a living interface between the research and networking activities of AlertHub and its external audiences.

Meetings

Face-to-face meetings have played an important role in moving WG3 from platform design to implementation during Year Two. Following the WG3 workshop held in Oulu in August 2025, three meetings in particular helped develop the practical arrangements for populating the Knowledge Platform and coordinating WG3 activities with the other Working Groups.

On 12 January 2026, a workshop for Working Group leaders was held at Hochschule Darmstadt – University of Applied Sciences in Germany. The meeting focused on establishing a practical pipeline for contributing AlertHub materials to the UCPKN Knowledge Library. The original plan was to train AlertHub members who could act as "junior librarians," taking responsibility for uploading appropriate AlertHub content to the Knowledge Library. The workshop also provided an opportunity to discuss how the different Working Groups could contribute materials and how these could subsequently be selected for presentation through the AlertHub Knowledge Platform.

This work continued at the AlertHub 4th Main Assembly in Murcia, Spain, on 19–20 February 2026. The meeting provided another opportunity to coordinate across Working Groups, identify suitable content, and clarify workflows for contributing resources. By this stage, WG3's work was increasingly concerned not simply with the technical construction of the platform but with the question of how research findings and other Action outputs could be transformed into useful and accessible knowledge resources.

The AlertHub meeting at the University of Beira Interior in Covilhã, Portugal, on 17–19 June 2026 marked a further stage in this process. The programme combined Working Group activities with Management Committee discussions and keynote presentations on wildfire and smoke communication and on social sensing in crisis and emergency communication. By the Covilhã meeting, WG3 could report that its first major task—establishing the structure and format of the platform—had been completed and that the AlertHub website had been launched. Attention could therefore shift toward the two remaining substantive tasks: comparing and clustering data provided by WGs 1 and 2, and identifying best practices in collaboration with WG4. The meeting helped clarify that the success of the next stage depends on close cooperation across the Action. WG3 provides the platform and curatorial

structure, but its substantive value will depend on the research, data, case material, and other outputs generated by the wider AlertHub network.

Meetings during Year Two have helped transform WG3 from a group primarily concerned with designing the Knowledge Platform into a coordinating mechanism for turning AlertHub research and networking activities into accessible knowledge products.

Developing the Country Profiles

An important activity during the reporting period has been the development of a common format for country profiles of European emergency warning systems. The profiles are intended to provide structured information that can be compared across countries and incorporated into the Knowledge Platform. AlertHub aims to gather information about warning systems and warning communication procedures and practices in approximately 30 European countries, while also examining common challenges in warning communication and ways of addressing them.

In the first half of 2026, WG3 began working with WG1 on plans for an interactive map of Europe based on information contained in the Country Profiles. The map is intended to allow users to explore basic information about warning systems in different European countries directly through the AlertHub website. When completed, the Country Profiles will also be formatted as AlertHub outputs and uploaded to the UCPKN Knowledge Library, providing an important body of comparative material for the Knowledge Platform.

Developing a common profile has required discussion about how information from different national contexts can be presented in a sufficiently standardized form to enable comparison while retaining the distinctions necessary to understand individual warning systems. Several versions of the profile template were developed. Following a dedicated meeting in July 2026, Roberta Raducu and Helene Liisi Keis were tasked with producing a new draft combining the strengths of the different versions. A follow-up meeting was held in September to discuss and further refine the consolidated format.
The country-profile exercise is particularly important because it connects AlertHub's networking activities with a concrete comparative output. Once populated, the profiles and interactive map will provide researchers, emergency-management professionals, public authorities, and other users with an accessible way of examining similarities and differences between warning systems and communication practices across Europe. They will also provide an empirical basis for WG3's task of comparing and clustering information and, ultimately, for identifying practices and approaches that may be useful across national contexts.

Engagement with UNDRR and PreventionWeb

A significant development in Year Two was the establishment of contact with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). In July 2026, UNDRR contacted AlertHub after learning about the plans for the Knowledge Platform and expressed an interest in the Action's work and in the knowledge products being developed on effective warning

communication. This resulted in a meeting with representatives responsible for UNDRR's PreventionWeb.

The meeting opened several possible avenues for future cooperation. PreventionWeb offered to help make AlertHub better known among its audiences in academia and emergency management, for example by disseminating information about AlertHub webinars and publishing material about the network's research. AlertHub was also encouraged to participate in the next UNDRR regional platform in Bucharest. Other possibilities discussed included drawing on expertise within the AlertHub network to review PreventionWeb content and providing AlertHub researchers with API access to PreventionWeb for possible analyses of material published on the platform.

The dialogue with UNDRR is particularly relevant to WG3 because PreventionWeb is an established international knowledge platform for disaster risk reduction. It therefore complements the cooperation developed with UCPKN and creates opportunities to connect AlertHub with a wider international community. There may also be potential synergies between material uploaded to the UCPKN Knowledge Library, resources showcased on the AlertHub Knowledge Platform, and knowledge disseminated through PreventionWeb. These possibilities will be explored further during the next reporting period.

Conclusion

By September 2026, WG3 has made substantial progress in turning the Knowledge Platform conceived during the first year into an operational resource. The second year has been characterized by four closely connected developments: the design and launch of the AlertHub website and its administrative architecture; the establishment of a practical workflow linking AlertHub contributions to the UCPKN Knowledge Library; the development of Country Profiles and plans for an interactive European map; and the extension of external networking from the existing cooperation with UCPKN to dialogue with UNDRR and PreventionWeb.

The work completed during Year Two also makes clearer what remains to be done. With the basic structure and format of the platform now established, WG3 can concentrate increasingly on content. Priorities are now to finalize and populate the Country Profiles, develop the interactive map, compare and cluster material generated by WGs 1 and 2, work with WG4 to identify and present best practices, and continue encouraging AlertHub members to contribute suitable resources to the UCPKN Knowledge Library.

A continuing concern is the long-term sustainability of the Knowledge Platform beyond the funding period of AlertHub. The strategy developed over the first two years addresses this challenge by combining an AlertHub-specific interface with cooperation with established European and international knowledge infrastructures. Rather than creating an isolated repository, WG3 is developing a platform that connects AlertHub research with wider communities of researchers, practitioners, policymakers, civil protection authorities, and emergency-management professionals. The progress made during Year Two provides a strong foundation for transforming the growing body of knowledge produced by the Action into an accessible and lasting European resource.