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cost EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

AlertHub: Warning Communication Knowledge Network

ALERT HUB Warning Communication Knowledge Network

COST Action 23126 (2024-2028)

AlertHub aims to establish an European interdisciplinary network to facilitate **international collaboration and knowledge transfer among scholars and practitioners** whose work involves **warning communication and disaster management**. This EU-funded "COST Action" uses a **risk and crisis communication lense** to **advance knowledge, promote cooperation, and contribute to reducing risks** and harm posed to the public by climate change-related disasters, thus enhancing the overall effectiveness of disaster response efforts and promoting cross-border cooperation.

WHY IT MATTERS

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT WARNINGS, AND WHERE THE GAPS ARE

5 elements

What makes a warning work. Research shows effective warnings state the hazard, the location, what to do, the timing and who is issuing them.

Uneven coverage

Infrastructure still differs. In 2022 several European countries had no multi-hazard warning system, and mobile alerting such as cell broadcast was far more common in the West than in the

A missing lens

Communication is the next step. European projects have advanced disaster management technology and risk governance; a risk and crisis communication view of warnings is still largely missing.

WHAT WE WILL DELIVER

By 2028, AlertHub will turn scattered national experience into shared European knowledge through three concrete outcomes:

Open-access knowledge platform

A free online resource mapping each country's warning systems, decision procedures, legal and political frameworks, and the challenges of reaching people.

10 features across procedural, communicative, technological, legal, sociotechnical and political dimensions.

Best practices & governance recommendations

Guidelines for governments, community leaders and media to reach all publics, including older people and migrant communities.

At least 3 best practices per disaster type: floods, heat waves, wildfires and more.

New formats for knowledge exchange

Annual stakeholder conferences, physical and hybrid workshops, and consultations in every member country.

Bridging research and practice with civil protection agencies, broadcasters and European networks.

4 QUESTIONS, 4 WORKING GROUPS

WG1: MAP

RQ1: What can a pan-European analysis of existing knowledge teach us?

Collect · curate and compare data and research across Europe.

EVIDENCE + BEST ACTIONS

WG2: DIAGNOSE

RQ2: Which sociotechnical and communicative challenges stand in the way?

Identify · categorise and cluster · trace roots and patterns

CHALLENGES + WAYS FORWARD

OPEN-ACCESS KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM

WG3: BUILD

RQ3: Which guidelines and best practices work for climate-related disasters?

Platform concept · compare and cluster data · best practices

NETWORKING + WORKSHOPS

WG4: SHARE

RQ4: How do we get insights to the people who need them?

Communication · dissemination · networking events · expert consultation

ACTION PLAN 2024-2028: A STORY IN FOUR CHAPTERS

Like a warning signal growing stronger, each year adds a layer: first we connect, then we listen to the evidence, then we build, and finally we make sure the knowledge reaches the people who need it.

CONNECT

"Who works on warnings across Europe, and what do we already know?

- M1 Kick-off of a network from 15 countries
- M7 Website and channels live
- M9 Aims and plan shared publicly
- M10 First look at the main warning challenges
- M12 Research paper on warning communication in European countries

LISTEN

"What does the evidence say, and what makes warnings hard to get right?"

- M17 Meta-analysis of European studies on warning communication
- M17 Report on implementation challenges
- M22 Research paper on these challenges
- M24 Whitepaper on using research in practice; infographic of clustered challenges

BUILD

"What works, and how do we organise it so everyone can use it?"

- M33 Challenges clustered into patterns; whitepaper
- M34 Concept for the open-access knowledge platform
- M36 Country data compared and clustered
- M36 Research paper on best practices in warning systems

SHARE

"How do we make sure this knowledge reaches those who issue and receive warnings?"

- M37-39 Best actions and best practices: report and whitepaper
- M40 Communication campaign for stakeholders
- M42 Roots of the challenges explained
- M44 Knowledge platform built and tested
- M48 Final report

Website

Social media

Join us via COST Action

Contact alerthub@comunicare.ro

- **Florian Meissner** (Action Chair) florian.meissner@h-da.de
- **Corina Buzoianu** (Action Vice-Chair) corina.buzoianu@comunicare.ro