COST Action 23126

WG4 Report

DisseminatingBestPractices in Disaster Management

September 2025



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EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

WG4 Activities Overview and Bucharest Meeting

This document provides an overview of the key preparations for the upcoming meeting in Bucharest. It includes a review of the activities carried out during the first year of Alert Hub, comparing them with the original plan to identify completed and pending actions.

It also addresses the planning of prospective activities for WG4 in the second year of the COST Action and the preparation of the WG4 annual report, which must be submitted by the end of September.

Finally, it highlights the need to define specific contributions and activities to be addressed during the Bucharest meeting.







WG4 Leadership and Membership

Leaders

Renata Matkevičienė(Vilnius University, Lithuania)

renata.matkeviciene@kf.vu.lt

Bianca Persici Toniolo(University of Beira Interior, Portugal).

bianca.toniolo@ubi.pt

Diverse Team

Our group consists of **63 members** from **25 countries**.



Core Objectives

1 **Identify Best Practices**

Pinpoint and document effective disaster management strategies.

2 **Increase Visibility**

Enhance the awareness and understanding of these practices.

3 **Knowledge Exchange**

Facilitatethesharingofexpertiseand insights.

Key tasks

1

Communication Campaign

Designastrategyforsharingknowledgeof best practices.

2

Networking Events

Organiseworkshopsforknowledge transfer.

Deliverables

1. **M9 (May 2025)**
   Infographicpresentingaimsand action plan.

2. **M40**
   Designcommunication campaign, research paper.

3. **M7 (March 2025), M24, M44** 
   Develop communication materials (website, outlets).

4. **M44**
   Reports on networking events and workshops.

5. **M12 (September 2025), M24, M36**
   Preliminary reports.

6. **M48**
   Final report.

Ideas

Discussed atthe meeting in Brussels (September 2024)

Member Introductions

Prepare short introductions in podcast/interview format.

Social Profiles

CurateLinkedInprofiles to increase visibility.

TheInstagramaccountwasalsomanagedundertheresponsibility of the Science Communication Coordinator.

Stakeholder Lists

Eachmembertoliststakeholders, media and events to connect with.

Members who expressed interest in the interviews were invited to list stakeholders. We could now consider extending this invitation to all members.

Internal Communication

Utilise Microsoft Teams for communication.

AllmemberswereinvitedtojoinMSTeams,andweare now sending a reminder for them to accept the invitation.

Ideas

Discussed at the meeting in Cologne (February 2025)

Newsletter

Delivered to AlertHubmembers.



Interviews with stakeholders

Questionnaire under validation by the

Ethics Committee.



Subg ro ups

Organize WG4 into subgroups to improve Coordination and streamline activities.

Research

Develop a research on disinformation on disaster alert communication.

Round table

Discussion with practitionerson the disaster communication management

Newsletter process

We started working on the newsletter right after the Cologne meeting, with the intention of releasing the first issue in March. The initial version of the newsletter was developed in Spring 2025



CA23126 – ALERTHUB: WARNING COMMUNICATION KNOWLEDGE NETWORK (ALERTHUB)

March 2025 ISSUE #1

ALERT HUB
Warning Communication Knowledge Network

Newsletter

Welcome to the AlertHub Newsletter!

We are delighted to introduce you to AlertHub, an EU-funded research network under the COST Action programme, dedicated to strengthening risk and crisis communication to enhance societal resilience against disasters. As societies worldwide face risks and crises of increasing scale—many of which are driven by climate change—the importance of effective warning communication has never been greater. Timely and well-communicated warnings can save lives and reduce harm, enabling individuals, communities, and organizations to take appropriate protective actions.

Why AlertHub?
Recognizing the urgent need for improved warning systems and communication strategies, AlertHub fosters cross-border exchange and collaboration among researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and other key stakeholders across Europe and beyond.

Our mission is to address the challenges and needs experienced in practice, bridging the gap between research and real-world application.

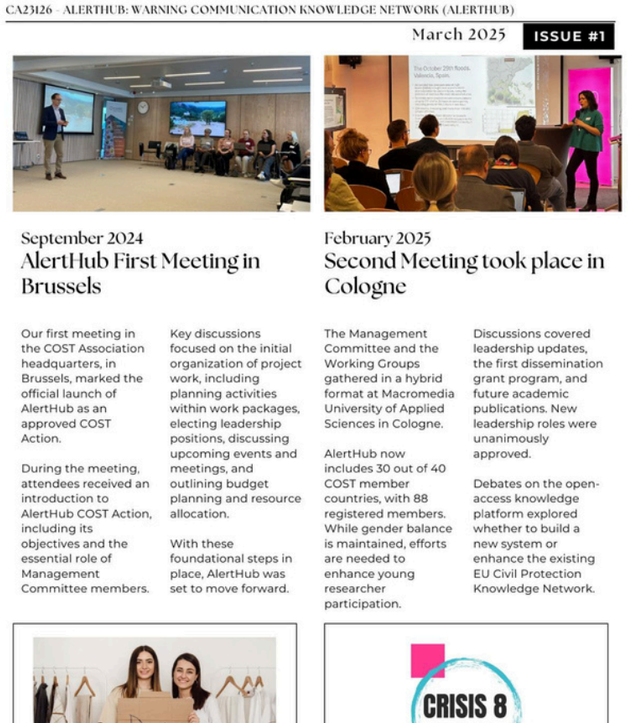
How We Work
Within the AlertHub project, activities are structured into four dedicated working groups, each designed to enhance cooperation and connect research with practice in climate change-related disaster warning systems across Europe. While Working Groups 1, 2 and 3 focus on a main topic, Working Group 4 is cross-cutting and uses the outcomes of all the other working groups to ensure proper dissemination of the COST Action.

About This Newsletter
With this first edition of the AlertHub Newsletter, we invite you to stay informed, engage, and collaborate with us. We look forward to working together and sharing insights in the coming editions!

In this Edition:

Newsletter Welcome
Leaders of the Action
What's new in WGs?
Meetings Summarized
Next Events

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CA23126 – ALERTHUB: WARNING COMMUNICATION KNOWLEDGE NETWORK (ALERTHUB)

March 2025 ISSUE #1

September 2024
AlertHub First Meeting in Brussels

Our first meeting in the COST Association headquarters, in Brussels, marked the official launch of AlertHub as an approved COST Action.

During the meeting, attendees received an introduction to AlertHub COST Action, including its objectives and the essential role of Management Committee members.

Key discussions focused on the initial organization of project work, including planning activities within work packages, electing leadership positions, discussing upcoming events and meetings, and outlining budget planning and resource allocation.

With these foundational steps in place, AlertHub was set to move forward.

February 2025
Second Meeting took place in Cologne

The Management Committee and the Working Groups gathered in a hybrid format at Macromedia University of Applied Sciences in Cologne.

AlertHub now includes 30 out of 40 COST member countries, with 88 registered members. While gender balance is maintained, efforts are needed to enhance young researcher participation.

Discussions covered leadership updates, the first dissemination grant program, and future academic publications. New leadership roles were unanimously approved.

Debates on the open-access knowledge platform explored whether to build a new system or enhance the existing EU Civil Protection Knowledge Network.

Next Events in Action

- Next management meeting...

CRISIS 8
ECREA Risk and Crisis Communication Section
2025

Other Events

- The next meeting of the ECREA Risk and Crisis Communication Section will take place in Bucharest, Romania, from September 15 to September 17, 2025! + Info

Newsletter process

A second version of the newsletter, on a new template, based on the brand identity kit was developed and launched in September 2025.



Newsletter Nº. 1 2025, September

Past activities

September 17, 2024 – First meeting in Brussels
Our first in-person gathering took place at the COST Association headquarters in Brussels, officially launching AlertHub. The meeting introduced the project's objectives and the vital role of Management Committee (MC) members. Key outcomes included initial planning of activities, election of leadership positions, and early discussions on resource allocation and events.

February 25-26, 2025 – Committee meeting in Cologne
The MC and Working Groups (WG) convened in a hybrid format at Macromedia University of Applied Sciences in Cologne. At this point, AlertHub had grown to include 88 registered members from 30 of the 40 COST countries. Leadership updates, the launch of the first dissemination grant, and plans for future academic outputs were discussed. The group also explored options for developing an open-access knowledge platform aligned with EU initiatives.

June 23, 2025 – Welcome to our Global Advisory Board
At the end of June, we proudly introduced the members of our Global Advisory Board (GAB) — a diverse and high-level group of experts in risk and crisis communication, as well as disaster preparedness, from around the world.
Welcome to Jesús Arroyave, Aizhana Dzhumalieva, Joel Iverson, Ngoc-Son Le, Angella Napakol, Juan-Andrés Rincón González, Matt Seeger, Deanna Sellnow, Tim Sellnow, Farrukh Shahzad, and Steven Venette.

June 25, 2025 – #AlertConversations with Dr. Matthew Seeger, professor at Wayne State University
We officially launched the #AlertConversations series on June 25 with an insightful session on communicating flood warnings . The session explored, amongst others, theoretical models behind warning systems and public understanding and perception of risk in diverse contexts.

Network updates

New Communication Channel: WhatsApp Community
To improve and simplify our internal communication, we've launched an AlertHub WhatsApp Community. This platform will help us stay connected and share updates more efficiently.
Please click the appropriate link below to join your group:

- General Community – open to all members
  Once inside, you can also join specific WGs of interest.
- MC Members – for Management Committee members only
- Core Group – for Core Group members only

Grants
This year, we have launched three calls for applications for grants to support small projects or activities connected to your WG or the broader AlertHub. For updates on future grant opportunities, be sure to check the COST Action website regularly — and don't miss upcoming calls!

Survey: Emerging Technologies in Risk Communication
Please help us share this survey on emerging technologies in risk and crisis communication. Take or share the survey with this link. Developed by our ECREA partners, this study is highly relevant to AlertHub, especially regarding AI-driven tools. Communication professionals across our network are encouraged to participate.

alerthub@comunicare.ro www.alerthub.eu



Newsletter Nº. 1 2025, September

WG Updates

Within the AlertHub project, activities are organized into four dedicated Working Groups (WGs), each aimed at strengthening collaboration and bridging the gap between research and practice in disaster warning systems, particularly those related to climate change, across Europe. While WGs 1, 2, and 3 each concentrate on specific thematic areas, WG 4 plays a cross-cutting role, synthesizing outcomes and ensuring effective communication and dissemination of results throughout the COST Action. Below, you'll find updates from each WG highlighting recent progress, ongoing tasks, and opportunities to contribute.

WG1 Mapping extant data and research on disaster communication and warning systems in Europe

WG 1 focuses on conducting a comprehensive meta-analysis of studies on warning communication across Europe, identifiy best actions in disaster communication and warning systems. In doing this, activities such as secondary data analysis, curation of data, stakeholder consultations, and reporting will be conducted.

Contact persons: Bengt Johansson & Sten Torpan

WG2 Mapping challenges of implementing effective warning communication

WG2's activities revolve around identifying and analyzing challenges of implementing efficient warning systems across Europe, (as they are showcased both in academic literature as well as in grey literature). In doing this, the identified challenges will be categorized and clustered, in order to better pinpoint the roots of the existing challenges as well as to spot potential patterns.

Contact persons: Yijing Wang & Heini Ruohonen

WG3 Create an open-access knowledge platform on disaster communication and warnings systems across Europe for researchers, practitioners and policymakers

WG3 is focused on establishing a detailed concept for the structure and format of the knowledge sharing platform, that will eventually comprise data, insights, best practices examples - provided by the other working groups .

Contact persons: Åshild Kolås & Fuzel Ahamed Shaik

WG4 Disseminating knowledge of best practices in Europe

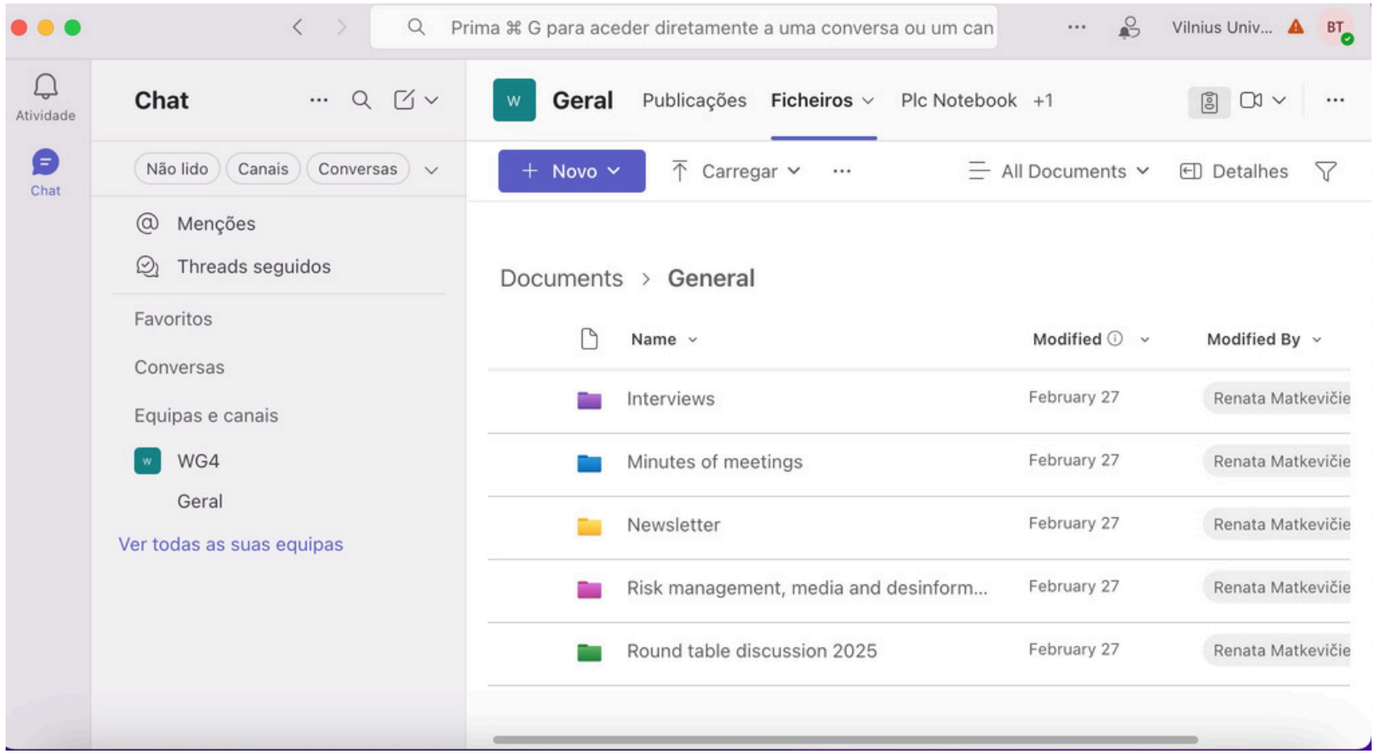
WG4 has a key role in supporting the communication campaign that aims to share the knowledge produced around the best practices showcased by WG3 (but not only), contribute to disseminating the networking events, workshops and meetings. WG4 has also an active role in contributing to expert consultation and reporting.

Contact persons: Renata Matkevičienė & Bianca Toniolo

alerthub@comunicare.ro www.alerthub.eu

Interview process

During the Cologne meeting, interest was expressed at Action level in organising the stakeholder interviews as a cross-working group activity, with WG4 taking a prominent role. To prepare this, contributions were collected from members through a stakeholder mapping exercise and an initial round of insight gathering. Building on this input, an interview questionnaire was drafted and submitted to the COST Action's Scientific Ethics Coordinator for review.



Ideas

Discussed at the meeting in Bucharest (September 2025)

Newsletter



Keep doing at least one each six months.

Interviews with stakeholders

Questionnaire is still under validation by the Ethics Committee and its results will be published as an onliecountry report.



Task Force on Dis/Misinformation

Invitation from the member José Manuel Noguera
To join the task force. Interested members may
contact him by mail: jmnoguera@gmail.com

Ideas

Discussed at the meeting in Brussels (September 2024) and recovered in Bucharest.

Professional Communication Training

Results from the stakeholdersinterviews will bepresentandAlertHubwillprovide training in risk communication regarding the needs interviewed appointed.
We are also planning to do a round table to discuss expectations and challenges with the stakeholders.