

REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

29 – 30 MARCH 2023 | HYBRID EVENT | GENEVA & ONLINE



SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

Event title

Implementing Early Warnings for All - Regional Outlook

Background and Rationale

Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) refer to an integrated system of hazard monitoring, forecasting and prediction, disaster risk assessment, communication and preparedness activities systems and processes that enables individuals, communities, governments, businesses and others to take timely action to reduce disaster risks in advance of hazardous events. MHEWSs are a proven, effective, and feasible climate adaptation measure, that save lives being risked by extreme weather events such as floods, drought, heatwaves, and storms. Early warning systems and disaster risk management activities are recognized as key cross-cutting adaptation options, that enhance the benefits of other adaptation measures when combined.

In 2022, the 'Early Warnings for All (EW4A)' initiative was proposed by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres to address the challenge that globally one third of citizens are still not covered by early warning systems. About 75% of people in Europe are covered by early warning systems, and many countries in Europe have an above-average capacity to deliver on all their EWS needs. However, some countries have reported having inadequate end-to-end riverine and flash flood forecasting services. This is a concern, considering that in the last 50 years (1970–2019) 38% of the weather, water and climate disasters were related to floods.

Early warning systems are critically required for lifesaving and climate adaptation across sectors during this time of climate crisis. Furthermore, securing early warnings for all contribute to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda, including the Sendai Framework, Paris Agreement, and SDGs (1, 11, and 13).

[EARLY WARNINGS FOR ALL: Executive Action Plan 2023-2027](#)

Session objectives and expected outcomes

Overall, the side event intends to convene stakeholders from the region to showcase the work they do that is relevant to each of the EW4A pillars, and thereby, kick-start a discussion on challenges, opportunities, and possible ways forward for the initiative in the region.

More specific objectives, include:

- Introduction to the Early Warnings for All Initiative, mobilising support and engagement on its delivery;

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- Showcasing how stakeholders are taking forward the Early Warnings for All Action Plan pillars at different levels;
- Providing a platform for stakeholders to share challenges and opportunities and identifying possible ways forward.

Organizers

Lead organizers: WMO Regional Office for Europe and UNDRR Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia

Contributors: Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, European Emergency Number Association, International Federation of Red Cross, Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan

Agenda and Structure

1. Welcome address introduction of the panellists	Johan Stander, Director of Services Department, WMO and Octavian Bivol, Chief of the Regional Office for Europe & Central Asia, UNDRR	10 min
2. Overview of interpillar coordination of the Action Plan	Loretta Hieber Girardet, Chief, Support and Monitoring of Sendai Framework Implementation Branch, UNDRR	10 min
3. Overview of Disaster Risk Knowledge & Management (pillar 1 of the EW4A)		
4. Implementation of MHEWS (pillar 2 of the EW4A)	Martin Benko, Director of the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute	10 min
5. Dissemination and communication capacities in the region related pillar 3 of the EW4A	Benoit Vivier, Public Affairs Manager at the European Emergency Number Association (EENA)	10 min
6. Preparedness and Response (pillar 4 of the EW4A)	Seval Güzelkılınc, IFRC Head of Country Cluster Delegation for Central Asia Guldar Kasymova, Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan, Head of Disaster Management	10 min
7. Discussion, questions and answers	Moderated by the Co-Chairs All participants	30 min
8. Closing	Co-Chairs	10 min

List of Panellists

Co-Chairs: Dr. Johan Stander, Director of Services Department, WMO and Mr. Octavian Bivol, Chief of the Regional Office for Europe & Central Asia, UNDRR

Panellists:

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- Loretta Hieber Girardet, Chief, Support and Monitoring of Sendai Framework Implementation Branch, UNDRR
- Martin Benko, Director of the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute (TBC)
- Benoit Vivier, Public Affairs Manager at the European Emergency Number Association (EENA)
- Seval Güzelkılınç, IFRC Head of Country Cluster Delegation for Central Asia
- Guldar Kasymova- Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan, Head of Disaster Management

Sign-up / Registration Link

Registration link:

https://wmo-int.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_glup2Mb3R3uG3pqtPsfBPQ