CREWS

Interreg Baltic Sea Region

Co-funded by the European Union

RESILIENT ECONOMIES AND COMMUNITIES

CREWS

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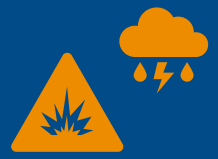
Strengthens Disaster Resilience in the Baltic Sea Region

DRR in the BSR



Complex threats

The Baltic Sea Region faces growing and interconnected risks, including extreme weather events, geopolitical tensions, and infrastructure vulnerabilities.

Need for coordination

Rapid, coordinated local response is essential to reduce harm and protect communities.

Shared responsibility

Public authorities cannot manage crises alone—civil society actors, including volunteers, are essential partners in preparedness and response.

Structure and trust

Effective cooperation depends on clear roles, structured engagement, and mutual trust between institutions and community actors.

About CREWS

Full title

CREWS = *Enhancing capacities in disaster risk reduction by facilitating public-civil cooperation*

What CREWS does

CREWS strengthens how authorities and civil society work together before, during and after crises.

How it will achieve it

CREWS develops a cooperation model and a digital resource management tool adaptable to national and local needs.

CREWS in numbers

- The project runs from March 2025 – February 2028.
- Total budget: €3.16 million, co-funded by Interreg Baltic Sea Region.
- 13 project partners from eight countries, plus 26 associated organisations.

Objectives

Strengthening disaster risk reduction by building a flexible operational mechanism for disaster collaboration between citizens and institutions.

Empowering authorities and civil society – including volunteers – to work side by side before, during and after crises through shared tools for collaboration.

Promoting a whole-of-society approach to preparedness and response, ensuring that citizens and organisations are better equipped to respond and recover.

Activities

WP1: Preparing solutions

Developing a cooperation model, digital tool and training concept.

WP2: Piloting & evaluating

Testing the model and digital tool in extreme-weather and military-crisis scenarios.

WP3: Transferring solutions

Training, education, policy briefs and dissemination of the project results across networks.

Results

Operational cooperation model

Guidelines defining clear roles, responsibilities and communication flows between authorities and volunteers.

Digital resource-management tool

Planning tool for municipalities and authorities, supporting registration, allocation and coordination of volunteers and equipment.

Pilot case studies

Use pilot scenarios (snowstorm, military crisis) to showcase the model and tool in action through visuals, stories, and media outreach that support broader uptake.

Policy briefs and recommendations

Supporting the integration of CREWS results into national and regional frameworks for disaster risk reduction.

Digital tool

What it is:
A user-friendly digital platform supporting authorities and civil actors in managing volunteers, resources and information during crises.

Its purpose:
Strengthen situational awareness, improve coordination efficiency, and support faster, better-informed decisions in emergencies.

What it does:

- Enables registration, allocation and coordination of volunteers, equipment and supplies in real time.
- Communication channels, task assignment, alert functions, and data sharing between agencies.
- Link with existing national alert and reporting systems.
- Scalable to different types of crises and usable at both local and regional levels.

Who is it for:
Municipalities, rescue services, volunteer organisations and community coordinators involved in disaster response.

Partners

Lead partner

Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, District Office of Altona (DE)

Project partners

- City of Warsaw (PL)
- Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)
- Estonian Rescue Board (EE)
- Finnish National Rescue Association (SPEK, FI)
- Fire and Rescue Department, Ministry of Interior (LT)
- Hamburg Fire and Rescue Service (DE)
- Jelgava Digital Centre (LV)
- Klaipėda University (LT)
- Lithuanian Red Cross (LT)
- State Fire and Rescue Service of Latvia (LV)
- University of Eastern Finland (FI)

Associated partners

Plus 26 Associated Organisations (authorities, NGOs, training centres, networks)

Co-financing

Interreg Baltic Sea Region

Upcoming

2025–26

Development and validation of the cooperation model and beta version of the tool.

2026–27

Pilot exercises in Latvia, Poland, Germany, Finland and Estonia (extreme weather & military crisis).

2027–28

Finalisation, transfer and policy dissemination across the region.

Thank you!

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Thank