# EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

*(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.*

⚠ *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)*

| PROJECT | |
|---|---|
| **Participant:** | Proposal ID : 101138271<br><br>City of Rostock (Rostock) |
| **PIC number:** | 951590953 |
| **Project name and acronym:** | Connecting Resilient Cities — Resilient Cities |

| EVENT DESCRIPTION | |
|---|---|
| **Event number:** | 4 |
| **Event name:** | International Crisis Management Conference "Resilient Citizen" |
| **Type:** | Conference |
| **In situ/online:** | *[*in-situ*]* |
| **Location:** | Germany, Rostock |
| **Date(s):** | 10.09.2025 – 12.09.2025 |
| **Website(s) (if any):** | https://resilient-cities.eu/?page_id=69 |
| **Participants** | |
| Female: | 21 |
| Male: | 31 |
| Non-binary: | 0 |
| From country 1 / Germany: | 22 |
| From country 2 / Austria: | 5 |
| From country 3 / Latvia: | 7 |
| From country 4 / Slovenia: | 6 |
| From country 5 / Estonia: | 5 |
| From country 6 / Lithuania: | 1 |
| From country 7 / Finland: | 1 |
| From country 8/ Czech Republic: | 4 |
| From country 9/ Israel: | 1 |

| Total number of participants: | 52 | From total number of countries: | 9 |

**Description**

*Provide a short description of the event and its activities.*

The final conference of the *Connecting Resilient Cities* project was held in Rostock, Germany, from 10 to 12 September 2025. The event gathered approximately 50 professionals in crisis management, firefighting, policing, and international cooperation from nine countries, including eight EU Member States and Israel. The conference marked the conclusion of a two-year collaboration between the International Crisis Management Network (ICMN) and the Safe Cities Commission of the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC).

The programme focused on strengthening urban resilience through improved communication and coordination mechanisms. Participants observed Germany's Nationwide Warning Day as a live demonstration of alert procedures, followed by expert sessions on crisis communication, digitalisation of response systems, and cross-border collaboration. Key contributions were delivered by representatives from the University of Applied Sciences Münster, the University of Tartu, and the fire and rescue services of several European cities.

On the final day, participants joined an evaluation workshop held during a boat trip on the Warnow River. Using the symbolic theme *"packing the bag for the journey home,"* they reflected on the project's achievements, lessons learned, and future needs. Participants highlighted the creation of a strong professional network as the project's greatest success — connecting crisis management experts who can now exchange best practices, coordinate responses, and support one another across borders.

They agreed that mutual understanding and shared experience had replaced uncertainty and isolation in addressing urban resilience. Common challenges, such as managing communication during emergencies, integrating volunteers, and improving local preparedness, were identified as areas where continued cooperation is essential.

Key outcomes included a commitment to maintaining and expanding the network, promoting the jointly developed local action plans, and exploring funding for follow-up initiatives. Participants also stressed the importance of continuing the exchange of expertise, especially in digital crisis communication and citizen preparedness.

Participants identified the jointly developed local action plans as a concrete outcome contributing to improved municipal preparedness and inter-agency cooperation. The workshop also underlined the need for further capacity-building and digital tools to enhance citizen awareness, early warning systems, and communication strategies.

The event concluded with a shared commitment to maintain and expand the cooperation beyond the project's duration, to actively disseminate the developed methodologies, and to explore opportunities for follow-up actions and funding. The final conference thus ensured the long-term sustainability and European added value of the *Connecting Resilient Cities* initiative.

Please, find the event programme attached.

| HISTORY OF CHANGES | | |
|---|---|---|
| VERSION | PUBLICATION DATE | CHANGE |
| 1.0 | 01.04.2022 | Initial version (new MFF). |
| | | |
| | | |

# *Programme*

## Rostock, 10 – 12 September 2025

**Wednesday, 10 September**

18:00                          **Welcome Reception**
ScanHotels City, Lange Str. 40, 18055 Rostock

**Thursday, 11 September**

08:00                          **Hotel Pick-up**

*Venue:*    *Rostock City Hall, Neuer Markt 1, 18055 Rostock*
08:30                          **Registration**

09:00                          **Welcome by the Mayor of the City of Rostock, Ms Eva-Maria Kröger**

09:15 – 09:45         **Presentation: Nationwide Warning Day**
Speaker: René Feige, Rostock Fire and Rescue Services, City of Rostock

10:00                          **Transfer to the Rostock Fire and Rescue Services**

*Venue:*    *Rostock Fire and Rescue Services, Erich-Schlesinger-Str. 24, 18059 Rostock*
10:30 – 12:00         **Practical Example: Nationwide Warning Day**
Rostock Fire and Rescue Services

12:00                          **Transfer to the Rostock City Hall**

*Venue:*    *Rostock City Hall, Neuer Markt 1, 18055 Rostock*
12:30 – 13:30         **Lunch**

13:30 – 15:00          **Panel Discussion I: Prepare Yourself - Effective Crisis Communication for Our Citizens**
<u>Speakers:</u>
Prof. Henning Goersch / University of Applied Sciences for Economics and Management /
Münster, Germany
Sten Torpan / University of Tartu / Tartu, Estonia
Kaspars Vārpiņš /UBC Safe Cities Commission / Liepāja, Latvia

15:00 – 15:30         **Coffee Break**

15:30 – 17:00         **Panel Discussion II: Digitizing Crisis Communication in Urban Community**
<u>Speakers:</u>
Kitija Arbeitere / State Fire and Rescue Service / Rīga, Latvia
Niels Philip Kögler / Hamburg Fire and Rescue Services / Hamburg, Germany
David von der Lieth / Düsseldorf Fire and Rescue Services / Düsseldorf, Germany

18:30                          **Transfer to the Reception from the Hotel**

*Venue:*    *Trotzenburg Rostock, Tiergartenallee 6, 18059 Rostock*
19:00 – 21:00         **Reception**

**Friday, 12 September**

09:00                          **Hotel Pick-up**

09:30 – 13:30         **Boat Trip along the Warnow River**

                                      **Presentation: Tel Aviv-Jaffa Under Missile Attack - Summary, Insights and Conclusions**
Speaker: David Aharony, Emergency and Security Department, City of Tel-Aviv-Yafo

                                        **Summary Discussion**
**Lunch & Networking**

**A new era of communication.**
In our modern times, information is becoming increasingly fast-moving and reaches a large target group in a very short time via digital channels. Public authorities and, in particular, emergency response agencies as providers of sometimes vital information must therefore face up to the new challenges and use digitalization for their tasks.

**Warning is more than a post.**
The mass of information we receive makes it difficult to filter out the really important ones. In dangerous situations and warnings, however, this is sometimes essential for survival. It is therefore essential to adapt the warning process to today's circumstances. This includes, among other things, designing the warning and information into a complete process. Warnings and information are played out on various media, feedback from the population is evaluated and warnings and information are continuously updated on the basis of new information and feedback from the population.

**Crisis communication begins even before the crisis.**
Disseminating information is easier than ever for everyone these days. Individuals gain access to a large group of people via social media. As a result, it is all the more important to invest in building trust in your authority and its channels before the crisis. The more intuitive and experienced the population is in dealing with official channels, the more effective the warning will be.

**Warning is not a one-way street.**
It is important to constantly improve. However, it is crucial to receive feedback on whether the measure has had the desired effect and where there is potential for improvement. As a result, the classic warning - the one-way street of information policy - must be developed into a cycle with feedback instruments. The authorities must provide channels and opportunities for feedback. This increases acceptance among the population as well as their own development potential. Surveys before the start of a crisis are even more effective and enable the right "warning mix" to be designed for the local population.

**Knowing your population.**
People go through different phases when processing a warning. It is important to know these phases and to support the recipients in processing the information. This includes in particular the provision of consistent information on various media channels, building trust and transparency. Among other things, prepared checklists help to check whether the warning message sufficiently covers the needs of the recipients.

**Using digital opportunities. Simplify processes.**
Digitalization not only brings new challenges, but also opportunities. Digital tools or aids can largely automate or at least support the warning process. In particular, the dissemination of information to various warning channels (radio stations, websites, social media channels) is possible with just a few clicks. Above all, this contributes to the goal of broad warning and authenticity. It is also easy to obtain feedback using digital tools such as websites or survey platforms.

**Digital information acquisition.**
Digitalization not only helps us to disseminate information quickly to a broad mass of people. There is also a huge amount of information available to help the various tasks of emergency response authorities. The processing of data and appealing visualization can quickly provide a comprehensive picture of the situation and support task management. In addition to information, digitization today also offers the use of artificial intelligence to overcome language barriers or support decision-making processes based on data.

**RATHAUS**

**Rathaus**    **Service**    **Bildung & Wissenschaft**    **Wirtschaft & Verkehr**    **Umwelt & Gesellschaft**    **Kultur, Freizeit, Sport**

Startseite ▶    Rathaus ▶    Aktuelles & Medien ▶    Connecting Resilient Cities: Projektabschluss in Rostock

# Connecting Resilient Cities: Projektabschluss in Rostock

Pressemitteilung vom **05.09.2025** - Umwelt und Gesellschaft / Rathaus

Vom 10. bis zum 12. September 2025 findet im Rostocker Rathaus die Abschlusskonferenz des EU-Projektes „Connecting Resilient Cities" statt. Etwa 50 Expertinnen und Experten von Feuerwehren, Polizeien und für Krisenmanagement aus zehn Ländern werden dazu in der Hanse- und Universitätsstadt begrüßt. Schwerpunkt ist die Begleitung und Beobachtung des bundesweiten Warntages in Deutschland am 11. September. Dabei geht es darum, wie Behörden und Bevölkerung im Notfall schnell und zuverlässig kommunizieren – sowohl über digitale Medien als auch auf konventionellen Wegen.

„Connecting Resilient Cities" bringt vier Städte aus verschiedenen Ländern zusammen: Wien aus Österreich, Liepāja aus Lettland, Ljubljana aus Slowenien und Rostock. Die Hanse- und Universitätsstadt ist dabei die leitende Projektpartnerin. In den vergangenen Jahren fanden bereits mehrere Workshops statt. In Wien im vergangenen Jahr ging es um das Thema Energieknappheit und darum, wie Städte darauf reagieren können. Im Herbst 2024 in Liepāja stand die Kommunikation zwischen verschiedenen Beteiligten in Krisensituationen im Mittelpunkt. In Ljubljana im Mai dieses Jahres wurde sich darüber ausgetauscht, wie Notunterkünfte eingerichtet und organisiert werden können und wie Menschen nach einer Krise dauerhaft ein neues Zuhause finden.

Unterstützt wird das Projekt durch das EU-Programm „Bürgerinnen und Bürger, Gleichstellung, Rechte und Werte" (CERV). Aus dem Projekt soll ein langfristiges Netzwerk von Fachkräften entstehen, das den Austausch und die Zusammenarbeit im Bereich Krisenmanagement in Europa stärkt. Gemeinsam sollen neue Vorgehensweisen entwickelt werden, um bei Krisen schneller und besser reagieren zu können. Dabei arbeiten Feuerwehr, Polizei, Hilfsorganisationen, freiwillige Helferinnen und Helfer sowie lokale Entscheidungsträgerinnen und -träger eng zusammen. Es soll ein wichtiger Beitrag dazu geleistet werden, dass die Städte besser auf mögliche Krisen vorbereitet sind.



Konferenzlogo „Resilient Cities - Rostock, September 2025" | Foto: Fachbereich Internationales

● **Programm „Bürgerinnen und Bürger, Gleichstellung, Rechte und Werte" im Überblick.** ↪

# Resilient Cities - Stronger and Connected Europe

by Aleksandra Markianova | Aleksandra.Markianova@rostock.de
photos by Joachim Kloock and Antje Sommer

**In 2025, the Safe Cities Commission, together with international partners, will organise important meetings on urban resilience.**

The "Connecting Resilient Cities" project, a collaboration between the Union of the Baltic Cities and the International City Network for Crisis Management, is strengthening European crisis preparedness. Supported by the EU CERV Programme, the project encourages cities to share expertise and develop joint strategies. We have already held successful workshops in Vienna, addressing energy shortages and in Liepāja on topic of effective stakeholder communication during crises. Now, we are preparing for two significant events in 2025.

You are welcome to join us in Ljubljana from May 13 to 15, 2025, at the City Castle. During the conference, we will explore prevention and mitigation through urban planning and policy development. We will also discuss response and recovery, including the establishment and management of emergency and temporary shelters, and permanent re-housing.

If you are interested, you still may register here https://forms.gle/ZLlwQega5AKqiWexhXA

### International Crisis Management Conference

Later this year, from September 10 to 12, 2025, the City of Rostock will host the project's final event. Participants will experience Germany's nationwide Warning Day, gaining insights into digital and analogue crisis communication between authorities and citizens. We will discuss essential crisis knowledge for residents to ensure swift responses to crises from their side.

A highlight of the Rostock event will be a boat trip from the Rostock City Harbour to the Baltic Sea. This scenic journey will provide a platform to discuss the unique challenges faced by Baltic Sea municipalities and potential collaborative solutions. If you want to join the Rostock event, keep an eye out, registration opens in June 2025. Come join us and make our cities resilient together!



**Resilient Cities**
Rostock, September 2025

FEUER - UND RETTUNGSWACHE 1

LEITSTELLE

FEUERWEHR ROSTOCK

112

FEUERWEHR

HRO·FW 112