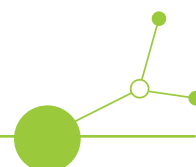


# Handbook on LOCALIENCE results & solutions



Version 2  
03/2026





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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Purpose of the Handbook

The LOCALIENCE Handbook brings together practical solutions, tools and lessons learned from the project. It is written for municipalities, civil protection authorities, community organisations and other stakeholders who want to improve local resilience to floods, storms, heatwaves, droughts and other extreme weather threats.

The Handbook explains what was tested, what worked well, what challenges appeared and how similar approaches can be adapted elsewhere. It focuses on practical use rather than project terminology.

The main value of the Handbook is its practical focus. It highlights real examples, hands-on methods and simple lessons that can help local actors prepare better and react faster during extreme weather events.

## 1.2. Why LOCALIENCE matters

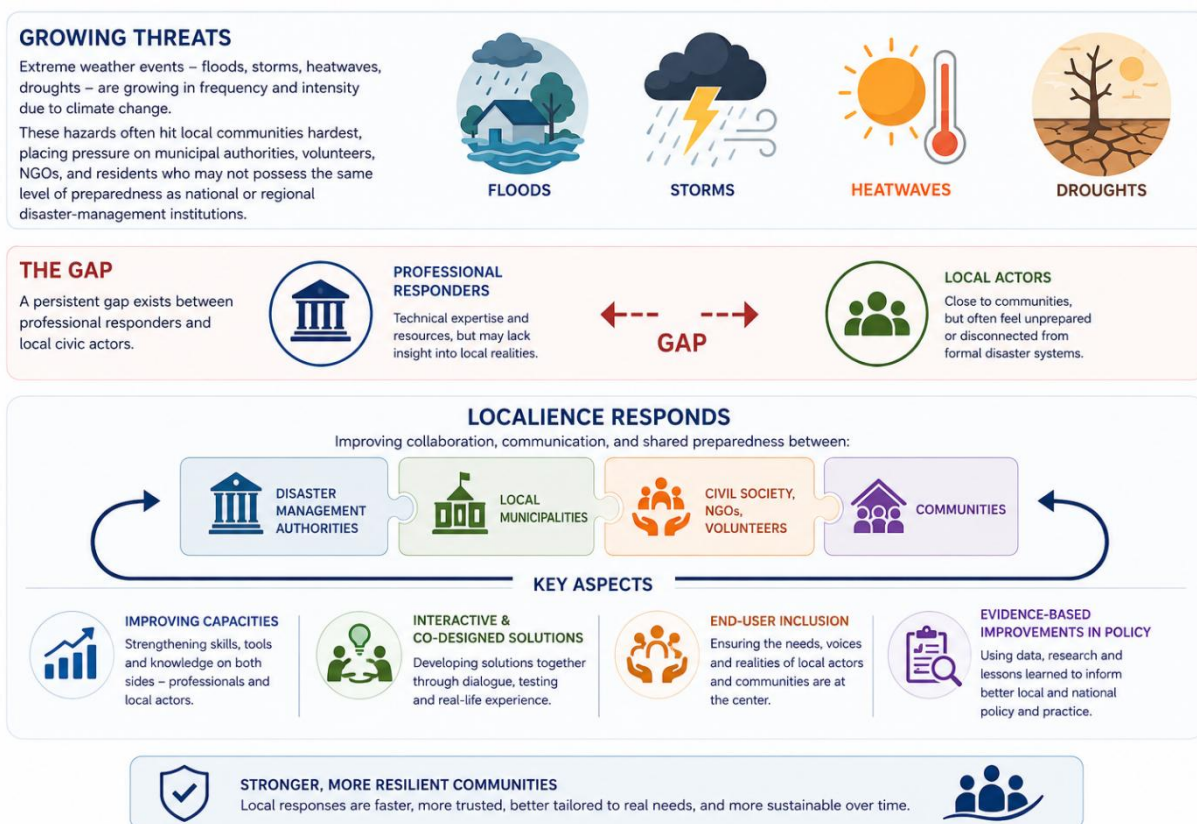


Figure 1.: Why LOCALIENCE matters? created with ChatGPT



### 1.3. LOCALIENCE Partnership

The partnership brings together 11 partners from the **Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, and Poland**, covering:

- government ministries,
- water management,
- fire and rescue services,
- universities and research institutions,
- environment/climate agencies
- volunteer / local services.

This diverse composition enables cross-sector collaboration and ensures solutions are practical, evidence-based and tested in real conditions.

## LOCALIENCE PARTNERSHIP

11 partners from 5 countries working together  
for resilient communities in the face of extreme weather and climate risks

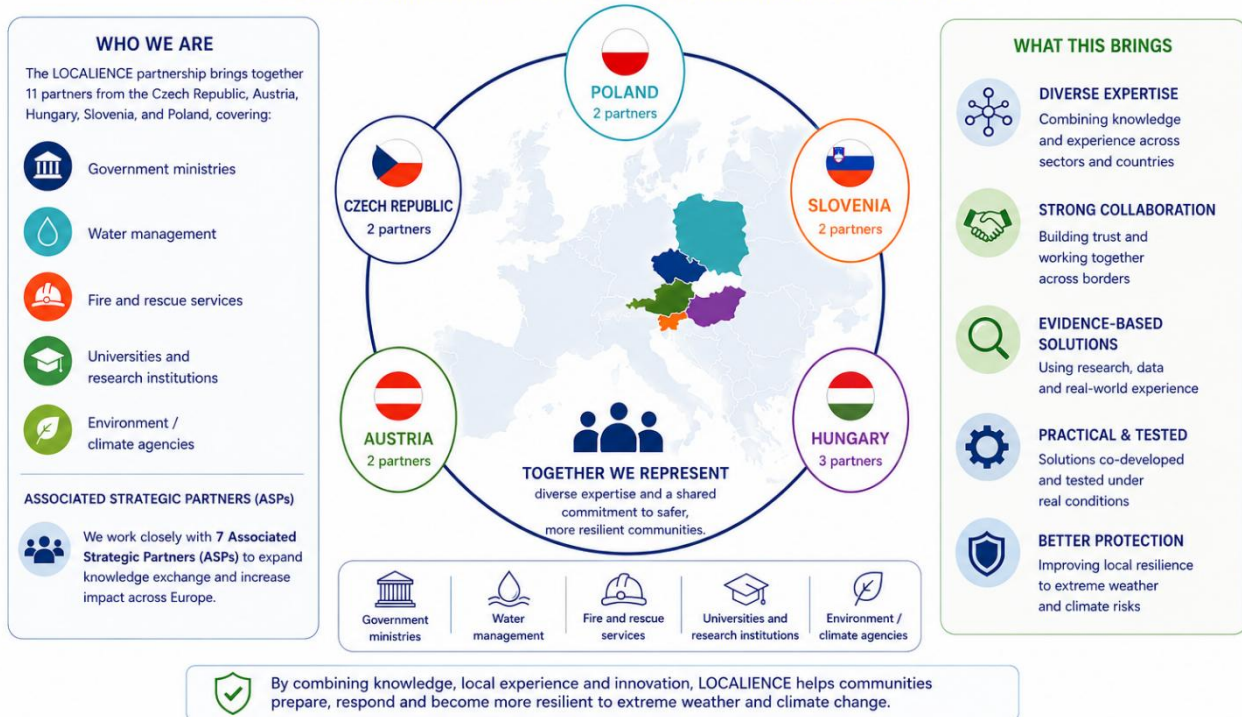


Figure 2.: The LOCALIENCE partnership created with ChatGPT

### 1.4. Main Issues and Challenges Addressed

LOCALIENCE addresses several interconnected challenges that are common across Central Europe. In many cases, disaster management professionals operate in a one-way “expert to recipient” mode, where local actors are seen as passive recipients rather than active partners, which undermines trust,



limits feedback and reduces adaptability. At the same time, many citizens, NGOs, volunteer organisations, and municipal bodies remain insufficiently prepared, often lacking up-to-date training, tools, or a clear understanding of how to respond to extreme events. The absence of strong interactive tools and platforms further weakens real-time coordination, mutual learning, and opportunities for meaningful community input before, during, and after disasters. Policy frameworks also show significant gaps: **laws and administrative practices rarely promote co-design, community involvement, or feedback loops, and they often lack the flexibility needed to adapt to diverse local contexts.** Finally, geographic and institutional fragmentation creates additional obstacles, as different regions, municipalities, and agencies vary widely in their capacities, resources, and systems, making the sharing of good practices and cross-border alignment particularly difficult.

### 1.5. The LOCALIENCE Approach



Figure 3.: Introduction of the LOCALIENCE approach created with ChatGPT

### 1.6. Capitalisation Context

In the framework of LOCALIENCE, capitalisation means the process of identifying, collecting, and presenting project knowledge and results in a way that they can be reused, transferred, or adapted by other territories, organisations, and stakeholders. The Handbook is the primary tool to achieve this goal.



## 2. Expected Results and Outputs

At the analytical level, the project established a shared understanding of extreme weather risks and local preparedness gaps. Key analytical results included the development of an Extreme Weather Catalogue, a performance appraisal methodology for assessing cooperation at local level, and gap analyses examining institutional and governance challenges. Together, these results provided a solid evidence base for the project and ensured that subsequent activities responded to clearly identified needs rather than abstract assumptions.

Building on this analytical foundation, LOCALIENCE invested strongly in capacity building. Multilingual training syllabuses on multi-hazard events and nature-based solutions were jointly developed and adapted at national level. The trainings targeted a broad range of stakeholders, including municipal officials, fire brigades, water authorities and civil society actors. In parallel, a coaching process was introduced to support municipalities in translating training knowledge into concrete local action and improved cooperation with disaster management actors.

The practical core of the project consisted of five solutions implemented in Austria, Czechia, Hungary, Slovenia and Poland. Each solution addressed a specific aspect of local resilience, such as community-based flood management, clearer warnings for mayors, urban Living Labs, better links between forecasters and responders, or decision-making simulations. Although the topics differed, all solutions were designed around real local needs, user involvement and practical use.

To support learning across countries and institutions, LOCALIENCE used peer-review visits. Partners could see the solutions in practice, discuss what worked and identify elements that could be transferred to other places. These visits helped partners understand how the same idea may need to be adapted to different governance systems and local conditions.

Finally, the project focused on knowledge transfer and sustainability. Transfer workshops were designed to introduce LOCALIENCE results to new audiences and support their uptake beyond the project partnership. Together with this Handbook, these activities form the Practical Solutions for Local Resilience, ensuring that the knowledge generated within the project remains accessible and usable after its conclusion.

**Together, these results form the basis for the solutions, peer reviews, transfer workshops and practical recommendations presented in the following chapters. They show how analysis, training, testing and international exchange can be combined to strengthen local resilience.**



### 3. Overview of Project Activities

LOCALIENCE combined analysis, capacity building, practical testing and international knowledge exchange. The project was based on a simple idea: local resilience cannot be improved through isolated actions only. It needs practical tools, trained people, clear cooperation and lessons shared across borders.

#### 3.1. Structure of the Project

The project consists of three main components (work packages):

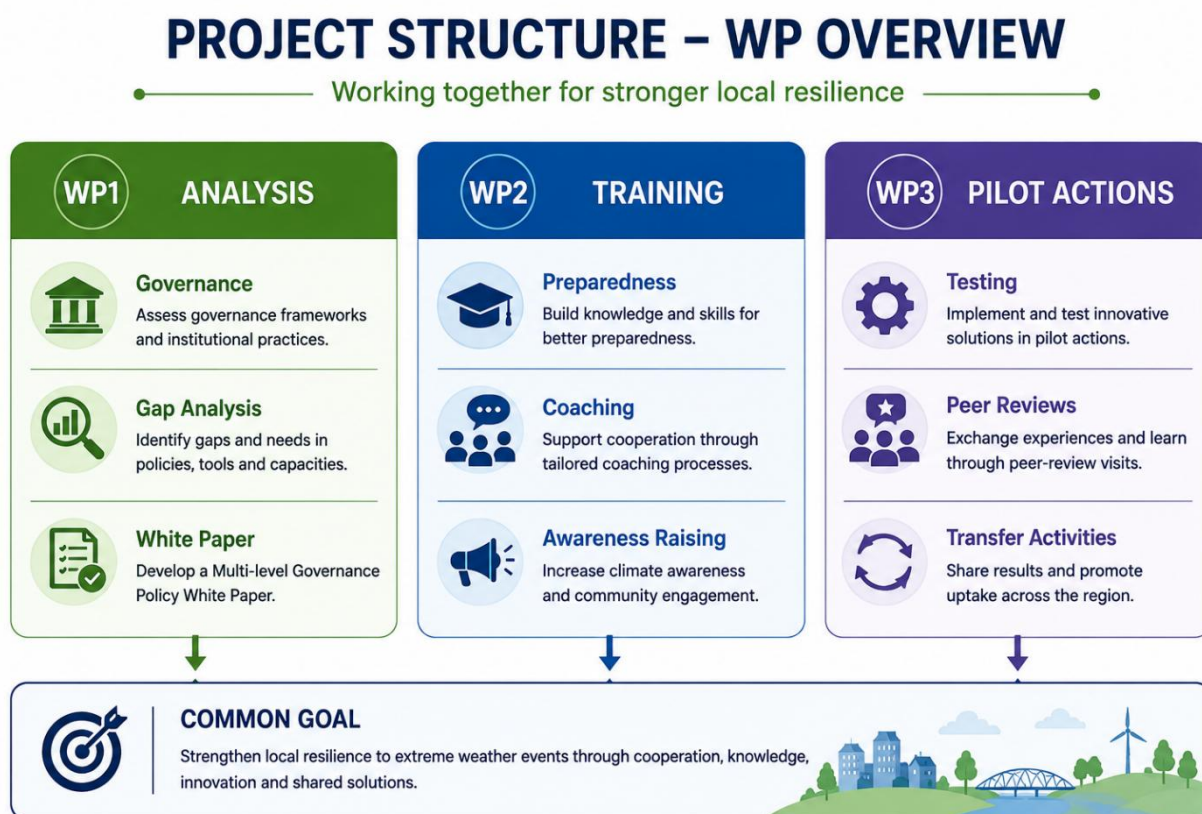


Figure 4.: The project structure created with ChatGPT

#### 3.2. Description of the activities

##### 3.2.1. Organisations Cooperating Across Borders

###### Summary

This section describes how the LOCALIENCE partnership organised effective cooperation across borders. It focuses on the coordination framework that helped partners from five Central European countries work together despite different institutional structures, administrative procedures and national contexts.



## Objectives & Context

The objective was to ensure smooth cooperation among project partners throughout the project. Because LOCALIENCE involved many types of institutions from different countries, clear coordination, communication channels and administrative procedures were needed from the beginning.

## Implementation

The implementation of the activity started with an **online administrative kick-off meeting in April 2023**, which established a common understanding of project objectives, roles and reporting requirements among all partners. This was followed by an in-person thematic kick-off meeting and Steering Committee meeting held in Budapest in June 2023, providing an opportunity to align expectations, clarify governance arrangements and initiate closer cooperation among participating institutions.

Throughout the project implementation, **regular online coordination meetings** were organised to ensure continuous information exchange, monitor progress and address emerging challenges in a timely manner. In parallel, administrative and reporting procedures were progressively aligned across partners, facilitating consistent implementation and compliance with programme requirements.

As the project evolved, the Partnership Agreement was amended to reflect changes in partnership composition, ensuring legal and organisational clarity. Continuous coordination and support were provided to all partners throughout the implementation period, enabling effective collaboration and smooth delivery of planned activities and results.

## Outcomes

- Functional cross-border cooperation framework involving all project partners
- Improved communication and coordination across countries and institutions
- Successful joint delivery of project results and practical solutions
- Increased mutual understanding of different administrative and institutional systems

## Lessons Learned

- Early clarification of roles and responsibilities is essential for effective cooperation
- Regular communication helps prevent misunderstandings and delays
- Face-to-face meetings significantly strengthen trust and collaboration
- Flexibility is required to manage changes in partnership composition

## Transferability

The coordination model developed within LOCALIENCE is highly transferable to other transnational and cross-border projects. It demonstrates how structured communication, clear



administrative procedures and regular interaction can support effective cooperation among partners operating in different national and institutional environments.

### 3.2.2. Performance Appraisal System

#### Summary

The University of Ostrava developed a practical method for assessing how well professional responders and civic or public actors cooperate in disaster risk reduction. The focus is not on technical equipment, but on cooperation before and during extreme weather events. The method uses a set of indicators to look at communication, coordination, stakeholder involvement and sharing of resources.

#### Objectives & Context

The objective was to create a universal, practice-oriented tool that assesses how different stakeholders collaborate at local level in preventing and responding to extreme weather events. While inspired by the Sendai Framework, the methodology focuses specifically on the local dimension of resilience.

#### Implementation

The development of the methodology began with a **comprehensive literature review and analysis of disaster risk reduction practices**, providing a theoretical and practical foundation for the design of the appraisal system. Based on this analysis, **cooperation criteria, performance indicators and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** were developed to capture key aspects of collaboration between professional and civic actors at local level.

KPI (main indicator)		Sub-PI related to KPI		SPI (Sub-Perf. Indicator)		Kind of PI		Basic activities for disaster risk reduction	
No.	Key Cooperation In	Ind.Meaning	Categorisation	New ID	Answer Typ -	QUALI -	QUAN -	Resilience Pha -	Indicator Type -
		communication		A.1	0-3	yes		0. All Phases	General
		engagement		A.2	0-3	yes		0. All Phases	General
		resources utilization		A.3	0-3	yes		0. All Phases	General
I.	<b>General Resilience</b>	resilience		A.4	0-3	yes		0. All Phases	General
		impact		A.5	0-3	yes		0. All Phases	General
		effectiveness		A.6	0-3	yes		0. All Phases	General
II.	<b>Resilience Impact</b>	range		A.7	number / text		yes	0. All Phases	General
		information impact		A.8	number		yes	0. All Phases	General
		partnership		A.9	number		yes	0. All Phases	General
		who benefits		A.10	text	yes		0. All Phases	General
III.	<b>Disaster Risk Reduction</b>	indig.knowledge		B.1	0-3	yes		1. Prevention	Specific
		best practice		B.2	0-3	yes		1. Prevention	Specific
		Build Back Better		B.3	0-3	yes		1. Prevention	Specific
		investment awareness		B.4	0-3	yes		1. Prevention	Specific
		Public Private Part.		B.5	number		yes	1. Prevention	Specific
IV.	<b>Investment/Financing</b>	Investment Amount		B.6	number		yes	1. Prevention	Financial
V.	<b>General Cooperation</b>	cooperation		C.1	0-3	yes		2. Preparedness	
		exercises		C.2	number		yes	2. Preparedness	
VI.	<b>Knowledge Base</b>	knowledge		C.3	0-3	yes		2. Preparedness	Knowledge Base
		mistakes		C.4	number		yes	2. Preparedness	
VII.	<b>Performance Coordination</b>	coordination		C.5	0-3	yes		2. Preparedness	
		data and information		C.6	0-3	yes		2. Preparedness	Knowledge Base
		events and phenom.		C.7	0-3	yes		2. Preparedness	Knowledge Base
VIII.	<b>Exercise and Training</b>	practice sessions		C.8	0-3	yes		2. Preparedness	
		plans		D.1	0-3	yes		3. Response	
		coordination centre		D.2	number / text		yes	3. Response	
		financial reserves		D.3	number / text		yes	3. Response	
IX.	<b>Resources Management</b>	resources		D.4	0-3	yes		3. Response	
		resourc. Coordination		D.5	0-3	yes		3. Response	

Table 1.: KPIs used in the Appraisal Methodology created with ChatGPT



An international workshop held in Prague in 2024 provided an important platform for discussions related to the Appraisal Methodology and the KPIs.

To facilitate practical application and testing, a survey-based tool was created using Google Forms, enabling consistent data collection across different institutional and national contexts. The methodology was subsequently tested with all project partners in Austria, Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia, allowing for iterative refinement based on real-life feedback.

or joint discussion of the methodology, interpretation of indicators and practical usability. Feedback and comments collected during solution testing and the workshop were systematically integrated, leading to the finalisation of the appraisal methodology.

### **Outcomes**

- A fully operational appraisal methodology
- A testing survey for data collection
- Recommendations for aggregating 29 indicators into 9 KPIs
- Live testing initiated in all partner countries

### **Lessons Learned**

- Clear terminology is essential for consistent interpretation
- Active engagement with practitioners was crucial
- Collecting feedback from municipalities requires targeted communication channels

### **Transferability**

Not linked to any national legislation, the methodology is highly transferable and can be applied by any municipality, region, or authority seeking to evaluate local-level cooperation in DRR.

### **Supporting Materials**

The methodology can be found in the following link:  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/15w3st\\_3j1F0mguM4aQLzh4b\\_41u0pTaO/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/15w3st_3j1F0mguM4aQLzh4b_41u0pTaO/view?usp=drive_link)

## **3.2.3. Training Syllabuses and Tailored Training Programmes**

### **Summary**

The LOCALIENCE trainings on Multi-Hazard Events (MHE) and Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) were implemented across all partner countries with the aim of strengthening local resilience to extreme weather events and multi-risk scenarios. Based on jointly developed and locally adapted training materials, the trainings combined expert presentations, case studies, discussions and practical exercises. They engaged a broad range of stakeholders, including disaster management professionals, municipalities, NGOs and civil actors. The trainings enhanced preparedness, promoted the use of NBS as sustainable risk-reduction measures and fostered cross-sector cooperation. Key outcomes included increased application of knowledge during real events, growing municipal interest in



integrating NBS into planning processes, strong demand for further training activities and improved cooperation in the field of multi-hazard resilience.

## Objectives & Context



Picture 1.: Training implemented in Slovenia by ARSO, LJFB

The main objective of the training activities was to enhance stakeholder knowledge and preparedness for managing multi-hazard events and to promote the use of Nature-Based Solutions for water retention, sediment management and climate adaptation at local level. The trainings responded to the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, such as droughts, floods and severe storms, and to the need for practical, cost-effective resilience measures. They were aligned with national and regional policies on climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and sustainable land and water management.

## Implementation

The training activities began with the preparation of common training materials. They were designed to equip local leaders and disaster management professionals with knowledge and skills needed to address extreme weather risks at local level. The materials provided a shared basis for all partner countries while allowing national and local adaptation.

Two thematic streams were developed in parallel. **Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) training materials** focused on sustainable, nature-based approaches to water retention, sediment management and the use of urban green spaces for climate adaptation. **Multi-Hazard Events (MHE) training materials** addressed preparedness and response to multiple, often concurrent extreme weather hazards, such as storms, floods and wildfires, with particular emphasis on hazard interaction and cascading effects.

All training materials were **translated into national languages and adapted to local contexts** using relevant examples and case studies. Based on these materials, trainings were **implemented in all five partner countries**, with at least one training session delivered for each thematic area. The trainings were conducted using a combination of expert presentations, case study analyses and structured group discussions, and where relevant, were complemented by **field visits demonstrating Nature-Based Solutions in practice**.



Picture 2.: Training implemented in Czechia by OSU and CFS



To maximise accessibility and participation, various **delivery formats** were used, including in-person, online, hybrid and self-learning modules. A wide range of stakeholders was actively involved in the training activities, including disaster management specialists, fire brigades, municipal representatives, mayors, public authorities, NGOs, farmers and interested citizens. Depending on the topic and expertise required, trainers were drawn from partner institutions as well as from external expert organisations.

To support continuous improvement and quality assurance, **participant evaluations were collected through surveys** at each training session. Feedback gathered through these evaluations informed adjustments to training content, format and delivery throughout the project.

### Outcomes

- Multilingual training materials on Multi-Hazard Events and Nature-Based Solutions
- Final report documenting all training sessions and evaluation results
- Increased stakeholder knowledge and awareness of multi-hazard risks and NBS approaches
- Growing interest of municipalities in integrating NBS into local planning and risk-reduction strategies
- Strengthened cross-sector cooperation among participating institutions
- Increased demand for further training and capacity-building activities
- Improved preparedness for climate-related hazards at local and regional level

### Lessons Learned

- Early and personal invitations are essential to ensure strong participation
- Diverse participant groups enhance cross-sector exchange and learning
- Trainers should combine theoretical knowledge with practical experience and align closely with organisers in advance
- Training materials should be tailored to participant needs and, where possible, shared prior to sessions
- Sufficient time for discussion significantly improves engagement and learning outcomes
- Combining in-person and online formats increases accessibility
- Practical exercises and local case studies improve relevance, although they require additional preparation
- Systematic collection of feedback supports continuous improvement of training activities

### Transferability

The LOCALIENCE training materials and methods are highly transferable and adaptable to other regions and contexts, as demonstrated within the project itself. Key factors supporting transferability include multilingual and locally adaptable materials, a strong focus on co-design and collaboration



between disaster management professionals and local communities, and the combination of theoretical knowledge with practical, locally relevant case studies. The approach supports cross-sector stakeholder engagement and flexible delivery formats, allowing alignment with different risk profiles, institutional settings and policy frameworks.

### Supporting Materials

The training materials (available in six languages) can be accessed via the project website: <https://www.interreg-central.eu/news/localience-project-launches-training-materials-to-boost-climate-resilience-in-communities-and-disaster-preparedness/>

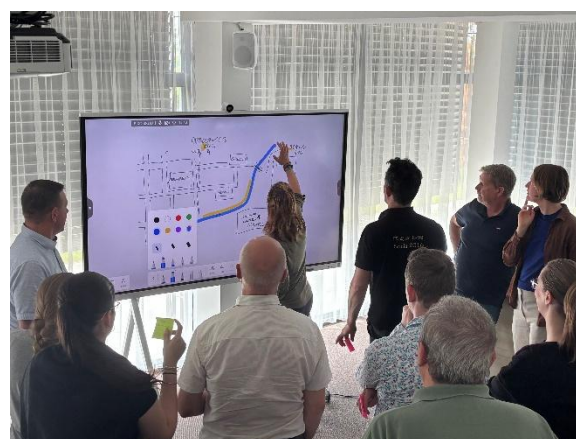
### 3.2.4. Coaching Process Facilitating Cooperation of Disaster Management Actors and Municipalities

#### Summary

This section focuses on the coaching process implemented after the “Train the Trainers” programme. Its aim was to strengthen cooperation between municipalities and disaster management actors. The coaching process helped translate training into practice through structured discussions, joint problem-solving and collaborative planning.

#### Objectives & Context

The main objective of the coaching process was to ensure effective cooperation between municipalities and disaster management organisations in addressing local risks, particularly those related to extreme weather and other hazards. The activity was embedded within the broader objectives of the LOCALIENCE project, which aims to strengthen local resilience through improved communication, coordination and governance. The coaching process specifically focused on supporting the practical application of training materials at municipal level.



Picture 3.: Coach training by HWM

#### Implementation

The coaching activities combined several formats, including workshops, bilateral meetings and joint exercises. These activities provided a structured space for dialogue and practical cooperation among participating actors.

A key element of the implementation was the joint identification of local vulnerabilities and the discussion of progress achieved within the related solutions. This ensured that coaching activities were closely connected to real local challenges and ongoing project work. Methodological guidance was provided by the Lead Partner, ensuring a consistent approach, while organisational coordination was handled by the Hungarian water management partner.



The coaching process was deliberately aligned with the solutions to support the immediate application of acquired knowledge in practice. A wide range of stakeholders was involved throughout the implementation, including local municipalities, disaster management directorates, firefighters' associations and relevant ministries, thereby strengthening multi-level and cross-sector cooperation.

### **Outcomes**

- Strengthened cooperation between municipalities and disaster management actors
- Improved shared understanding of local risks and responsibilities
- Identification of practical ways to integrate disaster risk reduction into municipal planning
- Establishment of improved communication channels and trust among stakeholders
- Final report documenting good practices, outcomes and recommendations for future use

### **Lessons Learned**

- Different institutional perspectives and priorities can slow consensus-building
- Trained coaches play a crucial role in facilitating dialogue and maintaining constructive engagement
- Coaching is most effective when formal sessions are complemented by informal networking opportunities
- Trust-building is essential for sustainable long-term cooperation

### **Transferability**

The coaching methodology combining structured training with facilitated coaching sessions is highly transferable to other regions facing complex disaster management challenges. It offers a replicable model for municipalities and emergency actors to strengthen cooperation through guided dialogue and joint problem-solving, regardless of specific national or institutional contexts.

### **Supporting Materials**

Final report on the coaching process, including methodology, good practices and recommendations available on the website.

## **3.3. Peer-Review Visits for Mutual Learning and Improvement**

### **Summary**

This section summarises the peer-review process used in LOCALIENCE as a practical tool for learning across countries. It explains the objectives, approach and main benefits of the visits, especially their contribution to improving solutions and strengthening cooperation across borders.

### **Objectives and Context**



The peer-review visits supported mutual learning and quality improvement. Their main objective was to allow partners to look at solutions implemented in other countries, discuss their strengths and weaknesses and identify elements that could be useful elsewhere.

The peer-review process aimed to:

- enable structured exchange of experience among partner regions,
- provide external and independent feedback on solutions,
- identify transferable practices and common challenges,
- support refinement and further development of practical solutions,
- strengthen trust and cooperation among partners operating in different institutional contexts.
- Between October 2024 and June 2025, peer-review visits were organised in Austria, Czechia, Hungary, Slovenia and Poland, with each partner country hosting one visit and participating in the reviews of other solutions.



Figure 5.: The peer-review network implemented in the LOCALIENCE project created with ChatGPT

## Implementation

The peer-review process followed a common methodological framework to ensure consistency and comparability across all visits, while allowing flexibility for local adaptation. Each visit was prepared by the hosting partner and combined several complementary elements.



The peer-review visits typically included:

- presentations of the solution, its objectives and local context,
- discussion of governance arrangements and stakeholder involvement,
- facilitated group discussions and interactive workshops,
- field visits or practical demonstrations where relevant,
- exchange of perspectives among project partners and local stakeholders.

A wide range of actors participated in the visits, including representatives of municipalities, disaster management organisations, emergency services, technical experts, volunteers and civil society organisations. This diversity enriched discussions and ensured that different perspectives and forms of knowledge were taken into account.

Each peer-review visit produced a short report using a common template. The reports described strengths, challenges and recommendations for improving the solutions. The findings were then brought together to identify common lessons across all countries.

### **Outcomes and Added Value**

The peer-review process generated both tangible results and broader qualitative effects.

Key results included:

- five peer-review reports, each focusing on one solution,
- one consolidated summary peer-review report capturing cross-thematic findings.

Key effects of the peer-review process were:

- improved quality of solutions based on external feedback,
- identification of transferable solutions applicable in different contexts,
- increased awareness of common challenges across regions,
- strengthened transnational cooperation and mutual trust among partners.

The peer reviews also provided important inputs for the project's governance analysis and informed the cross-thematic findings and recommendations presented in later chapters of this Handbook.

### **Lessons Learned**

The peer-review visits revealed several recurring lessons relevant for future projects. Communication challenges, sustainability of technical solutions and the need for clearer roles and responsibilities were identified across multiple solution regions. At the same time, the visits highlighted the value of participatory approaches, user-centred design and experiential learning formats.

A key lesson was that face-to-face exchange and direct observation significantly enhance learning outcomes compared to purely document-based reporting. External perspectives helped hosting partners identify blind spots and opportunities for improvement that might otherwise remain unnoticed.



## Transferability and Relevance

The peer-review approach applied in LOCALIENCE is highly transferable and can be adapted to other transnational, cross-border or thematic projects. Peer reviews can be organised as relatively short and cost-effective events while still delivering significant learning benefits.

Overall, the peer-review visits proved to be an effective way to strengthen learning across countries, improve the quality and transferability of solutions and build lasting cooperation among partners. Their findings are an important basis for the cross-thematic conclusions and recommendations presented later in this Handbook.

## 3.4. Solutions

The LOCALIENCE project developed and tested five practical solutions in **Czechia, Austria, Slovenia, Hungary and Poland**. These solutions include tools, participatory methods, warning systems and training approaches that help local actors prepare for and respond to extreme weather events.

### LOCALIENCE PILOT ACTIONS – COMPARISON



Figure 6.: Summary table of the five pilot actions & solutions of the LOCALIENCE project created with ChatGPT



Each pilot action based tested solution followed a similar structure:

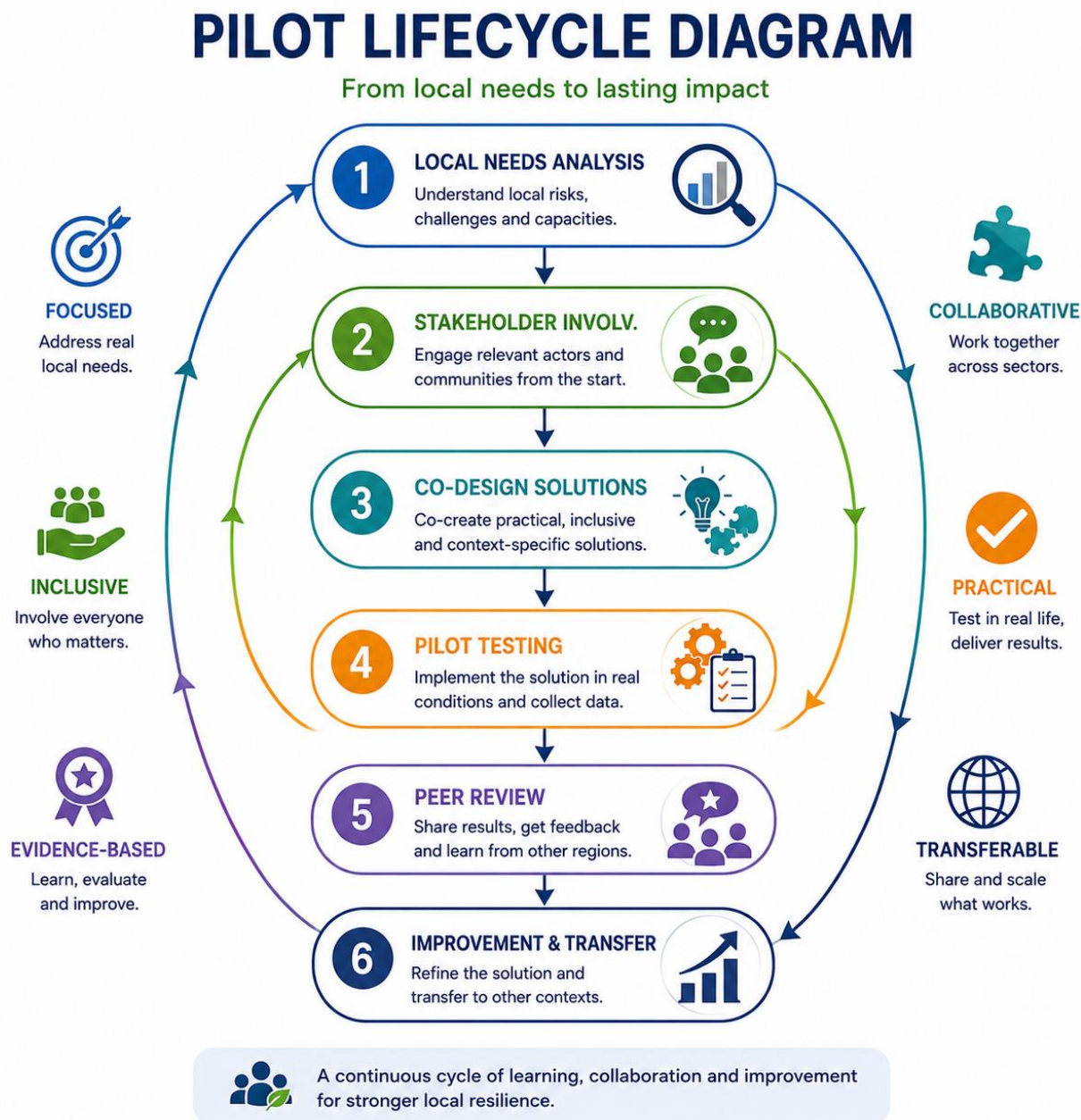


Figure 7.: How did we reach the solutions? - The pilot lifecycle created with ChatGPT

### 3.4.1. Urban Living Lab for Extreme Weather Communication (Hungary)

#### Summary

The Hungarian solution used an urban Living Lab to improve two-way communication between citizens and municipal authorities during extreme weather events. The Living Lab created a real-life testing environment where communication tools, community engagement methods and preparedness messages could be jointly developed, tested and improved.



## Objectives & Context

The solution addressed communication challenges in the urban environment of Szombathely, where storms, flash floods and heatwaves can disrupt daily life. It focused on making warnings more understandable and on helping citizens know what to do before and during an event.

### Main objectives:

- improve communication loops between municipality and citizens
- test digital and participatory methods to enhance situational awareness
- support community-level preparedness
- co-develop realistic response solutions with stakeholders

## Implementation

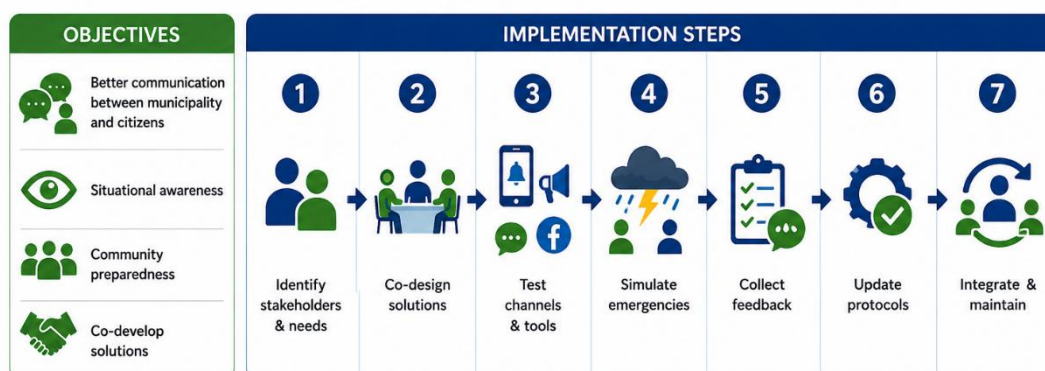


Figure 8.: Objectives and implementation steps of the Hungarian pilot action created with ChatGPT

The solution followed a multi-step Living Lab approach with active stakeholder involvement throughout the process. The first step was to identify key actors, including municipal representatives, emergency services, NGOs, schools and local citizens. This helped ensure that different perspectives were included from the beginning.

Subsequently, **co-design workshops** were organised with identified stakeholders, concentrating on risk perception and existing communication barriers during extreme weather events. These workshops created a shared understanding of local challenges and informed the selection and design of communication measures.

The Living Lab process then moved into a **testing phase**, during which various communication channels were assessed and compared. These included mobile alert systems, social media, community-based platforms and collaboration with local media. The aim was to evaluate their effectiveness, reach and usability under different emergency scenarios.

Practical exercises simulated heatwave and storm situations and allowed stakeholders to test communication workflows under realistic conditions. Feedback from participants was then used to improve communication protocols and strengthen local ownership.



## Outcomes

- Updated municipal communication protocols that define who communicates, through which channels and at what stage of an emergency
- Improved local awareness of heatwave and storm risks, especially among stakeholders who can further share information with vulnerable groups
- Tested participatory tools that help the municipality understand citizens' information needs and improve crisis messages
- Stronger cooperation between the municipality, emergency services, schools, NGOs and citizens, creating a basis for future preparedness activities

## Lessons Learned

- Communication must use several channels, because not all citizens receive or trust information in the same way. Special attention is needed for vulnerable groups.
- Clear responsibilities and simple workflow charts help avoid confusion when warnings must be sent quickly.
- Citizen involvement builds trust. People are more likely to follow advice when they helped shape the communication approach or understand why it is needed.

## Transferability

The Living Lab approach can be adapted by other municipalities that want to improve warning communication and citizen engagement. It does not require a large technical investment; the key requirement is a structured process for bringing local actors together, testing messages and improving them based on feedback. The method is especially useful in urban areas with diverse population groups and different communication habits.

## Replication steps

1. Identify stakeholders and communication needs: Map key local actors and assess existing communication challenges and information needs during extreme weather events.
2. Co-design communication solutions: Organise workshops with municipalities, emergency services, community groups and citizens to develop communication approaches jointly.
3. Test communication channels and tools
4. Pilot different warning and engagement methods (e.g. mobile alerts, social media, local media and community platforms).
5. Simulate emergency situations and collect feedback: Run practical exercises to test communication workflows and gather user feedback.
6. Update communication protocols: Refine messages, clarify responsibilities and improve procedures based on lessons learned.
7. Integrate and maintain the Living Lab approach: Embed participatory communication practices into regular preparedness and awareness activities.



### 3.4.2. Community-Based Flood Management (Austria)

#### Summary

The Austrian solution under the LOCALIENCE project addressed recurrent fluvial and pluvial flood risks in the Sulm river catchment in Styria. Following severe flood events caused by intense rainfall, the solution developed a locally adapted flood warning system for small catchment areas. By combining existing hydrological models with local knowledge and stakeholder involvement, the solution aimed to improve early warning, strengthen coordination among authorities and emergency services, and enhance protection of the population.

#### Objectives & Context

The Sulm catchment is one of the Styrian regions most exposed to heavy rainfall and flash flooding. While regional hydrological forecasting tools exist, local authorities and disaster response organisations often lack timely, location-specific warnings for small sub-catchments.

Objectives included:

- develop a locally adapted flood warning system for small catchments and pluvial flooding
- improve timeliness and reliability of flood warnings at municipal level
- strengthen coordination between water authorities, municipalities, and disaster response organisations
- enhance operational preparedness of emergency services
- increase protection of population and infrastructure through better-informed decision-making.

#### Implementation

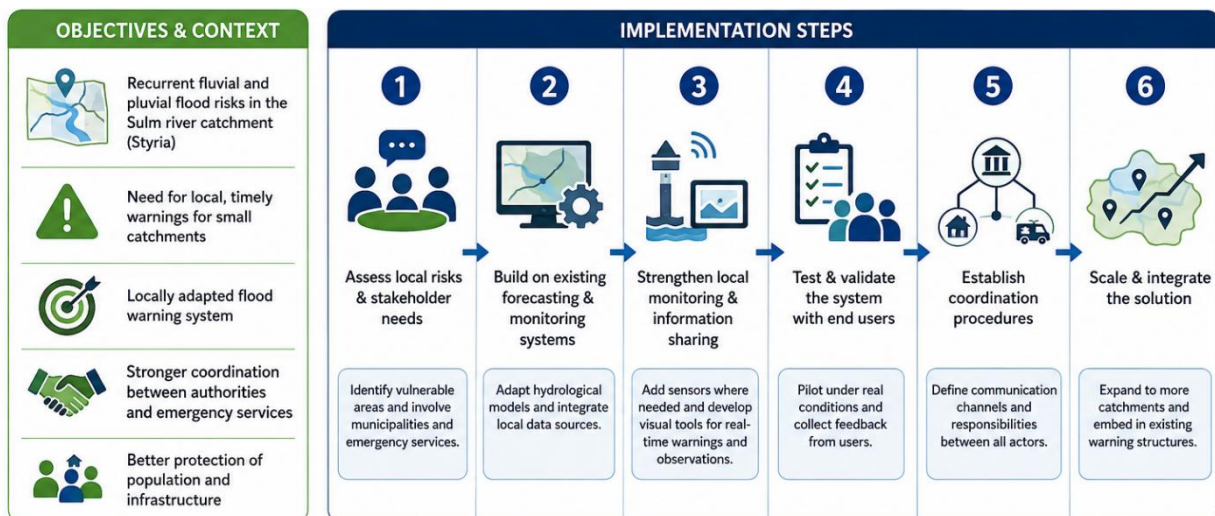


Figure 9.: Objectives and implementation steps of the Austrian pilot action created with ChatGPT

The implementation of the Austrian solution followed a structured and needs-based approach combining technical development with continuous stakeholder involvement. The process started



with a preparatory workshop involving municipalities, district authorities and disaster control organisations. This workshop identified gaps in existing flood warning mechanisms, clarified operational needs and ensured that the system design responded to real local challenges.

Based on these results, a flood warning system was developed for the entire Sulm catchment as well as for selected high-risk sub-catchments. The implementation builds on an existing and well-tested hydrological model, ensuring technical reliability while avoiding duplication of previous work. Depending on local conditions and data availability, the system applies a multi-stage warning logic using either real-time measurement data or hydrological forecasts.

To strengthen real-time monitoring, additional water level sensors were planned and strategically located in critical sub-catchments. These sensors complement existing gauging stations and improve the accuracy and timeliness of flood detection. A key element was the development of an interactive visualisation tool, designed in cooperation with end users. The tool enables authorised stakeholders to access warnings and upload local observations during flood events, improving situational awareness and coordination.

### Outcomes

- A local flood warning system for the Sulm river catchment, including selected high-risk sub-catchments, was established
- Earlier and more reliable flood warnings support faster decisions by municipalities and emergency services
- Stronger coordination between water authorities, municipalities and emergency services through shared information and clearer procedures
- Improved operational response because local actors can see relevant warning information and local observations in one place
- Better protection of people and infrastructure through more timely preparedness measures, such as road closures, warnings to residents or deployment of emergency resources

### Lessons Learned

- End-user involvement is essential. A technically good warning system is only useful if local users understand it and trust it.
- Small catchments need tailored solutions because water levels can rise quickly and regional forecasts may not be detailed enough.
- Existing hydrological models can deliver high value when adapted to local needs instead of being replaced by completely new systems.
- Simple visual tools support fast decision-making, especially during stressful situations with limited time.
- Institutional cooperation must be built before an event. Flood response is faster when authorities and responders already know how to exchange information.



## Transferability

This solution provides a scalable model for regions exposed to flash floods and small-catchment flooding. It can be integrated into existing warning structures and adapted step by step, for example by starting with the most exposed sub-catchments and adding sensors or visualisation functions later. It is relevant for regions where local rainfall impacts develop quickly and where municipalities need more location-specific information than general forecasts can provide.

## Replication steps

1. Assess local flood risks and stakeholder needs: Identify vulnerable catchments, review existing warning processes and involve municipalities and emergency services.
2. Build on existing forecasting and monitoring systems: Adapt available hydrological models and integrate local data sources instead of developing new systems from scratch.
3. Strengthen local monitoring and information sharing: Install additional sensors where needed and develop simple visualisation tools for real-time access to warnings and local observations.
4. Test and validate the system with end users: Pilot the warning system under operational conditions and collect feedback from authorities and responders.
5. Establish coordination procedures: Define communication channels and responsibilities between water authorities, municipalities and emergency services.
6. Scale and integrate the solution: Expand gradually to additional catchments and embed the system into existing flood preparedness and warning structures.

### 3.4.3. Responsive Urban Warning System (Slovenia)

## Summary

Slovenia developed and tested a responsive urban warning system for extreme weather threats aimed at improving local resilience, communication and decision-making in Ljubljana. The solution was implemented by the Slovenian Environment Agency (ARSO) in cooperation with the Ljubljana Fire Brigade (LJFB) and combined meteorological and hydrological forecasts, real-time monitoring, enhanced communication procedures and social media feedback from the field. In addition, the solution strengthened the capacities of first responders and supported public awareness activities. The action provides a transferable model for other urban areas facing similar extreme weather risks.

## Objectives & Context

Ljubljana was selected as an urban testing area for a solution focused on improving resilience to extreme weather events. The solution addressed gaps in cooperation between ARSO as the national forecasting service and relevant authorities responsible for disaster management, including the municipality, Ljubljana Fire Brigade and other field responders.

Its objectives were to:

- improve information flow from ARSO to LJFB for faster operational decision-making
- establish tools and procedures supporting direct and timely communication during extreme weather events



- strengthen feedback from the field back to forecasters through real-time monitoring
- raise public awareness and encourage more proactive use of warnings

## Implementation

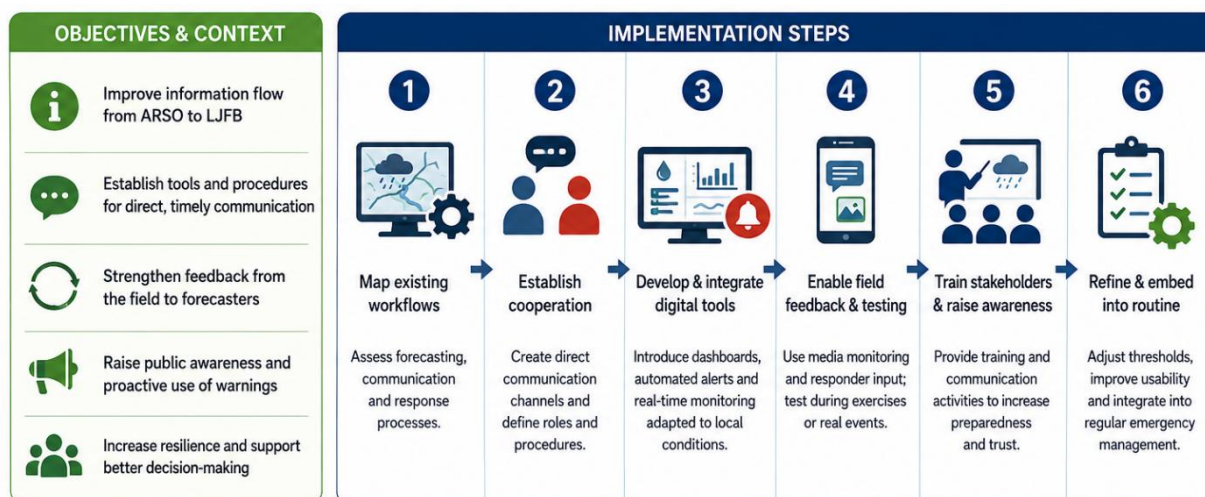


Figure 10.: Objectives and implementation steps of the Slovenian pilot action created with ChatGPT

The Slovenian solution was implemented through four interconnected sub-actions designed to improve communication, preparedness and decision-making during extreme weather events. First, ARSO and LJFB jointly defined relevant meteorological and hydrological data, forecasts and products, and prepared the design of a custom platform that would give LJFB rapid access to key information for easier operational decision-making.

Second, a formal agreement was drafted between ARSO and LJFB establishing a direct consultation line during extreme weather events. This enabled forecasters on duty to provide timely and tailored information directly to shift leaders and to support operational decisions, such as early preparation for an increased number of interventions.

Third, a real-time media monitoring service, Floodtags, was procured and introduced. This tool made it possible to track developing situations immediately and collect reports, media articles and social media posts from the field, which could then support forecast verification and situational awareness.

Fourth, ARSO developed and tested an automated alerting system for professional users. The system issues real-time alerts when selected variables such as water level, discharge or precipitation exceed critical thresholds defined through return periods and impact-based criteria.

To complement these technical and procedural measures, two stakeholder events were organized: one for local and national authorities and one consultation meeting with volunteer fire department commanders. These events helped identify gaps in current response processes, align expectations and strengthen cooperation.



Communication and training activities also formed part of the solution, including press releases, social media posts, infographics, a solution video, and two three-day training sessions for meteorological forecasters delivered by the European Severe Storms Laboratory.

## Outcomes

- A custom ARSO platform gives the Ljubljana Fire Brigade rapid access to relevant forecasts and supports faster, better-informed operational decisions
- An automated alerting system issues real-time, impact-based alerts, with thresholds adjusted to reduce false alarms and increase user confidence
- A direct consultation arrangement enables forecasters and fire brigade shift leaders to exchange tailored information during extreme weather events
- A real-time media monitoring tool provides feedback from the field, helping forecasters understand actual impacts and verify warnings
- Stakeholder events, training and public communication improved cooperation, preparedness and awareness of warning information

## Lessons Learned

Early stakeholder engagement was essential for defining real needs and building trust between forecasters and responders. The main challenges were IT development delays and the need to reduce false alerts so that users would continue to trust the system. The solution also showed that direct human communication remains important, even when digital tools are available. For successful replication, enough time should be planned for co-design with end users, regular meetings, feedback from peer review and integration into existing operational routines.

## Transferability

The solution has strong transferability potential because its building blocks can be adapted separately. Other regions can start with a direct consultation line between forecasters and responders, add a professional-user dashboard, introduce impact-based thresholds or use media monitoring for field feedback. The approach is especially relevant where national forecasting services produce high-quality information but local responders need faster, more tailored interpretation for operational decisions.

## Replication steps

1. Map existing warning and response workflows: Assess current forecasting, communication and emergency response processes and identify operational needs.
2. Establish cooperation between forecasters and responders: Create direct communication channels and define roles, responsibilities and information exchange procedures.
3. Develop and integrate digital warning tools: Introduce user-oriented dashboards, automated alerts and real-time monitoring solutions adapted to local conditions.
4. Enable field feedback and testing: Integrate feedback mechanisms (e.g. media monitoring, responder input) and test the system during exercises or real events.



5. Train stakeholders and raise awareness: Provide training for operational users and support communication activities to increase preparedness and trust.
6. Refine and embed into routine operations: Adjust thresholds, improve usability and integrate the solution into regular emergency management procedures.

### 3.4.4. Enhanced Warning System for Mayors (Czech Republic)

#### Summary

The Czech solution developed an enhanced warning interface for mayors, with user-friendly access to critical hydrometeorological information. The aim was to reduce delays in local decision-making by providing timely, accurate and easy-to-understand warnings for municipal leaders.

#### Objectives & Context

In Czechia, mayors are legally responsible for crisis management in their municipalities. However, they often lack accessible tools to interpret complex meteorological and hydrological data.

Objectives:

- simplify and tailor warnings for local decision-makers
- bridge the gap between technical data and practical action
- improve response times to severe weather alerts
- test user-friendly digital solutions

#### Implementation

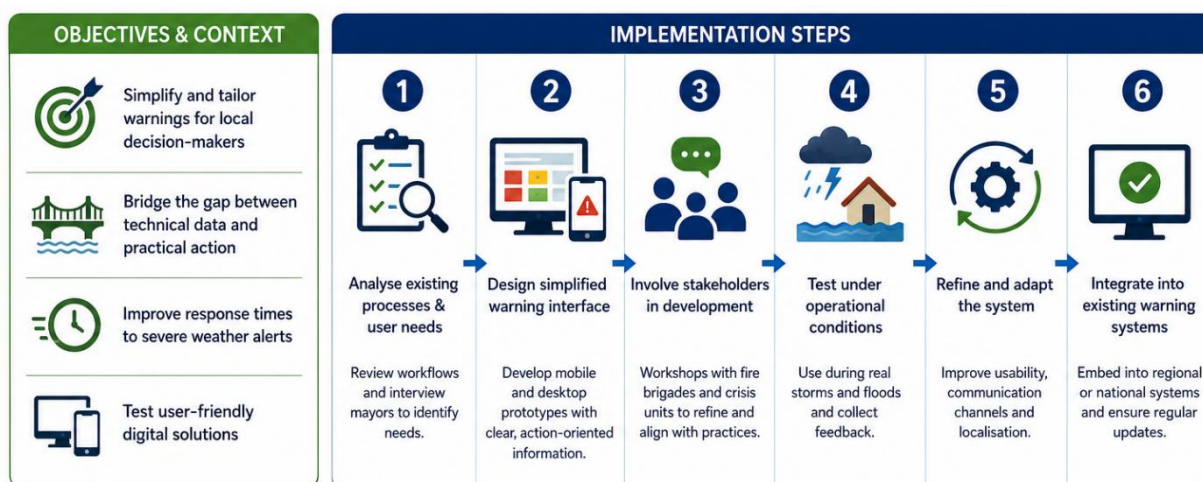


Figure 11.: Objectives and implementation steps of the Czech pilot action created with ChatGPT

The implementation started with an analysis of existing warning workflows, focusing on how information is generated, transmitted and used at municipal level. Interviews with mayors helped identify user needs related to clarity, prioritisation and practical usability.



Based on these inputs, **prototype mobile and desktop interfaces** were developed to present warning information in a simplified and action-oriented manner. The prototypes were subsequently discussed and refined during **workshops with regional fire brigades and municipal crisis units**, ensuring alignment with operational practices and crisis management procedures.

The adapted interfaces were then **tested during real storm and flood events**, allowing stakeholders to assess their functionality and usefulness under real operational conditions and to provide feedback for further refinement.

### Outcomes

- Warning messages became easier to understand and better linked to practical municipal decisions
- Mayors and municipal crisis staff became more engaged with early-warning information because it was presented in a more relevant and user-friendly way
- User requirements were documented for future integration into national or regional warning systems
- Cooperation between warning providers, fire services and municipalities was strengthened through interviews, workshops and testing

### Lessons Learned

- Mayors need simple dashboards, short messages and clear action guidance. During an emergency, they do not have time to interpret complex technical data.
- Localised information helps speed up response because decision-makers can immediately see whether their municipality is affected and what actions may be needed.
- Direct channels such as mobile alerts or SMS are preferred for urgent warnings, while e-mail is more suitable for background information or documentation.

### Transferability

This solution is highly relevant for European regions where mayors or local leaders have crisis management responsibilities. The concept can be transferred by first mapping the decisions that local leaders must make, then simplifying warning information around those decisions. It can be adapted to different legal systems, provided that the interface uses local terminology, existing warning data and clear links to recommended actions.

### Replication steps

1. Analyse existing warning processes and user needs: Review current warning workflows and identify the information needs of mayors and local crisis managers.
2. Design a simplified warning interface: Develop user-friendly dashboards and alerts that translate technical data into actionable information.



3. Involve key stakeholders in development: Engage municipalities, emergency services and warning providers to align the solution with operational practices.
4. Test under operational conditions: Pilot the interface during exercises or real warning situations and collect user feedback.
5. Refine and adapt the system: Improve usability, communication channels and localisation based on testing results.
6. Integrate into existing warning systems: Embed the solution into regional or national early-warning processes and ensure regular updates.

### 3.4.5. Decision-Making Games for Disaster Preparedness (Poland)

#### Summary

The Polish solution created a decision-making game to train municipal representatives, responders and community actors in crisis scenarios. The game simulates flood and extreme-weather situations and requires participants to make coordinated decisions in real time.

#### Objectives & Context

The aim was to provide an interactive, low-cost training method to:

- enhance crisis decision-making
- strengthen inter-agency cooperation
- test local response strategies in a safe environment
- complement classical tabletop exercises

#### Implementation

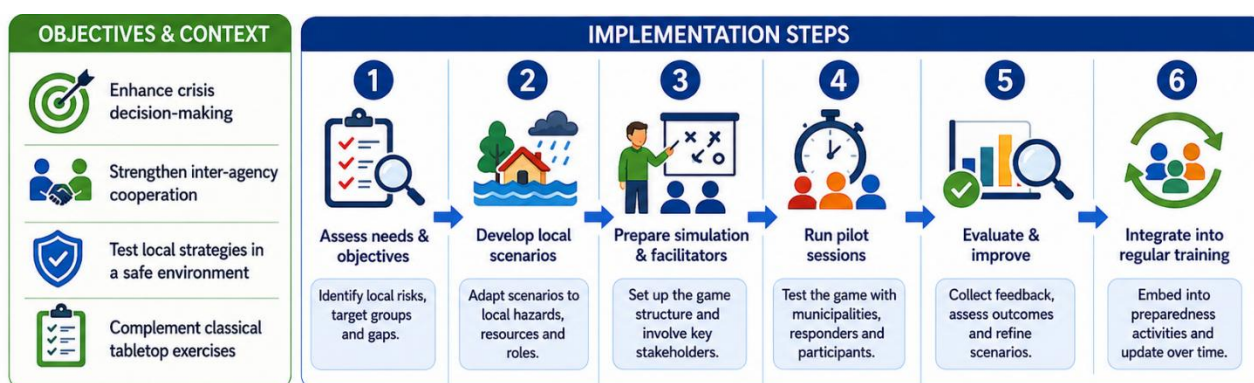


Figure 12.: Objectives and implementation steps of the Polish pilot action created with ChatGPT

The implementation focused on developing the scenario engine and game logic that form the core of the simulation. Key risk parameters, such as flood levels, storm dynamics and limited resources, were included to make the scenarios realistic and useful for training.

The simulation was subsequently **tested through dedicated sessions with municipalities and fire brigades**, allowing participants to engage with the scenarios and practice decision-making under time pressure. Performance during these sessions was systematically observed and



evaluated, and **participant feedback** was collected to assess usability, learning outcomes and realism.

After external feedback, the scenarios and game mechanics were further improved to increase clarity, adjust the level of challenge and make the tool easier to adapt elsewhere.

### Outcomes

- A functional crisis-simulation game was created to train decision-making during flood and extreme-weather scenarios
- Participants showed higher engagement than in classical training because they had to make decisions under time pressure and see the consequences
- Participants gained a better understanding of how decisions by one actor affect the work of others during a crisis
- Scenario templates were documented so that the game can be adapted to other hazards, institutions or local conditions

### Lessons Learned

- Gamification improves learning because participants remember situations they actively experienced, not only information they heard in a presentation.
- Realistic time pressure encourages collaboration and shows where communication or coordination gaps exist.
- Good facilitation is essential. The learning value comes not only from playing the game, but also from the discussion and debriefing afterwards.

### Transferability

The game-based approach can be adopted by municipalities, fire brigades, schools, NGOs and training centres. It is low-cost compared with full-scale exercises and can be repeated regularly. Scenarios can be adapted to local hazards, available resources and institutional roles, making the method useful both for awareness-raising and for more advanced preparedness training.

### Replication steps

1. Assess local needs and objectives: Identify key local risks, target groups and preparedness gaps.
2. Develop local scenarios: Adapt crisis scenarios to local hazards, available resources and institutional roles.
3. Prepare the simulation and facilitators: Set up the game structure and involve facilitators and relevant stakeholders.
4. Run pilot sessions: Test the simulation with municipalities, responders and other participants.
5. Evaluate and improve: Collect feedback, assess learning outcomes and refine scenarios.
6. Integrate into regular training: Embed the method into preparedness activities and update scenarios over time.



## 4. Transfer Workshops - From Knowledge to Practice

Transfer workshops are conceived as the final step of the LOCALIENCE learning cycle and as a key mechanism for ensuring that project results are effectively transferred beyond the project partnership. Their purpose is to support the uptake, adaptation and practical application of LOCALIENCE tools and methodologies by regions, municipalities and organisations that were not directly involved in the solutions. Transfer workshops therefore serve as a structured bridge between project-generated knowledge and real-world implementation.

When planning a transfer workshop, partners should aim to move beyond classical dissemination formats. Rather than focusing on one-way presentations, workshops should be designed as **interactive learning environments** in which participants actively engage with the tools, reflect on their own contexts and explore possibilities for adaptation. Experience from LOCALIENCE shows that resilience-related knowledge is most effectively transferred when end users are involved as co-creators rather than passive recipients.

### Workshop Objectives

Each transfer workshop should be designed around a limited number of clear objectives. These typically include:

- introducing selected LOCALIENCE tools, methods or practical solutions,
- explaining the rationale behind these solutions and the problems they address,
- enabling participants to assess relevance for their own institutional or territorial context,
- supporting informed adaptation rather than direct replication,
- fostering cross-sector dialogue and networking among participants.

Defining these objectives at an early stage helps shape the agenda, select appropriate participants and determine suitable interactive formats.

### Target Groups and Participation



Transfer workshops should involve a diverse mix of stakeholders, reflecting the multi-level and cross-sector nature of disaster risk reduction and resilience-building.

KEY TARGET GROUPS



Figure 13.: Target Groups and Participation created with ChatGPT

## Recommended Workshop Structure

Based on LOCALIENCE experience, transfer workshops are most effective when structured into several complementary phases.

The workshop should begin with an **introductory session** setting the overall context. This session should briefly outline the challenges related to extreme weather events, introduce the LOCALIENCE project and clearly explain the purpose of the workshop. Participants should understand not only *what* will be presented, but *why* it is relevant to their work.

This introduction should be followed by a focused presentation of selected tools or results, such as:

- the decision-making simulation game,
- the Living Lab approach,
- the flood preparedness toolkit,
- the mayoral warning interface,
- or other locally relevant LOCALIENCE solutions.

These presentations should avoid excessive technical detail. Instead, they should highlight:

- the problem the tool was designed to address,
- the logic behind its design,



- practical lessons learned during solution implementation,
- key conditions for successful use.

After the presentation phase, workshops should move into interactive and reflective sessions. Small-group discussions are particularly effective for enabling participants to analyse how the presented tools could function in their own environments. Participants should be encouraged to compare their local conditions with those of the solution areas and to identify similarities, differences and potential barriers.

Key questions to guide these discussions may include:

- Which challenges addressed by the tool are also present in our context?
- What institutional or organisational adaptations would be required?
- Which actors would need to be involved for successful implementation?
- What resources or capacities are currently missing?

Wherever possible, transfer workshops should also include **practical or experiential elements**. These may take the form of:

- guided walk-throughs of digital tools or interfaces,
- simplified simulation exercises,
- scenario-based group work,
- demonstrations of communication workflows.

Practical components help participants better understand how tools function in practice and lower barriers to adoption, particularly for participants with limited technical backgrounds.

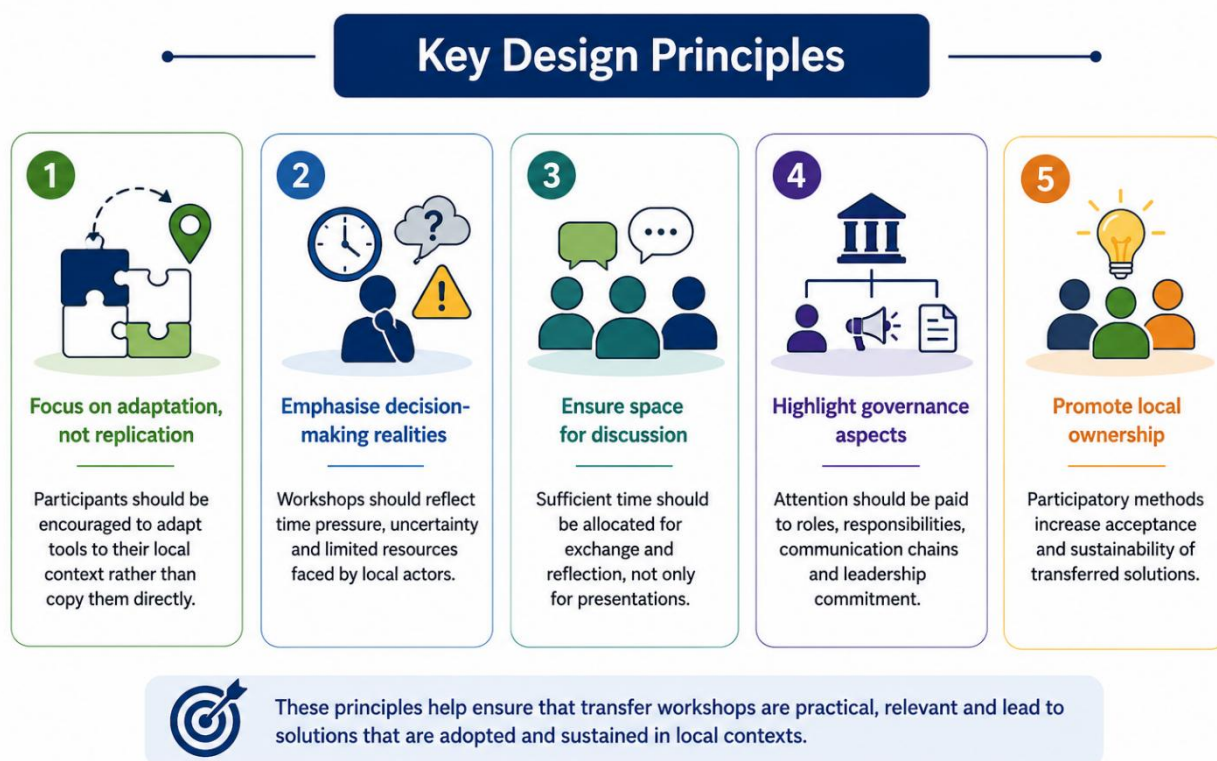


Figure 14.: Key design principles for Transfer Workshops created with ChatGPT

## Expected Outcomes

Well-designed transfer workshops should result in:

- increased awareness of available resilience tools and methods,
- clearer understanding of how these tools can support local decision-making,
- identification of concrete next steps for local or regional implementation,
- strengthened networks among institutions and sectors,
- greater institutional readiness to adopt and sustain resilience measures.

Importantly, the success of a transfer workshop should not be measured solely by the number of participants, but by the extent to which participants are able to **translate insights into concrete actions** after the event.

## Conclusion

Transfer workshops are a strategic instrument for extending the impact of LOCALIENCE beyond the project partnership. When designed as interactive, reflective and practice-oriented events, they support meaningful knowledge transfer and contribute to long-term resilience-building. By following the recommended structure and principles outlined above, future partners and regions can use transfer



workshops as an effective tool to bridge the gap between innovation, governance and everyday practice in disaster risk reduction.

## 5. Cross-thematic Findings and Recommendations

This chapter brings together the most important cross-cutting findings of the LOCALIENCE project and translates them into actionable recommendations. While individual solutions addressed different hazards, tools and governance settings, their comparison across countries revealed a set of recurring structural challenges and success factors. These findings transcend national boundaries and highlight systemic patterns affecting local resilience across Central Europe.

The chapter synthesises insights from solutions, peer-review visits, capacity-building activities, transfer workshops and governance analysis. It focuses on issues that are relevant for municipalities, regional and national authorities, training institutions and policy makers seeking to strengthen preparedness for extreme weather events.

### 5.1. Fragmentation of Communication and Decision-Making

A consistent finding across all solutions and peer reviews was the fragmentation of communication between national institutions, local authorities and communities. Even where national warning systems and monitoring tools are well developed, local actors often struggle to interpret information and translate it into timely and coordinated action.

Key challenges identified include:

- overly technical warning messages not adapted to local decision-making needs,
- unclear or informal communication channels between institutions,
- delayed responses due to uncertainty about roles and responsibilities,
- limited feedback loops from municipalities and communities to higher-level authorities.

The project demonstrated that **technical data alone does not ensure preparedness**. What matters is how information is communicated, contextualised and linked to clear operational steps at local level.

#### **Recommendation:**

National and regional authorities should prioritise **localisation of warnings**, including simplified formats, clear action guidance and predefined response steps aligned with municipal responsibilities.

### 5.2. Mismatch Between National Systems and Local Capacities

LOCALIENCE confirmed a structural mismatch between **advanced national systems** and **limited local capacities**. National meteorological, hydrological and disaster-management institutions operate sophisticated tools, while municipalities often work with:



- limited staff and time,
- part-time or volunteer crisis roles,
- insufficient training in risk interpretation.

As a result, local authorities frequently rely on experience and informal networks rather than structured procedures.

Solutions in Czechia and Slovenia showed that even small, user-centred adjustments - such as mayor-focused dashboards or locally adapted warnings - can significantly improve usability and response speed.

#### Recommendations:

- Design warning and decision-support systems around **local user needs**, not institutional assumptions.
- Integrate national data into **simple, actionable local interfaces**.
- Ensure regular training and refresher sessions for municipal decision-makers.

### 5.3. Sustainability of Tools and Processes

Concerns about **long-term sustainability** were repeatedly raised by municipalities. While digital tools and innovative solutions are attractive, many local authorities lack the resources to maintain them once project funding ends.

Common risks include:

- unclear ownership of tools,
- absence of maintenance budgets,
- dependence on specialised external expertise,
- lack of integration into existing institutional systems.

The project highlighted that sustainability is not primarily a technical issue, but an **organisational and governance challenge**.

#### Recommendations:

- Embed new tools into existing institutional workflows and national systems.
- Define ownership and maintenance responsibilities from the outset.
- Prefer solutions that are **technically simple, scalable and realistic** for local administrations.



## 5.4. Importance of Community Involvement

Another strong cross-thematic finding concerns the **underutilised role of communities** in resilience-building. Although citizens and volunteers are often the first to experience and respond to extreme weather impacts, they are rarely involved in preparedness planning or tool design.

Solutions in Austria and Hungary demonstrated that participatory approaches - such as:

- community flood mapping,
- Living Lab co-design processes,
- simulation-based exercises-

significantly improve understanding, trust and long-term acceptance of measures.

### Recommendations:

- Move beyond one-way communication towards **co-design and participation**.
- Involve communities in preparedness planning, not only in response.
- Use participatory tools to build ownership and local knowledge.

## 5.5. Value of Training, Coaching and Experiential Learning

Training and capacity building proved essential for strengthening cooperation and preparedness. LOCALIENCE showed that learning is most effective when:

- multiple sectors train together,
- theory is combined with practical examples,
- learning is continuous rather than one-off.

Simulation games, peer reviews and coaching processes were particularly effective in revealing coordination gaps and strengthening relationships between institutions.

### Recommendations:

- Institutionalise **regular training cycles**, not project-based training only.
- Combine classroom learning with **experiential formats** (simulations, peer learning).
- Support coaching approaches that translate training into daily practice.

## 5.6. Governance and Multi-Level Cooperation

Governance emerged as a decisive factor shaping resilience outcomes. Across countries, similar governance challenges were identified:



- unclear distribution of responsibilities,
- fragmented workflows,
- reliance on informal cooperation instead of institutionalised mechanisms.

At the same time, the project demonstrated that **governance improvements do not always require legislative change**. Many effective solutions resulted from:

- clearer communication routines,
- better alignment between national and local actors,
- improved understanding of each other's roles.

Cross-border cooperation further highlighted the benefits of learning from different governance models and institutional cultures.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Strengthen **multi-level governance** through clearer workflows and communication chains.
- Promote cooperation across sectors and administrative levels as a standard practice.
- Institutionalise cross-border exchange beyond individual projects.

## 5.7. From Findings to Action

Taken together, the cross-thematic findings of LOCALIENCE confirm that local resilience is built at the intersection of:

- **technical tools,**
- **human capacities,**
- **governance structures,**
- and **community engagement.**
- Resilience cannot be achieved through isolated innovations. It requires integrated approaches that combine user-centred design, long-term institutional support, participatory processes and sustained cooperation across borders.



## CROSS-THEMATIC FINDINGS MAIN LESSONS LEARNED



Figure 15.: Summary of the cross-thematic findings created with ChatGPT

### Key message:

While hazards differ from region to region, the **structural challenges of communication, governance and local capacity are widely shared**. Addressing them through coordinated, inclusive and practical approaches is essential for building more resilient municipalities and regions across Central Europe.



## 5.8. Capitalisation and Uptake of LOCALIENCE Results

To ensure that the results of the LOCALIENCE project extend beyond the immediate project partnership, a set of targeted capitalisation activities was designed and implemented alongside the core project actions. These activities aimed to support the uptake, adaptation and reuse of project results by external stakeholders, institutions and networks operating in the field of disaster risk reduction and climate resilience.

A central capitalisation instrument was the organisation of transfer workshops at national level. These workshops were designed to translate project findings into practical knowledge for municipalities, emergency services and other relevant actors not directly involved in the solutions. By focusing on adaptation rather than replication, the workshops supported informed uptake of tools and methods in diverse institutional and territorial contexts.

**Study visits**, implemented in the form of peer-review visits, represented another key capitalisation mechanism. They enabled direct observation of solutions, facilitated structured exchange among practitioners and allowed external perspectives to inform project outcomes. The study visits proved particularly effective in supporting experiential learning and in identifying transferable elements across different governance and hazard contexts.

Capitalisation was further supported through **presentations at the final project conference**, where consolidated results, cross-thematic findings and recommendations were shared with a broader audience. The conference provided a platform to connect project outcomes with policy discussions and to position LOCALIENCE results within wider European debates on climate adaptation and civil protection.

Finally, project results were disseminated through external networks and platforms, including professional and European-level communities such as the EU Civil Protection Knowledge Network. This dissemination ensured alignment with existing knowledge-sharing structures and increased the visibility and long-term accessibility of LOCALIENCE results beyond the project's lifetime.

Together, these capitalisation activities strengthen the sustainability and impact of the LOCALIENCE project. They ensure that the Handbook functions not only as a documentation of project results, but as a practical tool supporting continued learning, adaptation and cooperation across Central Europe and beyond.