1.15 Public Warning and Information System via mobile phones (Lithuania)

OECD GP Activity	UN SF Activity	UN SD Goals / Targets
1. Natural hazards identification and communication, NH (early) warning systems	2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk	3.D Strengthen the capacity of all countries … for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

Classification according to OECD Guiding Principles, UN Sendai Framework Priorities/Activities, and UN SDGs and Targets

Short Facts:	Natural Hazard(s) Considered:
Governance approach: Hazard warning **Source:** Fire and Rescue Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania **Entry into force:** August 2012 **Targeted Stakeholders:** The Public **Scope of applicability:** National	• Floods • Earthquakes • Storms • Wildfire • and others **Climate change:** Not included

Description

The Lithuanian Public Warning and Information System (GPIS) informs residents of and visitors to Lithuania about dangerous situations in real time. It is based on the MassAlert System technology from NTService. The MassAlert system lets governments and relevant authorities (e.g. fire departments, police, military) communicate with the population by messaging via mobile networks through the cell broadcast method. Informational messages can be sent through the public mobile phone communication network in a specific territory of the coverage area. Cell broadcast messaging does not require the search for and identification of a subscriber, which gives it an advantage over sending short messages (SMS). This means that messages are delivered to all citizens simultaneously within a specified area. The only precondition is that they have the cell broadcasting messaging function activated on their mobile phones.

Advantages of this technology are its very high level of reach because of full GSM (Global System for Mobile Communication) coverage in the country and a very high level of mobile phone usage by inhabitants. Additionally, people can be provided directly with useful information about the level of risk, recommendations for appropriate behaviour, and how to avoid the hazard zone.

Furthermore, the GPIS can be used for preventive messages to provide information about potential dangers.

Link/Contact:

http://gpis.vpgt.lt/go.php/eng/IMG/4

http://www.ntservice.lt/go.php/Sprendimai_LIT89793396780956777

http://digitaltraining.eu/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Strategy_EWS.pdf

Comments by the UN/OECD Natech-Steering Group:

The example makes highlights how the use of the Global System for Mobile Communication can be an important element of warning systems (for natural hazards and for Natech/accident warnings).