

DIGeMERGE

DIGITAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES

During natural disasters and emergencies, reliable means of communication are of vital importance to life-saving efforts. Examining how various forms of digitalization transform public emergency communication, the DIGeMERGE project explores the introduction of new communication technologies and their implications for citizen-state relations.

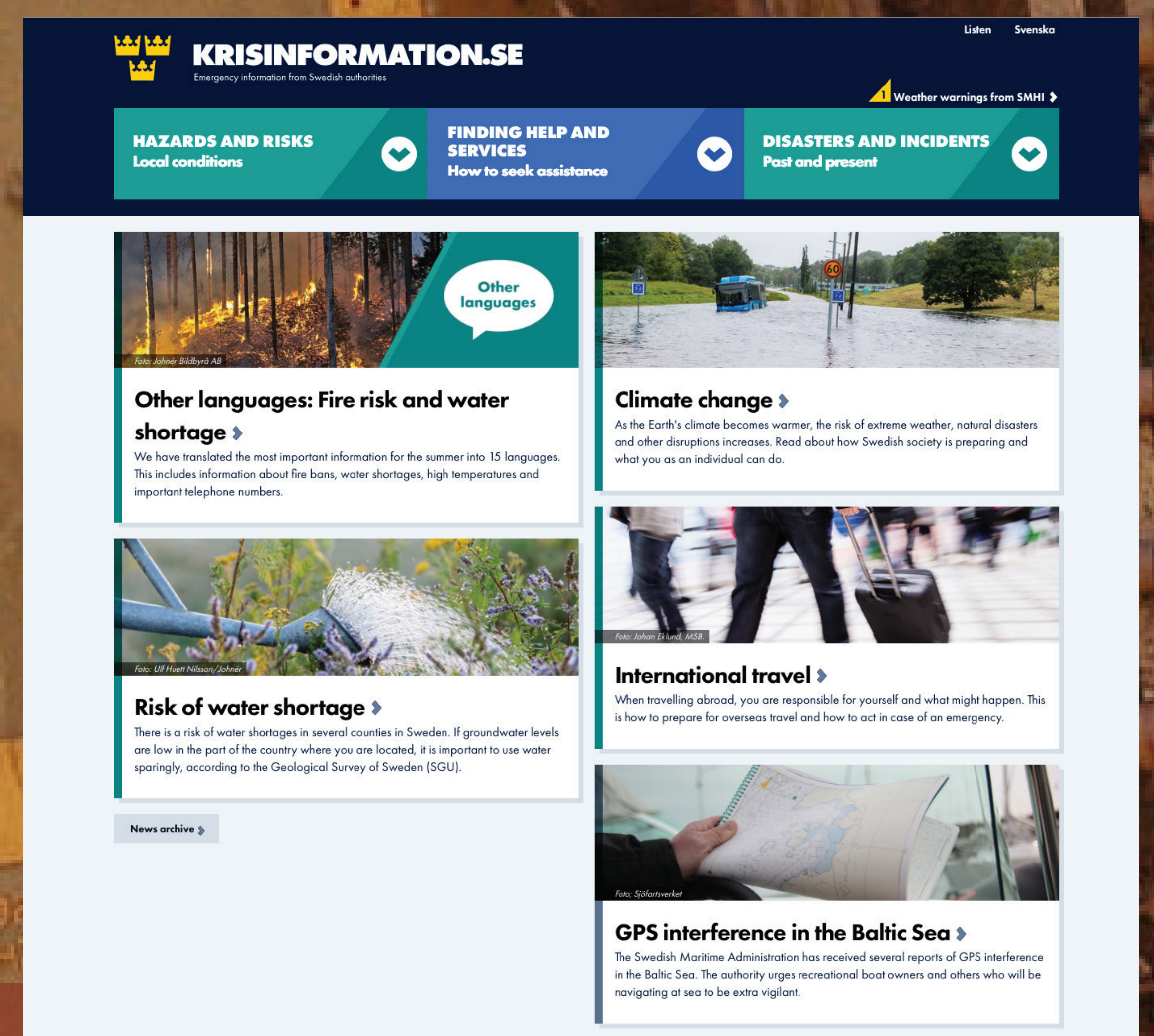
The DIGeMERGE research project studies the use of digital communication in responses to public emergencies in the four Nordic countries: Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Denmark. The DIGeMERGE consortium consists of:

- o Peace Research Institute Oslo (Norway)
- o Malmö University (Sweden)
- o IT University of Copenhagen (Denmark)
- o Centre for Machine Vision and Signal Analysis, University of Oulu (Finland)

SWEDEN'S EMERGENCY INFORMATION PORTAL

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency is responsible for helping people in Sweden prepare for natural disasters, crisis situations, and war. This mission includes coordinating communication among emergency responders and providing information to the public—one key initiative being the national information portal, krisinformation.se.

A DIGeMERGE researcher is studying how the team behind this portal uses different online platforms—such as their own website and app, and social media, to share information about emergencies. The research also explores how social media logics are reshaping the relationship between the state and citizens, and highlights the importance of institutional trust, both among emergency agencies and between emergency responders and the public.



NORWAY'S CELL BROADCAST EMERGENCY ALERTS

In Norway, about 1250 air-raid sirens have been set up across the country since World War II, mainly in cities and towns. The sirens are operated by the police in peace-time and the Civil Defense in war-time. The police might use the sirens to warn about emergencies such as accidents at chemical plants. A new cell broadcast emergency alert system was introduced in 2023 as a digital supplement to the sirens. When the system was tested in January 2024, about 90% of the population received the new emergency alert as a pop-up on their mobile phone.

DIGeMERGE researchers investigate public responses to the testing of the new emergency alert system and examine the first use of the cell broadcast alert system in a real-life emergency in early August 2023; an extreme weather event in eastern Norway known as “Hans”.

DIGeMERGE has received funding from the EU's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under the CHANSE call for projects on Transformations: Social and cultural dynamics in the digital age.

For more information, please visit:
<https://chance.org/digemerge/>



Immediate Danger 1m ago
2024-1-10 12:00
TEST
This is a TEST of Emergency Alert, the authorities' warning system for major situations involving a serious threat to life and health. A real alert will inform you about the incident and recommended precautions to protect yourself. Norwegian police are testing the system today. You do not need to do anything.

The Norwegian Police

