

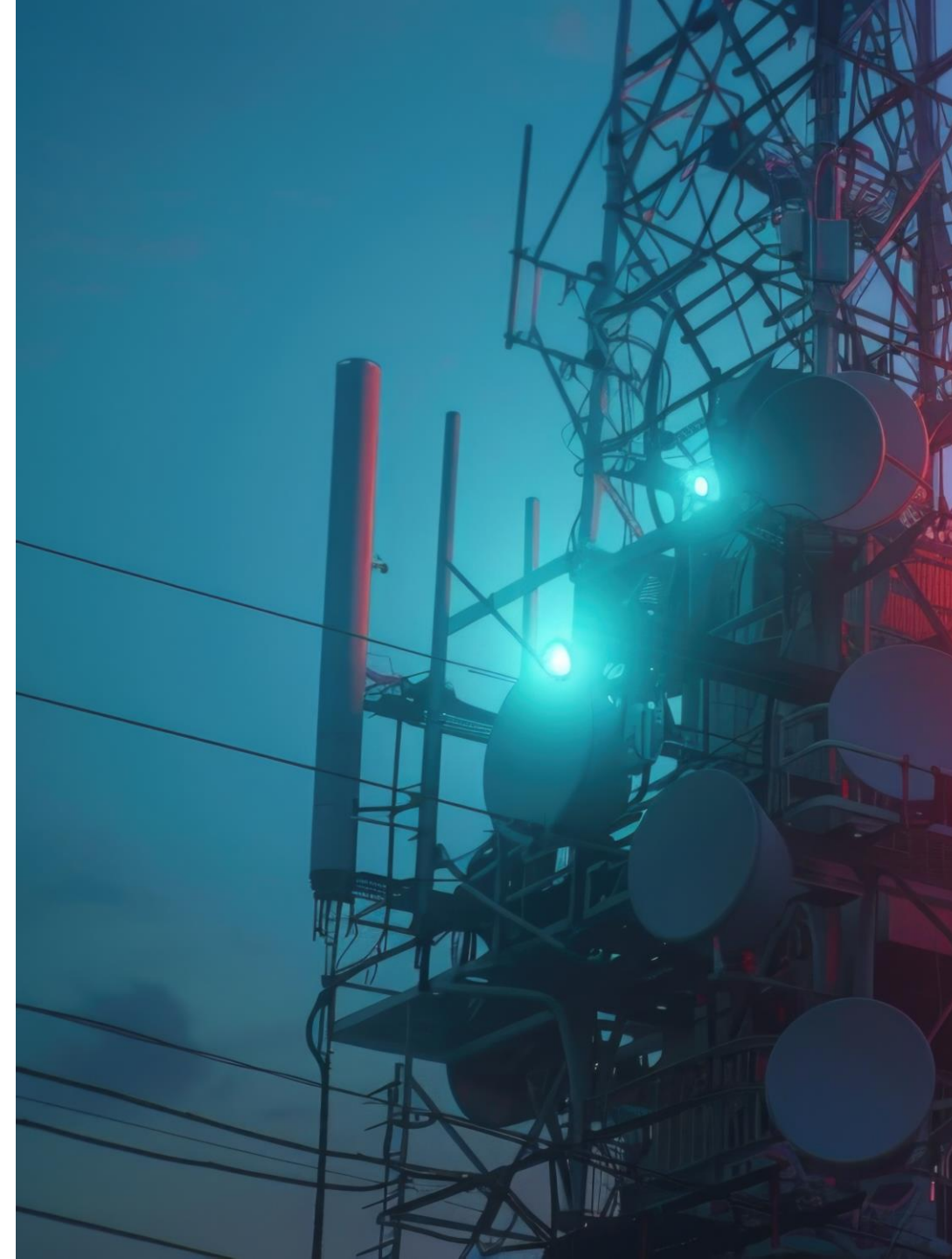
Regional overview: Early Warning Systems in the Western Balkans

From Challenges to Action: Building a Regional Roadmap



Why Are We Here Today?

- The Western Balkans are **highly vulnerable to natural hazards**: floods, earthquakes, wildfires, storms.
- Despite technological advancements, **EWS remains fragmented and inconsistent** across the region.
- **EU alignment & regional cooperation** present a critical opportunity.
- **Your role today**: Identify key challenges, explore best practices, and co-create solutions.



The Reality of Disasters in the Western Balkans

- **Albania (2019)** – Earthquake (6.4M) → 50+ deaths, 4,000+ displaced.
- **Bosnia & Herzegovina (2014)** – Worst floods in 120 years, affecting one-third of the country.
- **Montenegro (2010)** – Severe flooding impacting 10,000+ people.
- **North Macedonia (2024)** – Wildfire emergency exacerbated by heatwaves.
- **Serbia (2014)** – Devastating floods, **€1.5 billion** in damages.

Key Takeaway:

*These disasters are not isolated incidents. They demand **a proactive, regional approach to early warning systems** to prevent loss of life and infrastructure damage.*

Where Do We Stand?

EWS Readiness in the Western Balkans

Country	EWS in Place?	Centralized System?	Primary Alert Channels	Plans for CB?
Albania	✓ (since 16 years)	✗ No centralized system	SMS, TV, Radio	✓ Planned
Bosnia & Herzegovina	✓ (since 2018)	✗ No centralized system	Sirens, TV, Radio, Google Alert	✗ No plans
Montenegro	✓ Partial	✗ No centralized system	Sirens, SMS, TV, Radio, Apps	✓ Feasibility Study
North Macedonia	✓ (Limited)	✗ No centralized system	Sirens, SMS, TV, Radio	✓ MNOs interested
Serbia	✓ (Nationwide)	✓ Centralized	SMS, Sirens, TV, Radio	✓ End of 2025

The Gaps & Challenges

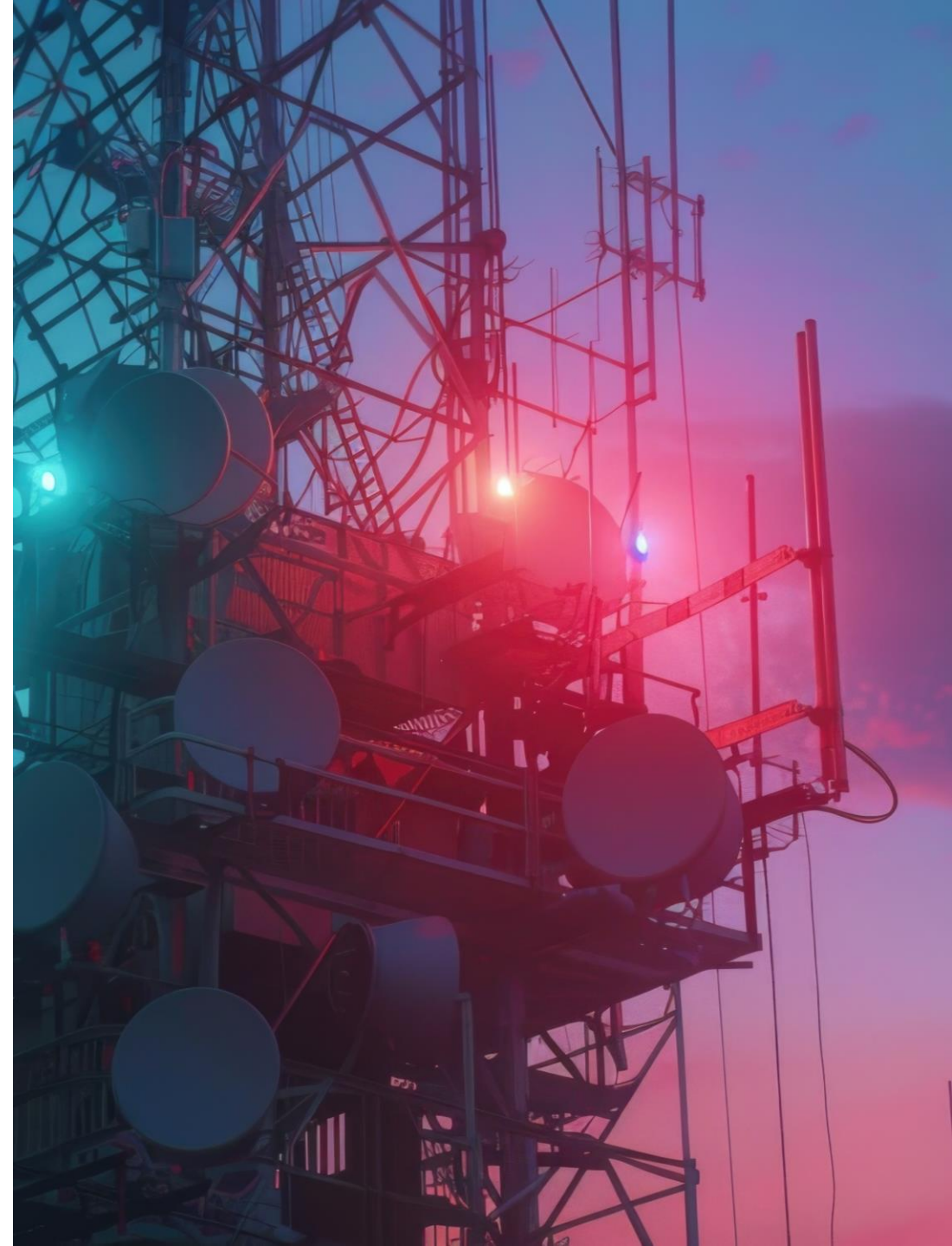
⚠️ **Financial Constraints** → Lack of investment in modern infrastructure.

⚠️ **Coordination Challenges** → Multiple actors, but fragmented responsibilities.

⚠️ **Regulatory & Legal Barriers** → No harmonized framework across countries.

⚠️ **Public Awareness** → Citizens often unaware of alerts or how to respond.

⚠️ **Climate Change & Rising Risks** → More frequent and severe disasters require **real-time, precise alerts**.



How do we move past these barriers?

Opportunities

1. Aligning with EU Disaster Resilience Goals

- Supports **Anticipate, Prepare, Alert, Respond, Secure** framework.
 - Leverages **EU Civil Protection Mechanism** for funding & expertise.

2. Policy & Regulatory Alignment

- **Article 110 of EU Electronic Communications Code** mandates geo-targeted emergency alerts.

3. Leveraging Digital Infrastructure

- 99.6% mobile network coverage enables rapid, geo-specific alerts.

4. Building Public-Private Partnerships

- Telecom operators, tech providers, and governments **must work together** to create sustainable solutions.

 *This is not just about policy. It's about system approach and ecosystem*

Now, let's take this discussion into action...



Discuss:

What are the top regional challenges we must address?



Co-Create:

What solutions will be most impactful & realistic?



Commit:

Who needs to be involved, and how can we move forward together?



*How can we
work together to
implement a more
effective EWS across
the Western Balkans?*

Thank you!