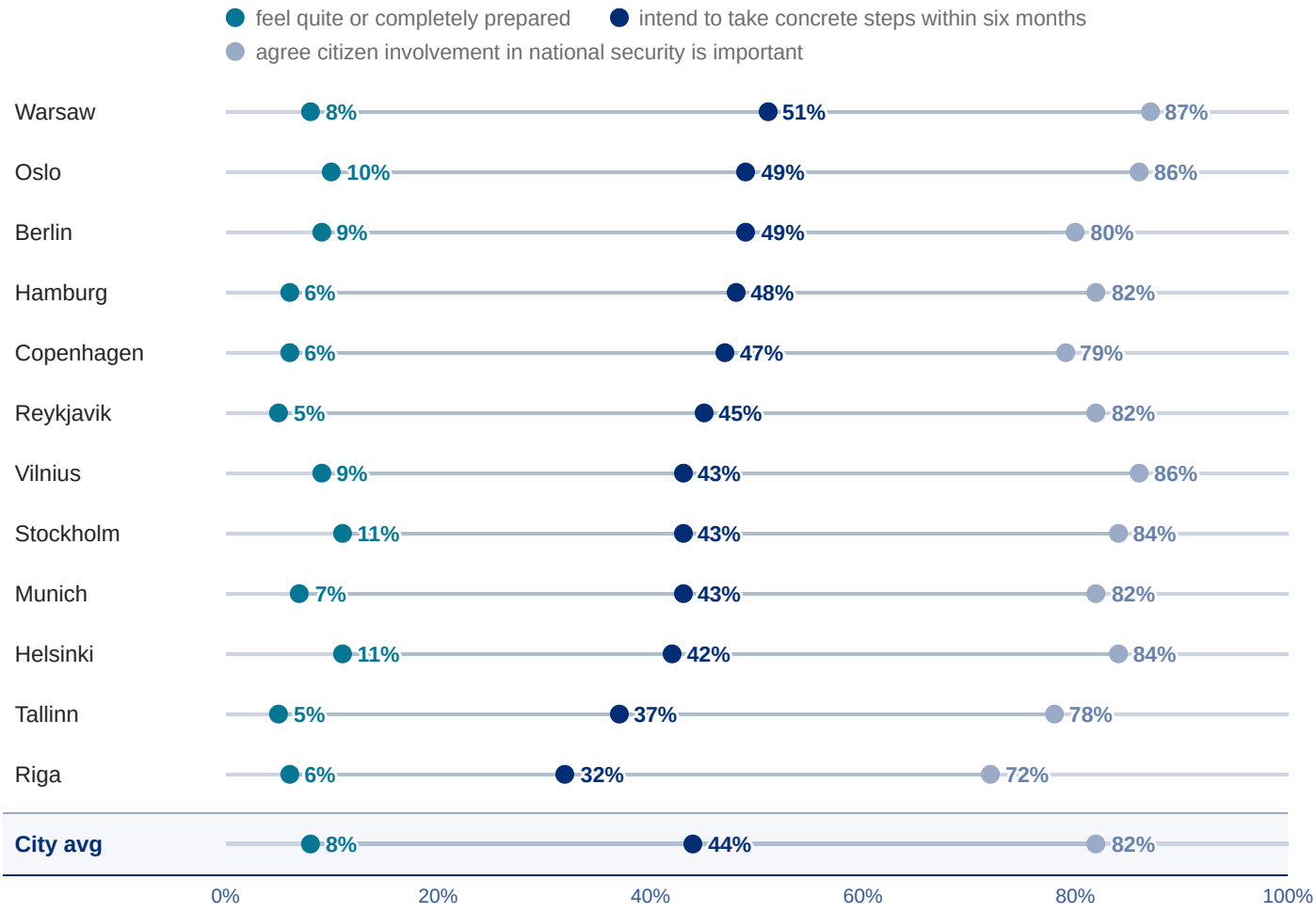
UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA

BALTIC INDIVIDUAL CRISIS PREPAREDNESS BAROMETER 2026

Most see a role for citizens. Few feel prepared.

Online survey of 9,521 residents aged 18–74 in twelve cities of the Baltic Sea Region, fieldwork by Norstat, 14–27 October 2026.

Across the twelve cities, most residents agree that **citizens have a part to play in national security**, and many **plan to improve their own preparedness** in the coming months. **Far fewer feel ready today.** The chart follows this gap city by city: how widely the need is recognised, how many intend to act, and how many feel prepared now.



Baltic Individual Crisis Preparedness Barometer, project No. ZDA-LIP2025/16 (2026–2029)
Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, University of Latvia. Funded by the LU Development Programme for High-Impact Research.
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Comparative data by city

		Riga	Tallinn	Vilnius	Helsinki	Stockholm	Copenhagen	Oslo	Reykjavik	Warsaw	Berlin	Hamburg	Munich	City avg
THREATS	**Please rate each threat. (% major threat)**													
	Digital disruption	66	68	70	67	71	77	76	60	74	67	67	69	**69**
	Disinformation	59	67	72	62	66	62	67	50	74	66	68	65	**65**
	Organised crime	64	48	54	44	71	44	57	67	65	66	62	57	**58**
	Critical supplies cut	74	62	63	36	47	58	52	18	56	56	51	54	**52**
	New technologies (AI)	54	52	40	44	49	51	54	47	61	48	48	53	**50**
	Climate impacts	40	33	33	48	44	54	54	43	53	53	57	52	**47**
	Terrorism	60	39	46	23	36	33	30	9	52	50	46	45	**39**
	Military attack	65	50	67	33	23	25	22	8	65	36	33	38	**39**
	Economic situation	55	58	40	45	20	13	16	49	39	35	37	41	**37**
	Infectious diseases	52	40	38	28	27	26	37	19	51	32	34	28	**34**
	CBRN substances	64	42	52	23	22	25	20	7	52	35	30	35	**34**
	I expect that a major disaster/emergency will happen in the next 10 years. (% strongly or rather agree)													
	Expect a major disaster	37	38	51	57	60	55	57	45	54	61	58	56	**52**
TRUST AND SECURITY	**Thinking about a crisis or emergency situation, how much do you trust each of the following institutions? (% high trust, 4–5 on a 1–5 scale)**													
	Civil protection and emergency services	41	63	55	88	82	73	75	76	59	61	69	63	**67**
	Armed forces	40	51	68	76	67	57	68	–	59	43	49	40	**56**
	Local authorities	18	31	24	64	35	43	58	48	32	22	34	27	**36**
	National government	16	27	23	33	40	49	65	44	30	20	19	19	**32**
	NATO	35	41	59	38	44	52	54	46	48	38	44	26	**44**
	European Union	30	35	51	36	35	50	–	–	42	34	35	27	**38**
	Your city is a secure place to live in. (% strongly or rather agree)													
	City a secure place	82	92	88	83	77	93	85	93	86	50	75	75	**81**
KNOWLEDGE	**Do you know… (% yes)**													
	What to do if you hear public sirens	56	72	91	59	71	58	52	–	61	51	54	60	**62**
	Where the closest emergency shelter is	22	37	74	61	54	17	29	–	32	17	12	13	**33**
	Where the closest evacuation point is	17	17	36	25	19	7	15	13	24	15	13	11	**18**
AT HOME	**How long would these supplies in your home last? (% 72 hours or more)**													
	Drinking water (3 l per person per day)	22	22	28	15	24	30	39	13	37	44	38	55	**31**
	Food	69	68	75	59	77	65	72	69	72	75	73	78	**71**
	Cash for essential purchases	58	53	66	45	41	40	34	35	57	54	54	66	**50**
	Do you have… (% yes)													
	First aid supplies	77	87	83	80	71	46	69	55	79	75	75	78	**73**
	Battery-powered AM/FM radio	30	37	37	38	44	38	35	34	37	41	38	39	**38**
	Agreed meeting place with close ones	8	11	21	6	8	10	9	5	17	16	8	9	**11**
AT WORK	**Does your place of employment/educational institution have 72-hour reserves of drinking water? (% of those who work or study)**													
	Workplace holds 72 h of water	27	29	27	21	16	18	13	23	27	36	33	32	**25**
	Don't know whether it does	38	40	43	38	49	54	56	36	43	29	28	27	**40**
READINESS	**Do you feel adequately prepared for crisis/emergency situations? (% quite or completely prepared)**													
	Feel prepared	6	5	9	11	11	6	10	5	8	9	6	7	**8**
	I intend to take concrete steps in the next six months to improve my preparedness for crisis situations. (% strongly agree or agree)													
	Intend to act	32	37	43	42	43	47	49	45	51	49	48	43	**44**
BARRIERS	**What hinders you from adequately preparing for crisis/emergency situations? (% of those not completely prepared, multiple answers)**													
	Don't feel the need	35	41	27	27	34	36	41	63	28	27	33	32	**35**
	Psychologically hard	34	30	42	14	22	22	21	16	32	32	30	28	**27**
	Lack of information	25	14	15	37	16	23	17	18	28	37	30	29	**24**
	Lack of money	23	24	19	26	20	22	23	13	22	26	28	17	**22**
	Lack of time	17	17	24	10	24	20	21	9	22	21	22	26	**19**
SUPPORT	**What do you need from the authorities/government to become better prepared for potential disaster or emergency? (% of residents, multiple answers)**													
	Detailed information	46	34	27	57	37	49	48	45	39	61	63	61	**47**
	Local awareness-raising	46	43	30	38	51	52	55	54	58	39	35	30	**44**
	Sirens and shelters	34	26	35	15	32	20	33	24	38	50	43	48	**33**
	Financial support	31	37	27	23	26	24	33	22	33	38	39	31	**30**
	Information is sufficient	8	14	20	15	15	14	11	13	7	5	5	6	**11**

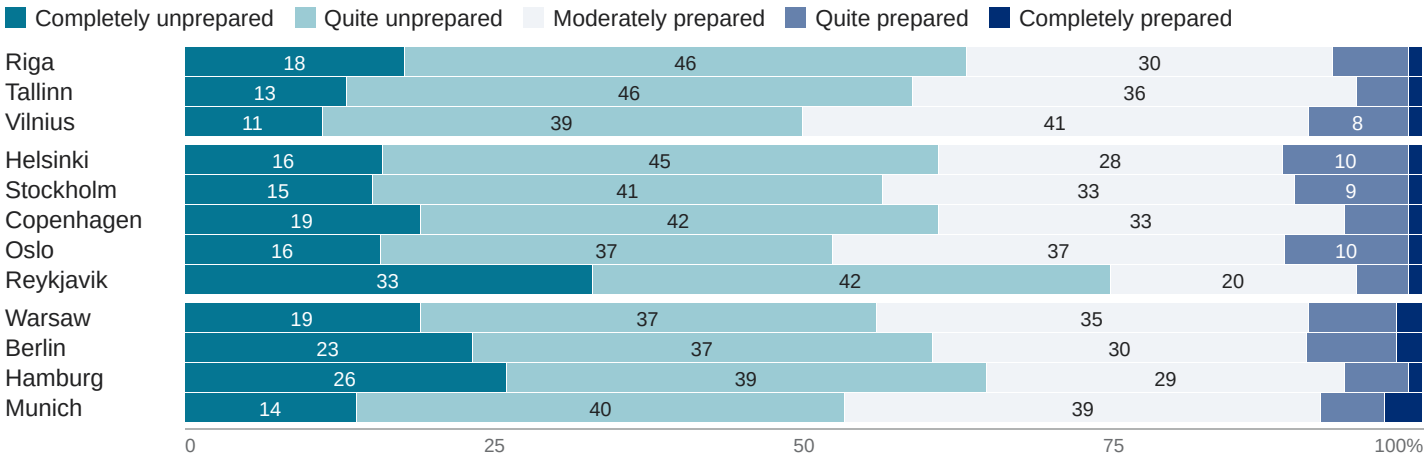
% of residents. City avg is the mean of the twelve city values. 0 25 50 75 100 – not asked

02 HOW PREPARED THEY FEEL

Self-assessed preparedness by city

In every city at least half of residents feel unprepared for a crisis, and few feel quite or completely prepared.

Do you feel adequately prepared for crisis/emergency situations? (% of residents)

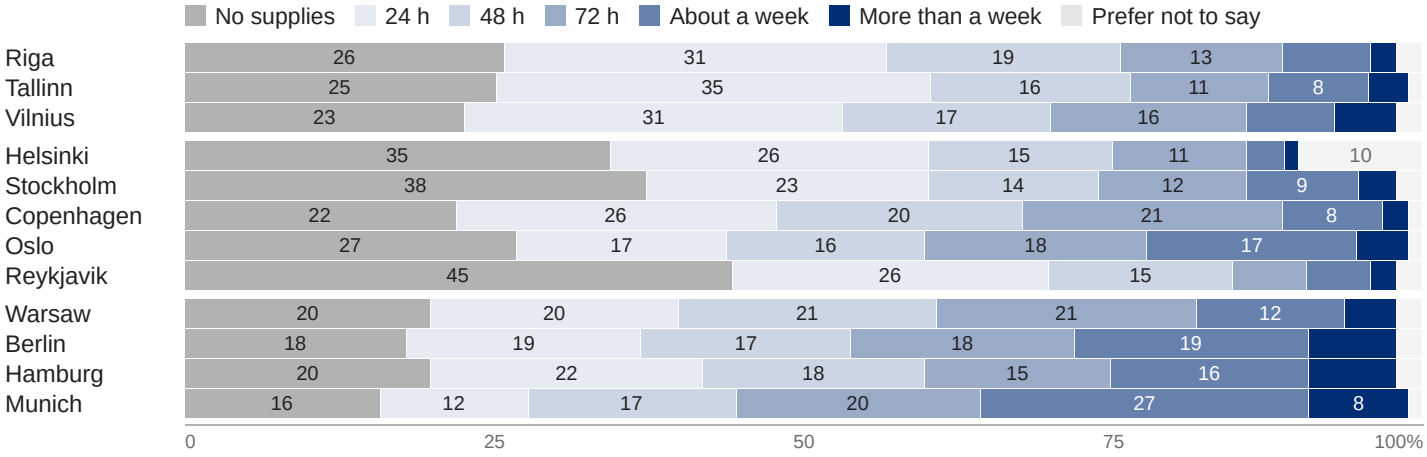


03 SUPPLIES AT HOME

Drinking water supplies at home

About three in ten residents keep drinking water at home for 72 hours or more, with wide differences between cities.

How long would drinking water supplies in your home last (3 litres of water per household member per day)? (% of residents)



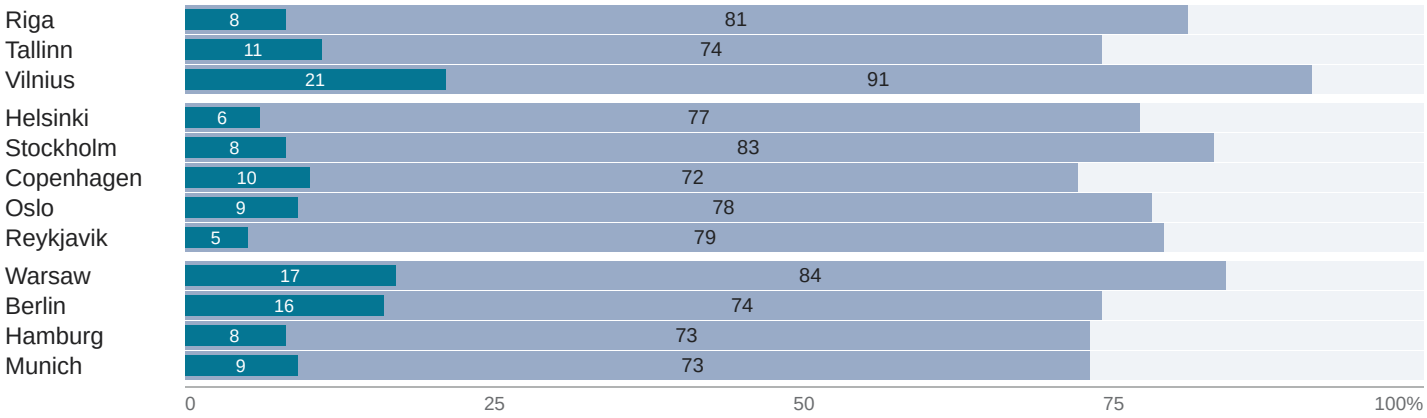
04 PLANNING WITH CLOSE ONES

Household plans: attitudes and practice

Most agree it is important to discuss what to do in a disaster, but few have agreed a meeting place.

It is important to have regular discussions with family, friends, neighbours or colleagues about what to do in a disaster/emergency. (% strongly or rather agree)

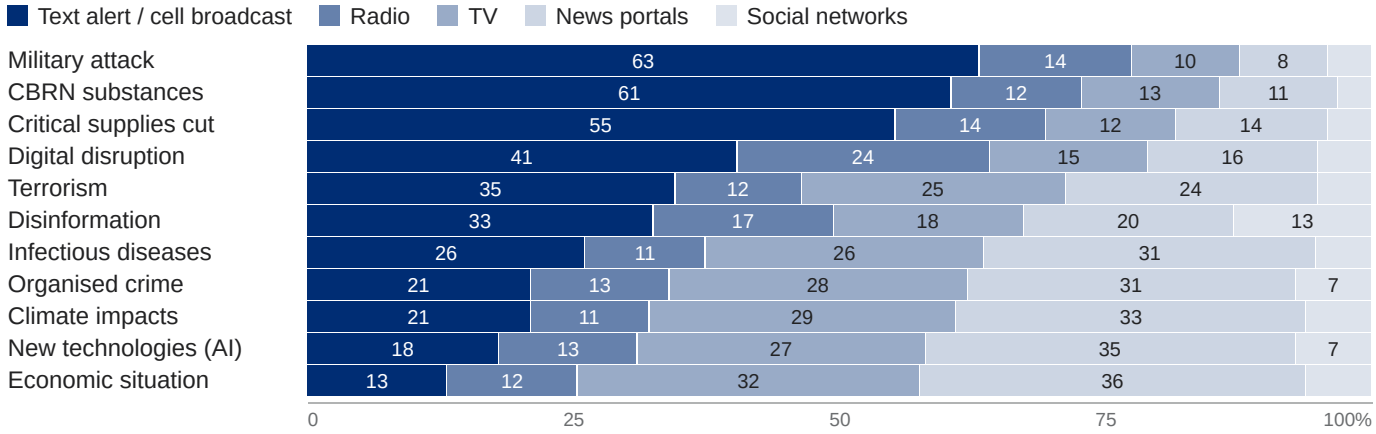
Do you have an agreed meeting place with close ones in case communications are disrupted? (% yes)



05 REACHING RESIDENTS IN A CRISIS

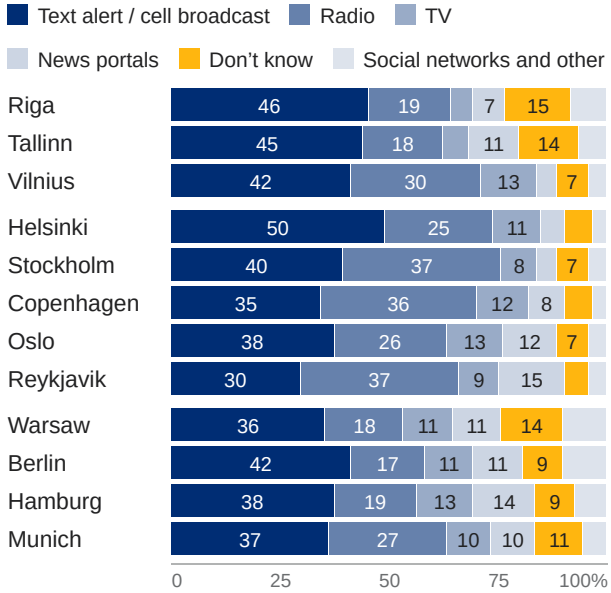
Preferred information channels in a crisis

In the following instances, how would you like to receive information about what is happening? (city avg %, one channel per threat, smaller channels omitted)



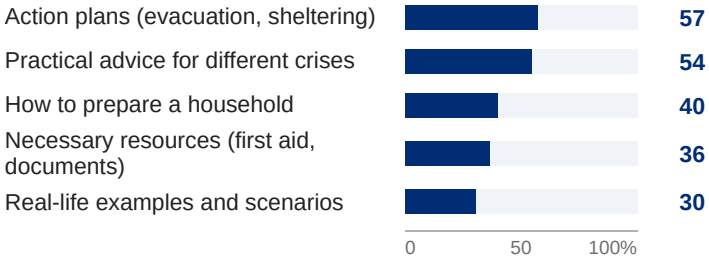
MOST TRUSTED CHANNEL, BY CITY

Which information channel would you trust the most in an emergency? (% of residents)



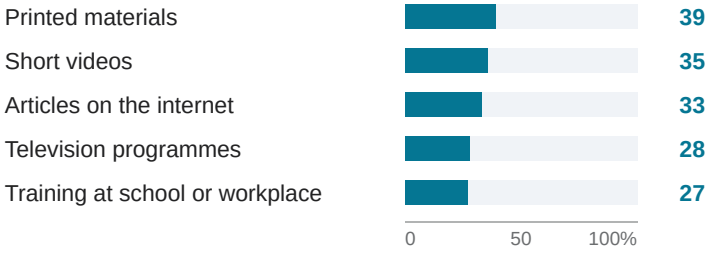
WHAT RESIDENTS WANT TO KNOW

What type of information would you like to receive to prepare for possible crisis situations? (city avg %, multiple answers)



HOW THEY WOULD LEARN IT

What would be the most convenient way for you to learn about actions to take in crisis situations? (city avg %, multiple answers)



ABOUT THE SURVEY

The Barometer is an annual, large-scale survey of individual crisis preparedness in Baltic Sea Region cities. It measures residents' threat perception, risk awareness and household preparedness, alongside whom they trust and how they want to be informed. The 2026 dataset covers twelve cities in ten countries, with one common questionnaire and 9,521 respondents aged 18–74, so results can be compared directly across the region. Online fieldwork by Norstat, 14–27 October 2026.

Data: Baltic Individual Crisis Preparedness Barometer 2026, doi.org/10.71782/DATA/G0DR7H
Baltic Individual Crisis Preparedness Barometer 2026 CPB-Nord: Nordic Extension, doi.org/10.71782/DATA/E3JNT5

See more

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