# Testing the success of introducing nowcasting in weather warnings for relief forces

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The HErZ project WEXICOM investigates the use of weather warnings for society. Cooperating with DWD we conduct an online survey with German relief workers before and after DWD introduces nowcasting into an established warning tool. This allows to inquire useres' needs and assess the success of the addition.

DWD supports German civil protection by providing the warning tool FeWIS (Fire brigade Weather Information System) with information on meteorological hazards needed by relief forces to take precautions and support rescue actions.

In Summer 2013 DWD will add nowcasted estimates of storm attributes and severity based on the tool Nowcast-Mix. NowcastMIX uses short-term weather models and observations to derive warning cones based on a 1x1 km grid allowing warnings for the next two hours.

The survey prior to the addition of NowcastMix investigates how users benefit from FeWIS and how they perceive its functionality and reliability. We investigate attitudes towards false alarms, warning frequency, timing and perceived reliability as well as spatial resolution of information. We also test whether they comprehend information given in key modules. The survey also inquires what measures recipients take based on FeWIS. Finally we motivate users to propose improvements.

Following the introduction users gain experience applying the new tool during the thunderstorm season 2013. Additionally, DWD will train users at regular workshops.

After users gain adequate experience with NowcastMix we will repeat an online survey, consulting the same respondents again. The post-survey consists mainly of questions identical to the previous survey. This second survey allows to detect changes and determine the performance of FeWIS by relating them to the first.