

European Forest Fire Networks



EUFOFINET

EUFOFINET

<http://eufofinet.eu>



The “European Forest Fire Networks” Project (EUFOFINET) is an INTERREG IVC Capitalization Project which is co-financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). This innovative project focuses on good practice in wildfire prevention, suppression and intervention and involves 13 partners from 8 European countries.



SHORT DESCRIPTION: "The Interregional Cooperation Programme INTERREG IVC, financed by the European Union's Regional Development Fund, helps Regions of Europe work together to share experience and good practice in the areas of innovation, the knowledge economy, the environment and risk prevention. EUR 302 million is available for project funding but, more than that, a wealth of knowledge and potential solutions are also on hand for regional policy-makers."

PROJECT THEMES & WORKSHOPS:

EUFOFINET will address five key themes related to wildfires & forest fires:

- detection and prevention of wildfires;
- wildfire suppression strategies;
- mapping risks and hazards;
- training and simulation strategies
- restoration of land burned by wildfire.

EUFOFINET aims to strengthen regional and local approaches to wildfire prevention and suppression through European cooperation and collaboration. The main objective of the project is to facilitate the transfer of good practice among the project partners and external experts.

At the start of the project, the partners identified five good practice themes upon which to focus their attention: "intervention strategies", "training with simulation tools", "prevention and detection", "cartography" and "restoration". A series of technical workshops were organised in order to enable the exchange of good practice on each of these themes. Each workshop was hosted by the partner with the lead for the particular thematic. For each thematic, all partners decided whether they would be a "donor" (with good practice that they could share with other partners) or a "recipient" (when partners expected to learn from the experience of others to improve their current practices through the development of an Action Plan). All of the events were organised with the same objectives and, consequently, adopted a similar format:

- Presentation of the organization and good practice by the lead partner of the thematic;
- Presentation of the experiences of other donor partners
- Visits or exercises (regarding simulation tools) on the field

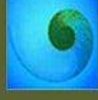
The workshops were held by the following partners:

- Office National des Forêts organized the workshop on restoration, in May 2011
- Frederikssund Fire and Rescue Service organized the workshop on prevention plans, in September 2011
- L'Entente pour la forêt Méditerranéenne organized the workshop on simulation tools, in November 2011
- Cesefor organized the workshop on cartography in February 2012
- Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service organized the workshop on intervention strategies in March 2012
- National Forest Center (Slovakia) organized the workshop on detection in May 2012

The partners met on the occasion of two extra workshops, focused on the methodology of the edition of action plans: one in Athens, in January 2012, organized by the lead partner PEDRA. Another one was organized in Florence in September 2012, by the Tuscany Region: during this last workshop, the partners presented the first results gathered in their action plan; they also had the opportunity to visit the training center of Tuscany Region.

Moreover, some partners met during bilateral activities, staff exchanges held in the training centers of the partners from Tuscany Region, Entente, and Galicia.

One of the other objectives is to create a European Regional Network of Experts in Forest Fire Prevention. For this purpose, during the workshop concerning "cartography of risk", it was planned to start the consultations about the creation of sustainable network with regional experts on wildfire. Representatives from European Commission (DG ENV) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) were present, as well as representatives from other projects: the Interreg IVC EFFMIS project led by University of Western Macedonia. -Greece, other FP7 project as FIRESMART leads by GMV Aerospace and Defense, S.A.U (Spain) and Interreg IVB Sudoe PYROSUDOE project led by Department of Gard.



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PEDA-LOCAL UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES AND TOWN COUNCILS OF ATTICA

LEAD PARTNER:



PEDA has problems in fighting strategies, prevention of forest fires and restoration of burned areas. These are due mainly to the lack of coordination of the services involved in forest fire and the absence of official planning regulating pre-fire and post-fire interventions and management practices of forest and burned areas.

Moreover, the extreme concentration of population and the proximity of residences and infrastructures with the forested areas are increasing dramatically the risk of fire in Attica.

PEDA decides to be a "recipient partner" for several good practices in order to improve its efficiency in the following key actions:

- Intervention – Strategies (GP1)
 - Prevention (GP3.2)
 - Cartography (GP4)
 - Restoration of burned areas (GP5)
- and to apply a strategy how to implement it through this action plan, adapted to the main forest stands of the Attica region and islands of the Argo-Saronic Gulf.

The action plan comprises the following for:

- GP1: organizing hierarchically and define roles of all the services and stakeholders involved in the fighting of fires and adopting a typical procedure of intervention strategies and suppression techniques.
- GP3.2: the elaboration of a typical procedure of prevention actions and activities planning for each forest stand separately, and organizing coordination meetings of the services and organizations involved in the forest fire prevention and fighting and dissemination seminars for target groups of citizens.
- GP4: production of a database with thematic interactive layers and a manual of use it and organizing training sessions to its use and dissemination seminars.
- GP5: the production and edition of a protocol – technical guide, describing phases for assessing the needs for restoration after a forest fire, its dissemination to public services and target groups of citizens, and the organization of training sessions and seminars.

REGION OF TUSCANY (ITALY)

PARTNER 2:

www.regione.toscana.it

REGIONE
TOSCANA



Among the good practices described during the project, the following should be of interest for the Tuscany Region are (i) Restoration of burnt areas and (ii) Cartography of risk. For the Restoration of burnt areas the main aim of the good practice transfer is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of post-fire restoration activities. The main aspects of the good practices that will be transferred are the development of methods for: the assessment of restoration requirements and for the definition of the priorities; establishing the intervention methods in relation to the forest resilience to fire; determining environmentally sound working methods to apply in burnt area restoration. In relation to cartography of risk, on the base of the experiences carried out in other countries, in particular of Castilla y Leon and Poland, new operational procedure will be included in the next operational plan.

The resources necessary to develop the operational plan for the period 2013-2015 are available. During the period 2013-2015, restoration activity will be monitored and in 2015 (ends of the period of validity of the next plan) an assessment of the restoration activities and their effectiveness will be carried out in order to evaluate the impact of the new guide lines. This assessment will be made by means of both an analysis of the restoration activities carried out in whole Tuscany and on the specific project developed for the guide lines evaluation.

ENTENTE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN FOREST (FRANCE)

PARTNER 3:



www.entente-valabre.com

SUMMARY PRESENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN OF THE ENTENTE

THE ENTENTE for Mediterranean forests (ENTENTE) is a public administration body bringing together 29 communities, including 14 regional fire and rescue services in the South of France. It was established by the law on modernisation of civil security 2004. Its mission is:

- Testing, leasing, acquiring and managing equipment and materials,
- Training staff and agents involved in the protection of the Mediterranean forest and civil security,
- providing information and raising public awareness,
- Conducting research and testing and
- implementing new technologies (GIS).

Within the framework of the European project EUFOFINET, the ENTENTE has the role of:

- Provider and recipient of the theme "tactical suppression of forest fires" (GP1) and
- Leader and director of the theme "Training with simulation tool" (GP2).

In order to improve its best practices, ENTENTE has decided, in view of a possible transfer:

- In 2013: to perform quality control at its test and research laboratory of the protective and forest-fire fighting gel and to test it with the help of a fire and rescue service (GP 1);
- From 2013 to 2015, to set up a working group, with associated partners NFRS, the French fire and rescue services department, to examine the role and responsibilities of the security officer in the fight against forest fires - Tactical Lookout - and develop a guide of professional techniques and a national teaching reference guide (GP1);
- From 2013 to 2014, to explore, in conjunction with "AGASP" and other research institutes, the capabilities of the spread of wildfire modelling tool used by "AGASP" for the development of the automatic fire simulation tool Valabre (GP2);
- In 2013, to disseminate the English / French glossary version in conjunction with its French partner, the National Forestry Office (ONF);
- From 2013, to support all initiatives for the creation of a regional institutional network of competent expertise in the field of prevention, the fight against forest fires and the restoration of burnt areas and to submit an application if it meets eligibility criteria.

Finally, additional measures have led to the following training programmes: a simulation tool training workshop in Valabre in September 2012 for 4 fire-fighters from Northumberland (NFRS), 3 forestry workers from Slovakia (NFC) and 2 fire-fighters from Denmark (Frederikssund) on the one hand, and three trainer exchange workshops in Spain (Galicia and Castilla Y Leon), Italy (Tuscany) and France (ENTENTE - Valabre) from October to November 2012 on the other.

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NATIONAL FORESTRY OFFICE (FRANCE)

PARTNER 4:



www.onf.fr

ONF EUFOFINET ACTION PLAN SUMMARY

The ONF is the French Institution responsible for managing public forests. As such, the ONF has full authority to undertake silvicultural actions in these forests, and in particular for restoring fire-damaged land. ONF action plan therefore contains a section devoted to this theme, whose objective is to improve internal ONF procedures.

The ONF is also responsible to the State for implementing public interest missions. For that it does not have a legal mandate to modify the policies behind them, but as a technical adviser, it can propose to integrate technical progress into the local or regional policies. The second section of the ONF action plan focuses on the experimentation of some technological innovations used by the EUFOFINET.

Finally, the EUFOFINET project has again demonstrated the advantages of cooperative projects. One of the main aims of this project was the establishment of a regional institutional network of expertise. The third and final section of the ONF action plan therefore deals with the involvement in it. While waiting for this network to be established effectively, participation in new research or cooperation projects is being envisaged (7th PCRD).

Following is an overview of planned actions by good practice:

- * restoration of fire-damaged land (with statutory powers)

The project highlighted a lack of standard procedures to implement actions to restore fire-damaged land. A methodological and technical guide will thus be prepared. An internal ONF directive will then set the framework for all ONF officials using the guide (Completion period: 1st half of 2013).

- * technological innovation:

- > strategies for monitoring the territories, automatic detection of fires by camera

An experimental operation to test automatic detection of fires by camera will be conducted in close cooperation with departmental partners (Completion period: acquisition and installation of the camera: end of 2012, effectiveness testing: 2013 and 2014, experiment report: first half of 2015)

- > risk mapping

-- use of devices for measuring the moisture content of forest litter to improve daily risk forecasts. An experimental measurement of the moisture content of litter and herbaceous plants will be carried out. (Completion period: acquisition of measurement devices end of 2012, efficiency testing and analysis of the results: summer 2013 and 2014, experiment report: first half of 2015)

- geolocation of the surveillance and intervention resources using operational GIS

Test the methods and products developed by the partners of EUFOFINET in order to set up a system of technical monitoring controlled by the ONF, with limited recourse to subcontractors, allowing the use of thematic maps developed by the ONF. The experimentation will also focus on obtaining the position of the vehicle using an onboard computer mapping and guidance device (Completion period: drafting of the specifications for the experimental device: 1st quarter of 2013, efficiency testing and analysis of the results: summer 2013 and 2014, experiment report: first half of 2015)

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NATIONAL FOREST CENTRE (SLOVAKIA)

PARTNER 5:



www.nlcsk.sk

Action plan of EUFOFINET project - National Forest Centre

NFC Zvolen as Partner Eufofinet project is state, semi-budgetary organization under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic and reports directly to the Department of Forestry of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development with a nationwide competence.

The main aim of Eufofinet project is to share the good practice in order to improve technique of prevention, detection, extinguishing the forest fire as well as restoration of burn areas. For this reason 5 group of good practices were created to improve all aspects of forest fire issues.

NFC as a forestry institution is donor and partner leader in GP 3.1 – Detection and monitoring of Forest fire and donor in GP 5 - Restoration of forest areas after damage by fire.

GP 3.1– Detection and monitoring of Forest fire

The aim of this section of project EUFOFINET was to analyze used, technically and commercially available fire detection and monitoring systems in the world with a focus on Europe. It shows an overview of solutions and experience with monitoring and detection in partner countries of the project. Automatic and semi-automatic monitoring and detection systems are irreplaceable in the prevention and fighting of forest fires. They are the only solution for early detection of forest fires in many areas, especially remote and mountainous locations.

NFC has rich experience with Forestwatch system, which is an automated cameras monitoring fire protection system. In mountainous areas of Slovakia has worked this system reliable for more than 5 years.

GP 5 - Restoration

Forest regeneration in Slovakia is carried out as a natural regeneration (forest stand emerges from seeds or sprouts from trees), artificial regeneration (forest stand emerges from planting of seedlings or sowing seeds), or combined regeneration, where the forest stand is established in a combination of natural and artificial regeneration. Forest manager is obliged to carry out forest regeneration up to 2 years. Only reproductive material for artificial regeneration can be used under a special regulation.

CESEFOR (WOOD AND FOREST SERVICE CENTER)

PARTNER 6:



www.cesefor.com

The Foundation CESEFOR developed its action plan in strength collaboration with the Regional Government of Castile and Leon and following its needs (the Region Castile and Leon is fully responsible of the fires prevention and management for the whole territory). During the EUFOFINET project the above mentioned authority (through the participation of its technicians) has regularly participated in the technical meetings and the staff exchanges, in order to bring an active contribution and learn from the other experiences.

The good practices adopted by the Region Castilla y León at the end of the project are

A) Improvement of the protocol training in the regional training Centre by the “trainers exchange” among Entente, AGASP and Tuscany Region. In the short term and before the end of the project, the Region Castile and León will test the digital blackboard and the sandbar to improve the proposed training (classrooms) in the Regional Training Centre.

B) Cleaning around houses in forest landscape considering the French experience (EUFOFINET Donor partner: ONF). In June 2012 it has been reported from the Delegation of the Region in León to all municipalities to fulfill their obligation to the rules of self-protection in their territory. For next year we will assess the monitoring of this measure in order to extend it to all the provinces of the region. Also, we will study and review the current regulations in order to promote in the future a legal framework similar to the French, adjusting to the reality of the region.

NORTH AEGEAN REGION (GREECE)

PARTNER 7:



www.ptaba.gr

The North Aegean Region is facing to a major problem in fighting strategies, prevention of forest fires and restoration of burned areas, because of objective facts of topography, such as isolation from the mainland, extreme high flammability of the vegetation, increase number of wild-fires, but also due to the lack of coordination of the services involved and the absence of official planning regulating pre-fire and post-fire interventions and management practices of forest and burned areas.

In order to take profit of the knowledge of the partners of the consortium, the North Aegean Region decides to be a "recipient partner" for the good practices "Intervention - Strategies (GP1)", "Detection (GP3.1) and prevention of wildfires (GP3.2)" and "Restoration of burned areas (GP5)" and to apply a strategy how to implement it through an action plan, adapted to the four main islands (Chios, Lesbos, Icaria, and Samos), which comprises the following for:

- GP1: training and demonstration of the suppression intervention techniques backfire and dozers.
- GP3.1 and GP3.2: a study of the modalities for the installation of detection systems, the elaboration of a typical procedure of prevention actions and activities planning for each island separately, and organizing coordination meetings of the services and organizations involved in the forest fire prevention and fighting and dissemination seminars for target groups of citizens.
- GP5: the production and edition of a protocol – technical guide, describing phases for assessing the needs for restoration after a forest fire, its dissemination to public services and target groups of citizens, and the organization of training sessions and seminars.

REGION OF THESSALY (GREECE)

PARTNER 8:



www.ptthes.gov.gr

Region of Thessaly is a Greek public administration body, which took its current form since the "Kallikratis" Law reformation. Region of Thessaly is partner in the European Territorial Cooperation Programme Interreg IVC and specifically in the project entitled "EUFOFINET - European Forest Fire Networks", which is co-financed by the European Union (European Regional Development Fund - ERDF) and the Hellenic Republic (Public Investments Programme of the Hellenic Republic), aiming at developing an integrated local pilot strategy, based on a series of applied good practices of Greece and other European countries, for the prevention and effective mitigation of forest fires.

The action plan conducted by the Region of Thessaly will constitute a lever for the improvement of regional planning in the sector of prevention and mitigation of forest fires. Feasibility reports are being conducted for the application of good practices in the main fields of activity (risk mapping, prevention, restoration, intervention techniques in the fire start phase and training techniques with simulation tools), an action - application plan for the good practices in Thessaly is being conducted and trainings of Thessaly's civil protection staff in countries - donors of good practices are being organized, as raising awareness actions for the local authorities and the population and local consultations for the integration of the proposed measures of the action plan in the Regional Development - Strategic Planning of the next programming period are being settled.

In the framework of the "Feasibility - Applicability Report for the Good Practices of Category 5 (Procedures for the Technical Restoration of Burnt Areas) for the Region of Thessaly", there is a short description included on the preparation of an "Integrated Regional Operational Plan on Civil Protection" that would support the "Regional Civil Protection Strategy of Thessaly for the Period 2014 - 2020". The action plan proposed includes the main pillars of the above Civil Protection Strategy and can be considered as the same with the "Integrated Regional Operational Plan on Civil Protection". The protection of the natural and cultural heritage needs also elements of civil protection into related activities. The next Regional Operational Plan of Thessaly 2014 - 2020 (in the framework of the 5th Community Support Framework) is a good opportunity to incorporate civil protection elements in all related regional policies/ activities. It can be achieved through extensive consultation for the formulation of a Regional Civil Protection Strategy and the development of Thematic Axes and Priorities for the Regional Operational Plan of Thessaly 2014 - 2020.

REGION OF EPIRUS (GREECE)

PARTNER 9:

www.php.gov.gr



The Region of Epirus after having closely analyzed all the Good Practices given by the donor partners and having taken into account the peculiarities and the existing situation regarding forest fires policies in Greece identified the Good Practices that could be transferred efficiently through the development of an Action Plan. The Action Plan of the Region of Epirus focuses on the following thematic:

- "Intervention Strategies \ Action on starting fires - intervention tactics": The Good Practice «Interventions and Strategies in Forest Fire Suppression in Tuscany» given by the Region of Tuscany (Italy), as well as parts of the Good Practices presented by the National Forests Office (France) and Forest Research Institute (Poland), are included in the Action Plan. The main outcome by the transfer of the specific GPs will be the development of an Operational Guide that will provide more standardized and efficient ways for the management of forest fires.

- "Technological Innovation \ Use of high technological tools": A combination of GPs presented by the Region of North Aegean (Greece) and Region of Castile & Leon (Spain) is chosen to be transferred. The main objective for the Region of Epirus is the development of a cartographic database which will aim at the: (i) assessment of forest fire risks and the prevention of forest fires (ii) the facilitation of access at the spot of the forest fire and (iii) the more efficient management of personnel and equipment during forest fires.

- "Technical Restoration": the identified GPs to be transferred is actually the synthesis of all GPs for the restoration of burned areas. The main objective for the Region of Epirus for this thematic is to compile a "Technical Guidelines for the restoration of burned areas".

The main aim of the Action Plan of the Region of Epirus is the establishment of a more efficient strategy for managing forest fires through the development and the implementation of a concrete methodology concerning the triptych "Prevention - Suppression of forest fires - Rehabilitation of burned areas."

GALICIAN PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY (SPAIN)

PARTNER 10:

<http://agasp.xunta.es>



The EUFOFINET programme has enabled AGASP to advance the technical knowledge about forest fires of its staff through very constructive and fruitful exchanges, to highlight a number of points that can be improved in terms of some procedures, but also to find out about the technological innovations used by certain partners. The project coordinator in Galicia was José Antonio Grandas, forest engineer and head of emergency training in the AGASP. Other five forest fire experts also participated directly in the project, whose results will be disseminated among professionals fighting forest fires in Galicia.

Besides the six best practices workshops during the project, three meetings of two full days were made, one in each Training Centre: Santiago (Galicia, Spain) - end of September of 2012, Siena (Tuscany, Italy) - beginning of October of 2012, Valabre (PACA, France)-middle of November of 2012. In each meeting a delegation of two Forest Fire Instructors (Trainers) from each Centre involved has participated.

As result of these training exchanges, the good practices to be transferred to the AGASP in terms of training are:

SHORT TERM (before the end of the project):

- Use of a "canvas" with an orthophoto printed
- Exchange all the documentation about Training courses: protocols, programs between the 4 regional training Centres.

MID TERM (end of 2013 – early 2014):

- Use of a digital blackboard to improve the proposed training (classrooms).
- Determine a common training protocol between the 4 regional training Centres for the basic Fire Operator.
- Exchange between the 4 regional training Centres of complete databases of video and pictures of fires, in order to build a unique big database to use to develop the analysis post fire to improve the proposed training.

LONG TERM:

- Establishment of a common training protocol for trainer of trainers. The 4 partners decide to check the UE possibilities and opportunities to get funded to reach this objective in the framework of a new project of cooperation.

FREDERIKSSUND-HALSNAES FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT (DENMARK)

PARTNER 11:

www.fh-brand.dk



The Action Plan that will be taken by Frederikssund-Halsnæs Fire and Rescue in order to implement some of the good practice identified and exchanged during the EUFOFINET Project. The implementation of this good practice will help Frederikssund-Halsnæs Fire and Rescue to further improve its response to wildfire incidents, the training it delivers to its personnel and to external agencies, and its collaborative partnership working towards wildfire prevention.

Frederikssund-Halsnæs Fire and Rescue intends to implement the actions described within this plan between January 2013 and December 2015.

Wherever possible and appropriate, Frederikssund-Halsnæs Fire and Rescue will liaise with external partners and local, regional and national stakeholders regarding the implementation of the actions outlined within this document.

Frederikssund-Halsnæs Fire and Rescue Service will implement 4 actions:

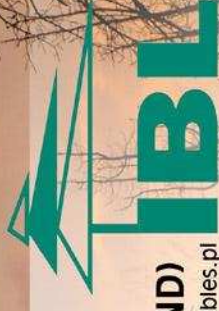
1. Integration and promotion of the EUFOFINET Glossary of Terminology
2. Joining/contributing to a European Forest Fire/Wildfire Prevention Network
3. Wildfire Incident Command Simulation Training for Officers in ENTENTE pour la Forêt Méditerranéenne (France)
4. Advanced Wildfire Training for Officers and Team-Leaders from Frederikssund-Halsnæs Fire and Rescue Service

Frederikssund-Halsnæs Fire and Rescue Service was host for the workshop "Prevention of wildfires". For the "prevention" aspect, an interesting point to focus on is multi-agency working to share the competencies of different partner organizations involved in prevention. This multi-agency working is often required when developing fire plans. These plans are often written by the forest authorities, with fire & rescue service and other organizations providing guidance and assistance. Once plans are completed they will be made available to firefighters if they are called to respond to an incident within a particular area.

FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE (POLAND)

PARTNER 12:

www.ibles.pl



Synthesis of the Action Plan and the Good Practices

Among the all of the GPs presented during the EUFOFINET workshop, Forest Research Institute has chosen the French experiences in the training system for the ground patrols' crews. Intervention techniques for wild land fires are the most crucial activities which determine the further development of the fire and the rescue action. Ground patrols systems in France and in Poland are based on the similar principles and are performed in the similar way. The main purpose of the ground patrolling is the early detection and rapid intervention in the emergency situations. The French training system provides full range of the skills needed to fulfil all the tasks of the ground patrols, including certification given to each of the trained crew member. The most important criteria behind this choice were:

- Simplicity of the adoption to the already existing system in the State Forests (80% of the forest cover in Poland is under the jurisdiction of the State Forests),
- Expected, realistic effects of the transfer directly corresponding to the increase of the professional skills of the ground patrols' crews and deputies of the Forest District chief's,
- Relation of the effort and financial input to the expected time for the implementation of the Action Plan.

In Poland, right now, there is a lack of the homogenous training programme for the ground patrols' crew. Coherency of the adopted targets of the AP with the real needs, reported by the State Forests employees, is then very strong. The main aim of the Action Plan within the framework of the EUFOFINET project is the elaboration and complete implementation of the homogenous training programme for the ground patrols' crews and for the Forest District chiefs' deputies, elaboration of the training materials, preparation of the group of the instructors and training centers. Successful implementation of the projected activities will result in:

- Number of trained people with the certificates,
- Homogenous training system,
- Increase of the successful rescue actions when the fire is suppressed at the very early stage „bud stage”, decrease of the rescue action' costs without the need to involve heavy equipment, planes and helicopters,
- Bigger share of the ground patrols in the early detection of the forest fires, shorter response time,
- Increase of the safety level and minimize the accidents during the rescue action,
- Increase the efficiency of the employees - shorter time for vehicle preparation.

NORTHUMBERLAND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (UK)

PARTNER 13:

www.northumberland.gov.uk



Participation in the EUFOFINET Project has been extremely rewarding for Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS). The project has enabled a number of officers from NFRS to develop their technical knowledge and understanding of wildfires and forest fires through numerous constructive exchanges.

During the project, NFRS has developed an Action Plan which outlines six key examples of good practice that will be implemented over the coming years in Northumberland, many of which will be delivered in close partnership and cooperation with other stakeholders such as the Northumberland National Park Authority and the Cheviot Futures Programme. To provide specific examples, NFRS and partners will be organising Wildfire Incident Command Training in France for Wildfire Support Officers, organising trials of fire-fighting foams for wildfire incidents, and conducting a pilot of an automatic detection system for wildfire in the Northumberland National Park. NFRS has also joined a funding application led by CESAFOR to establish a new European wildfire prevention network that will continue the excellent work begun during EUFOFINET.

While NFRS has a priority to improve the way it protects life, property and the environment from wildfire within the County of Northumberland, the Service will also ensure that the EUFOFINET Project has a positive impact at the national level in the UK. NFRS will be disseminating good practice exchanged during the project to a wide audience of stakeholders across the country, including: the England and Wales Wildfire Forum; the Chief Fire Officers Association Wildfire Group; the Scottish Wildfire Forum; and, the Northumberland Fire Group.

As the project draws to a close, the production of the European Glossary for Wildfires and Forest Fires (see separate article within this newsletter) is already set to have a significant positive impact in Northumberland, the UK and further afield. NFRS led and coordinated the production of the glossary with the aim of establishing a common language for wildfire practitioners across Europe. The glossary is currently being integrated into the first National Operational Guidance Manual for Wildfire in the UK which is scheduled for publication by the Scottish Government in late 2012.

EUFOFINET GLOSSARY

For effective collaboration across national borders on any technical or emergency issue, the establishment of a common language is crucial. The EUFOFINET partners identified during the early stages of the project that there was no existing European glossary of terminology for wildfires and forest fires and, therefore, no common language for the partners to use. This situation posed a problem to the partnership in terms of establishing a common understanding around technical and practical issues related to wildfires and forest fires. The EUFOFINET partners subsequently decided to set themselves the ambitious but very important task of creating a European glossary of terminology that could be used across the whole of Europe both during and after the project. The development of the glossary was led and coordinated by Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service (UK), with the assistance and contributions of all of the EUFOFINET partners and a number of external experts across the World. The end result is an impressive English language glossary of more than 800 terms and associated definitions arranged within thirteen thematic chapters. The entire document has been colour-coded and designed in a user-friendly format to enable its use as both a reference document and training resource. The glossary has significant potential to improve cross-border work before, during and after wildfire and forest fire incidents and will be a very useful tool for maintaining and improving health and safety for suppression teams composed of individuals of multiple nationalities. The partners are currently working to implement the glossary within their own countries and to promote the adoption of the glossary across Europe. A number of partners will translate the entire glossary document into their native language (including French, Italian, Greek, Slovak and Gallego) during late 2012 and early 2013, which will further improve its accessibility and usability.



FINAL CONFERENCE

The Interreg IV C EUFOFINET Project organizes its final seminar on the issue of forest fire risks and the improvement of regional action plans to address wildfire challenges in Europe; this seminar will be held at the Committee of the Regions on the 12th of November 2012, from 9:00 am to 17:00 pm. For all of the partner regions forest fires and wildfires are a significant long-term threat to life, property and the environment. The project has involved collaborative working between the partner regions to facilitate the exchange of good practices in wildfire prevention, suppression and intervention. The transfer of good practices between partner regions via an action plan process will enable all of the partners to improve their regional and national policies for wildfire and forest fire prevention and management. During the workshop will be presented the results of the project and will be held a round table/debates with the audience on forest fire network, conclusions and recommendations for the future. This seminar is organized by the Region of Tuscany in collaboration with all of the EUFOFINET Project partners.



NETWORK

As a main result of the EUFOFINET project experience, the Foundation CESEFOR, in collaboration with the Region Castile and León and the Spanish Minister, presented a new project on the LIFE+ call for proposal 2012, called "LIFE under FIRE" (TOWARDS NEW FIRE PREVENTION POLICIES IN EUROPE. EUROFIRE 2032). The project aim to consolidate, test and maintain unified land management guidelines that incorporates preventive approaches to large scales of perception (territorial, ecosystem or forest-landscape), developing a platform of territories for a Network of forest fires prevention as a source of information and contributions for the EU.

The partnership : CESEFOR Foundation, Spain (Coordinator); National Forest Centre (Slovakia); Frederikssund-Halsnæs Fire and Rescue Department (Denmark); Forest Research Institute (Poland); Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service (UK); Province of Grosseto (Italy); University of Florence (Italy); Slovenian Forestry Institute (Slovenia); Unión de Selvículos del Sur de Europa, A.E.I.E. (USSE); University of West Macedonia (Greece); Region of Western Macedonia (Greece); Wageningen University (Netherlands).

The budget: 8.103.908€ for a work plan of 7 years





EUFOFINET

<http://eufofinet.eu>

PARTNERSHIP

THE 13 PARTNERS OF THE EUFOFINET PROJECT

1. Local Union of Municipalities and Town Councils of Attica (Greece)
2. Region of Tuscany (Italy)
3. Entente for the Mediterranean Forest (France)
4. National Forestry Office (France)
5. National Forest Centre (Slovakia)
6. Castilla and Leon Wood & Forest Service Center Spain)
7. North Aegean Region (Greece)
8. Region of Thessaly (Greece)
9. Region of Epirus (Greece)
10. Galician Public Safety Academy (Spain)
11. Frederikssund-Halsnæs Fire and Rescue Department (Denmark)
12. Forest Research Institute (Poland)
13. Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service (UK)



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