Response

- Extreme events
  - Existing emergency planning should be updated to include the reality of EWE and climate change
  - Better understanding of extreme fire behaviour
  - Certain means can become ineffective in case of extreme events (such as fire breaks)
  - Simulation results are needed in short time (e.g. 30 minutes); they need to better include coupled physics and fire spread for Extreme Fire Events
- Interoperability
  - National schools can help to support interoperability of responders from across the country
  - Enhance cross-border collaboration of municipalities/states/regions (also at a national level) and agree on a common system to address joint emergencies
  - Depiction (general overview) of all the topics containing concerns on interoperability for responder's cooperation
  - Simple interoperability evaluation tool: presentation and demo cases (e.g. for passed EUCPM activations)
  - Are tactics and manoeuvres important for interoperability?
  - How to better interface command and control systems, at European and international level?
  - Building for future: trainings to improve interoperability and/or
  - R&D and Supply chain for techniques improving interoperability and operational efficiency.
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- UCPM
  - Very positive feedback on rescEU pre-positioning and received critical-training and capacity development through the host nation – however, important to make use of this during "peacetime" due to major gaps in training, compatibility, competences and overall preparedness of less experienced countries
  - Introducing "quick guides" provided by host nations to introduce local organizational and command structures
  - Appropriate air to air and air to ground coordination. The process should be anticipated, defined and known before any deployment ore request for assistance
  - Stepping up knowledge exchanges between MS to ensure sharing and development of good practices, expertise and guidance
- Operations
  - Planning for uncertainty: define places that may give opportunities to firefighters and treat these areas with priority for fuel reduction
  - The increased abandonment of Mediterranean rural and forest areas and the consequent increase in continuity and lead of flammable fuels are making suppression operations increasingly complex, even with moderate fire weather and environmental conditions

- o Dependence of the forest protection system on aerial means ignore the significance of the ground forces leaves many areas exposed in case of multiple fires and extreme weather conditions
  - o Involve public information officers
  - o Better integration of certain practices such as back burning and less restrictive framework
  - o Firefighting in the wildland-urban interface is a complicated issue since it involves citizens/people safety and management, addressing challenges in protecting properties dispersed in forested areas and buildings occluded by flammable vegetation, as well as ensuring evacuation for older people, children and animals
  - o In the current conditions and due to the heavy load of forest fuels, the accumulation of biomass, and inadequate mop-up, rekindles are a significant threat to losing control of a previously contained fire
  - o During days with strong winds, low relative humidity, and high temperatures, even aerial suppression forces could not be enough to limit fire spread
- Simultaneousness of events
  - o The firefighting mechanism can hardly address two large fires in the same region (and maybe in the same country) simultaneously, prioritizing resources between the fires which may severely increase the impacts
  - o Need for triage/prioritisation procedures
- Evacuations
  - o Evacuation and rescue of the fire-threatened population in the coastal areas via sea, using boats is critical to be activated early
  - o Prioritization of human lives during fires is legitimate; however, precautionary use of evacuation must not be used excessively. It needs to ensure that the citizens are informed, training and that they won't lose their trust in the public civil protection services
  - o Messages and the use of the 112 Emergency Management Services should take into consideration the profile of the recipients of the message, i.e., people in the villages near forests are more resilient and adapted to fire events than people in the wildland-urban interface and they need to be treated accordingly
  - o Evacuation orders were not accompanied by a parallel plan for protecting the villages and their properties after the evacuation by the competent forest firefighting services, they reacted by ignoring instructions

Recommendations have been largely distilled from the following reports:
- European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Almeida, M., Ribeiro, L., Alves, D. et al. (2023) Analysis of 2021 critical wildfire events in the Mediterranean region. Publications Office of the European Union. https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2760/562495
- Castellnou, M., Nebot, E., Estivill, L., Miralles, M. et al. (2022). FIRE-RES Transfer of Lessons Learned on Extreme wildfire Events to key stakeholders. Deliverable D1.1 FIRE-RES project. 119 pages. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.10260790
- Pronto et al., 2023, Research for REGI Committee – Forest Fires of Summer 2022, European Parliament, Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies, Brussels. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2023/747280/IPOL_STU(2023)747280_EN.pdf