

Innovating with wildfire risk management – A new strategy for Europe

Final Wildfire Risk Management (WFRM) Project Clustering Event 2025

Scope:

The new context of wildfire risk in Europe is challenging current risk management programmes and policies to effectively prevent and respond to extreme events such as megafires. Adapting to more damaging fires, longer fire seasons and more fire-prone areas has demanded a rethinking of our strategy. Shifting the focus from suppression to prevention is one step forward, nevertheless European member states need an integrated strategy for wildfire risk management which is tailored to their specific context. Such strategy implies looking at the issue from multiple angles to ensure that wildfire risks are reduced in a way that people and housing safety, economic growth, well-being, carbon sinks, biodiversity and ecosystem services are maintained or increased.

Objectives:

This event will introduce a proposal for an integrated wildfire risk management strategy for Europe, developed jointly by the research and innovation projects **FirEUrisk**, **FIRE-RES**, **SILVANUS**, **TREEADS** and **FIRELOGUE**. It is also the opportunity to learn how the latest scientific breakthroughs and new technologies, developed by these projects, fit within the overall strategy framework. As a final output, the event aims to propose concrete recommendations to improve wildfire risk governance in EU member states as well as hands-on solutions for the practitioners involved in all the phases of wildfire risk management.

Purpose:

The event is a unique opportunity for policymakers to acquire first-hand knowledge on the latest advances in wildfire risk preparedness, detection, response and prevention and to experience new tools, technologies and innovations which are being used for training, management or decision-making purposes. This includes mobile applications, virtual reality, demonstration of drones and robots.

Secondly, the event will showcase how the integrated risk strategy translates into different wildfire contexts across Europe, looking in particular at the integration of wildfire risk management priorities with forestry and land management, rural and urban development, climate and energy policy objectives.

Agenda:

On the first day, Members of the European Parliament will be invited together with European Commission representatives and other national policy experts. Keynote speakers will address the issue of integrated wildfire risk management and governance. Different hands-on workshops will be set up to present tailored solutions that apply to various fire-prone regions in Europe.

The second day will focus on gathering insights from end-users and other stakeholders about the strategy proposal as well as the innovative solutions in wildfire risk management. Particular emphasis will be placed on those developed by the IAs, assessing their effectiveness and

Firelogue's Innovation Actions:



Firelogue's Precursor Project:



adaptability in real-world applications. The involvement of scientists together with practitioners and decision-makers will be essential. The format will give room for networking among research projects while fostering their engagement with the wider network of stakeholders.

To close the event, a dedicated session will allow project representatives to reflect on the past four years and set the priorities for future R&I investments.

Date: 20-21 May 2025

Location: Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the EU, Rue Montoyer 47, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Number of participants: ca. 100-150 from Firelogue, FirEURisk, FIRE-RES, SILVANUS and TREEADS as well as from other projects such as SAFERS, FireLinks, FireAdapt, DG ECHO projects; EGFF members, representatives from the European Parliament and the Commission

Time	Agenda Item
9:00 – 9:30	Registration
9:30 – 9:50	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>Moderated by Nicolas Faivre (REA) and Claudia Berchtold (FhG INT, Firelogue)</p> <p>Welcoming words by Paul Webb (REA, t.b.c.)</p>
9:50– 10:20	<p>A new approach to face the wildfire problem Europe</p> <p>Setting the scene – Why we need to rethink how we deal with wildfires</p> <p>Joint presentation by Francesca di Giuseppe (European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, t.b.c.), Marc Castellnou (Catalan Fire Service) & Jelmer Dam (Netherlands Institute for Public Safety, NIPV)</p>
10:20 – 10:50	Coffee break
10:50 – 11:30	<p>An Integrated Wildfire Risk Management Strategy for Europe</p> <p>Presentation of a co-designed suggestion by European research and innovation projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction by Claudia Berchtold (FhG INT, Firelogue) - Risk Assessment (Domingos Viegas, ADAI, FirEURisk), - Risk Management (Antoni Trasobares, CTFC, FIRE-RES) - Stakeholder Engagement and Systemic Communication (Diogo Vallim, CBS, TREEADS & Lovorko Maric, MD, SILVANUS) <p>Introduction of the strategy sections; preparation of the afternoon sessions</p>

<p>11:30– 13:00</p>	<p>High Level Roundtable: Where Do We Go from Here?</p> <p>Key Integrated Wildfire Risk Management recommendations & Uptake of results</p> <p>Moderation: Firelogue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hadja Lahbib (Commissioner for Equality; Preparedness and Crisis Management, t.b.c.) • Gregory Allione (MEP t.b.c.) • Humberto Delgado Rosa (Director DG ENV) • Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Spain, name t.b.d.) • Sarah Moyer (Worldbank) • Kilian Heil (Ministry of the Interior, Austria, t.b.c.) 	
<p>13:00 – 14:00</p>	<p>Lunch Break</p>	
<p>Towards Resilient Landscapes and Safe Communities: Implementing Integrated Wildfire Risk Management in Practice</p>		
<p>14:00 – 14:45</p>	<p>Understanding and contextualising risk: Risk Assessment & Evaluation</p> <p><i>Understanding risk is everyone’s business and should integrate society, economy, and policies. It is precisely by combining different perspectives that communities become less vulnerable to the threat. Join the discussion led by FirEURisk and check out the latest innovations.</i></p> <p>14:00 – 14:15 Key Note FirEURisk: (Emilio Chuvieco, UAH & Christina Vega, UDL)</p> <p>14:15 – 14:22 FIRE-RES Pan European Fuel Map Server (Erico Cutchartt, t.b.c.)</p> <p>14:22 – 14:29 SILVANUS: Human Ignition algorithm (crowd sourced assessment, t.b.c.)</p> <p>14:29 – 14:36 TREEADS Digital Forest Twin (t.b.d).</p> <p>14:36 – 14:45 Q&A</p>	
<p>14:45 – 15:30</p>	<p>Integrated Wildfire Risk Management: Decision Support and Response Operations</p> <p><i>To improve efficiency and effectiveness in firefighting operations, mobilize resources, and fund prevention and preparedness, decision-makers need evidence-based support. Let SILVANUS guide you through some tools and solutions to facilitate multi-actor collaborative policies and navigate risk governance.</i></p> <p>14:45 – 15:00: Key Note SILVANUS “Decision support solutions in Wildfire Risk Governance” (t.b.c.)</p> <p>15:00 – 15:07: FIRE-RES: Financial incentives for fire-resilient landscape measures (t.b.c.)</p>	

	<p>15:07 – 15:14: FirEURisk: Fire Exposure or Wildland – Urban Interface map (Sebastien Lahaye, Safe-Cluster)</p> <p>15:14 – 15:21 TREEADS Forestry management decision support (t.b.c.)</p> <p>15:21 – 15:30 Q&A</p>
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 16:45	<p>Creating resilient landscapes through wildfire risk management</p> <p><i>Transitioning from vulnerability to resilience is rooted in a landscape that connects different aspects: from technology to biodiversity, from emergency response to community engagement. How to minimize the damage caused by wildfires while maximizing their benefits in such a picture? Unpack this complexity with FIRE-RES and discover the latest innovations on the line</i></p> <p>16:00 – 16:15: FIRE-RES Key Note: Optimizing landscape configuration and fire management policies to minimize expected losses from EWE (t.b.c.)</p> <p>16:15 – 16:22: TREEADS: Risk Transfer Solutions or Agroforestry techniques for ecological restoration (t.b.c.)</p> <p>16:22 – 16:29: SILVANUS: Biodiversity Profile Mobile App (t.b.c.)</p> <p>16:29 - 16:36: Assessing European long term fuel management in a changing climate: Insights from the FirEURisk project (Alex Neidermeier, VU)</p> <p>16:36 – 16:45: Q & A</p>
16:45 – 17:30	<p>Stakeholder Engagement & Systemic Public Communication</p> <p><i>Engaging means empowering, and reducing the risk of wildfires demands collective action. Following TREEADS narration, we invite you to focus on innovative solutions, real-time communication systems, and landscape-level action, and discuss collaborative and participatory approaches.</i></p> <p>16:45 – 17:00: TREEADS Key Note (t.b.c.)</p> <p>17:00 – 17:07: SILVANUS: Citizen engagement app (t.b.c.)</p> <p>17:07 – 17:14: FirEURisk: FirEURisk participatory model for engaging communities in wildfire-risk reduction (Ramona Velea, ISIG)</p> <p>17:14 – 17:21: FIRE-RES: Fire Education Platform (t.b.c.)</p> <p>17:21 – 17:30: Q & A</p>
17:30 – 18:00	<p>Closing panel</p> <p>Panel moderated By Nicolas Faivre and Claudia Berchtold</p> <p>Reflections on the day</p> <p>Kirsten Thonicke (PIK, FirEURisk)</p> <p>Joint Research Centre representative (t.b.c.)</p> <p>UNDRR representative (t.b.c.)</p>
18:00 – 19:30	Reception

Time	Agenda Item
09:30 – 09:45	Welcome Day 2 and Recap of Day 1
Overcoming barriers to implement Integrated Wildfire Risk Management	
9:45 – 10:45	<p>Round Table I: Impacts of EU policies on wildfire risk management and the need for a joint strategy</p> <p>Moderator: Cristina Brailescu (DG ECHO)</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gerry Lawson (Policy Officer - European Agroforestry Federation) - Cathelijne Stoof (Uni Wageningen, European Academies Science Advisory Council) - Eduard Plana (CTFC, Firelogue and FIRE-RES) - JoAnne Lynnerooth-Bayer (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, IIASA,) - Gianfilippo Micillo (Vigili del Fuoco, Italy, t.b.c)
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:00	<p>Interactive Workshop (Lead PCF)</p> <p>Accelerating and scaling-up the implementation of integrated wildfire risk management</p>
12:00 – 13:00	<p>Round Table II: Practitioner and responder perspectives on wildfire risk management in Europe</p> <p>Moderation: Núria Prat (PCF)</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Craig Hope (Wales Fire and Rescue Service UK, t.b.c.) - Sebastien Lahaye (SAFE Cluster, t.b.c.) - Alex Neidermeier (VU Amsterdam, t.b.c.)
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 14:30	Recap of Workshop results
14:30 – 15:30	<p>Innovations at the service of the IWFM strategy – Exhibition space</p> <p><i>Take a stroll through the exhibition area. Get to know the different projects and learn more about their results. Discuss with experts and innovators how their solutions could be used and implemented.</i></p>

<p>15:30 – 16:30</p>	<p>Closing the event / Reconvening in plenary & feedback from the audience Moderation: Nicolas Faivre (REA) Making of the strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claudia Berchtold • Domingos Viegas • Antoni Trasobares • Michele Corleto • Kemal Sarp Arsava
<p>16:30</p>	<p>End of event</p>