

# Operational tools for improving efficiency in wildfire risk reduction in EU landscapes

## FIREfficient

*Workshop on Integrating wildfire risk in the urban and  
spatial planning: Review of knowledge and practices*

### FIRST ANNOUCEMENT

12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> June 2014  
Solsona, Spain.

## 1. General Background

Wildfires are annually affecting thousand of hectares and are one of the major causes of wooded surface and forest functions lost all across Europe. **Under future climate change scenarios, all EU countries may undergo increased risk situations associated with fire affecting new areas that historically had not experienced significant impact from wildfire events and civil protection and global emergency management will therefore become increasingly important.** In this context, the footprint of high intensity and unprecedented wildfires is likely to increase, causing major socio-economic impacts.

In parallel, wildfire risk management strategies are currently experiencing significant improvement in efficiency and operational impact, primarily due to the targeted transfer of knowledge based on actual experience in various fields of fire prevention and fighting that are being shared between actors. **One of the most innovative knowledge in recent years is the development of anticipatory fire fighting and preventative strategies** based on detailed knowledge of fire behaviour patterns which offer a powerful tool for improving wildfire risk mitigation strategies from a cost-effective approach. These strategies are based on the prediction of risk at different spatial and temporal scales. These allow an effective use of available resources to cover locations in time and space offering more cost-effective potential for success (i.e. higher risk- higher potential for effective fire suppression). **Prior knowledge of potential future fire events in a territory allows the rational participation of the actors responsible for landscape management** (e.g. forestry and land planning administrations) in reducing fire risk and hazards.

## 2. FIREfficient project

The **FIREfficient** project aims to establish a sustainable platform for efficient exchange of available knowledge in which “lessons-learned” can be made available to relevant stakeholders and public agencies at EU level, dealing with innovative operational tools and means to integrate the prediction of potential fire events into emergency strategies and land-use planning.

The Project seeks to build capacity for planning developers to enhance the transfer of best practices and lessons-learned in wildfires to planning practices and processes, through a set of knowledge management strategies, addressing four main challenges:

- To capitalize the knowledge, tools and procedures to improve fire hazard landscape resilience in the context of different socio-economic environments within the EU from a cost-effective approach.
- To consolidate the methodology, data sources and enhance the comparability of the results from prior fire event assessments.
- To strengthen the performance of existing successful tools and procedures applied at best practice sites, and to enhance their transfer capacity at EU level.
- To promote the transnational cooperation of competent bodies for moving towards a common basis for the management of wildfire risk across Europe.

The project is co-financed by the Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection - European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO). For more information: [www.fireefficient.ctfc.cat](http://www.fireefficient.ctfc.cat)

### 3. Objectives of the workshop

The aim of the international workshop on **Integrating wildfire risk in the urban and spatial planning** is to provide a meeting point between experts in wildfire risk assessment and spatial and urban planning to deal with the challenges and opportunities for an effective integration of fire risk management into territory planning.

The agenda of the workshop is composed by three subsequent parts:

- Part 1<sup>st</sup>. How wildfire risk affects spatial and urban planning?
- Part 2<sup>nd</sup>. What tools we have for the risk assessment and how we integrate natural hazards risks into land planning?
- Part 3<sup>rd</sup>. Challenges and opportunities for an effective integration of wildfire risk management in the urban and spatial planning.

The agenda includes several presentations and round tables and an active participation of the audience is expected.

## 4. Agenda

### June 12<sup>th</sup> . Plenary sessions

9:00h Registration

9:15h Welcome

#### **Part 1<sup>st</sup>. How wildfire risk affects spatial and urban planning?**

9:30h **Wildfire risk; current situation in a global change context all around Europe.**

*(The panorama of extreme event, fire generations, risk 0 does not exist, the need of an effective integration of wildfires in the land planning, social-economical dimension – the cost-effectiveness of this integration)*

10:00h **New knowledge for new situation: the prediction of upcoming fire events. How it works?  
What the fire services need form the spatial and urban planning?**

*(Description and the innovative knowledge in the prediction of fire events and how is connected with the land planning)*

10:30h Coffee break

#### **Part 2<sup>nd</sup>. What tools we have for the risk assessment and how we integrate natural hazards risks into land planning?**

11:00h **Review and evaluations of knowledge to measure extreme fire spread risk at forest and landscape level planning.**

*(Results of the review done during the FIREfficient project)*

11:20h **Obstacles and challenge for wild fire risk integration into land planning.**

*(Results of the review done during the FIREfficient project)*

11:40h **Risk assessment in the land use planning; principles and tools**

*(functioning of land planning process; hierarchical relation within levels of planning, integration of cross-sectoral policies, the role of public bodies from municipalities to regions, the assessment of the cost-effectiveness of the alternatives ..).*

12h **Examples of natural hazards risk integration into the land planning**

*(real cases of effective integration of natural hazards management into the land planning. EU examples. Learning from how it works with other risks; avalanches, floods, ..)*

Case 1: To be define (*topic 1*)

Case 2: To be define (*topic 2*)

Case 3: To be define (*topic 3*)

Case 4: ..

13:30h Lunch

### Part 3<sup>rd</sup>. Challenges and opportunities for an effective integration of wildfire risk management in the urban and spatial planning.

15:00h World Café Presentation: Methodology, Themes and Aims

15.10h Discussion tables (parallel thematic session in 3 different working groups):

Topic 1. **Challenges around knowledge, training and tools available**

Topic 2. **Challenge around legislative and policymaking processes**

Topic 3. **Challenges around society involvement and communication**

15:15h First Round

15.45h Second Round

16:15h Third Round

16:45h *Coffee break*

17.10h Presentation of the results of each group

17:30h Conclusions and closing the workshop

20h *Social dinner*

#### **June 13<sup>th</sup> Field trip**

8:30h Field trip – Examples of integrating fire risk assessment into land planning: 1994 wildfire event assessment and lessons learned. Example of identification wildfire behavior patterns. Implementation of the strategic areas for the wildfire prevention.

*(Zone towards BCN city for transferring participants to the airport (afternoon flights))*

16:00h Transfer to Barcelona (17h Airport approximately)

## 4. Site of the venue

Headquarters of the **Forest Sciences Centre of Catalonia**

Ctra. de St. Llorenç de Morunys a Port del Comte, km 2 · 25280 Solsona (Spain)

Tel. (+34) 973 48 17 52

<http://www.ctfc.cat/on-som/?lang=es#title>

## 5. Registration

The assistance to the workshop is free of charge and **will consider the order of inscriptions**. For the registration, please, send the Name, Institution (and optionally, responsibility inside the institution) and Email to the email address: [training@paucofoundation.org](mailto:training@paucofoundation.org)

Please, in addition, inform us if you like a reservation for the lunch of the day 1 (12€ cost approximately), social dinner of the day 1 (15€ approximately) and lunch of the day 2 (14€ cost approximately).

**For more information:**

[mariona@paucofoundation.org](mailto:mariona@paucofoundation.org) [jvendrell@paucofoundation.org](mailto:jvendrell@paucofoundation.org)