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FIRE SCENE

2nd Exchange and Training Meeting MINUTES



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1 Introduction

The project [FIRE-SCENE](#) (Advancing Wildfire Civil Protection Scenarios into Risk Planning and Governance) aims to contribute to developing further existing competencies, skills and knowledge in Wildfire Risk Management (WFRM) by means of novel methodologies and tools for an integrated risk assessment, planning and governance approach to address emerging Civil Protection Challenges (CPCs) in a growing climate risk context in the Mediterranean.

The project considers three CPCs across four pilot sites in three countries as follow:

- Wildland-urban interface (WUI) wildfires in peri-urban areas (Catalonia, Spain).
- Wildfires impacting on tourist resorts and villages (Calabria, Italy, East Attica and Rhodes, Greece).
- Wildfires affecting protected areas and recreational sites (Catalonia, Spain).

Along the pilots and with the participation of local stakeholders, six pre-defined end-users targeted WFRM tools are developed, while risk governance dimensions on policy coherence, participatory approaches, and institutional coordination and funding are considered.

FIRE-SCENE is a two-years project (February 2025 – January 2027) funded under the Knowledge for Action in Prevention and Preparedness (KAPP) call from the European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations department (DG ECHO).

The project has foreseen the organisation of two Exchange and Training Meetings (ETMs) aimed to promote cross-sectoral learning and collaboration across the project's pilot areas by showcasing challenges and solutions. Through the exchange of experiences across the four pilots in the Mediterranean, site visits, expert-led discussions, and the vision of local stakeholders and invited experts, participants will explore case studies in the pilot sites, share best practices and engage in a cross-sectoral knowledge exchange.

ETMs are designed to strengthen synergies among practitioners, researchers, emergency managers, and local authorities, enhancing the capacity to address growing wildfire CPCs. Another goal of the ETMs is to identify transferable practices that can motivate action and adaptation in other pilot sites and EU regions to enhance effective wildfire risk reduction strategies in complex emergency management scenarios. The first ETM took place in Catalonia and was dedicated to WFRM in the wildland-urban interface (Pilot 1) and recreational sites (Pilot 4).

The 2nd Exchange and Training Meeting (2ETM) was held on 12–14 May in Athens (Greece), under the coordination of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. It brought together public authorities, emergency services, land-use and sectoral management practitioners, experts, researchers and civil society to share knowledge and strengthen wildfire risk management for Mediterranean contexts.

Indoor sessions (12 and 14 May) combined with a field trip to Mati 2018 wildfire included presentations, peer exchange, workshops and roundtables around risk assessment and governance, emphasizing transferable practices for Extreme Wildfire Events.



2 Indoor sessions on 12 May

2.1 Welcome Session - Setting the Scene

The second exchange and training meeting started with introductory remarks highlighting the importance of cross-sectoral learning and international knowledge exchange on wildfire-prevention-and-management operational tools that can be transferred to other high-risk Mediterranean regions and beyond. The contribution of EU funding to this regard was highlighted.

National authorities underscored wildfire prevention as a key priority, presenting recent investments exceeding €145 million and programmes focused on fuel management, firebreaks, forest infrastructure, and support to municipalities in Greece. In addition, research perspectives on Greek forest resilience were presented, with a focus on ongoing EU and national projects addressing wildfire risk prevention and management.

2.2 Session 1: Wildfire Peer Review Assessment Framework (WF-PRAF) Findings: Peer-Review Insights for Greece and Italy

A strategy for integrated WFRM in Europe. Challenges and a call for action

The participating DG ECHO representative called for the adoption of the EU Preparedness Union mindset. This involves integrating local and regional actors, standardizing policies, and making full use of EU mechanisms, such as the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), [Wildfire Peer Review Assessment Framework](#) (WF-PRAF) and the rescEU, to build a more resilient and better-prepared European Union.

In this regard, European Commission (EC) is developing specific recommendations on wildfire risk management to guide Member States. The recently published [EU Communication on an Integrated Wildfire Risk Management Strategy](#) (Figure 1) was presented and positioned as a key instrument to support alignment and ensure coordinated progress in this area. Notably, next steps include the preparation of a proposal for a Council Recommendation on integrated WFRM together with EU guidelines for its implementation.



Figure 1: Thematic building blocks of the EC Communication on an Integrated Wildfire Risk Management Strategy



The session showed the contribution of WF-PRAF as a governance tool aimed at strengthening national and regional capacities. It also reviewed key peer review findings for Greece and Italy. While progress has been made towards integrated, prevention-focused wildfire risk management, important gaps remain, particularly in prevention funding and interoperability. There is also a clear need to enhance cross-border collaboration, climate adaptation efforts, and whole-of-society engagement.

Landscape management is recognized within WF-PRAF as an important wildfire risk reduction measure. However, its role is not consistently acknowledged across all countries, and in some cases, it is restricted (for example, due to land-use modification regulations). Consequently, the EC is supporting efforts to promote wildfire risk reduction strategies that incorporate landscape management.

WF-PRAF findings: experiences from Italy and Greece

Three experts involved in the peer-reviews in [Italy](#) and [Greece](#) showed how the process highlighted the good practices already developed and the remaining gaps on integrated WFRM.

There are clear indications in both Greece and Italy of a shift towards a more holistic and integrated approach to fire management. Both countries are increasingly adopting a whole-of-society perspective, engaging private sector actors, civil society, and academia to foster a comprehensive culture of disaster risk management. This evolution is supported by solid legislative foundations: Greece relies on its National Climate Law (4936/2022) to ensure policy coherence, while Italy benefits from its Civil Protection Code and Framework Law 353/2000. Operational coordination is already well established, with effective collaboration between national coordination centres (ESKEDIK in Greece and the Department of Civil Protection in Italy) and field-level agencies such as fire services and forest authorities. In parallel, technological integration plays an increasingly important role, with both countries leveraging advanced IT tools (such as [ENGAGE](#) in Greece and the SIM project in Italy) and scientific hazard mapping to inform decision-making processes.

At the same time, several important lessons have emerged, some of which are already being implemented or further developed. A key insight is the need to strengthen prevention efforts, as wildfire management systems have traditionally focused heavily on emergency response. Increasing investment in prevention, particularly in landscape-level fuel management, is widely recognised as more effective and efficient than suppression alone. Interoperability remains a challenge, highlighting the need for common terminology, standardised training (especially for incident commanders) and harmonised operational procedures. There is also growing recognition of the importance of moving beyond simplified fire cause identification, such as labelling incidents as “arson”, towards multidisciplinary investigations that address underlying socio-economic and environmental drivers. Furthermore, existing planning frameworks often remain fragmented, with sectoral approaches leading to overlaps, gaps, and dependencies. Greater integration and consolidation of plans would improve overall coherence and effectiveness.

Several additional points of interest reinforce these findings. Both countries are working to better align wildfire risk management strategies with climate change adaptation objectives and “Building Back Better” principles. The expansion of legal frameworks for prescribed burning is also seen as a crucial and transferable practice for fuel management, although it requires a shift in public perception towards accepting fire as a managed and necessary element of the landscape. Volunteerism continues to



be a cornerstone of national resilience, with Greece relying on trained forest worker cooperatives and Italy on a large, well-organised volunteer network. However, increasing operational complexity demands higher levels of expertise, coordination, and discipline, often associated with professional forces, while volunteer systems also face competition from other sectors. Despite widespread agreement on the need for a cross-sectoral and integrated approach, the so-called “suppression trap” remains evident, with political and financial attention still largely focused on response capacity rather than comprehensive fire management. Finally, while regional flexibility allows for tailored approaches to different landscapes, excessive regulatory variation can lead to inconsistencies in national policy, underscoring the importance of maintaining strategic coherence across all governance levels.

In this context, the WF-PRAF plays a crucial role in strengthening governance. It provides an external and objective evaluation that helps identify structural gaps, such as the absence of national risk management committees, while promoting greater policy coherence through the integration of disaster risk reduction with rural development and environmental education. It also facilitates knowledge exchange by highlighting “inspirational practices” from across EU Member States, thereby contributing to the development of a more unified European approach to wildfire management. Importantly, WF-PRAF reaches audiences that may not typically engage with similar frameworks, while remaining broadly aligned with existing instruments such as the [FAO Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines](#) and the [Landscape Fire Governance Framework](#).

2.3 Session 2: Novel wildfire prevention and Civil Protection Challenges (CPC) in a growing risk context in the Mediterranean

Representatives of the four FIRE-SCENE pilots presented prevention, management and operational approaches to wildfire risk in WUI and tourist-areas: peri-urban self-protection (Catalonia); Urbanization Classification (UCS) - Fire Risk Index (FRI) mapping (East Attica & Rhodes, Greece); tactical risk assessment and planning for coastal resorts (Calabria, Italy); and WFRM in high-use protected areas and recreational sites (Cap de Creus Natural Park & Solsonès County in Catalonia, Spain).

CPC on wildland-urban interface wildfires

Classifying self-protection capacity in peri-urban areas of Catalonia as a support tool for Civil Protection systems (Pilot 1)

Methodology components: GIS overlay of external hazard (CTFC) + internal vulnerability/household characteristics (CERTEC/UPC); evacuation-route modelling; extreme-scenario stress tests with local actors; shareable plug in for institutions.

Key outcomes: peri-urban risk classification maps, identified critical residential areas and evacuation/confinement capabilities, municipal guidelines, inputs to the regional emergency plan for wildfires (INFOCAT) and local plans.

Key takeaways: supports prioritization of adaptation measures and local capacity building; validates via community exercises; plug-in enables institutional uptake.



CPC on WUI wildfires on tourist resorts and villages (I)

Categorizing urban, peri-urban, and WUI areas based on their wildfire risk assessment in East Attica and Rhodes, Greece (Pilot 2)

Methodology components: three-step workflow (Hazard via fire-behavior simulation; Impact = Exposure × Vulnerability; Risk = FRI = $0.4H + 0.3E + 0.3V$), 20×20 meter rasters aggregated to 1 km operational zoning; min–max normalization; scenario meteorology.

Key outcomes: 20 m FRI rasters, 1 km MEAN/MAX zoning, hotspots validated against Mati 2018 and Lardos–Lahania 2023; operational-ready products for 112/GR-Alert.

Key takeaways: reproducible operational framework; address data gaps (building–vegetation proximity, occupancy, demographics); schedule periodic updates and UAV/LiDAR acquisition.

Key findings from stakeholder feedback on the development of Risk Assessment & Risk Governance Module Frameworks in East Attica & Rhodes (Pilot 2)

Stakeholder engagement included an online info day (27/05/2025), a UCS (Urbanization Classification) workshop (02/10/2025) and a Risk Communication & Evacuation workshop (18/11/2025). Two online questionnaires were circulated during these workshops to gather input for co-designing the Risk Assessment & Risk Governance Module (RA & RGM). Multi-sectoral and multi-level stakeholders participated in the above-mentioned engagement activities such as national, regional and municipal authorities; firefighting; forestry; tourism and hoteliers; NGOs; volunteers; and researchers.

Main findings based on the stakeholders' responses to the two thematic questionnaires were as follows:

General: Strong support for clear stakeholder roles, integration of local operational experience, and co-design of tools to enhance coordination and resilience.

UCS feedback: Stakeholders value high-resolution layered maps and local knowledge integration; key missing inputs include unmapped access tracks, occupancy/demographics and proximity data; integration into spatial & urban planning feasible but needs regulatory adjustments.

Risk communication (Group 1 questions): Channels are largely moderately effective; coordination needs improvement; public education campaigns are insufficient; barriers include interagency coordination, language/clarity, low public awareness and digital access gaps.

Evacuation & preparedness (Group 2 of questions): Low confidence in current preparedness; inconsistent evacuation criteria, poor signage, rare drills; main evacuation barriers: communication, traffic bottlenecks and limited agency coordination. Priorities: training/exercises, route marking, interagency coordination.

Cooperation & tourism roles (Group 3 of questions): Moderate participation; strong willingness from tourism sector to support evacuation logistics and joint drills; high support for integrating hotel plans with municipal emergency services; incentives favored for awareness and infrastructure.



Innovation & digital tools (Group 4): Real-time GIS/live alerts strongly supported; preferred channels WhatsApp/messenger, local apps, social media; digital tools effective but need wider promotion and accessibility.

CPC on WUI wildfires on tourist resorts and villages (II)

Wildfire risk scenarios in tourist areas and implementation of tactical plans in Region of Calabria (Pilot 3)

Methodology components: AI-derived fuel maps, RISICO/PROPAGATOR spread modelling, daily operational bulletins (3-day outlook), stakeholder co-design and institutional training; risk assessment and planning tool for tactical planning.

Key outcomes: exposed-element inventories, extreme-scenario simulations, prioritized mitigation options, operational/tactical guidelines and bulletins for municipalities.

Key takeaways: urgent action on evacuation bottlenecks and access/parking management; scale drone/AI mapping; formalize bulletins into regional CP workflows and run drills.

CPC on wildfires affecting protected areas and recreational sites

Challenges on managing wildfire risk in natural areas and recreational sites in Catalonia (Pilot 4)

Methodology components: review of plans and documents; coordinated multi-actor dialogue and interviews; definition of risk management procedures; tested signage and fuel treatments in strategic management points in synergy with the recreational use.

Key outcomes: risk governance debate for further improvement, potential INFOCAT linkage, identification of the access closure implications to society and strategic stakeholders.

Key takeaways: need complementary between stakeholders and authorities' competencies, tested prevention and preparedness measures to reduce reliance on access closures; strengthen stakeholder collaboration and sustainable territorial preparedness.

Cross-Pilot Conclusion: Cross-pilot methods are operationally mature and interoperable; next steps focus on data acquisition, stakeholder training, routine operationalization, and scaling best practices across pilots.



2.4 Session 3: Practice Exchange: Lessons learnt from WFRM in East Attica, Rhodes, Catalonia & Italy (Stakeholder-led Roundtable)

A diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from civil protection and emergency services, forestry, tourism operators, NGOs, and local authorities, contributed (both in person and online) to a roundtable discussion focused on integrated and cross-sectoral wildfire risk management. Across Greece, Spain, and Italy, several key lessons and recommendations emerged.

In Greece, major wildfire events have demonstrated that operational shortcomings, such as delayed detection and response, weak inter-agency coordination, insufficient information sharing, and inactive protocols, have significantly contributed to human losses. These impacts have been further intensified by human and behavioural factors, including low public awareness, negligence, and unclear evacuation guidance. A notable gap also exists between scientific knowledge and operational application, as frontline teams often lack access to actionable data (e.g. meteorology and fire behaviour analysis) and the training needed to use it in real time. At the same time, local volunteer brigades have proven essential in providing surge capacity and local knowledge, although they require better equipment, training, and formal integration.

In Spain (Catalonia), experience shows that institutionalised local governance and coordination mechanisms, such as Fire Tables, predefined access restrictions, and clearly assigned on-site responsibilities, are highly effective in enabling rapid and coordinated action. However, wildfire risk is significantly heightened during peak tourism periods, when visitor presence coincides with maximum fire danger, creating complex evacuation challenges, often exacerbated by limited risk awareness and preparedness. Clear legal and administrative frameworks, combined with technical and financial support for municipalities, have proven critical in strengthening prevention efforts.

In Italy (Calabria), wildfire risk management is strongly shaped by tourism exposure, requiring tailored operational planning, including daily risk bulletins, specific evacuation arrangements, and tools adapted to local infrastructure constraints. Local bottlenecks, such as limited access points and evacuation routes, further increase vulnerability and call for targeted measures such as traffic management and regular drills.

Across all regions, several common recommendations stand out. Effective wildfire risk management depends on the integration of prevention, preparedness, and response, combining investments in fuel management and infrastructure with public awareness, training, and operational readiness. Strong multi-level and multi-actor coordination is essential, supported by legal frameworks and regular cooperation platforms. Enhancing public risk communication through multilingual, multi-channel approaches (developed in collaboration with local communities and the tourism sector) is also critical. Bridging the gap between science and operations by strengthening real-time analytical capacities and ensuring that information reaches decision-makers is another priority. Finally, the active involvement of the tourism sector and the structured integration of trained community volunteers are key to expanding capacity and improving resilience within civil protection systems.



3 Field trip on 13 May

A field visit in the Attica region (Rafina–Pikermi, Nea Makri, Mati & Neos Voutzas) allowed participants to explore wildfire-affected WUI areas, linking on-the-ground observations with challenges related to effective prevention, societal preparedness and emergency management.

The field visit provided a series of practical lessons on wildfire risk management, particularly in wildland–urban interface (WUI) areas. A key takeaway is the importance of strong local governance and coordination, as effective collaboration between municipal authorities, civil protection services, and national agencies is essential to ensure coherent prevention, preparedness, and response. The experience in Rafina–Pikermi highlighted how integrated monitoring systems—combining surveillance technology, patrols, and volunteer engagement, and linked to national operational platforms—can significantly enhance situational awareness and initial attack capacity. However, the discussions also underscored persistent gaps in translating planning into fully operational and tested systems, particularly regarding evacuation procedures and real-time coordination.

The reconstruction of the 2018 Mati wildfire offered critical insights into the consequences of compounded failures. Rapid fire spread, driven by extreme weather conditions and highly flammable vegetation, demonstrated the need for a deeper understanding of fire behaviour and its integration into operational decision-making. At the same time, spatial planning shortcomings, unclear land-use structures, and limited preparedness at local level contributed to the severity of the disaster. One of the most important lessons concerns evacuation management: inadequate traffic control, the failure of major roads to function as effective firebreaks, and the redirection of vehicles to unsuitable secondary routes significantly increased human losses. This highlights the need for realistic evacuation planning, including traffic modelling, alternative routing strategies, and regular drills.

The visit to coastal zones further emphasized the importance of accessibility and risk-aware spatial planning. Physical constraints such as steep cliffs, limited escape routes, and poorly designed access to safe zones can turn coastal areas into high-risk traps during fast-moving fires. Ensuring multiple, clearly marked, and sufficiently wide evacuation routes—particularly in tourism-driven areas—is therefore critical. The discussions also reinforced the importance of addressing legal and structural vulnerabilities, including building regulation and informal development patterns, which can exacerbate exposure and limit response options.

Overall, the visit confirmed that wildfire risk management must adopt a fully integrated approach, combining prevention, land-use planning, infrastructure design, public awareness, and operational readiness. It also highlighted the importance of learning from past events to inform future action, particularly in Mediterranean contexts where high fire risk intersects with dense settlements and seasonal tourism pressures.



Figure 2: Starting point of the Mati wildfire (top-left), meeting with the Rafina authorities (top-right) and coastal area where the Mati fire impacted (down- left and right).

4 Indoor sessions on 14 May

4.1 Session1: Round table - Challenges and opportunities in managing wildfire risk: Listening to experts

Experts from Spain, Italy, Portugal, and Greece examined key aspects of wildfire risk management, including prevention, risk mapping, governance, and community resilience. The discussions highlighted a shared shift towards more proactive and integrated approaches.

Experts from Catalonia emphasised the importance of anticipation, supported by daily and weekly fire danger monitoring systems, the establishment of legally mandated prevention buffers, and the development of municipal emergency and self-protection plans. Particular attention was given to ongoing efforts to ensure that all municipalities are adequately equipped by 2025–2027.

In Italy, the Calabria experience showcased the value of decision-support tools based on risk mapping, combining historical ignition data, kernel density analysis, and fire severity layers to guide prioritisation of interventions and resource allocation.

From Portugal, the discussion reinforced the limitations of suppression-focused strategies and stressed the need for a transition to integrated fire management. This includes landscape-scale fuel reduction measures such as prescribed burning and



grazing, alongside stronger cross-sector governance, improved incentives for rural land management, and the promotion of behavioural change.

Greek experts highlighted the need for more flexible and context-sensitive response strategies, moving beyond uniform evacuation approaches. They also stressed the importance of reintroducing prescribed burning, developing national fuel models, strengthening firefighter training, and improving public awareness and preparedness.

Across all contributions, there was broad consensus that prevention must be prioritised over suppression, and that scientific knowledge and data must be effectively translated into operational use. Participants also agreed on the importance of strong multi-level coordination, active community engagement, and the need for sustained funding and institutional support to build more resilient landscapes.

Key takeaways from the session include the need to shift resources towards prevention measures such as fuel management, prescribed burning, grazing, and active forest management. Strengthening anticipation and monitoring systems (through fire danger forecasting and real-time situational awareness) is also critical. Data-driven decision-making should be reinforced using advanced risk mapping tools to better target interventions. At the same time, response strategies must be adapted to local contexts, particularly in wildland–urban interface areas, where settlement patterns and risk exposure vary significantly.

Improving governance and coordination remains essential, requiring the institutionalisation of multi-agency collaboration, the harmonisation of standard operating procedures, and stronger integration across civil protection, forestry, and municipal planning. Empowering local authorities and communities is equally important, through funding, capacity-building, and increased public awareness. In addition, integrating science into operations, through fire behaviour analysis, meteorological support, and the development of national fuel models, can significantly enhance effectiveness.

Finally, the discussions highlighted the need for continued investment in training and professional standards, particularly in areas such as fire behaviour, human factors, and operational tactics. Ensuring long-term funding mechanisms, developing legal tools to support fuel management on private land, and promoting socio-economic solutions, such as bioeconomy initiatives, rural incentives, and stronger engagement of the tourism sector, are all key to advancing more sustainable and resilient wildfire management systems.



4.2 Session 2: Cross-cutting components for a pan-European approach

Insights towards enhanced risk governance framework: policy coherence, participation, coordination/funding

The session had two main objectives. First, it presented a study contributing to Work Package 2 by identifying and analysing emerging wildfire risk governance challenges through a concept analysis of risk governance, based on key reports, regulations, initiatives, and position papers in the wildfire and Disaster Risk Management fields, with a focus on their practical recommendations.

Within this context, the study systematically reviews and records these recommendations, classifies them within three key governance dimensions, and identifies all measures that explicitly reference or target the management of EWEs.

The three dimensions include; (1) Policy Coherence and Synergies, which refers to the alignment and integration of strategies, regulatory frameworks, and planning instruments across sectors such as forestry, agriculture, land-use planning, rural development, climate adaptation, and civil protection, (2) Inclusive Participation and Co-Creation, which focuses on the involvement of communities, stakeholders, indigenous and local knowledge holders, and the broader public in wildfire prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery, and (3) Institutional Coordination and Funding, which captures the organizational structures, inter-agency cooperation mechanisms, financial instruments, and cross-border assistance systems that underpin wildfire management.

Consequently, this study aims to explore, synthesize and categorize wildfire risk-governance recommendations and references related to EWE scenarios, emerging from policy reports, official statements, and existing governance practices. The goal is to summarize the main areas of consensus, key inconsistencies and identify adaptation pathways to address the growing wildfire risk at regional, national, European and international levels.

A summary of the key results is that risk assessment and planning tools must not operate in isolation but be embedded within coherent policy frameworks. Their effectiveness depends on being co-designed with relevant stakeholders and supported by long-term governance structures and financing.

The detailed results of this study will be available through the Deliverable 2.1 Technical report on wildfire risk governance practices for emerging Civil Protection challenges and the Deliverable 2.2 Policy brief on governance models for wildfire risk management and Civil Protection, which will be online available at the end of 2026 on the project website.

After a brief presentation of the above-described study to the consortium members, the second part of the session took a more participatory turn. Members were divided into two groups according to their area of expertise, to engage in two separate active engagement sessions.

The aim of the first activity was to gather expert perspectives on the development and design of a wildfire risk governance framework. It also aimed to identify the stakeholders who should be involved in a strengthened wildfire risk management system and to clarify how each stakeholder relates to the different phases of the DRM

cycle. In addition, the activity explored how stakeholders contribute to the three core dimensions of risk (vulnerability, hazard, and exposure) within this hypothetical enhanced governance framework.

Additionally, a second activity was conducted with FIRE-SCENE partners to discuss the governance implications for the effective deployment of the developed RA&P tools. The reports review, combined with the results of these two activities grounding governance implications, and together with a set of experts' interviews on risk governance, will jointly feed the above-mentioned deliverables of the risk governance module of the FIRE-SCENE project.



Figure 3: Parallel workshops on wildfire risk governance

Data/ interoperability platform: hazard mapping and modelling

Advances in operational tools further demonstrate the potential of integrating science and technology into decision-making. The use of machine learning to develop dynamic fuel maps, combined with fire danger rating systems and fire spread simulators, enables more anticipatory and data-driven responses. When coupled with real-time monitoring technologies, such as UAVs, and linked to operational records, these tools support a shift from reactive to proactive wildfire management. However, their full impact depends on aligning technical interoperability with governance frameworks, stakeholder engagement, and sustainable funding, allowing such approaches to be scaled and institutionalised across regions.

The session concluded with a strong consensus on the need to prioritise prevention-led governance, alongside the validation of key pilot tools for risk assessment, modelling, and planning. Participants also emphasised the importance of institutionalising multi-agency coordination, standardising operational tools and outputs, and expanding training programmes, including joint exercises and evacuation drills, to strengthen overall preparedness and resilience.

5 Conclusion

The 2nd Exchange and Training Meeting highlighted the urgent need to transition from largely response-focused wildfire management systems to fully integrated, prevention-oriented approaches across Mediterranean and European contexts. Discussions and field insights demonstrated that effective wildfire risk management depends on combining advanced risk assessment tools, improved landscape and fuel management, and strong governance frameworks that align policy, planning, and operations. A consistent message across sessions was the importance of interoperability, data sharing, and the practical integration of scientific knowledge into real-time decision-making, alongside sustained investments in training, monitoring, and technological innovation.

Equally, the meeting underscored that resilience cannot be achieved without strengthened multi-level coordination and active stakeholder involvement. Collaboration among public authorities, emergency services, researchers, local communities, and the private sector emerged as a critical factor for success. Enhancing public awareness, improving evacuation planning, and embedding participatory approaches into governance structures are essential to address growing wildfire risks. Ultimately, the FIRE-SCENE initiative reinforces that scalable, transferable practices, supported by coherent policies, inclusive participation and governance, and long-term funding, are key to building a more adaptive and resilient wildfire risk management system across Europe.



Figure 4: Photo group



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