

**TITLE:** 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.

## " European Forest Fire Networks "

**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 DURATION:** The project duration is 24 months from October 2010 until October 2012.



**COMPONENT "PREPARATION ACTIVITIES"**  
Responsible partner: PEDA (ex TEDKNA) (Leadpartner)

**COMPONENT 1: MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION**  
Responsible partner: PEDA (ex TEDKNA)

**COMPONENT 2: COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION**  
Responsible partner: Region of Thessaly/ North Aegean Region/ Region of Tuscany/ Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service

**COMPONENT 3: EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES DEDICATED TO THE TRANSFER OF GOOD PRACTICES INTO EU STRUCTURAL FUNDS MAINSTREAM PROGRAMMES**  
Responsible partner: Office National des Forêts – ENTENTE

**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.



### **TOTAL BUDGET:**

The total project budget is EUR 2,084,093.00 where the ERDF fund allocated is EUR 1,655,521.25 (79.44%)



PEDA (ex TEDKNA) (Coordinator): 217.920,00,  
Region of Tuscany: 201.675,00,  
Entente for the  
Mediterranean Forest: 175.300,00,  
National Forestry Office: 177.800,00,  
National Forest Centre: 161.940,00,  
Cesefor: 140.700,00,  
North Aegean Region: 134.240,00,  
Region of Epirus: 131.900,00,  
Region of Thessaly: 144.540,00,  
Galician Public Safety Academy: 133.500,00,  
Frederikssund-Halsnæs Fire  
and Rescue Department: 142.900,00,  
Forest Research Institute: 133.975,00,  
Northumberland Fire  
and Rescue Service: 187.703,00,





REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS OF NORTH AEGEAN REGION  
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# EUFOFINET

<http://eufofinet.eu>

## AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT:

The aim of the project is to facilitate the transfer of good practice to improve national and regional policies for forest fire risk prevention and management.

In order to achieve the key aim of the project, 5 specific objectives must be realized:

- Update and enrich the good practices matrix already identified by IIC South RFO "INCENDI" with new experiences and proceedings, particularly from northern European countries.
- Following the exchange and transfer of good practice between partners, the project will directly influence the development of new operational management plans (action plans) for all project partners.
- Identify and promote common intervention procedures in order to define a flexible model(s) that could be utilized by any entity with an interest in forest and wild fire prevention and management.
- Establish an international network of institutional contacts and operational links in the fields of wild-fire prevention and wildfire suppression. This network of national and regional organizations will help to promote exchanges of information and good practice between European partners.
- Attempt to harmonize common frames of reference in the EU with regards to wildfire prevention and wildfire suppression.



The mid-term objective of this project is to create an extended institutional network of regional expertise on wild forest risk prevention and management and thus become a referent network in the EU with the political power to develop guidelines and to make recommendations.



## OUTPUTS:

*EUFOFINET aims to produce 10 key outputs:*

- 12 signed Action Plans
- Successful transfer of 5 examples of good practice
- 6 Workshops and 6 Workshop minutes
- 4 Steering Committees (SC) and 4 SC minutes
- 5 progress reports
- 2 technical conferences (kick-off, final) with an audience total of 600 people and 2 Conference minutes
- 1 press conference (linked with the final conference event)
- Staff partners involved will increase their capacity
- 2 links with other projects focusing on similar topics concerning risk prevention
- 3 new cooperation projects born from this project

The production of an Action Plan by each of the project partners is the most important output of the project. Following the completion of all seven workshops and the project conference, the EUFOFINET partners will develop individual action plans which will outline how they will integrate and implement some of the best practice that has been exchanged during the project (following a specific transfer process of selection-adaptation-commitment). Importantly, Action Plans will be signed and approved by the partner's respective Managing Authority. The Action Plans will consequently make a significant impact on regional and perhaps national environmental policies. Each partner will describe the good practice that they wish to adopt, how it represents a top priority and how they want to implement it within their territory through their Operational Program.







The Region of Attica is a triangular peninsula jutting into the Aegean Sea.

Four mountains, Aigaleo, Parnitha, Penteli and Hymettus (clockwise from the southwest) delineate the hilly plain on which the Athens-Piraeus metropolix now spreads. Pine and fir forests cover the area around Parnitha. Hymettus, Penteli, Myrrhinous and Laurium are forested with pine trees, whereas the rest are covered by bushery.

The Local Union of Municipalities and Town Councils of Attica (T.E.D.K.N.A.) (as of the 6th of October would be renamed to PEDA i.e. Regional Union of Municipalities of Attica) is a union of 66 municipalities within the boundaries of the Attica region, as well as of the islands of the Argo-Saronic Gulf.

Within this area 4.5 million citizens are residing, the majority of whom live in the City of Athens, in the port city of Piraeus and along the coast of the Peninsula of Attica.

The region stands as a melting pot of numerous nationalities. Nowadays, the immigrant/population ratio for the region is around 11% as compared with 7,3% for Greece, with over 80% of immigrants coming from less-developed countries.

Region's economy is based primarily to the tertiary sector. The tertiary sector (i.e. business and services) makes up 77.7% of the GDP; 35% of the country's entrepreneurs are found in the Attica region. Secondary sector contributes to the GDP by 21.7% and analytically mine 0.2%, processing industries 11.6%, energy 1%, manufacturing and construction 8.9%.

Several EU co-funded Programs have been implemented by TEDKNA and its members. One could refer to FLEXLEARN (FP7) - The use of digital technology in education, ALES (CULTURA 2007): Art Laboratories in European Schools, OPEN DOOR(YOUTH IN ACTION): Promotion of equal opportunities for minorities ATHINA (EQUAL) : Promotion of the equality in the job market for women technicians, IDEA(EQUAL) -Raising the awareness of employment opportunities,

CRESENT(EQUAL)- Organization of a centre for regional, social and cultural entrepreneurship in tourism, ANTICIPATION (ADAPT) Promotion of IT technologies in SMEs, ARI-ACT(2003-2006 Information Society)- Information Society for the Quality of life in the Region of Attica through actions of e-traffic, e-waste, e-home health care and e-democracy, ODISSEIA- Operational Development Integrated Strategic Scheme of Employment in Attica funded by the ESF, promoting the equality of the sexes, integrating vulnerable social groups, immigrants and refugees,

MEDINS (Medocc Programme Interreg IIB) - "Identity is Future: The Mediterranean Intangible Space": Promotion of cultural heritage in the Mediterranean, Forest Cities - LIFE08)- Local Authorities for Forrest Fire Prevention

Tuscany is an Italian region located on the west coast of Central Italy. The "Regione Toscana" is a regional administration with specific commitments and responsibilities defined by national laws. The regional office involved in the project EUFOFINET is the "Programmazione Agricola-Forestale - Antincendi boschivi

The National law on forest fires, released on 21 November 2000, N. 353, gives to the Italian Regions a fundamental role in planning and managing activities of forest fire prediction, prevention and fighting. Therefore the "Programmazione Forestale - Antincendi boschivi (AIB)" Office - of Tuscany Region Administration - is responsible of the prevision, prevention and fighting activities about forest fires. The AIB organization is also in charge to set up the regional multi-annual operational plan (called Piano Operativo Antincendi Boschivi) in order to plan and define the forest fire prevention and fighting activities. Fire statistics, fire risk index and hazard, general prevision, prevention and fighting activities relating to forest fire, operative procedure, training, and information activities are included in this operational plan. The Region of Tuscany for forest fire fighting may rely on : over 1000 engines (off-road vehicles with tank of different capacity), up to 10 helicopters of the regional fleet, and about 4000 firefighters.

The organization, implementation and management of the unified operational center (SOUP) are in charge of the AIB Regional Office. The duty of the SOUP is to coordinate the prevention and suppression activity for the whole territory of Tuscany. The SOUP is managed following specific operating procedures that allow the coordination at regional level of all firefighting activities. The SOUP is open 24/7 (all the year, 24 hours a day).

In order to improve efficiency and effectiveness in forest fire prevention and suppression specific training programs for firefighters, fire bosses and fire managers were developed since 1991 in the Regional forest fire training center.

The AIB office organizes and promotes the cooperation between the institutions and agencies involved in forest fire prevention and suppression at regional level. Partnering activities with research organizations, foreign partners in European projects, and other entities involved in protection against forest fires, are also carried out.





## ENTENTE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN FOREST (FRANCE)



PARTNER 3:

[www.entente-valabre.com](http://www.entente-valabre.com)

ENTENTE is a governmental agency for the protection of the forest and the environment against fires: 15 departments of the South of France covering 4 regions (Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur, Languedoc-Roussillon, Corsica and Rhône-Alpes). It was created in 1963 and since directed by elected official and fireman officer. This agency was created around the departments the most affected by fires, in a common and non political will, to join and better fight the situation. The Entente works with a network of users which is composed by all public entity with forest fire protection activity; Civil Protection, emergency services and local authorities (SDIS, ONF, DDAF, EMZ, Prefecture etc ...). ENTENTE has the support of the Prefecture of the PACA region (State institution). The measure 3.5 of the OP ERDF PACA is addressed specifically to the natural risks including forest fire and will finance the actions plan. See the letter of support 2009.

The 4 essential missions of the ENTENTE are (i) to help all actors involved in forest protection against fire to use new technologies of information and communication... (ii) to study forest fire protection means and test equipment and fighting techniques, (iii) to train forest fire interveners through the Interregional Civil Protection Training Centre of Valabre, and (iv) to inform public and enforce prevention actions in parallel, or with the help of other public or private.

Given its training capacities and experience, the ENTENTE will organise one of the workshops sessions ("Training with simulation tools"). These practices were respectively tested in the ENTENTE zone and the region of Provence Alpes Côte Azur in France. The ENTENTE will assist other Regions during the implementation of its practices and will contribute to the dissemination of all the practices identified by the partners to local and regional stakeholders in France.

## NATIONAL FORESTRY OFFICE (FRANCE)



PARTNER 4:

[www.onf.fr](http://www.onf.fr)

The French National Forestry Office (ONF) manages nearly 5 million hectares of public forests belonging to the French State or to local authorities and plays a major role in regional sustainable development.

The ONF works for the protection of many different environments, from coast lines, dunes and marshes, to peat bogs, mountains, glaciers and grasslands. ONF has the support of the Prefecture of the PACA region (State institution). The measure 3.5 of the OP ERDF PACA is addressed specifically to the natural risks including forest fire and will finance the actions plan. See the letter of support The ONF conducts continual fire watches during high risk periods and informs the public on the danger of forest fires.

The ONF participates actively in the rehabilitation of natural burned areas and employs specialists in natural risk prevention.

Through various project it was involved in, the ONF acquired know-how in the management of wildland-urban interfaces and the restoration of burned areas. These practices have been implemented in the South-East of France and provided satisfactory results. Within this project, the ONF will contribute to the transfer of knowledge and experience regarding these good practices to partners and stakeholders from various European regions (trainings, site visits and workshops). It will also provide technical support to regions that are willing to implement the above practices.

The ONF strives to expanding its knowledge regarding environmental management and improving its working methods and techniques.

By strengthening its research and development capabilities, expanding its environmental management objectives, and improving its working methods and techniques, the ONF is striving to provide better answers to the changing expectations of citizens and the users of natural resources.





## NATIONAL FOREST CENTRE (SLOVAKIA)



PARTNER 5:

[www.nlcsk.sk](http://www.nlcsk.sk)

In Slovakia, National competency is concentrated in Ministry of Interior Affairs (control inspection), Ministry of Agriculture (prevention), as well as National Forest Center (NFC), as well as national "Fire Brigade".

There are particular management authorities managing funds and Operational programs, e.g. for Structural funds related to the Research it is Ministry of Education, as for the Management authority for INTERREG initiative it is Ministry of Economy of Slovak Republic, however issue of forest fires is at the same time considerably influenced by the Ministry of Agriculture which is MA of our institution. Actually, NFC cooperates closely with the Ministry of Environment in all issues regarding environmental impacts. Very soon, the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture will be merged, which is the direct ma. The merge result will be only one Ministry, carrying out all relevant decisions.

Fire Brigade, NFC, the future Ministry of Agriculture-Environment, Ministry of Interior Affairs are responsible for implementing good practices in the field. National Forest Centre (NFC) is a leader in forest fire protection focused on air monitoring, as well as institution introducing and implementing Forest Watch automated wildfire detection system in Slovak Republic. It is an automatic surveillance system, using video to determine if there is a potential fire, and if there is, where it might be on the GIS map. Forest Watch is used to detect and locate fires, additionally, the operator can tour all camera presets and manually classify fires or other features of interest as "watches" (non-fire events which may turn into fires e.g. lightning strike locations or recently extinguished fire locations) and "bookmarks" (non-fire events, bookmarks can be used for security purposes as well if the operator saw something suspicious).

## CESEFOR (WOOD AND FOREST SERVICE CENTER)



PARTNER 6:

[www.cesefor.com](http://www.cesefor.com)

The CESEFOR (Wood and Forest Service Center) is a private, no-profit foundation that began its operations in January 2003. The mission statement of Cesefor is to support the growth of forestry sectors and forestall industries of the Region Castilla y Leon that uses forestry resources in ways that make a large contribution to sustainable development, through their projects and services.

The main objectives of Cesefor are the improvement of the sustainable management and the sustainable exploitation of forestry resources, the improvement of the competitiveness and the development of our industrial network and the increase of the level of sustainable industrial processing of the forestry products.

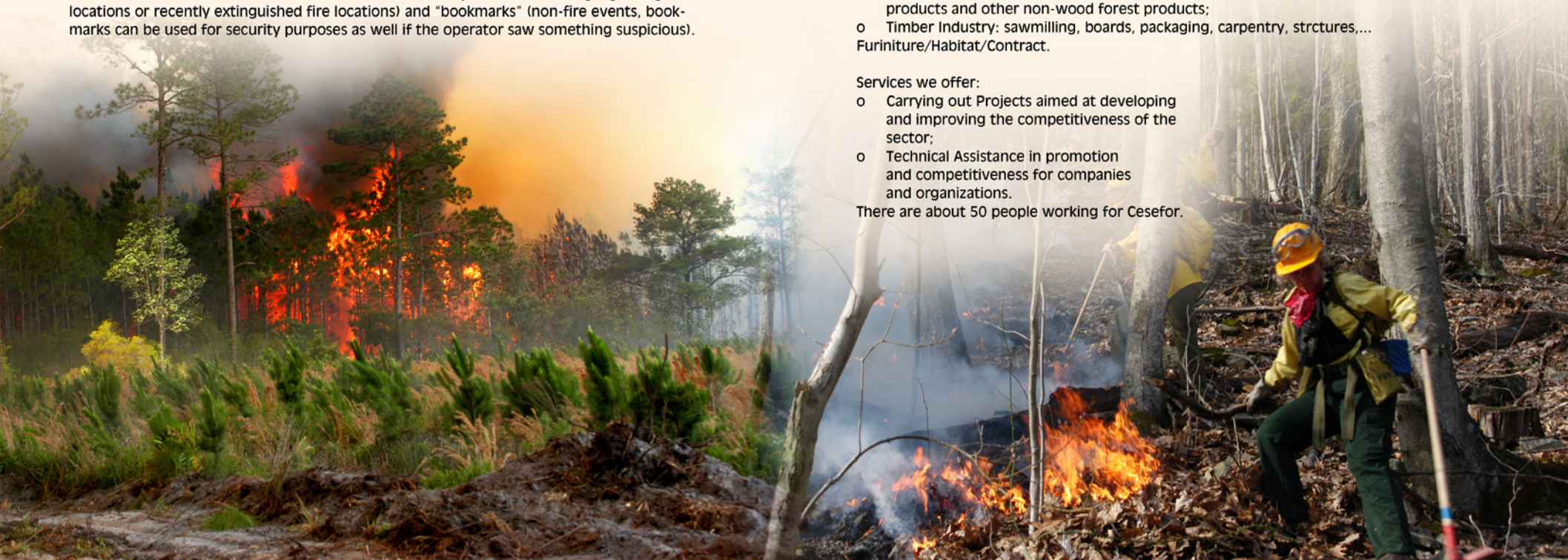
In particular, the mission of Cesefor is the development of the forestry sector and the industry built upon the exploitation of forestry resources so they make a greater contribution to the sustainable development of their environment. Specifically to:

- o Improve the management and sustainable exploitation of forestry resources;
  - o Improve the competitiveness and development of the industrial base;
  - o Increase the degree of sustainable industrialization for forestry products.
  - o Addressed to organization and companies in the following sectors:
  - o Forestry: property and management;
  - o Forestry exploitation: biomass, wood, resin, pine kernel, chestnuts, mycological products and other non-wood forest products;
  - o Timber Industry: sawmilling, boards, packaging, carpentry, structures,...
- Furniture/Habitat/Contract.

Services we offer:

- o Carrying out Projects aimed at developing and improving the competitiveness of the sector;
- o Technical Assistance in promotion and competitiveness for companies and organizations.

There are about 50 people working for Cesefor.

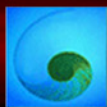




## NORTH AEGEAN REGION (GREECE)

PARTNER 7:

[www.ptaba.gr](http://www.ptaba.gr)



The region of Northern Aegean is found in north-eastern side of Greece and South-eastern border of European Union. It consists of 3 provinces, Lesvos, Chios and Samos with 9 inhabited islands in total (Lesvos, Lemnos, Agios Efstratios, Chios, Inousses, Psara, Samos, Ikaria and Fournous). The total extent of the Region is about 3.836 sq.km. and total population of 204.108 citizens(2001 census). Lesvos belongs to the islands of the Northern Aegean.

The biggest inhabited islands of the Region are Lesvos, Chios, Lemnos, Samos and Ikaria. The total extent of Lesvos is 2.154 km<sup>2</sup>, the total length of coasts is 696 km, and the total population is about 105.194 people. In Lesvos Island there are 2 main mountainous regions almost with an altitude of 1000, Olimpos and Lepetimnos respectively. The average rainfall is 750mm per year and the main characteristics of the weather are mild winter and hot summer. The island's economies depend on the Rural Sector (23%), Industry (22%) and Services (58%). Although the main source of income comes from Services, around 55% of the population is rural.

- o Use of Land :
- o Agricultural Land : 30%
- o Pastures 49%
- o Forests 16,6%

Forests are mainly located on the islands of Lesvos, Samos, Chios, and Ikaria.

Having worked together with most of the partners in OCR Incendi project which was proven to be successful has given to NAR the incentive to continue to work in the difficult subject of forest fires. The experiences and competences of NAR in forest fires are mainly in Dissemination Activities and Cartography which were done for the first time in the region and probably in Greece as well by a regional authority. As a region NAR is directly involved with the local authorities of the region and all the departments of the Aegean University in order to endorse local policies in a way which comply with the regional policy plan, which has the forest fires issue as a priority. Furthermore, the president of the public authority and Secretary General of the region influences directly the decisions made about the Regional Operational Plan for the period 2007-2013.

The Managing Authority of the Operational Program will be actively involved in the project, in order to transfer the knowledge obtained from EU.FO.FI.NET to the Operational program. Other bodies of our Region, involved in the project are the Forestry Services of the Region, the University of the Aegean and the Fire Services of the Region which are directly relevant to the project.

## REGION OF THESSALY (GREECE)

PARTNER 8:



[www.pthes.gov.gr](http://www.pthes.gov.gr)

The Region of Thessaly occupies the central eastern part of continental Greece. Its territory of 14,036 square kilometers is characterized by a highly variable landscape, possessing some of the most fertile agricultural plains in the country, surrounded by tall mountains and with an island complex in its eastern administrative boundaries.

According to the census of 2011, the population of the Region of Thessaly was 730,730 people. The economy of Thessaly is mostly based on activities related to the tertiary sector, which accounts for 60.9 % of the regional GDP. The primary sector continues to have an important share to the composition of Thessaly's economy, as it covers the 35% of the regional GDP. The role of the Region in the transportation sector is vital since it is crossed by the main growth axis in Greece, also included in the wider European Network of Transports. The development planning of Thessaly focuses mainly on rural development, economic growth, employment, sustainability of tourism and improvement of the Region's infrastructure.

Some of the projects implemented by the Region are the following: RENEWING HEALTH – Regions of Europe Working together for Health (ICT PSP, 2010-2013, budget 14.000.000 ), IMMODI – Development of mountain and rural territories through cooperation in the fields of e-government and e-health (INTERREG IVC, 2010-2011, 1.871.795 ), WASMAN – Water management as Policy Tools for Corporate Governance (ERDF, 2009-2011, 1.616.961 ), DEMIFER –Demographic and Migratory Flows affecting European Regions and cities (ESPON 2013, 2008-2010, budget 781.600 ), MOUNTAIN-RESRUE - rational use of mountainous energy resources (INTELLIGENT ENERGY, 2007-2009, budget 838.669 ), CONNECTED CITIES – Promotion of urban sustainable transport and mobility (INTERREG IIIC, 2005-2007 budget 1.300.000)





## REGION OF EPIRUS (GREECE)

PARTNER 9:

[www.php.gov.gr](http://www.php.gov.gr)



The Region of Epirus occupies the north-western part of Greece, sharing internal borders with Western Macedonia (to the north-east), Thessaly (to the south-east), Western Greece (to the south) and the Ionian Islands (to the west). The north-western part of the Region borders Albania, while to the west there are links, through the port of Igumenitsa, with nearby Italy.

Region's name derives from the Greek word *apeiros*, meaning unbounded, without limit. It has a total area of 9,203 sq. kilometres, comprising 6.97% of the total area of Greece. Mountain areas cover 74.2% of the total area of the Region and are home to 33.4% of its population. The population of the Region is 353,820 inhabitants, representing 3.2% of the total population of Greece. Population density is 38.4 persons per square kilometer, which makes it one of the most sparsely populated areas in Greece (national population density is 80 persons per square kilometer).

The largest areas of commercially exploited forest are located in the prefectures of Ioannina and Arta (29.5% and 40% respectively). Those in Arta are located in the northern and north-western parts of the Prefecture and consist mainly of fir and oak trees. The commercially exploitable areas of the Prefecture of Ioannina are in the northern and north-eastern areas of the Prefecture (Konitsa, Metsovo, Pogoni, Zagoria) and consist of fir, pine, beech, oak and other evergreen trees. Significant quantities of timber are felled and processed in the Region, including timber for industry, electricity and telephone poles, firewood, charcoal, etc.



## GALICIAN PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY (SPAIN)

PARTNER 10:

<http://agasp.xunta.es>



The Galician Public Safety Academy was created in 1992: autonomous body of administrative nature, with the objective of developing learning activities addressed to the professional training of police and fire-fighters of the entire Galician region, as well as volunteers in fires extinguishing and prevention, civil protection and forest agents.

The Region of Galicia, with a forest area of less than 10% of Spanish forest surface, averaged over the last 10 years, 46% of forest fires in Spain, which represents an average close to 8578 annual fires. The situation experienced in 2006, tens of large forest fires out of control, several people died and hundreds of houses evacuated, necessitated the assistance of national media and allowed to learn from past mistakes and start to develop good practices in the first intervention, early detection strategies and risk mapping, which can be transferred to other partners. The Galician regional government has transferred the responsibility for woodlands, forestry, cattle routes and grazing, subject to the jurisdiction of the Spanish State to enact basic legislation on the subject. This means that corresponds to the Galician regional government coordinating the actions of prevention and protection against forest fires. Such actions are carried out through the Ministry for Rural Affairs.

The body responsible for managing fire severity level 0, from the Ministry of Presidency, Public Administration and Justice, which is responsible for fire management level severity 1,2 or 3 and the Galician Public Safety Academy (AGASP). AGASP, as an autonomous agency of the Galician regional government has assigned the following functions:

- The professional training of emergency management services.
- The commitment to generate and transfer knowledge bases to improve policies for managing emergencies.
- The drive for quality in emergency management services for improved citizen services and satisfaction of its operators.
- Research, study and dissemination of technical and documentation of emergency management, to which end is involved in various committees related to public safety.
- The promotion of trade relations and cooperation with other national and international institutions associated with the management, training and research in emergencies.





## FREDERIKSSUND-HALSNÆS FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT (DENMARK)



PARTNER 11:

[www.fh-brand.dk](http://www.fh-brand.dk)

Frederikssund-Halsnæs Fire and Rescue Department provides fire and rescue services to the municipalities of Frederikssund and Halsnæs in the centre of the island of Seeland, in Denmark. The two municipalities are home to approximately 76,000 inhabitants who live within a land area of 382 square miles.

The Fire Department's key activities and responsibilities include responding to and preventing: fires; road accidents; flooding; fires at sea; hazardous material and chemical incidents; major incidents including terrorist attacks; boat preparedness; and providing other humanitarian services such as rescuing casualties from a variety of emergency scenarios. Like all fire and rescue services in Denmark, Frederikssund-Halsnæs's operational activities are overseen at the national level by the Ministry of Defense.

Frederikssund-Halsnæs Fire and Rescue Department has long term strategic aims of improving the social, economic and environmental well being of the residents of Frederikssund and Halsnæs. Central to this is a focus on preventing fires and other emergencies from happening and in doing so reducing death, injury and damage to property.

Frederikssund-Halsnæs Fire and Rescue service has several large forest areas. In the forest areas have been built summerhouses, camps and more. Frederikssund-Halsnæs fire and rescue service have been affected by large forest fires, thankfully so far has only caused damage to the forest.

If fire occurs Frederikssund-Halsnæs fire and rescue service has challenges due to the large summerhouse areas adjacent to forests.

Experience from this project will be implemented in both Frederikssund-Halsnæs fire and rescue service, as in the rest of the Danish fire brigades. Experience will also be presented to the Danish emergency management agency, so the experience can be part of the national educations in Denmark.

## FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE (POLAND)



PARTNER 12:

[www.ibles.pl](http://www.ibles.pl)

The Forest Research Institute (FRI) is an institution which closely cooperates with the State Forest and National Forest Holding and the Ministry of the Environment, implementing the results of research works. The FRI is subordinated to the Minister of Environment which is the MA. FRI was established under the Act on Research and Development Institutions of the Ministry of the Environment. In above mentioned Act is a notation that FRI is supervised by the Ministry of the Environment.

The cooperation has steady character and all organizational solutions from the scope of the forest fire protection are being consulted with the FRI. Among others the Poland forest fire protection system was worked out in the FRI and implemented to the Polish law. The signed declaration from the Ministry of Environment is a guarantee of implementing results of the project.

The FRI has over 45 years experience and big achievements in the field of the scope of problems being a subject of the project. This experience and the knowledge will be helpful in its realization and the worked out solutions and will be moved to the domestic practice. The Institute actively participates in elaborating legal acts and other documents, including those resulting from international conventions and agreements, and from Forest Policy of the State, and it undertakes activities for organs of the state power.

The EUFOFINET project, in which the Forest Research Institute participates, is implemented, just like the EFFMIS (European Forest Fire Monitoring using Information Systems) project, within the confines of the Environment and risk prevention priority, Sub-theme: Natural and technological risk (including climate change) and this is in which its similarity consists. However, tasks and goals of both projects are different, only the research subject is common, i.e. fire protection. The Institute will perform different tasks in both projects and double financing is not possible.







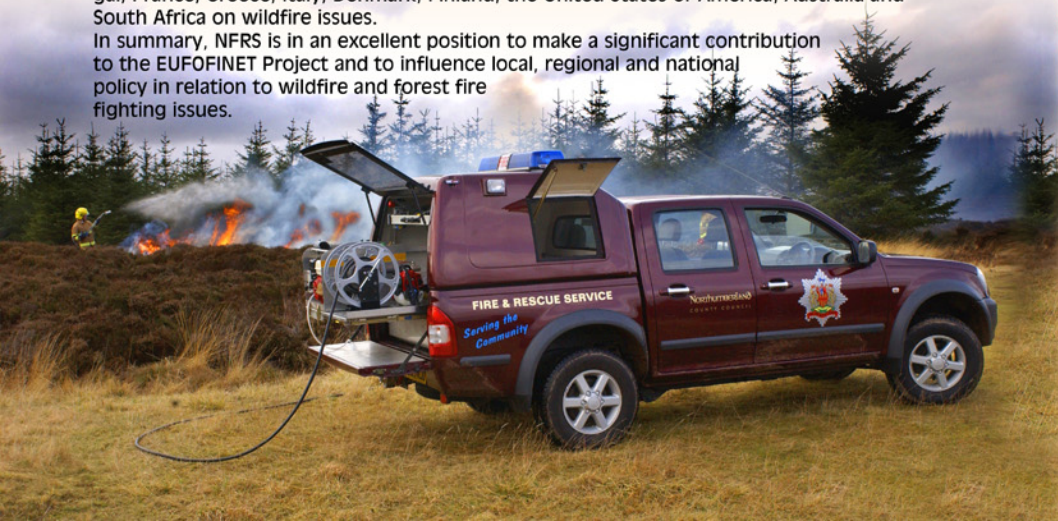
Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) provides fire and rescue cover to the County of Northumberland in northern England. The County covers an area of almost 2,000 square miles (approximately 500,000 hectares) and is home to approximately 310,000 people. NFRS has a broad range of expertise and understanding concerning wildfire / forest fires and is recognized within the UK as the lead Fire and Rescue Service on wildfire training and operational policy issues. Alex Bennett, Acting Chief Fire Officer of NFRS, is currently the Lead Officer for Wildfire within the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) and Assistant Chief Fire Officer Paul Hedley is the Chair of the CFOA Wildfire Working Group (Operations). In addition to these duties, NFRS holds the Chair of the England and Wales Wildfire Forum, a multi-agency partnership of wildfire stakeholders.

NFRS has extensive experience of working in partnership at a local, regional, national and international level to establish best practice and to improve co-operation, understanding and awareness of wildfire issues.

At the local level, NFRS has worked with partners to establish an efficient and effective inter-agency partnership (the Northumberland Fire Group) which aims to prevent wildfire and forest fire incidents, increase the knowledge and understanding of wildfire within rural agencies, and to establish safe and effective systems of work when managing and dealing with wildfire incidents. The Northumberland Fire Group is now considered an example of good practice and has been replicated in other regions of the UK.

At the national level, NFRS is a developer and provider of training related to wildfire suppression activities. NFRS has developed excellent training systems for wildfire suppression and delivers training courses to a number of Fire and Rescue Services across the UK. NFRS also provides wildfire suppression training to Fire and Rescue Services in the Republic of Ireland and Denmark. Another key element of NFRS's work at the national level is the tactical assistance it provides to other Fire and Rescue Services in the UK during severe wildfire incidents. Most recently, during the Spring of 2011, NFRS wildfire specialists were deployed to provide tactical support for the successful suppression of a large wildfire in the South of England. At the international level, NFRS has been forward-thinking in its approach to developing and maintaining international partnerships with leading wildfire organisations from around the World. NFRS is able to maintain and further develop its wildfire capabilities and expertise through a constant two-way exchange of information and experience with these international partners. In recent years, NFRS has collaborated closely with partners in Spain, Portugal, France, Greece, Italy, Denmark, Finland, the United States of America, Australia and South Africa on wildfire issues.

In summary, NFRS is in an excellent position to make a significant contribution to the EUFOFINET Project and to influence local, regional and national policy in relation to wildfire and forest fire fighting issues.



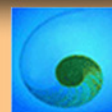
# PARTNERSHIP

European Forest Fire Networks



**EUFOFINET**  
<http://eufofinet.eu>

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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