WUITIPS
Wildland-Urban-Interface Fire Touristic Infrastructures
Protection Solutions

Summary of the Action

Call
UCPM-2022-PP "Prevention and preparedness projects on civil protection and marine pollution" priority 1 "Risk assessments"
**Detected needs and general objective**

Forest fires in Europe increasingly affect populated areas, involving a serious civil protection challenge. People and assets at the wildland-urban interface (WUI) are exposed to fire and smoke hazard. In this context, tourism in WUI areas is particularly vulnerable. Tourists are generally unaware of fire risk while tourism-oriented buildings and facilities do not systematically contemplate their preparation for a forest fire impact. This is particularly evident in trans-boundary touristic regions, in which population flows from one country to the neighbouring one and for which proper and effective collaboration between the implied responders is required but rarely present. As of today, no harmonised approach and actions for fire risk assessment of touristic areas is shared between neighbouring Member States: there is no harmonized understanding of the vulnerability of touristic areas nor common and coherent messages and recommendations of good practices for self-protection and prevention.

WUITIPS aims at developing a harmonized EU guideline for fire prevention and protection planning in touristic infrastructures, specifically focussing on the methods and tools to analyse fire hazard and vulnerability of assets and people.

**Methodology**

The work planned is programmed in three main phases (Figure 1).

Through a living lab of knowledge transfer from different types of stake holders (administration, research and practitioners) and different EU countries, a harmonized understanding of the problem and a catalogue of fire hazard and vulnerability indicators will be collected together with the state-of-the-art of risk mitigation measures used at different scale and in different regions (Phase 1).

Based on front-edge fire simulation tools and human behaviour models and relying on results out of past projects dealing with WUI fires (e.g. WUIVIEW, WUI-NITY) in Phase 2 WUITIPS will develop guidelines aimed at reducing fire vulnerability of people and exposed assets. This will include touristic infrastructure (e.g. hotels, campgrounds, touristic resorts) and cultural heritage sites. Performance of current prevention and protection measures for people and assets will be tested and, eventually, improvements to increase effectiveness will be recommended.

All knowledge developed in Phase 2 will be integrated in the form of self-assessment tools and methods, which will be demonstrated in selected cross-border (Spain-France) pilots (Phase 3). Through this exercise and counting on the co-creation and the co-participatory process of our living lab, an EU harmonized guideline for the implementation of self-protection plans in touristic infrastructures will be developed and implemented on site.
Expected results

- Harmonized EU guideline for the implementation of prevention and protection plans in touristic infrastructures.
- Assets and people vulnerability self-assessment tools and check-lists.
- Examples of application of products in pilot sites.
- Engaged EU network of stakeholders.

The consortium

A multi-disciplinary highly qualified consortium has been assembled including partners from the scientific community, private and public sector on civil protection and local authorities with largely recognized expertise on wildfire management research and implementation projects.

UPC (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, COO) is a public institution dedicated to higher education and research with engineering background and large experience on technological, environmental and natural risk reduction research projects (https://certec.upc.edu).

EFR (Efectis France, BEN) is a reference fire testing laboratory counting on outstanding division on R&I with technical competences on fire safety engineering and fire hazard/vulnerability modelling.

ULUND (Lunds Universitet, BEN) is one of Scandinavia’s largest research universities and its Fire Safety Engineering Division is an internationally acknowledged point of reference on modelling and virtual reality applications for human behaviour analysis in fire field.

DDGI (Diputació de Girona, BEN) is the Provincial Council of Girona authority who gives support to 221 municipalities on provisions’ compliance regarding WUI fire prevention measures. DDGI also leads communication, education and fire risk awareness campaigns across Girona province.

EPLFM (Entente pour la forêt Méditerranéenne, BEN) – Valabre is a public organisation working in the field of Civil Protection with several areas of activity: firefighters training, development and normalization of new technologies and solutions for civil protection and information and awareness raising campaigns on natural hazards for the population.