

FIREPRIME

EUROPEAN PROGRAM FOR WILDFIRE-PREPARED COMMUNITIES

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Elsa Pastor

Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya



SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT – BASIC DATA

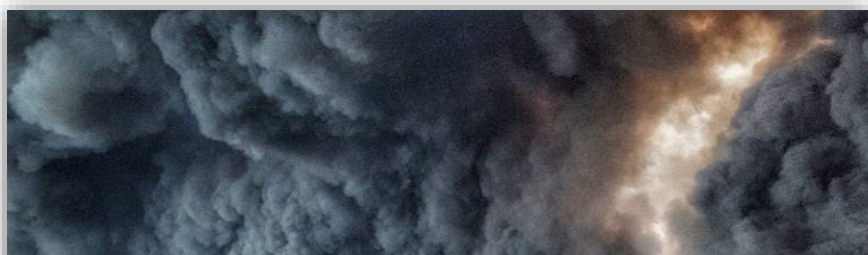
- Project full name: **European Program for Wildfire-Prepared Communities**
- Call: UCPM-2023-KAPP-PV "Knowledge for action in prevention" Priority 4, Wildfire Prevention
- Duration: 2 years (01/02/2024 – 31/01/2026)
- Total cost: 792,590.73 € (Grant Amount: 673,698 €)
- Consortium
 - **Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC, Coord)** – *Spain*
 - **Pau Costa Foundation (PCF)** – *Spain*
 - **Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC)** – *Spain*
 - **Research Institutes of Sweden (RISE)** – *Sweden*
 - **University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences of Vienna (BOKU)** - *Austria*



FIREPRIME will develop the knowledge, tools and services needed to build and implement an integral program on wildfire risk prevention and preparedness across Europe, with the main focus on civil protection. Inspired by other collaborative frameworks like Firewise or FireSmart, FIREPRIME is foreseen to provide the foundation for an EU-genuine program to foster fire resilience among WUI communities

GAPS AND NEEDS

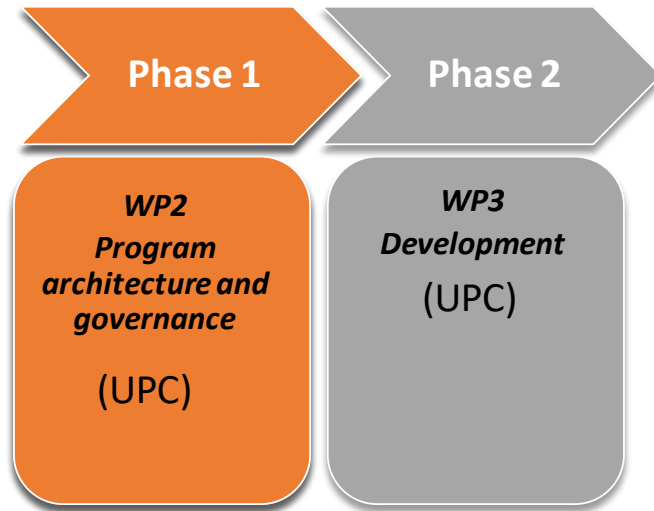
- Climate change is worsening the WUI fire problem throughout Europe. WUI fires quite often exceed fire-fighters capacities, involving serious civil protection challenges



Need for a **coordinated and integrated approach to wildfire risk resilience** across European WUI communities benefiting from outputs of past R&D European projects

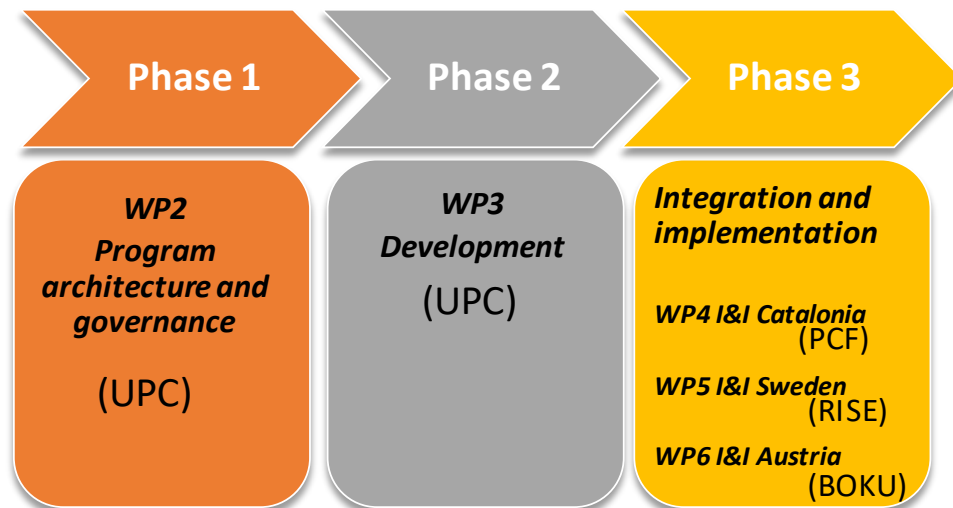
- To increase self-protection capabilities at homeowner and community levels.
- To anticipate and manage wildfire threats on industrial sites and infrastructure located at the WUI
- To increase risk awareness among WUI residents.
- Capacity-building and knowledge-sharing among stakeholders involved in communities' protection

METHODOLOGY



- **FIREPRIME program architecture and governance** has been designed, accounting for the socioeconomic reality and fire management schemes in the three FIREPRIME study areas as well as for relevant initiatives and projects dealing with wildfire prevention in WUI communities.
 - To uptake results from existing initiatives
 - To identify the socioeconomic reality of the study areas
 - To outline the contents of FIREPRIME main streams:
 - **1) homeowner safety**
 - **2) community engagement and education**
 - **3) resilient infrastructures**
 - To establish the governance of the program at pilot scale
- The contents of the three **FIREPRIME streams are developed** in an integrated manner, while accounting for the specificity of the three pilot areas. Innovations will be developed through a broad-based approach to ensure further extrapolation and exploitation to other fire-prone areas.

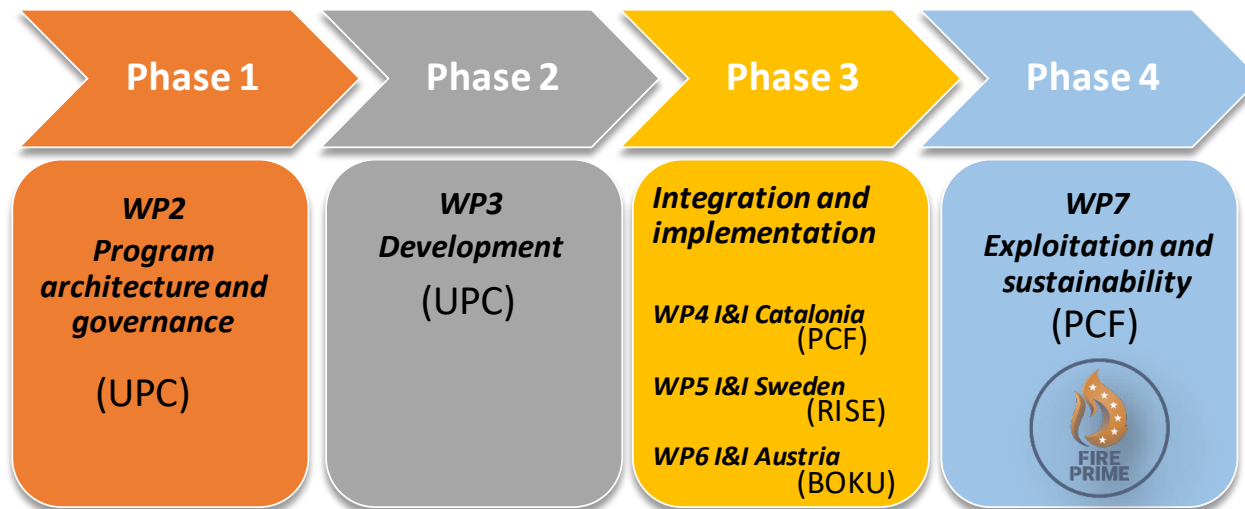
METHODOLOGY



- **FIREPRIME program customized for every pilot** will be implemented in close collaboration with stakeholders and communities
- To develop and integration and implementation plan
- To conduct the FIREPRIME program in its three streams in the three pilot sites
- To monitor and evaluate capacity-building performance and social impact

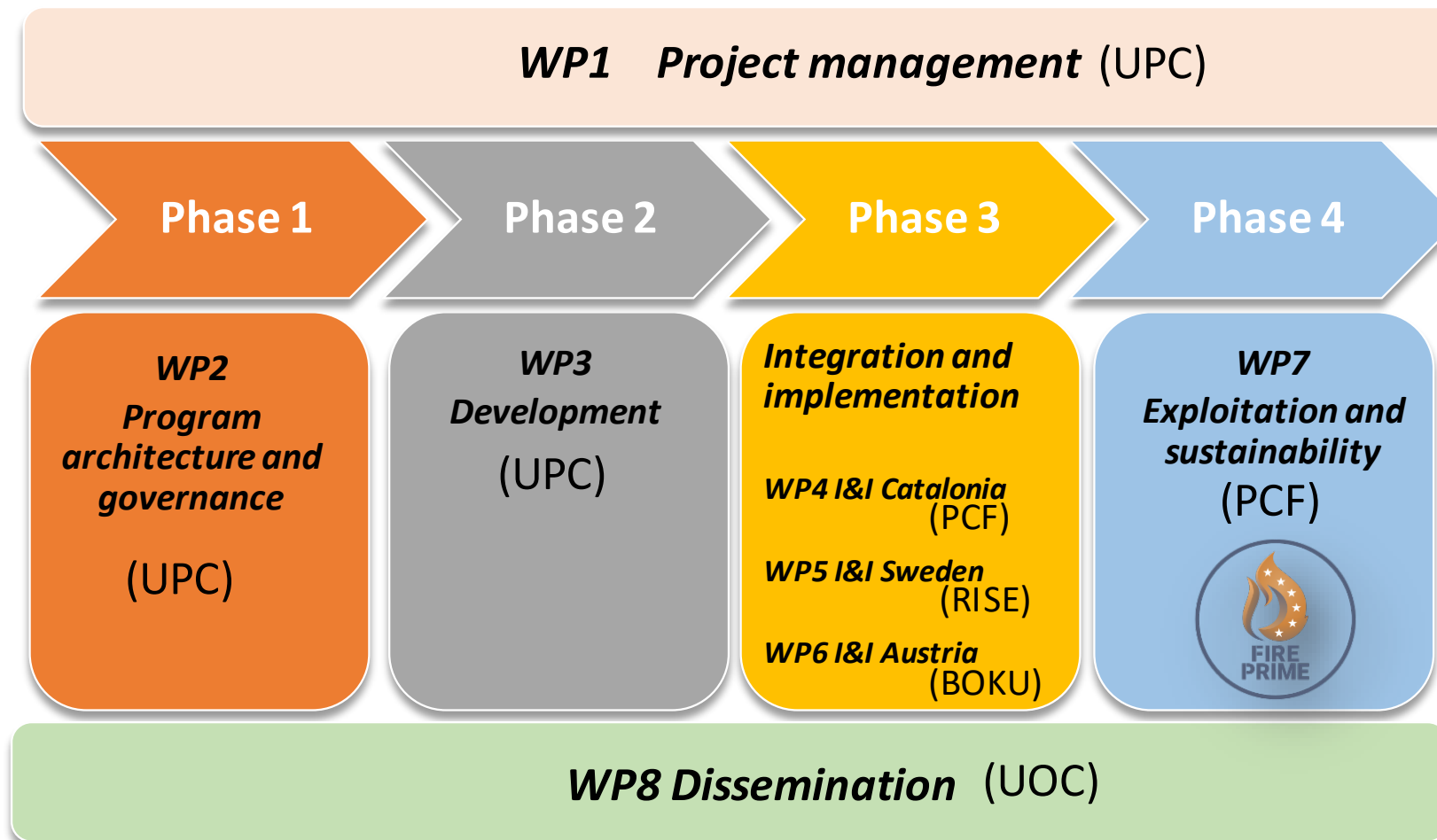


- METHODOLOGY



- The **exploitation and sustainability** plan of the FIREPRIME program will be designed. This WP will ensure that the program continues to have a positive impact long after the project has ended
 - To identify financing sources and beneficiaries to ensure effective handover and continuation of the overall program in FIREPRIME pilot zones.
 - To delineate a FIREPRIME scale-up plan to ensure that the program is exported to as many EU-fire prone areas as possible in the coming years.

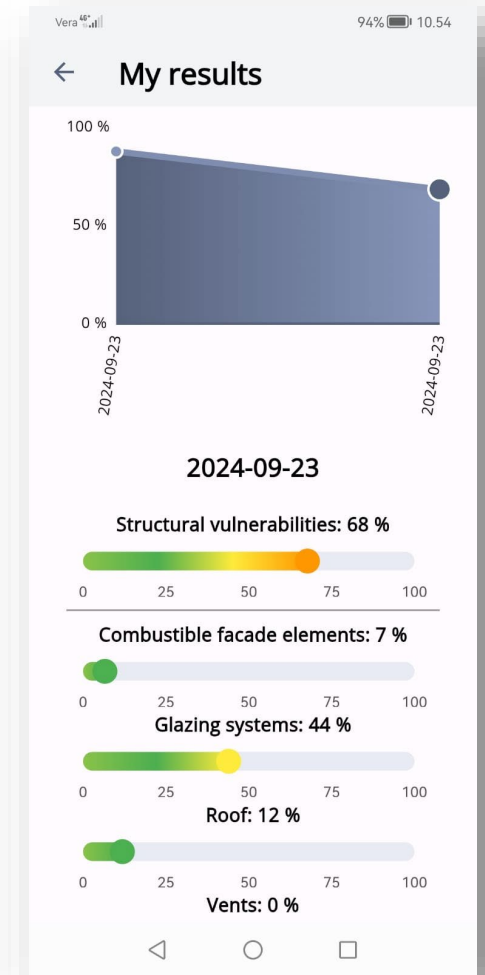
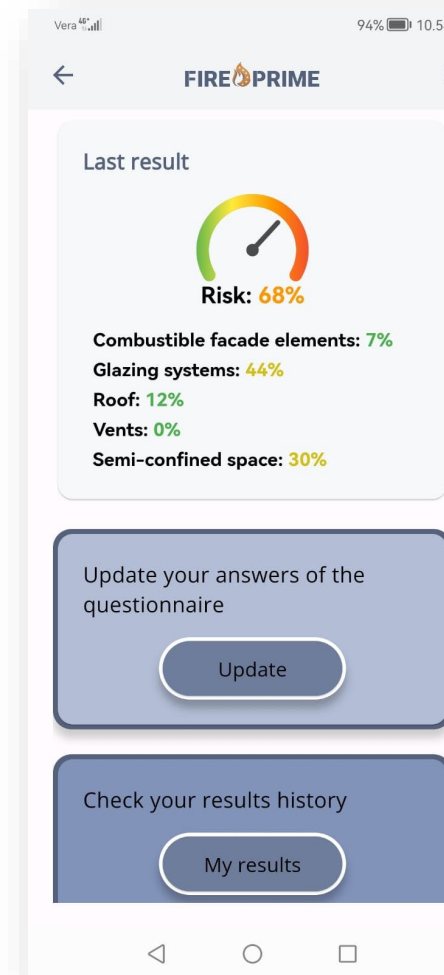
- METHODOLOGY



OUTPUTS

Homeowner fire safety

- Vulnerability assessment methods – Smart Phone App
- Guidelines for creating defensible spaces and resilient homes
- Advanced home assessment program



OUTPUTS

Community engagement and education

- Risk awareness material
- Educational material and resources for children
- Community engagement activities (“Preparedness Day”)
- Community-wide risk assessment protocols



Resilient infrastructures

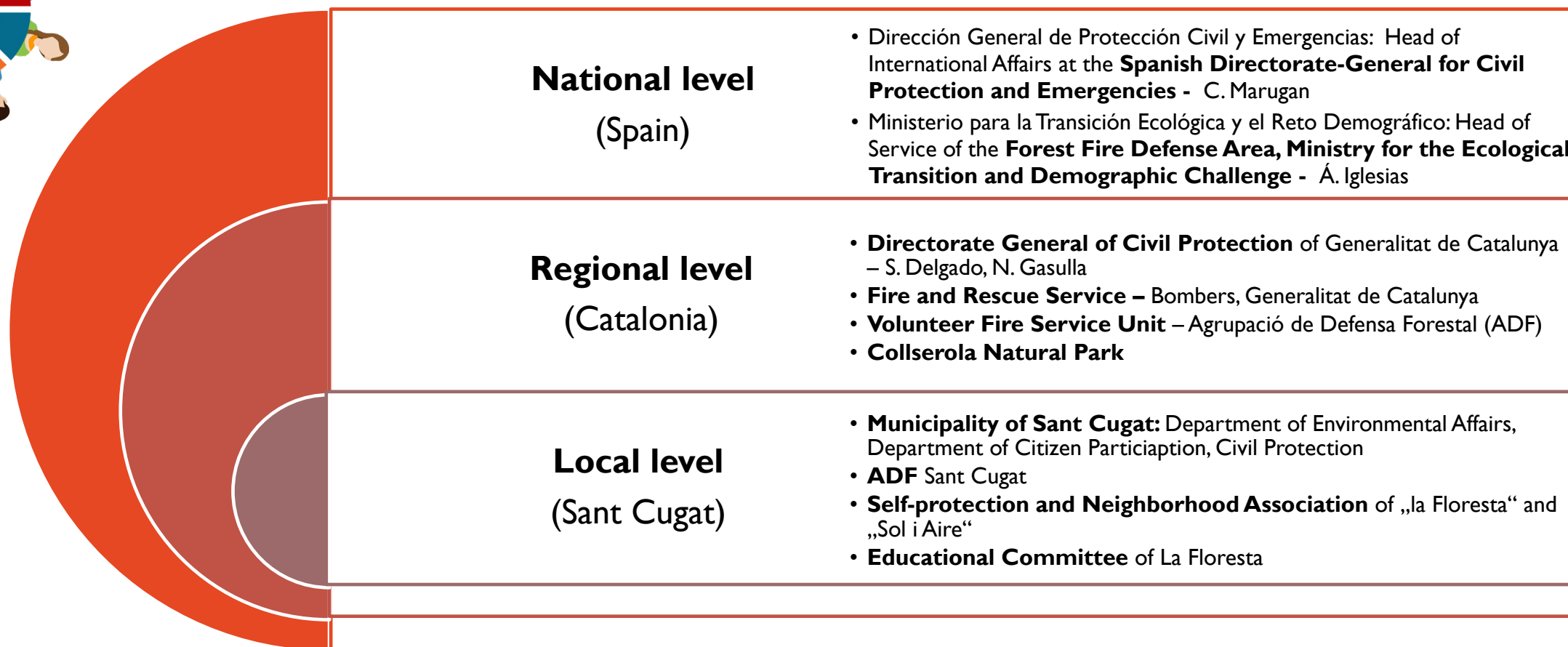
- Wildfire risk assessment guides for industries and other infrastructures (touristic infrastructures, transport, power lines, utility equipment)
- Quantitative risk assessment methods



INVOLVEMENT OF CP AND DRM AUTHORITIES



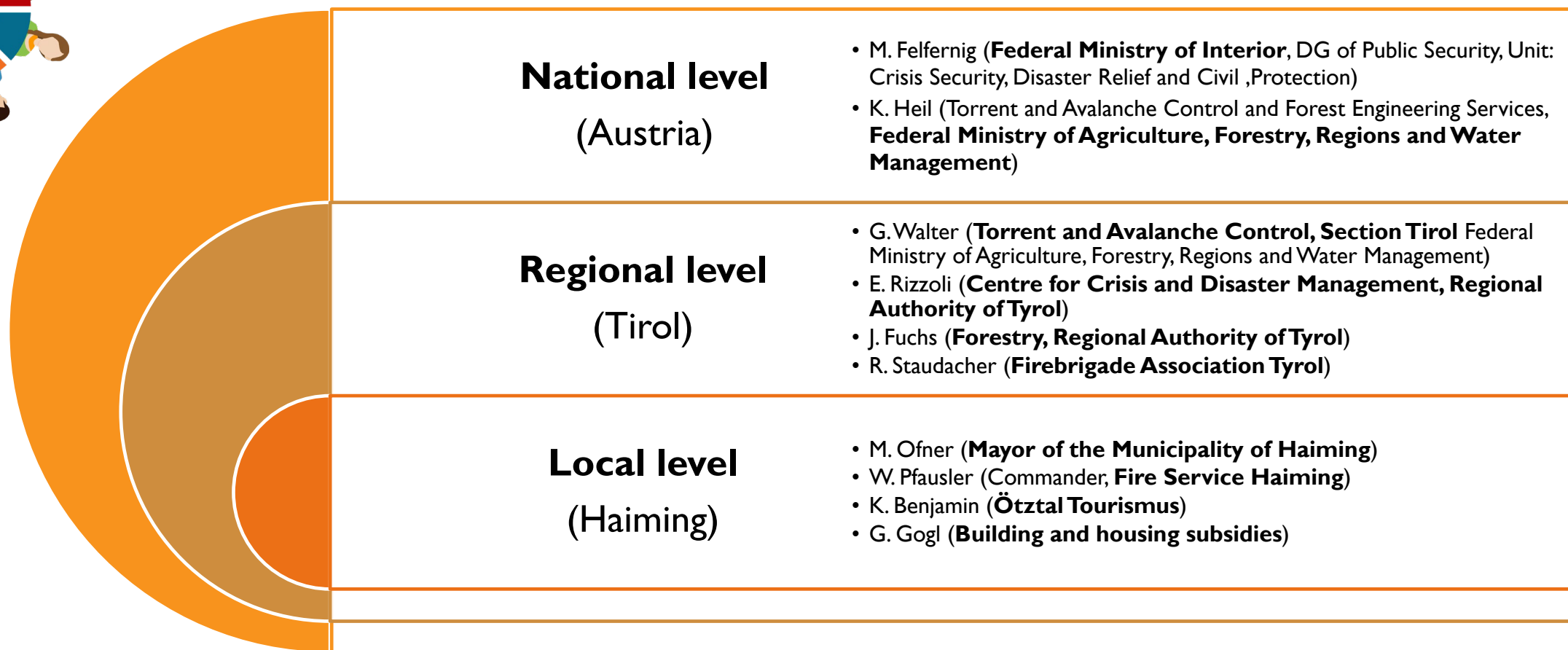
Spanish Pilot Site



INVOLVEMENT OF CP AND DRM AUTHORITIES



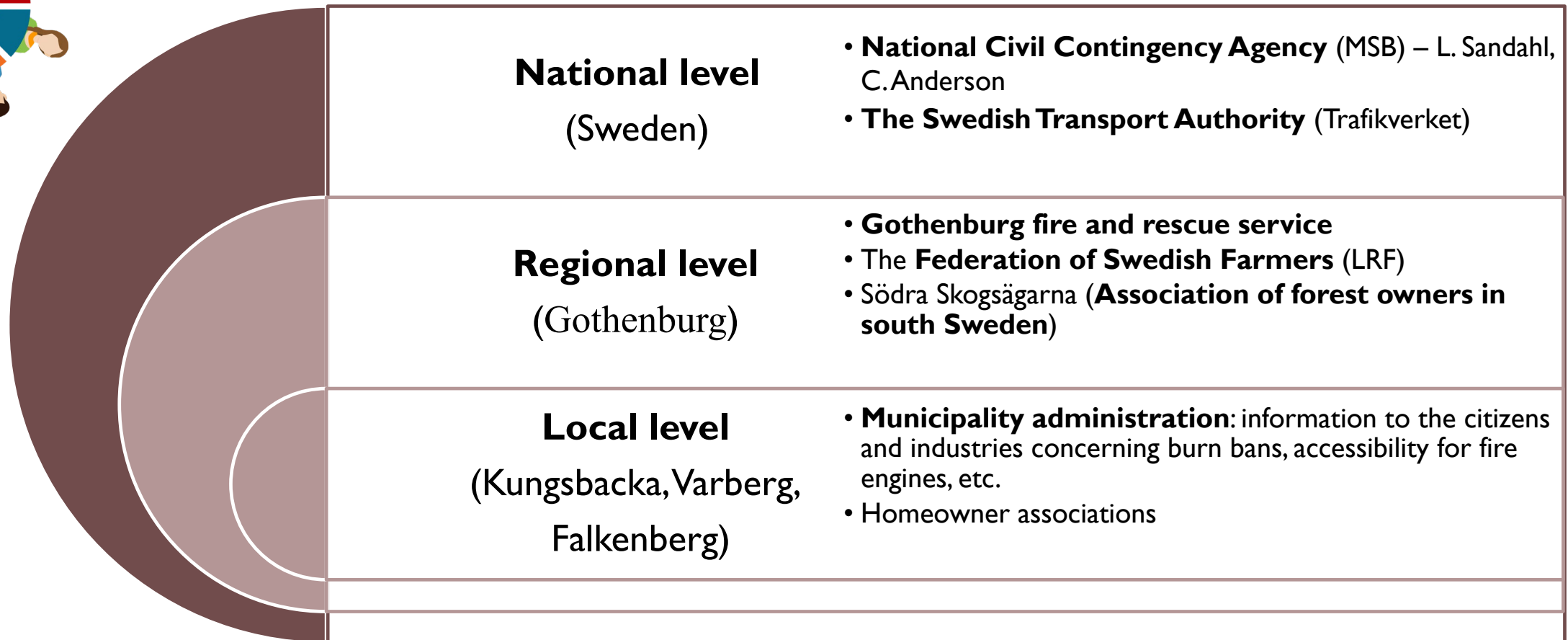
Austrian Pilot Site



INVOLVEMENT OF CP AND DRM AUTHORITIES



Swedish Pilot Site



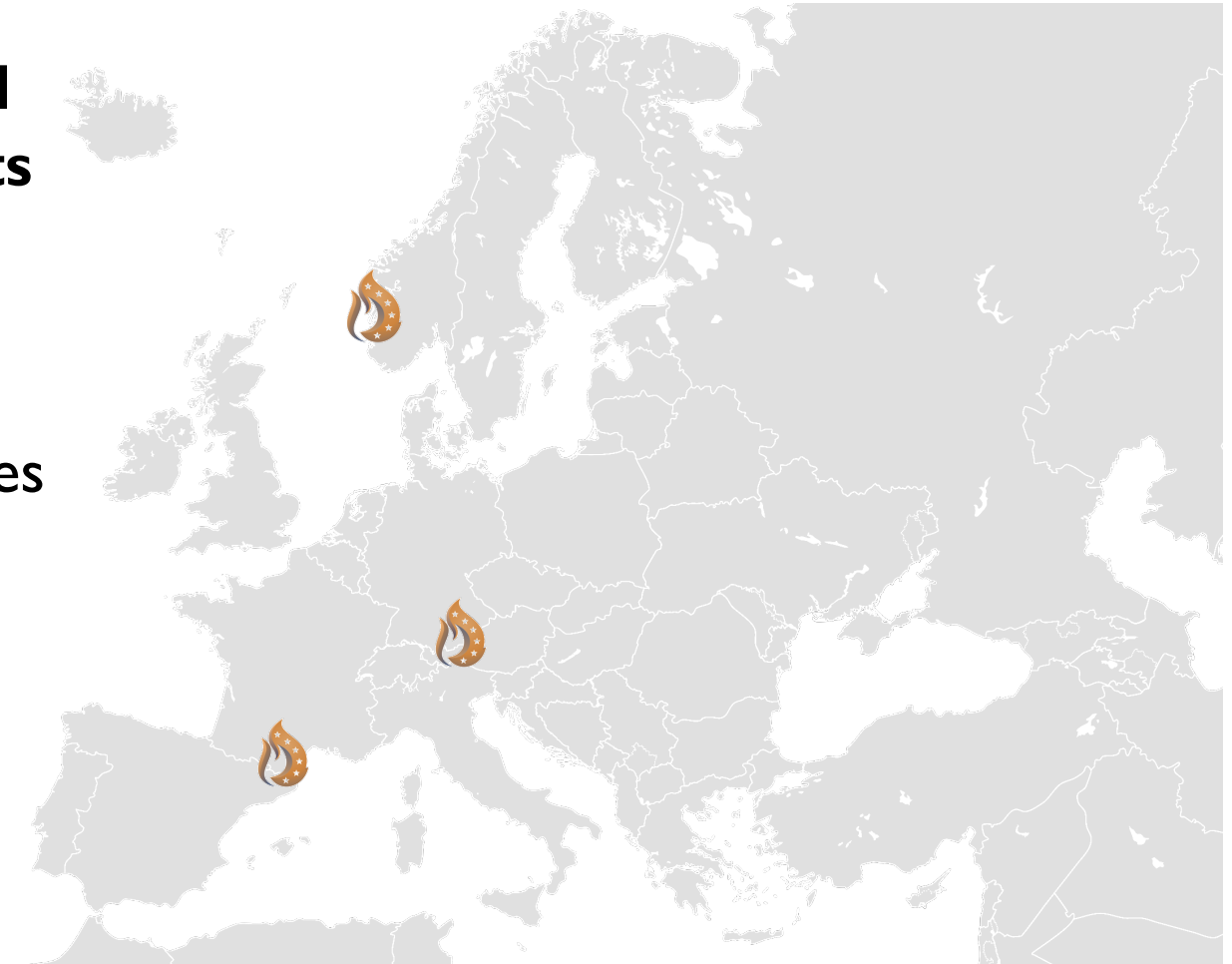
LONG –TERM IMPACT

Improvement of the preparedness and protection of the population and assets in WUI areas across EU:

- increased risk awareness
- fire-resilient properties and infrastructures
- better managed communities



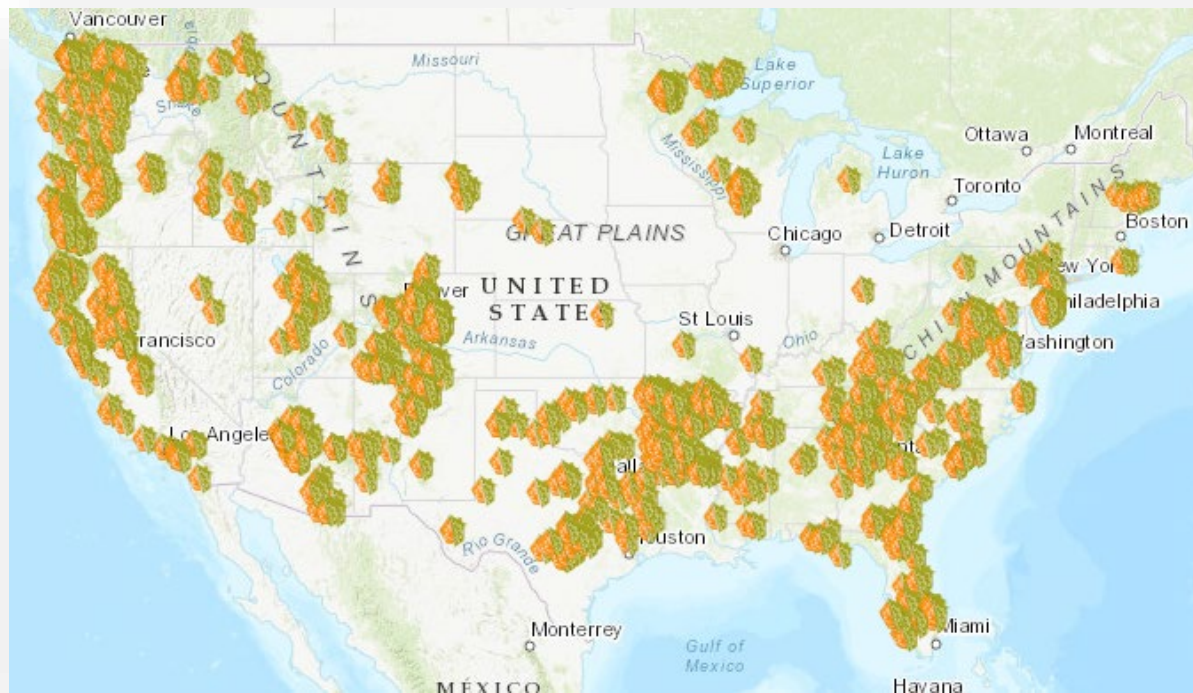
1. Sant Cugat FIREPRIME site
2. Haiming FIREPRIME site
3. Falkenberg FIREPRIME site



LONG –TERM IMPACT



- Active in 36 states
- 2,400 participating sites as of May 2024



Thank you!



@Fireprime project



@FIREPRIME_EU



elsa.pastor@upc.edu