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SparkleFire

Project Deliverable D1.2

External Advisory Board

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Introduction

To ensure the successful implementation and broad regional relevance of our SparkleFire project, an External Advisory Board has been established. This Board is composed of experts from across the four major European bioregions: Northern, Central, Southern, and Eastern Europe.

The Advisory Board serves as an independent body that provides strategic guidance, expert advice, and critical evaluation throughout the project's lifecycle. By incorporating diverse perspectives and knowledge from science and practice across different bioregional contexts, the Board helps to align project activities with regional needs and European policies. It is designed to enhance the quality, impact, and sustainability of the project outcomes across Europe.

The Advisory Board is part of WP1 and can offer both solicited and unsolicited advice on project activities, primarily focusing on content development within WP2-4 but this can also include project management (WP1) and dissemination (WP5).

1. Selection process

The selection of members for the Advisory Board aimed to ensure representation of relevant expertise across the four European bioregions and relevant fields.

1. Identification of Candidates

Potential candidates were identified based on their recognized expertise in disaster risk reduction, wildfire management, educational methodologies, or relevant regional knowledge. Candidates were nominated by project partners, stakeholders, or identified through networks and prior collaborations.

2. Evaluation of Candidates

Each candidate was evaluated for:

- Relevant expertise and experience in wildfire risk or disaster education
- Representation of one of the four European bioregions (Atlantic, Mediterranean, Central, Northern)
- Ability to contribute constructively and independently to the project
- Availability and willingness to participate in Advisory Board activities

3. Consultation and Approval

The project consortium reviewed the list of proposed candidates and selected a balanced group, aiming to cover geographical, thematic and gender diversity. The final selection was approved by the project's Steering Committee.

4. Invitation and Confirmation

Selected candidates were formally invited via email, outlining the Advisory Board's role, expectations, and the voluntary nature of participation. Upon acceptance, their membership was confirmed.

It is important to note that the Advisory Board will not have any decision-making authority within the project. Instead, members will provide guidance and recommendations to the Steering Committee based on their background, interests, and expertise. Advisory Board members were invited to participate in the 1st technical workshop in 2025 and the final workshop in 2026.

2. Appointed Advisory Board

The SparkleFire Advisory Board consists of the following members:

Name	Function	Institute	Country	Bioregion
Dr. Conceição Colaço	Coordinator of the Agro-environmental Education and Dissemination of Research Results Research Area	ISA-University of Lisbon	Portugal	Atlantic - Mediterranean
Taina Hanhikoski	Vice President	CTIF - International Association of Fire and Rescue Services	Finland	North
Kylian Heil	Officer	Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management	Austria	Central
Jan Kaczmarowski	Senior Specialist	General Directorate of State Forests, Forest Protection Department	Poland	Central
Ciaran Nugent	Regional Inspector	Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	Ireland	Atlantic-temperate
Alexandre Penha	National Operations Assistant	Autoridade Nacional de Emergência e Proteção Civil, ANEPC	Portugal	Atlantic - Mediterranean
Nuno Santos	Board game designer	Freelance	Portugal	Atlantic - Mediterranean

Table 1: SparkleFire External Advisory Board