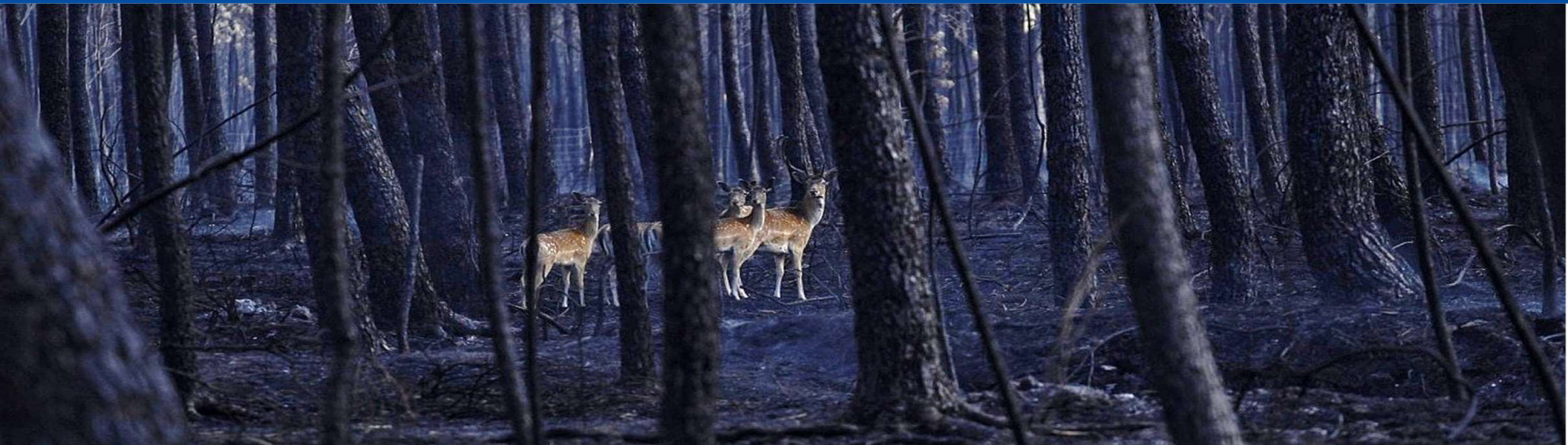


Union Civil Protection Mechanism

Acting together for wildfire prevention

Gaetano Vivo

Deputy Head of Unit, Disaster Risk Management, DG ECHO



Wildfires

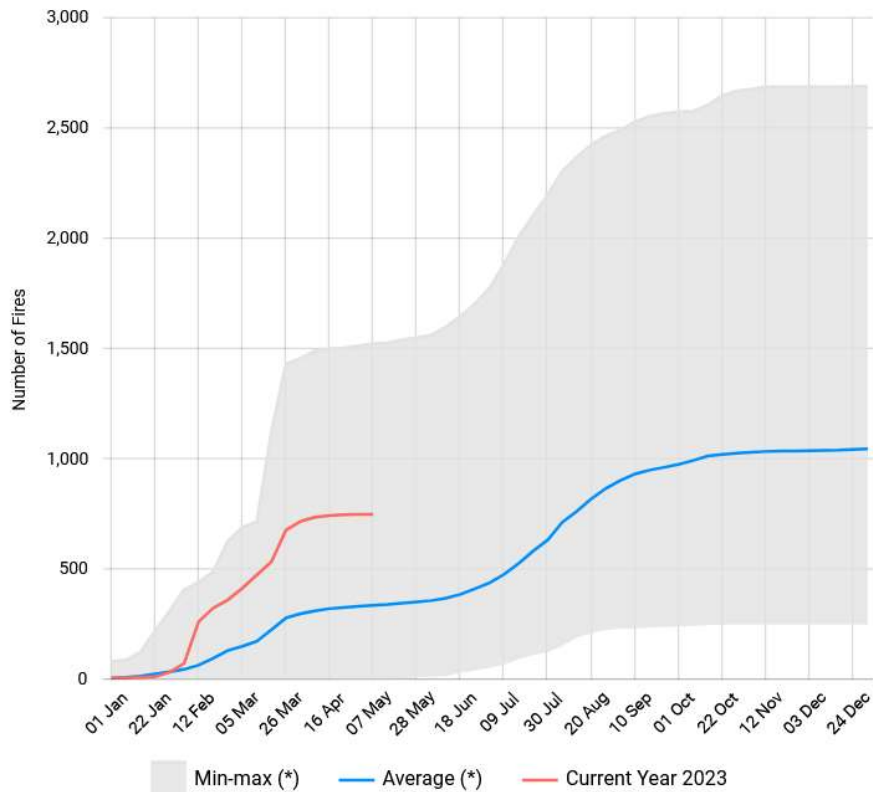
An alarming trend

Summer 2021 & 2022...

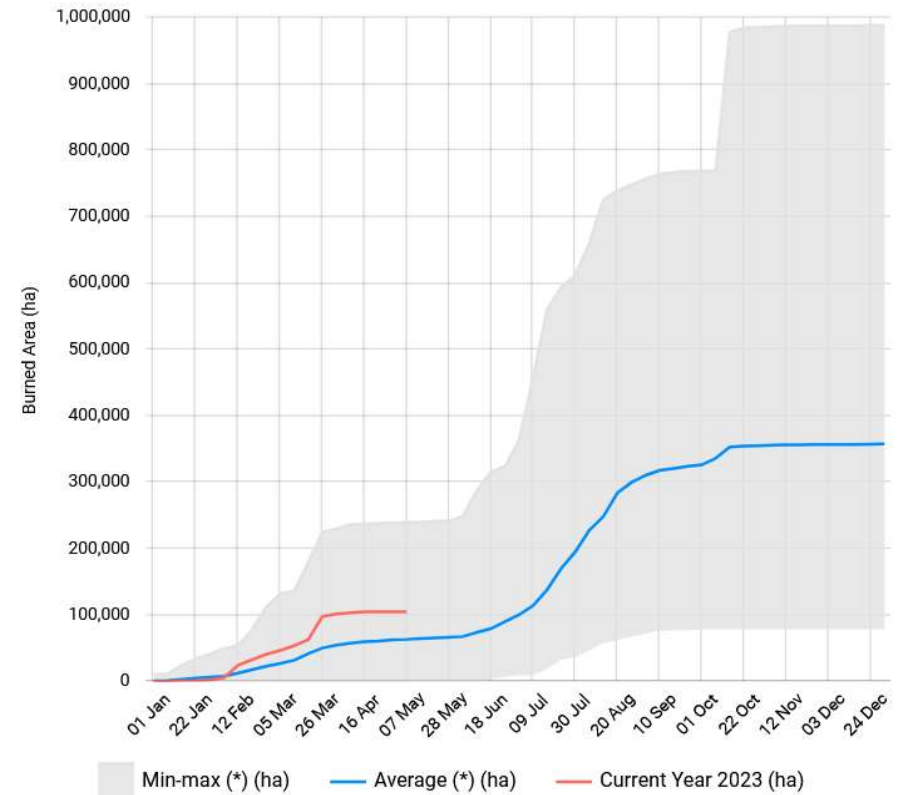


Current situation

Number of fires



Burnt area



* Fires mapped in EFFIS of more than 30 ha (2006-2022)

Union Civil Protection Mechanism response

National capacities



First responders

Ad hoc offers



*Mutual assistance
+
solidarity*

European Civil
Protection Pool



*Pre-committed
assets*




rescEU






Safety net

rescEU response 2023

➤ aerial forest fires response (same 2022)

-  Light scooping aircraft
-  Medium scooping aircraft
-  Helicopter

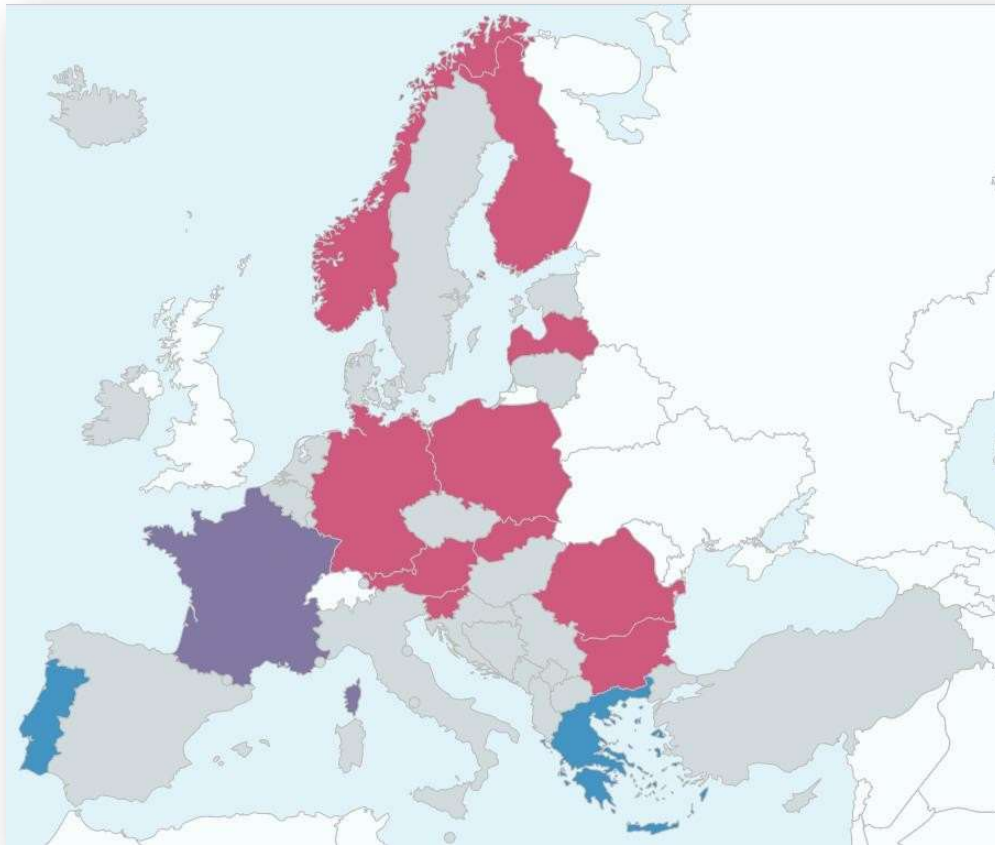
➤ + aerial forest fires proposals

-  Light aircraft
-  Light scooping aircraft
-  Helicopter

➤ **33 aircrafts in total**



Pre-positioning for the 2023 wildfire season



- hosting countries
- participating countries
- Hosting and participating country

- 3 hosting countries
- 10 participating countries

- 423 firefighters in total

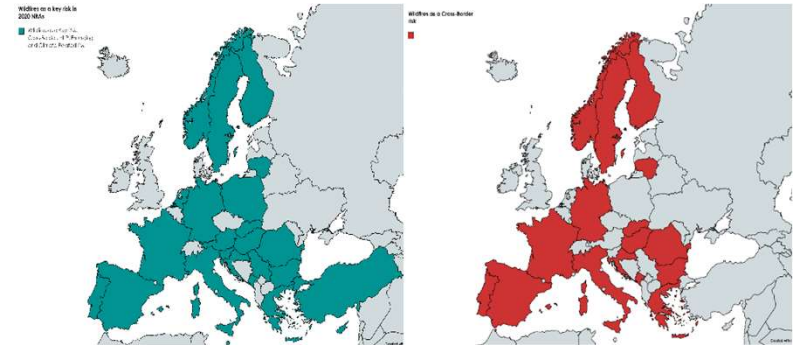
A firefighter is shown from behind, silhouetted against a bright, intense orange and yellow fire that fills the background. The firefighter is wearing a helmet and a jacket with the word "HASICI" printed on the back. The scene is set in a forest with tall trees visible on either side. The overall atmosphere is one of a major emergency.

An emergency management issue?

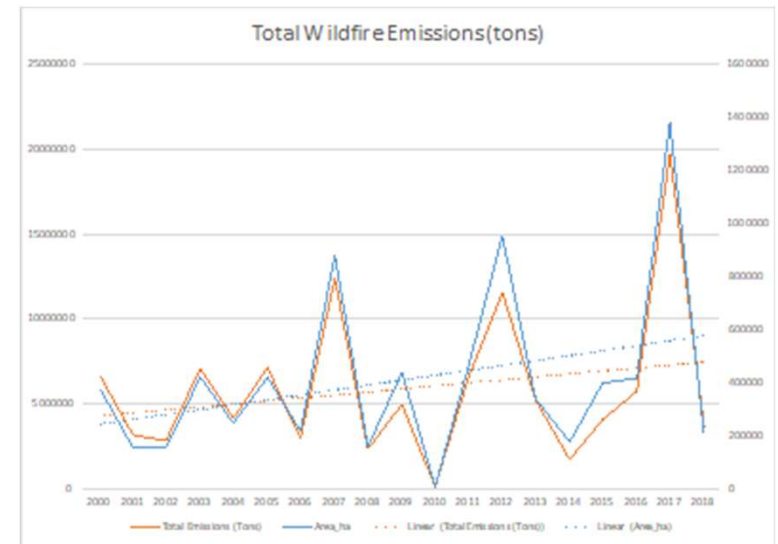
@Hasicr_cr

Wildfires are...

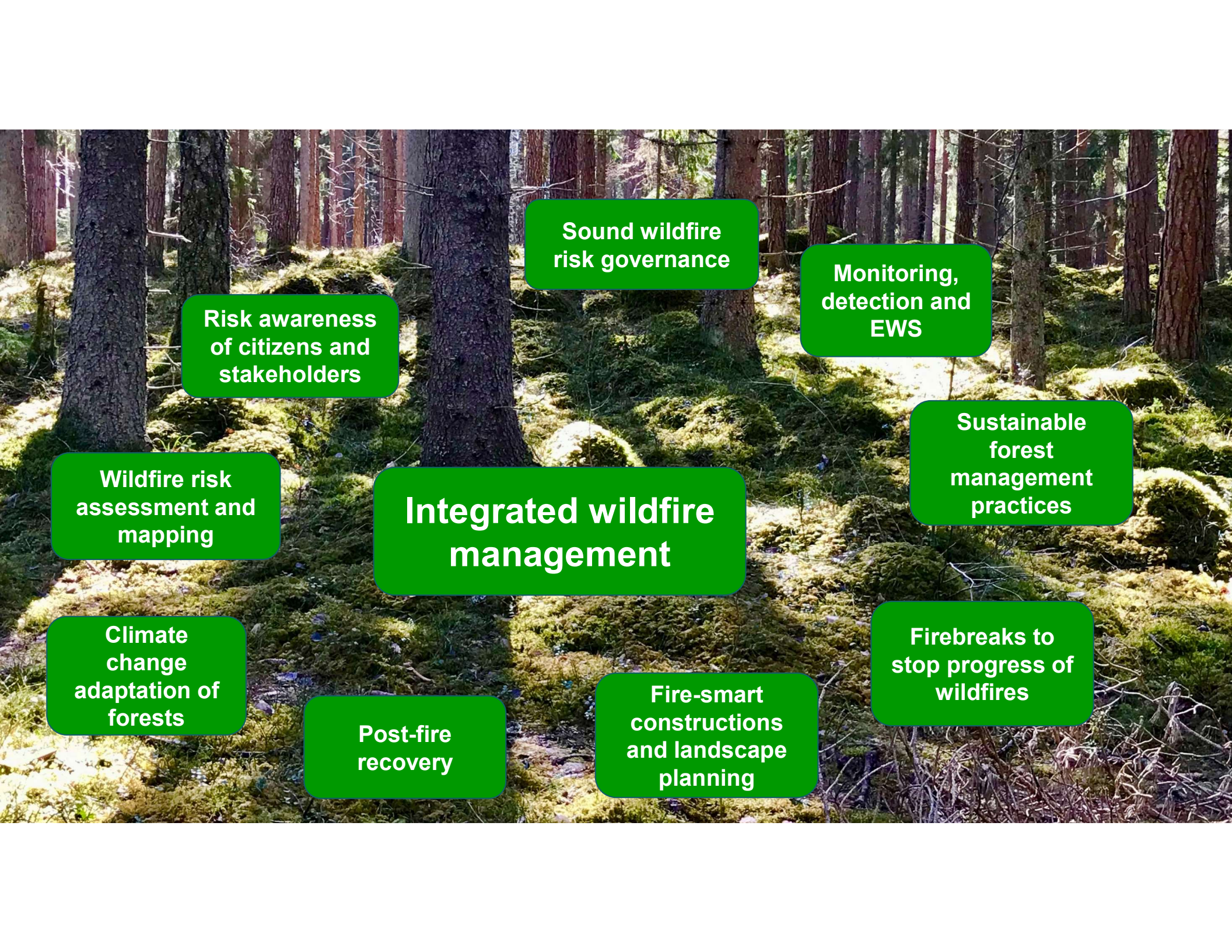
- among the top risks identified in MS National Risk Assessments
- flagged as a Cross-Border Risk (*Article 6 MS/PS reports 2020*)
- mostly caused by people (90% of the fires)
- contributing to climate change through both greenhouse gas emissions from burning forests AND the resulting deforestation



Risk identified in Article 6 DRM Summary reports (green – identified as risk/red : Cross border risk)



Total wildfire emissions in the EU (tons)



**Sound wildfire
risk governance**

**Monitoring,
detection and
EWS**

**Risk awareness
of citizens and
stakeholders**

**Sustainable
forest
management
practices**

**Wildfire risk
assessment and
mapping**

**Integrated wildfire
management**

**Firebreaks to
stop progress of
wildfires**

**Climate
change
adaptation of
forests**

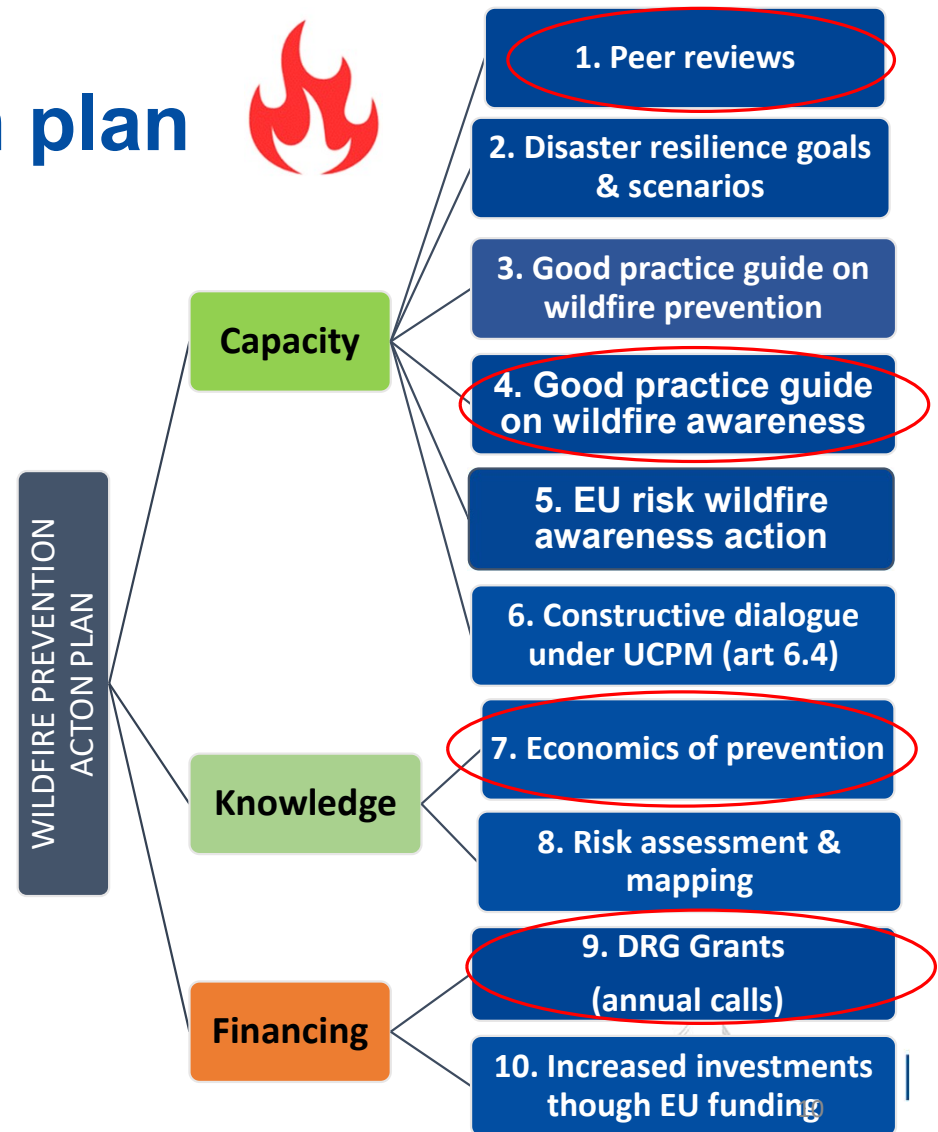
**Post-fire
recovery**

**Fire-smart
constructions
and landscape
planning**

Wildfire prevention action plan



- Scaling up wildfire response capacities is essential, but it will not be sufficient to cope
- Ministers asked the EC to support countries on prevention (Sep 2022)
- Action Plan was presented (Oct 2022) and the first deliverables are underway

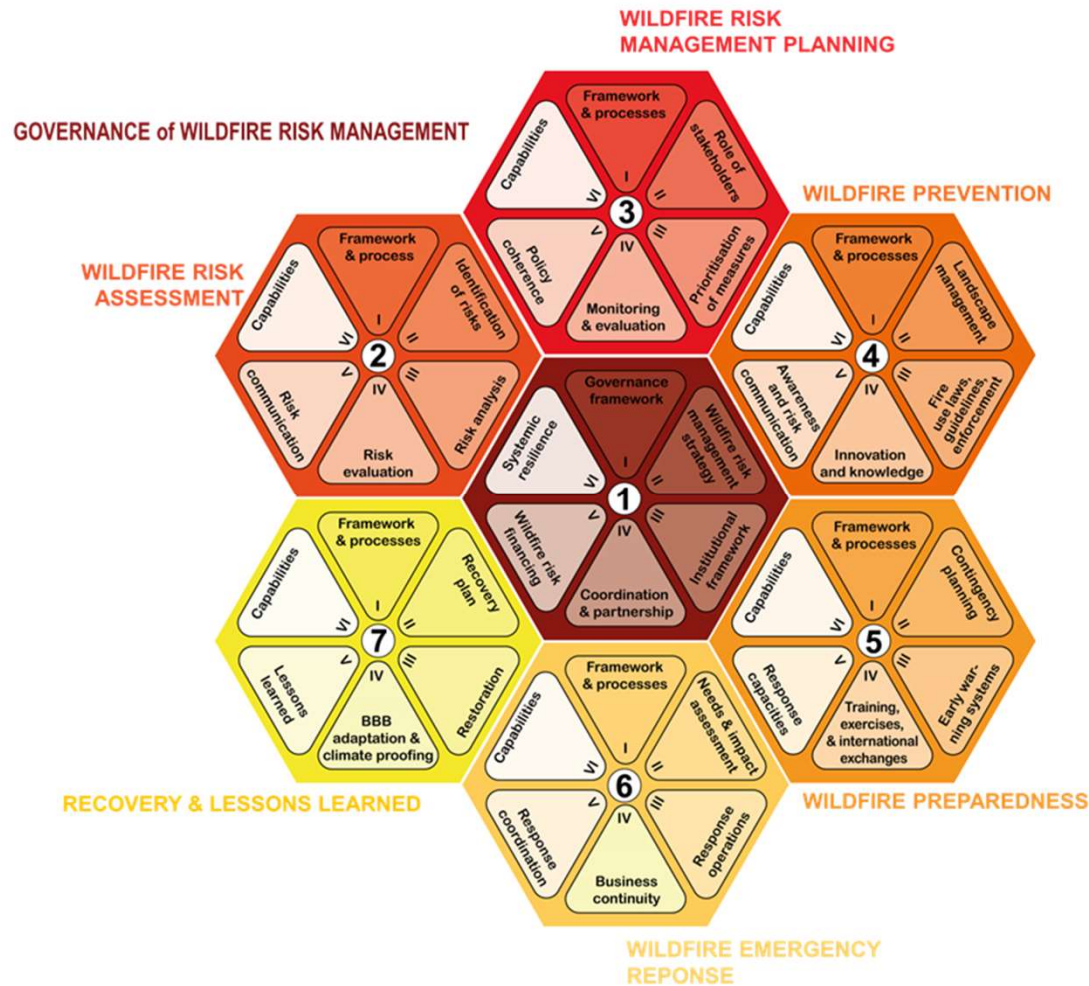


Wildfire peer reviews



- Released **30 May 2023**
- improving risk management systems and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) capabilities
- A call for volunteers (countries or regions) launched in June, for two peer reviews to be carried out in autumn 2023 – spring 2024
- Self-assessment tool

Peer Review Assessment Framework



Wildfire risk awareness

- >90% of wildfires are related to human activities
- Call for good practices launched in December 2022
- 50 good practices submitted by MS/PS
- End 2023 - publication of a good practice note + catalogue
- Early 2024: proposal for a **EU pilot to support wildfire risk awareness activities**

Wildfire risk awareness campaigns

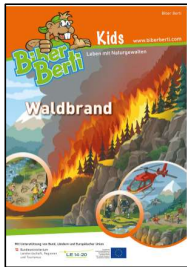
Examples

ITALY - [I don't take risks campaign](#)



ITALY - [I don't take risks "School"](#)

AUSTRIA –
[Educational material](#)



GERMANY -
["F2Wald" declares war on forest fires](#)



PORTUGAL - ["Safe Village, Safe People" Programme](#)



POLAND - ["Stop grass fires" campaign](#)



SLOVENIA - Month of Fire Safety – ex. 2020 [fire safety on holidays and leisure](#)



IRELAND – [Be Summer ready](#)



[CROATIA - Paint it Back](#) – forest fire awareness campaign – Scout association (volunteers)



Economics for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness



Phase 2- Evidence and Examples for Scaling up Investments in Disaster Resilience





e-Learning course

Economics for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Drawing on the findings of the study, a self-paced online course is available on **EU Academy** →

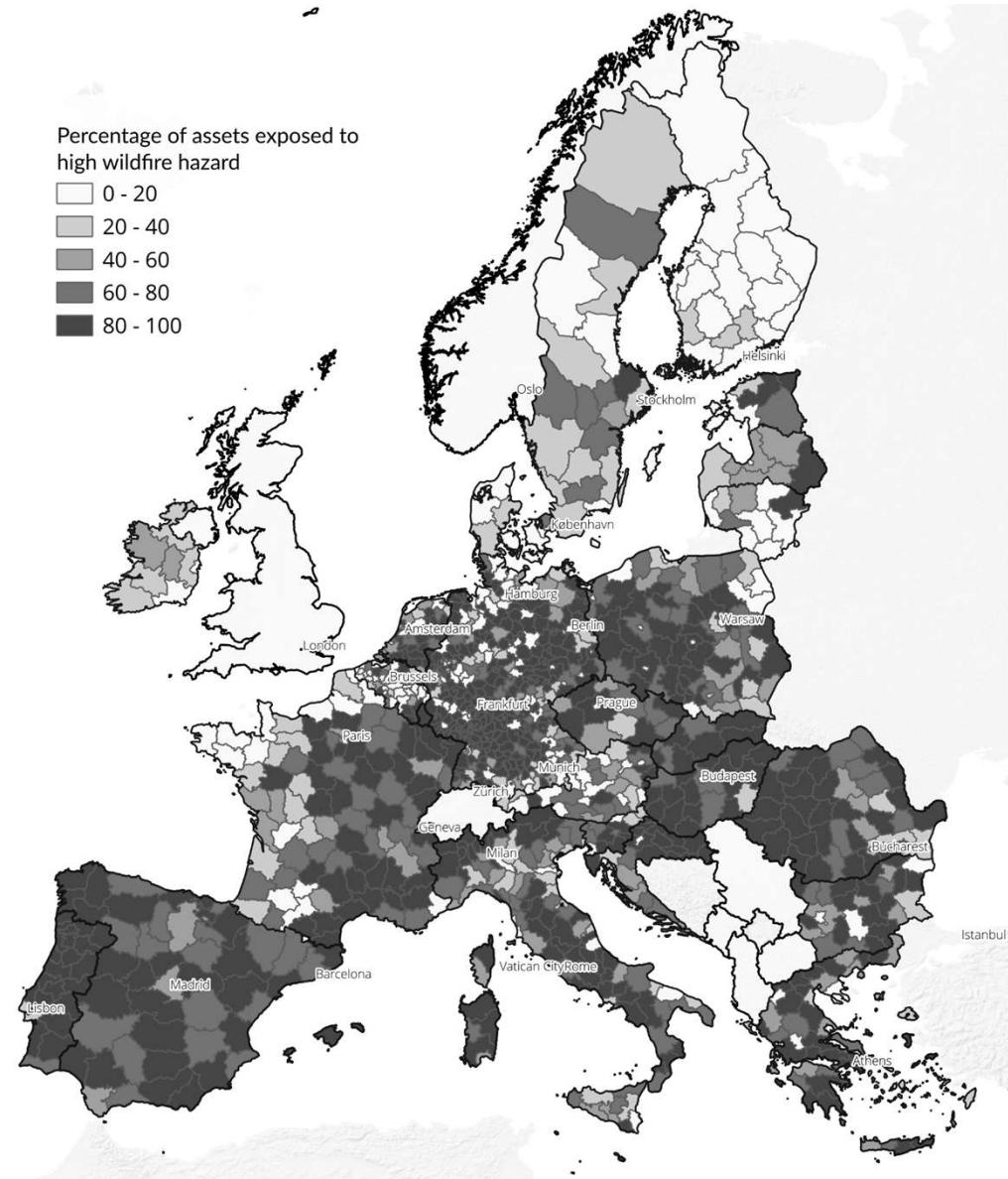


Example of exposure mapping at the EU-level (draft)

Generated maps provide an overview of the **proportion of assets exposed to high hazard** according to available EU-wide hazard data

Generated maps can help identify hotspots of exposure to prioritize further analysis and investment

Healthcare facilities exposed to wildfire hazard
(darker areas = higher hazard)



Wildfire prevention projects co-funded under the UCPM: recent examples

- Single-country grants for disaster risk management
- Projects' duration: 2023-2025

Latvia
Feasibility study for wildfire fighting services

Türkiye
Wildfire prevention and response capacity building for forest villages

Türkiye
Long-term wildfire prevention action plan for Istanbul forest region

- Multi-country grants for prevention and preparedness
- Projects' duration: 2023-2025

WUITIPS
Touristic infrastructures protection from wildland-urban-interface fires

SAILOR
Forest fires risk assessment at cross-border action plan Georgia & Azerbaijan

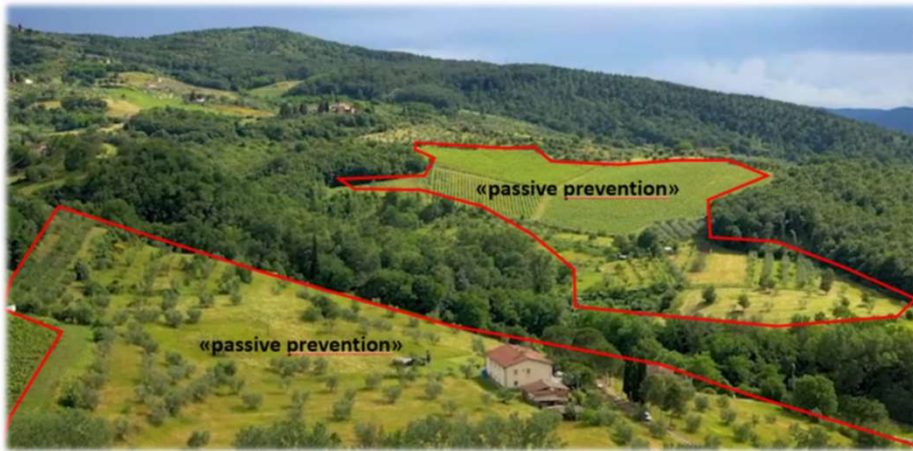
- Multi-country grants for prevention and preparedness
- Recently finished projects

WUIVIEW
Vulnerability assessment of buildings in wildland-urban interface communities

VESPRA
Assessment of vulnerable elements and integration into a geographic information-based platform

PREVAIL
'Smart' wildfire prevention solutions involving citizens, land managers, and fire operators

Wildfire prevention projects co-financed by the EU Civil Protection Mechanism



The PREVAIL project's results show the benefits of landscape-based fire prevention. Fire-resistant and resilient landscapes leads to more efficient response to wildfire.

Documentary:
'Smart' wildfire
prevention
solutions.



The RECIPE project developed support tools and guidelines for integrated risk assessment and planning for landscape and wild-land urban interface (Spain & Portugal).



Source:
Pau Costa
Foundation

Thank you

 Gaetano.Vivo@ec.europa.eu

 Gaetano Vivo

 @eu_echo



Union Disaster Resilience Goals – 8 February 2023

Goal 1



Anticipate

Improving risk assessment, anticipation and disaster risk management planning



Goal 2



Prepare

Increasing risk awareness and preparedness of the population



Goal 3



Alert

Enhancing early warning



Goal 4



Respond

Enhancing the Union Civil Protection Mechanism response capacity



Goal 5



Secure

Ensuring a robust civil protection system

