

At the occasion of the IV Mediterranean Forest Week, Barcelona, Spain, 17-20/03/2015
Side event: Engaging Mediterranean Communities in Wildfire Risk Mitigation. Organization: CTFC, PCF

IV Mediterranean Forest Week

Side event: Engaging Mediterranean Communities in Wildfire Risk Mitigation

How to reach societal involvement in the fire risk mitigation? The role of communication towards citizens participation

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Logos: CTFC, PAU COSTA FOUNDATION, FIREfficient, FIRG, and the European Union flag.

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Why communication is so important?



Why societal involvement in the wildfire risk mitigation is so important?

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✓ **More and more fire is not only affecting forest but also society**



✓ **The increasing context of risk (global change) need updating paradigms and new actors involvement (land planners)**



✓ **Citizens vulnerability affects the emergency management**



✓ **Political management of fire risk mitigation strategies need the societal comprehension and support**



How to reach societal involvement in the fire risk mitigation?

✓ A better social understanding of the phenomena is needed in a global emergency context where fire affects forest, infrastructures and people all together

- Fire risk is not only an issue of ignitions but a propagation capacity of landscape
- Understanding of the fragility and vulnerability of environ to make people aware on the exposition of risk, the need of prevention and self-protection (WUI inhabitants) and the responsibility in fire ignitions control
- Telling the role of fire as a natural disturbance make easier to understand the need of getting less vulnerable landscapes as alternative to invest only in suppression system which has a limit
- Involving land planners in reducing settlements and infrastructures vulnerability to fire risk

✓ In Mediterranean areas, social and political concern on fire impacts should be used to emphasizes the role of forest management and rural development policies on wildfire risk mitigation, from a social, economic and ecological perspective.

✓ Communication is more and more a crucial element of the global wildfire risk management strategies, at the same level of importance of traditional prevention and suppression issues.

Two on-going related projects:

FIREfficient “Operational tools for improving efficiency in wildfire risk reduction in EU landscapes”



Concept: Transferring knowledge and operational tools on fire risk assessment and management to land planners

Starting date: 01/01/2014 *Ending date:* 31/12/2015

Contact: fireefficient@ctfc.cat *Website:* <http://fireefficient.ctfc.cat>

Partners: Forest Sciences Centre of Catalonia (Coordination), UT-GRAF Fire service Government of Catalonia, Fire Ecology and Management Foundation Pau Costa Alcubierre, King's College London, European Forest Institute - Central European Regional Office

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- European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO)



eFIRECOM “Efficient fire risk communication for resilient societies”



Concept: Developing tools for the fire risk communication for Communities and municipalities, Scholars and their teachers and Journalists and media professionals

Starting date: 01/01/2015 *Ending date:* 31/12/2016

Contact: efirecom@ctfc.cat *Website:* <http://efirecom.ctfc.cat>

Partners: Forest Sciences Centre of Catalonia (Coordination), Fire Ecology and Management Foundation Pau Costa Alcubierre, European Forest Institute – Mediterranean Regional Office, EEIG FORESPIR, Direction Générale des Forêts de Tunisie, Université Hadj Lakhdar Batna

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Thanks for your attention

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