

FOREST FIRES

Sparking firesmart policies in the EU

R&I Projects for Policy

Forest fires are a serious and increasing threat throughout Europe

They can have a huge economic impact and lead to a tragic loss of life

Each year in the EU



65 000 forest fires



€3 billion – economic damage from wildfires



95% are caused by humans



480 000 ha of forest areas are burned – 1 million ha in 2017



€2.2 billion – spent by EU governments and public agencies to fight forest fires



34 firefighters and other people killed (611 killed 2000–2017)

More people will be at risk, for longer periods of time



longer fire seasons



more fire-prone areas



new wildfire context with mega-fires

Challenges



Effective forest fire management and decision-making requires science-based information



New wildfire context calls for better prevention and preparedness



Firefighting and rescue services need better coordination



Learning how to live in fire-prone areas requires adequate governance



Landscapes and communities need to become more resilient to forest fires

The EU is investing in research for better fire prevention, suppression and integrated management

€103 million

invested over 20 years in 56 forest fire-related research projects

EU-funded research stimulates advances in fire knowledge, operational management and decision-support mechanisms while improving cooperation among key actors

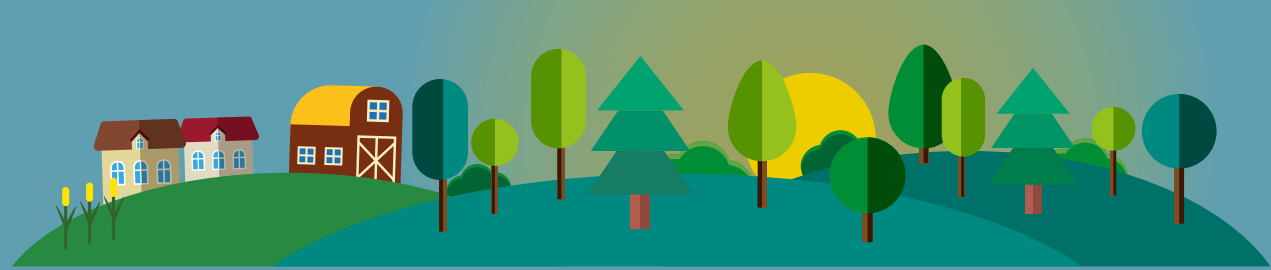
Prevention and mitigation

Cohesion Policy

funding for prevention and preparedness, including for buying fire engines and helicopters, infrastructure, training and cross-border coordination

EU forest strategy

actions to support sustainable forest management



Rural development

funding to implement the EU Forest Strategy

European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS)

fire danger forecasts and monitoring active fires



Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre

science-policy advice for risk management, including for forest fires



EU Civil Protection Mechanism

complements national response capacities (rescEU)

Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC)

EU assistance to an affected country

Impacts

Response

Recommendations for policymakers



Reinforce the EU's disaster response capacity



Improve coordination and coherence between EU and national policies



Support proactive prevention operations



Integrate fire management with sustainable forest management



Improve fire preparedness through participative, multilevel governance

MORE INFORMATION

Read the full R&I Projects for Policy report on forest fires:
ec.europa.eu/research/environment/forestfires

#EUMegaFires

@DisastResilEU

See also:

https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/forest/strategy_fr
http://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/civil-protection/mechanism_en
<https://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/index.cfm?pg=climate>

Find all R&I Projects for Policy reports at:
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/p4p>

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