



Regional Mediterranean Wildland Fire Network

Silva Mediterranea Forest Fire Working Group



Fire is a natural element that has played a main role in the definition of the Mediterranean's current landscape where it has been historically used as a management tool in the rural areas. However, wildfires are one of the main threats that affect forests, the environment and ecosystem services, as well as people and property. Wildfires are also a factor of desertification and degradation in rural and natural areas. Some tragic episodes in the region, which resulted in significant losses of human lives and woodlands (Portugal 2017 and Greece 2018), have proven this situation to be true. Mainly the age structure of rural communities, the abandonment of rural areas, the expansion of forestland, the global warming trends and the increase of the urban/rural interface areas, define the current and future scenario. This overall scenario presents the challenges for fire management systems as well as for other sectorial policies managers (e.g. rural development, conservation of protected natural areas, agriculture and urban planning) with which the coordination is absolutely necessary. In this context Mediterranean countries need to find and implement medium and long term strategies to avoid devastating effects of wildfires.

Between the 6th and the 7th International Wildland Fire Conferences the following initiatives have continued and taken place:



TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE WITHIN AND BEYOND THE MEDITERRANEAN

Both in the context of advisory and response missions, Mediterranean countries have expressed their solidarity. Wildfire prevention strategies and analysis of new wildfire scenarios have been in the center of this transfer of knowledge and expertise

CHILE 2017
PORTUGAL 2018
GREECE 2018
BOSNIA&HERZEGOVINA 2019
GUATEMALA 2019
BOLIVIA 2019



Some of the exercises and missions have been supported and channeled through the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism – European Commission while others are based in bilateral or multilateral initiatives by countries and experts

REGIONAL MEETINGS

Through regional regular meetings, specific workshops and side events in different scenarios, wildfire management challenges have been highlighted and fruitful discussions have been taken place among all stakeholders involved

ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION EXPERT GROUP ON FOREST FIRES – 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

WORKSHOP ON FOREST FIRE RISK MANAGEMENT. UNDER A NEW WILDLAND FIRE CONTEXT: HOW TO FACE MEGA FIRES IN EUROPE – LISBON 2018

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT IN MEDITERRANEAN REGION TURKEY – 2018

SESSION ON WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS AT THE EUROPEAN CIVIL PROTECTION FORUM. TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR FOREST FIRE PREPAREDNESS – BRUSSELS 2018

WORKSHOP OF THE SILVAMEDITERRANEA WORKING GROUP OF FOREST FIRES – LEÓN 2018

FOREST FIRES SIDE EVENT ON PREVENTION AND RESTORATION ON FOREST FIRES. LINKING ACTIONS BEFORE AND AFTER FIRE – VI MEDITERRANEAN FOREST WEEK, LEBANON 2019

REGIONAL EXERCISES

As wildfires do not understand about borders and since more neighboring countries are facing wildfires problems for the first time, Mediterranean countries have shared their knowledge and expertise in several exercises where interoperability and coordination have been tested as preparedness for real wildfire emergencies

SVAROG 2017 (CROATIA)

CRESMODEX 2019 (CROATIA)

SPLIT, CROATIA 2018

MARSEILLE, FRANCE 2019

