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Igniting Awareness: Strategies for Wildfire Resilience and Readiness

July 3rd, 14:00h CEST

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Welcome

Guido Schmidt, MIP4Adapt – Fresh Thoughts Consulting GmbH, Austria

Duration (min)	Agenda item
5	Welcome
20	Opening remarks
45	Showcasing experiences
25	Q&A
10	Closing remarks

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Housekeeping

- The working language of the meeting is English.
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- Select "Gallery view" in the top right corner so that you can see the presentation and the main speaker. For this to work, all other cameras and mics must be off, except for the speaker(s).

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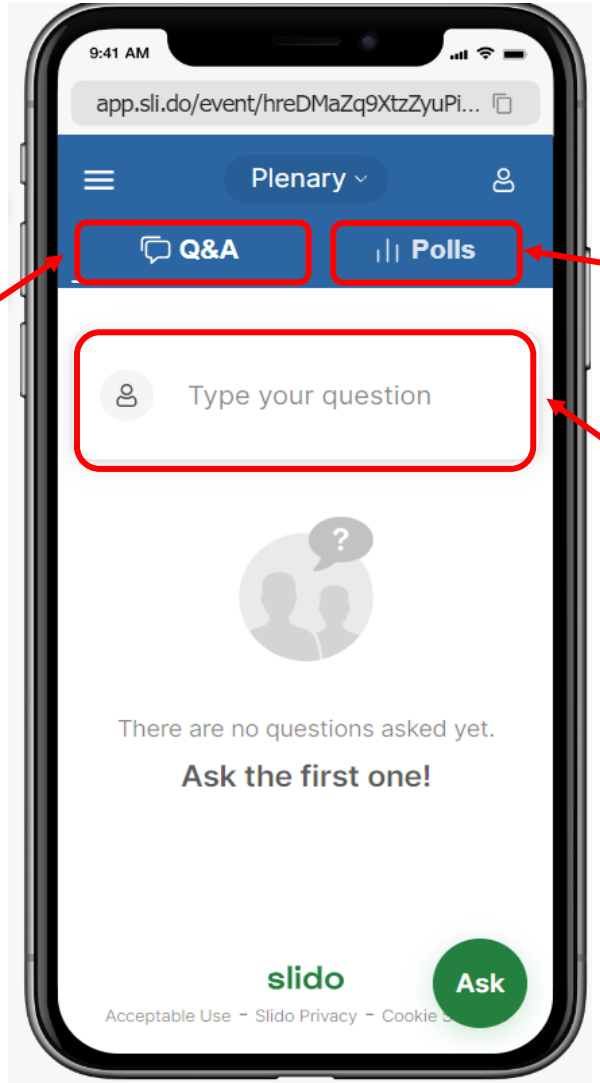
Slido



Click here to ask a question.

Click here for accessing the polls.

Type your questions here.

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Slido Question 1

Who is in the room?

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Opening remarks: Why this webinar?

Peter Löffler

DG CLIMA, Policy Officer

Climate adaptation in EU forest, biodiversity, nature conservation and health policies

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Opening remarks

Wildfires in the EU and their impact in the past decade
Jesús San-Miguel-Ayanz (European Forest Fire Information System-EFFIS/JRC, Italy)

Wildfire risk projections
Andrea Trucchia (CLIMAAX, CIMA Foundation, Italy)

Q&A

Wildfires in the European Union and impacts in the last decades

Jesús San-Miguel & EFFIS/GWIS Team

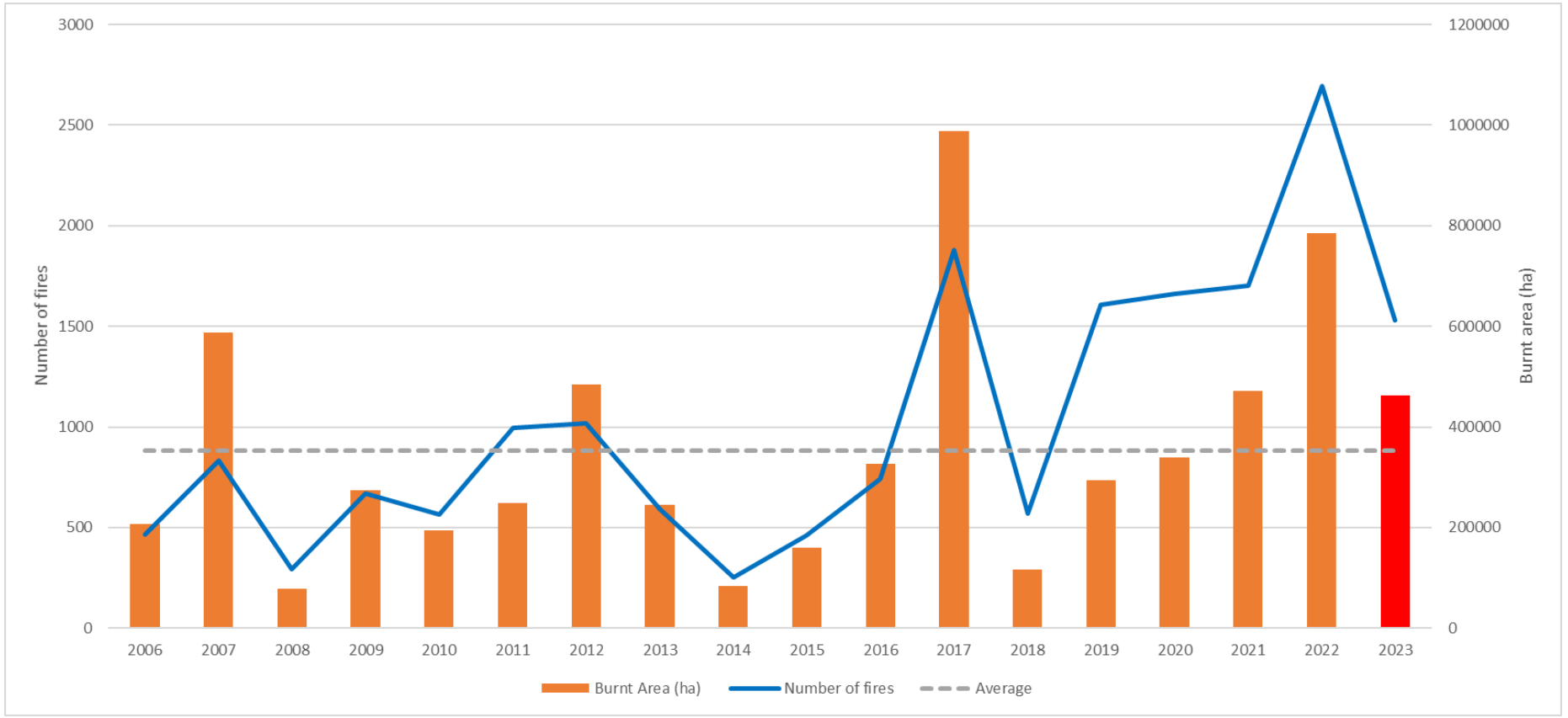
jrc-effis@ec.europa.eu

Outline

1. General trends of burnt areas and number of fires
2. Trends of fires by fire size and contribution to the total burnt area
3. Wildfire seasonality
4. Economic losses by wildfires
5. Wildfire danger projections
6. Summary

jrc-effis@ec.europa.eu

General trends in the period 2006-2023



Source: Joint Research Center (JRC) / European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS)

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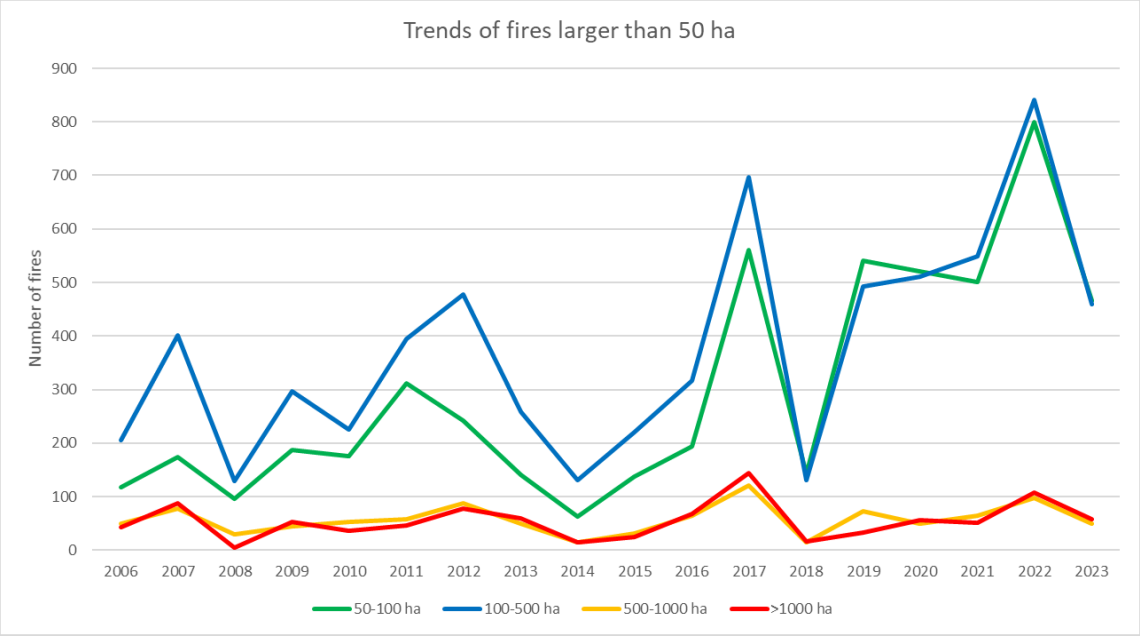
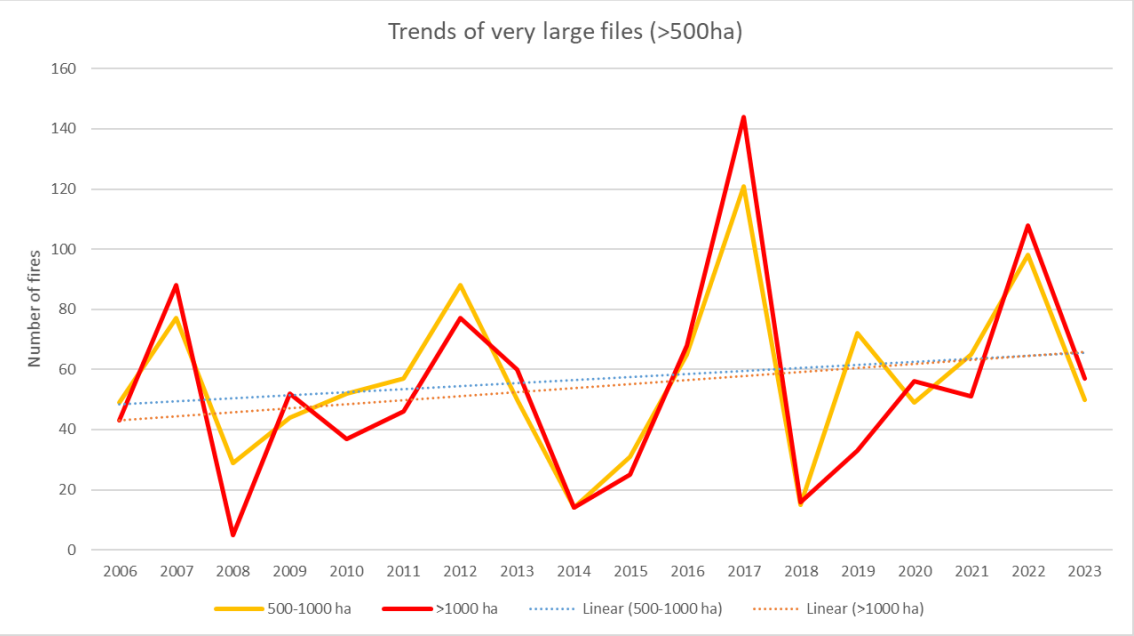
General trends in the period 2006-2023 – number of fires per fire size class





Source: Joint Research Center (JRC) / European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS)

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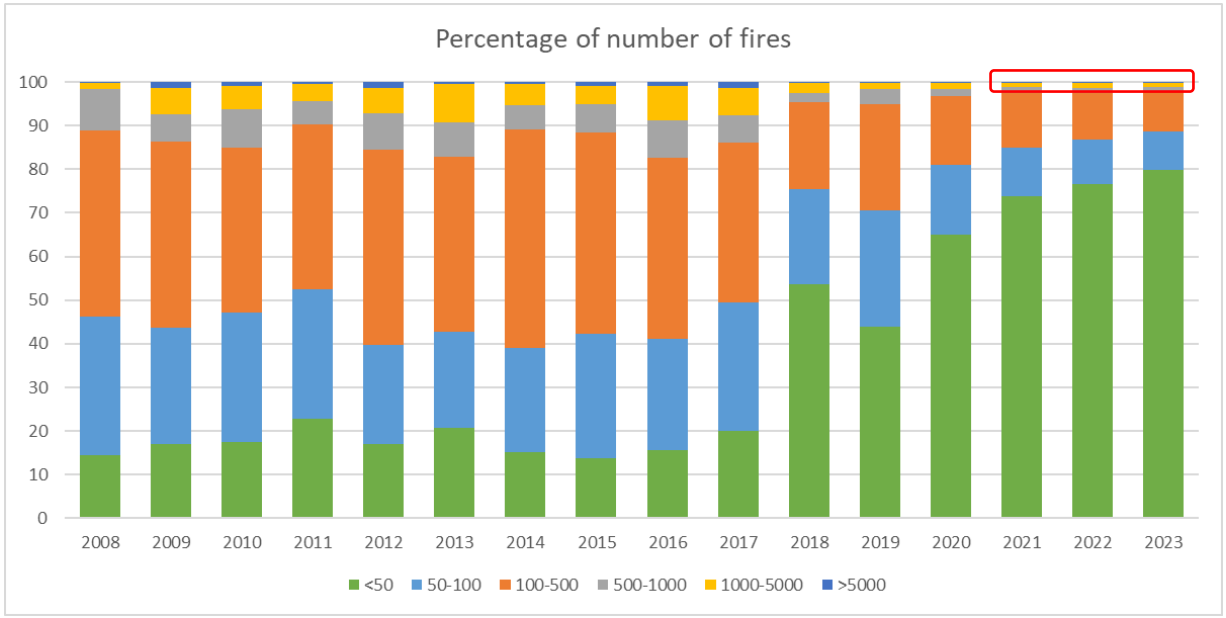
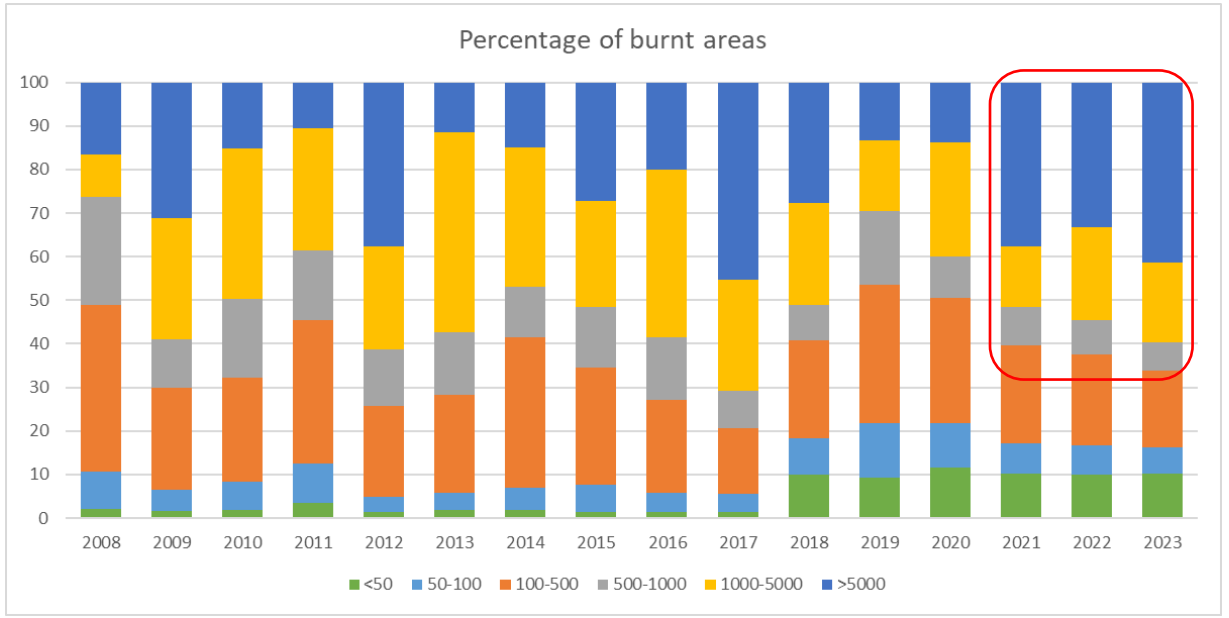
Wildfire by size in the period 2008-2023





Source: Joint Research Center (JRC) / European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS)

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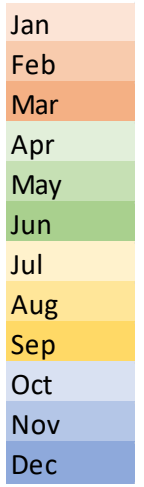
10 largest wildfires in the EU since 2000

Year	Burnt area	Country	Region	Province
2023	96610	Greece	Eastern Macedonia, Thrace	Evros
2017	67521	Portugal	Centro (PT)	Viseu Dão Lafões
2017	64321	Portugal	Centro (PT)	Região de Coimbra
2003	59156	Portugal	Centro (PT)	Beira Baixa/Oleiros
2003	53568	Portugal	Centro (PT)	Médio Tejo/Macao
2003	52233	Portugal	Algarve	Algarve/Monchique
2021	51881	Greece	Central Greece	Evros
2007	45809	Greece	West Greece	Ilia
2007	42652	Greece	West Greece	Ilia
2007	42350	Greece	Peloponnese	Argolis, Arcadia



Source: Joint Research Center (JRC) / European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS)

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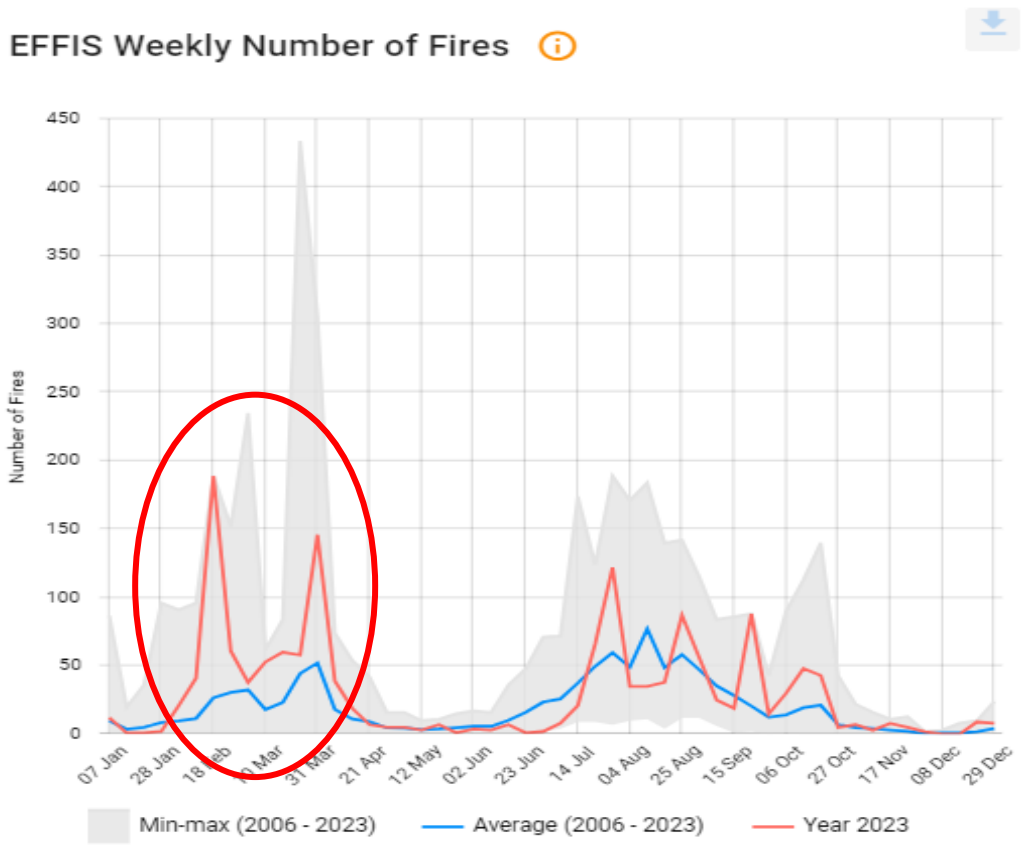
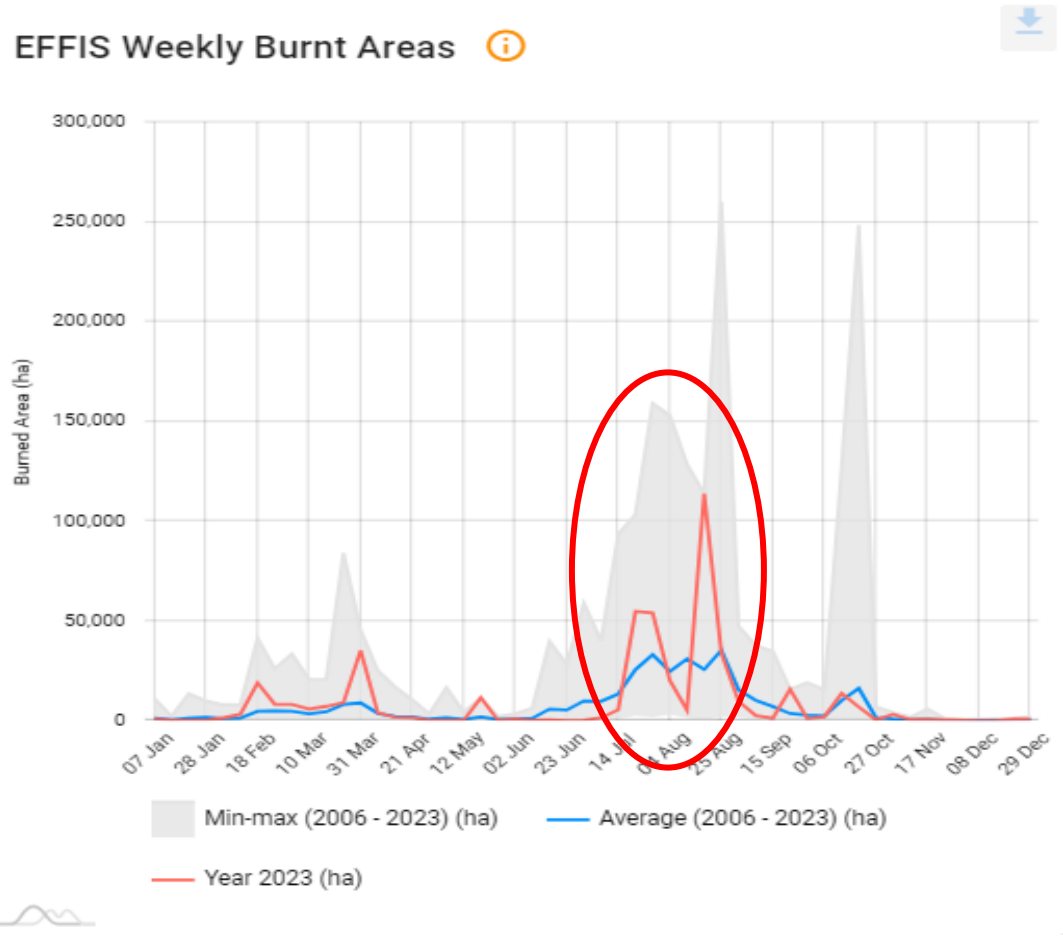
Weekly trends in 2023





Source: Joint Research Center (JRC) / European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS)

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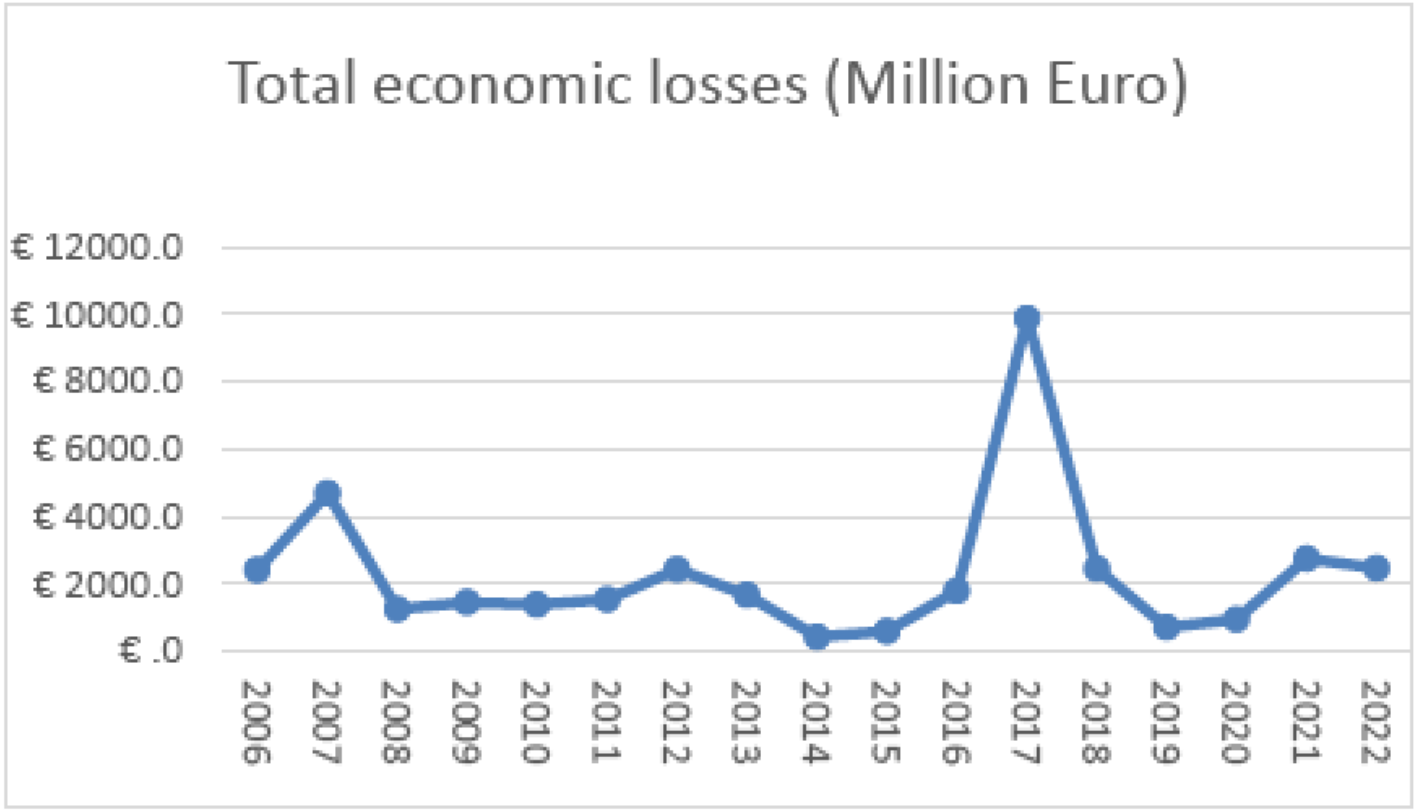
Estimated economic losses from wildfires in the period 2006-2022



- The economic losses due to wildfires in **2023** were above 2.5 billion Euro

Source: Joint Research Center (JRC) / European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS)

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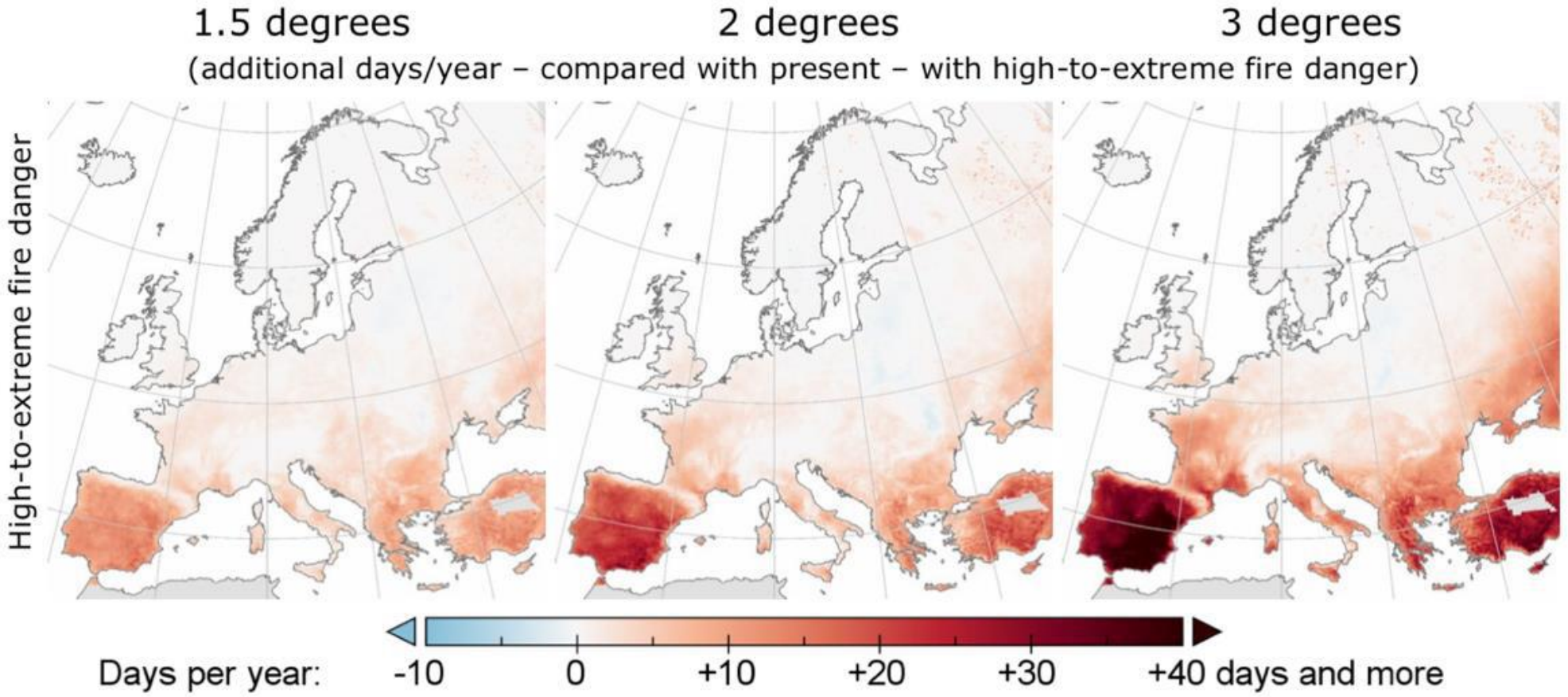
Fire Danger and Climate Change



Peseta IV report - Costa, H., de Rigo, D., Libertà, G., Houston Durrant, T., San-Miguel-Ayanz, J., ***European wildfire danger and vulnerability in a changing climate: towards integrating risk dimensions***, EUR 30116 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2020, ISBN: 978-92-76-16898-0, doi:10.2760/46951, JRC119980

Source: Joint Research Center (JRC) / European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS)

jrc-effis@ec.europa.eu

SUMMARY

- Since 2006, there is a general increasing trend in the number of fires and burnt areas in the EU, with recent critical years such as 2017, 2021, 2022 and 2023.
- Extreme fires have a larger contribution to the total burnt areas. 2023 saw the largest fire episode in the EU, since 2000, with critical fires in several Mediterranean countries
- The length of the fire season has increased beyond the traditional months of July, August and September, with many wildfires and critical events outside that period.
- The annual economic losses due to wildfires in 2023 are above 2.5 billion Euro.
- Future climatic projections indicate higher fire danger levels in Europe; higher fire danger values will likely lead to more intense fires and larger burnt areas.

jrc-effis@ec.europa.eu

Additional information at:

https://effis.jrc.ec.europa.eu

https://gwis.jrc.ec.europa.eu

jrc-effis@ec.europa.eu

Wildfire risk projections

Andrea Trucchia (CIMA Foundation, Italy – CLIMAAX project)

www.cimafoundation.org

CLIMAte risk and vulnerability Assessment framework and toolboX (CLIMAAX) is a **4-year Horizon Europe project (2023-26)** that is providing financial, analytical, and practical **support to improve regional climate and emergency risk management plans.** CLIMAAX is designed to contribute to the **harmonization and consolidation** of the practice of climate risk assessment, leaving a legacy for upcoming European initiatives.

CLIMAAX
climate ready regions

In a nutshell

The European landscape of disaster risk management and climate adaptation is far from uniform.

CLIMAAX builds upon existing risk assessment frameworks, methods and tools, and promotes the use of datasets and service platforms for local and regional scale deployment. It will develop a robust and coordinated framework of consistent, harmonised and comparable risk assessments.

The project brings the existing tools and services beyond state-of-the-art by prioritizing the further development of accessibility, guidance, tuning to local contexts, interpretation and uptake by representative Disaster Risk Management and Civil Protection authorities.

Outcomes

CLIMAAX is designed to significantly contribute to the harmonization and consolidation of the practice of climate risk assessment (CRA), leaving a substantial legacy for upcoming European initiatives. The project will deliver:

01.

A standardized CRA framework CRA built on current community experience and best-practices

02.

A Toolbox with data, models and utilities to provide access to European and global open data archives integrated with local data and procedures

03.

Five European pilot regional CRAs to shape the framework and toolset

04.

Financial support for at least 50 regions to execute a context specific CRA

05.

CRA guidance material and online helpdesk for other European regions

06.

A proposal to upscale results into the future operationalization of the regional CRA support function

Wildfire hazard and risk workflow, made by the use of open data and Jupyter Notebooks

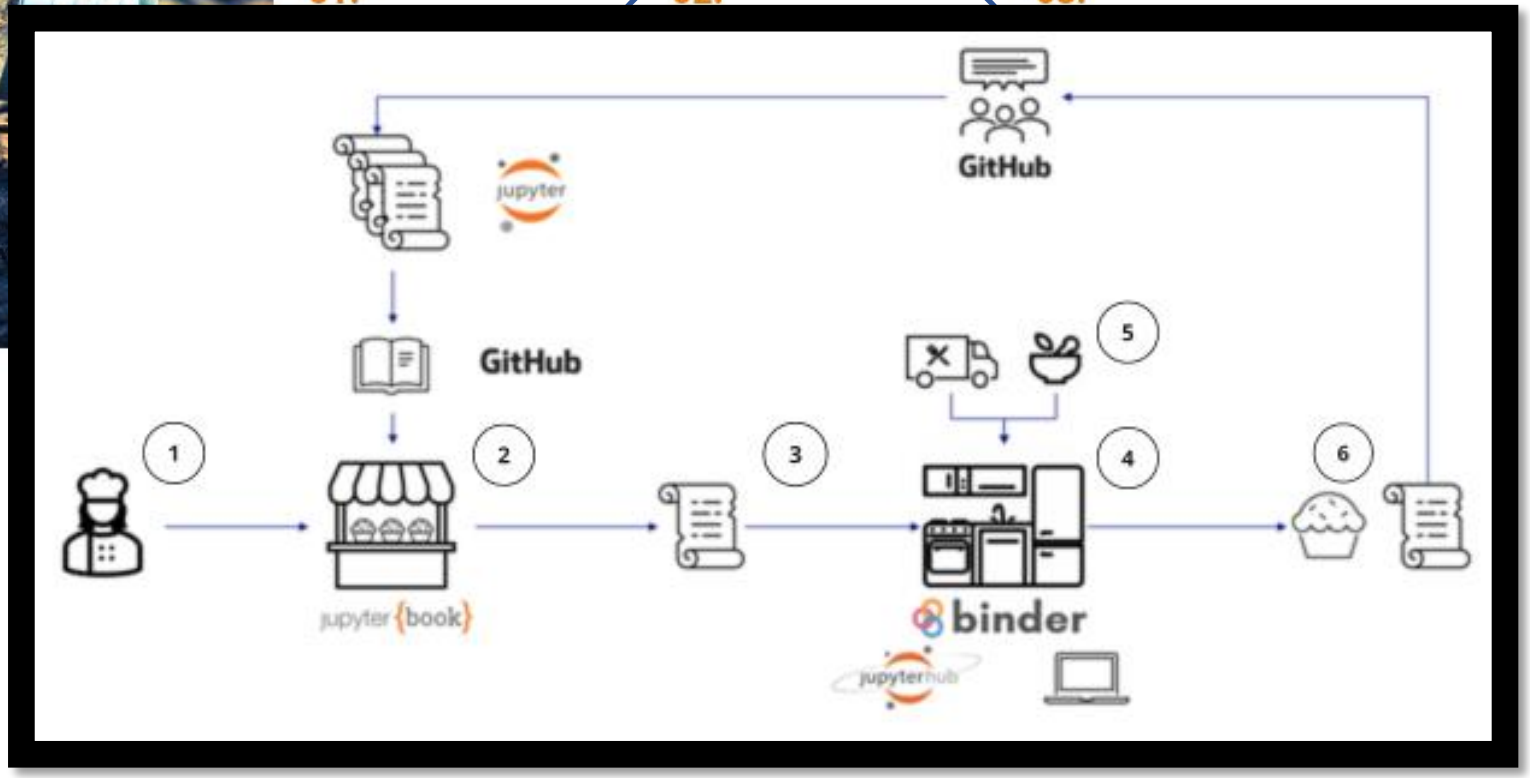
Outcomes

CLIMAAX is designed to significantly contribute to the harmonization and consolidation of the practice of climate risk assessment (CRA), leaving a substantial legacy for upcoming European initiatives. The project will deliver:

01.

02.

03.



Wildfire hazard and
risk workflow, made by the use of
open data
and **Jupyter Notebooks**

CLIMATE RISK ASSESSMENTS FOR EVERY EUROPEAN REGION

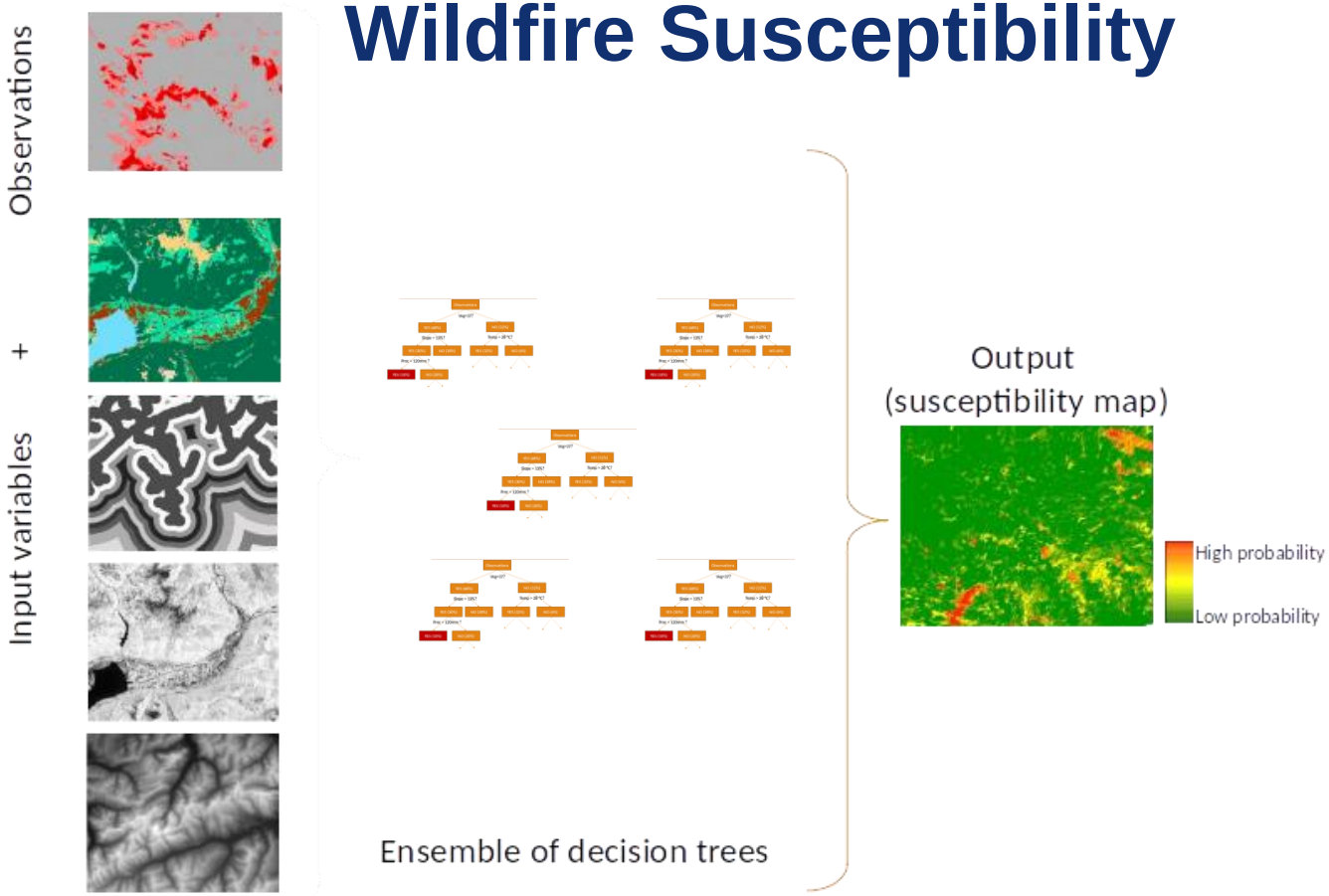
Open Call

The second Open Call for regions and communities has been launched on the 1st of July and it will run until the 15th of October 2024. Applicants who were not selected in our first Open Call are welcome to participate again.

Learn More

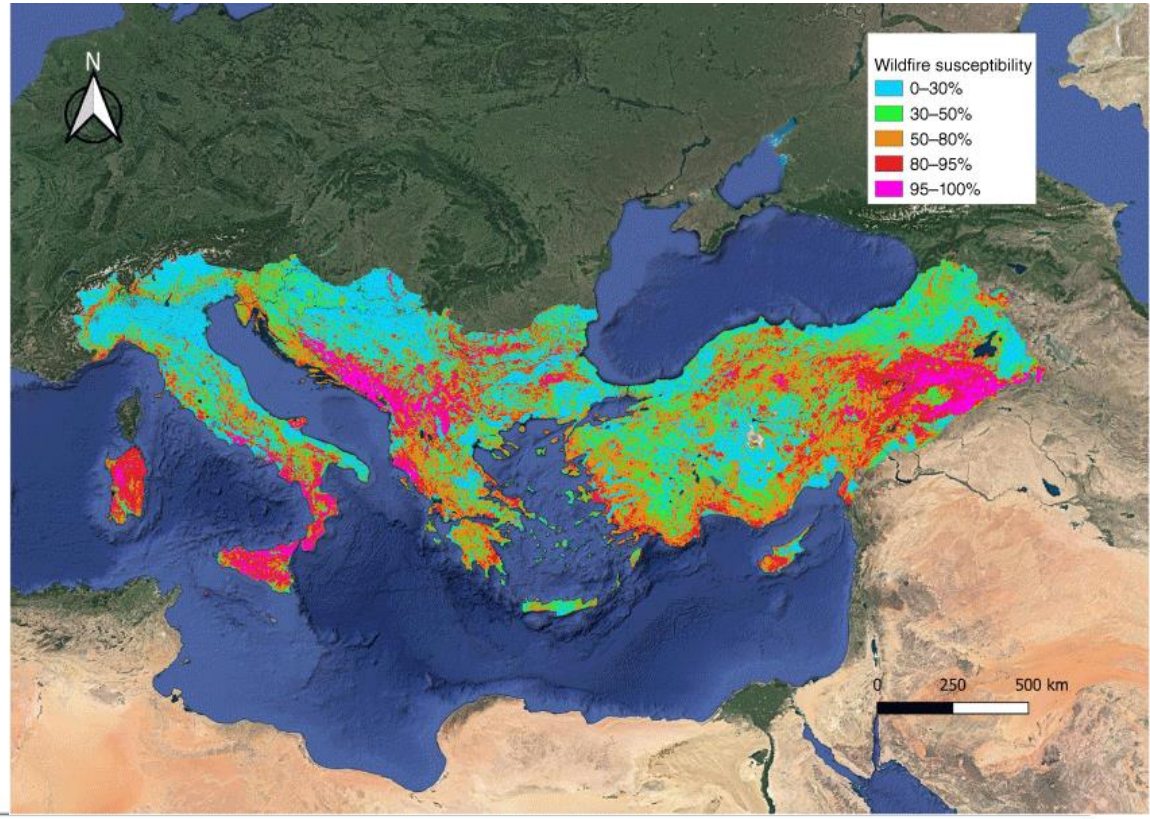
https://www.climaax.eu/

Wildfire Susceptibility



Propensity of an area of experiencing wildfires given the intrinsic characteristic of territory

Now given by an AI informed approach using past wildfire history and GIS tools.



- *Trucchia, A.; Meschi, G.; Fiorucci, P.; Provenzale, A.; Tonini, M.; Pernice, U. Wildfire hazard mapping in the eastern Mediterranean landscape. International Journal of Wildland Fire 2023, 32, 417-434.(https://doi.org/10.1071/WF22138)*

The predisposing factors

- Elevation
- Slope
- Aspect (Northing and Easting)
- Vegetation cover: fuzzy filtering [% of vegetation neighbour type]

Topographic factors
Source: CORINE l Land cover, MERIT DEM

- Temperature aggregates
- Precipitation aggregates
- Continentality...
- Climatic Köppen-Geiger areas

Climatic factors *High-resolution gridded climate data for Europe based on bias-corrected EURO-CORDEX: the ECLIPS-2.0 dataset. (European CLimate Index ProjectionS) 80 annual, seasonal, and monthly climate variables for two past (1961-1990, 1991-2010) and five future periods (2011-2020, 2021-2140, 2041-2060, 2061-2080, 2081-2100). 5 Regional Climate Models (RCMs), RCP 4.5 and 8.5.*

The observed variable

Burned area (94- 2022) from local datasets of wildfires
Burned area from 2008 to present date - EFFIS

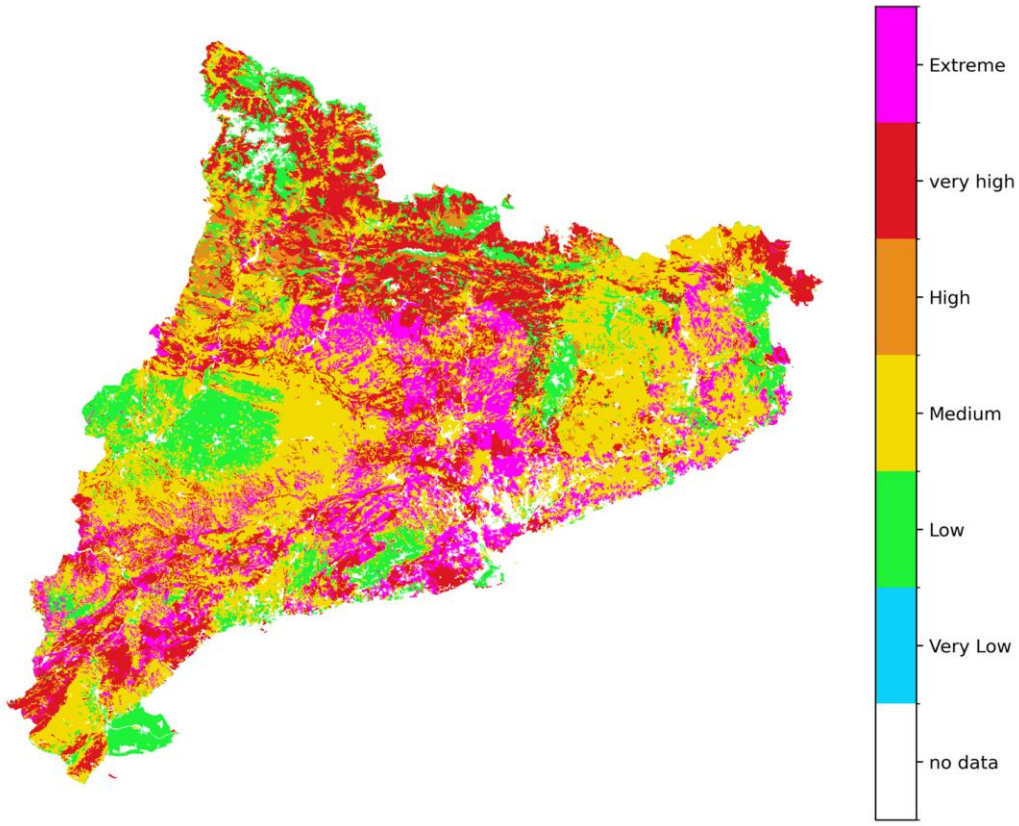
From Susceptibility to Hazard

Inferring plant functional type via CORINE classification: crops vs shrubs vs conifers…

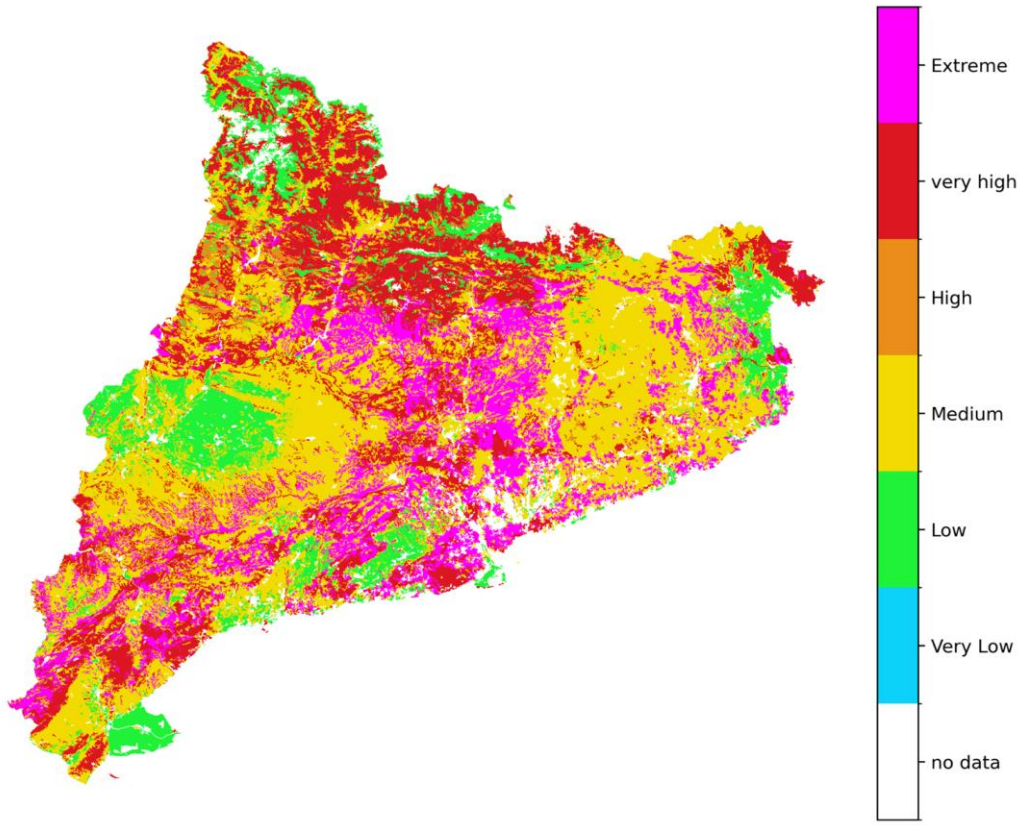
Susceptibility/ intensity	Low intensity	Medium intensity	High intensity	Very high intensity
Low susceptibility	1	2	3	4
Medium susceptibility	2	3	4	5
High susceptibility	3	4	5	6

Easy to implement, expeditionary, easy to replicate

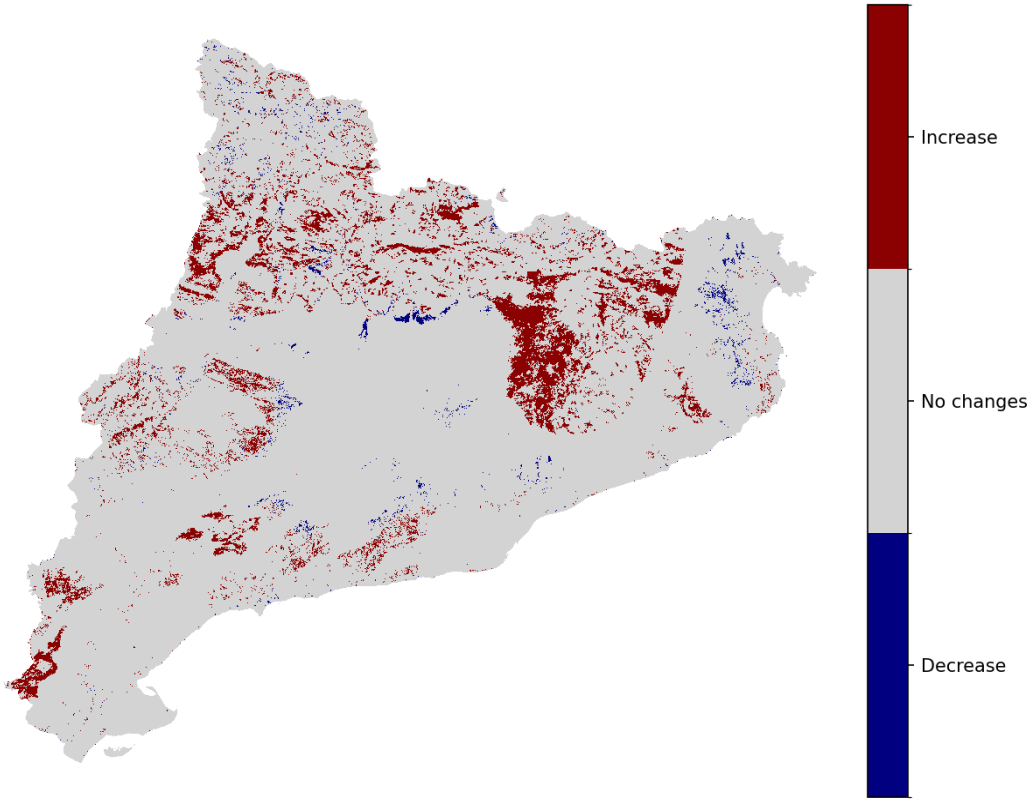
Hazard present present



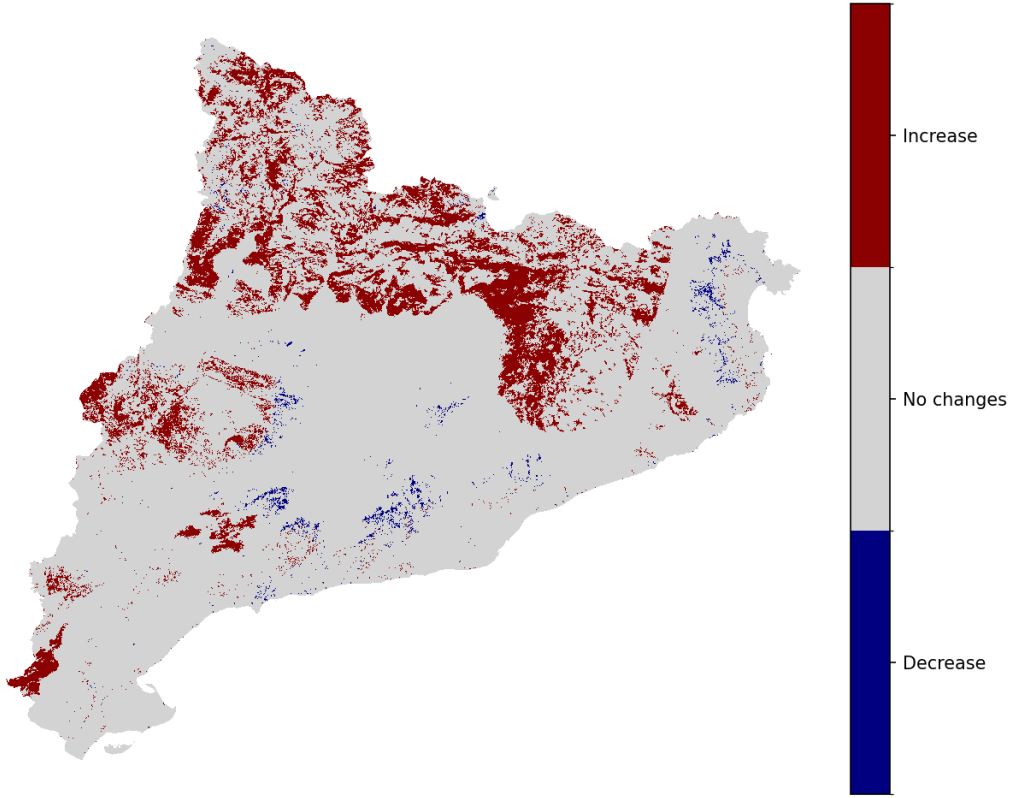
Hazard 4p5_2021_2040 present



Degree of Hazard change RCP45 2021-2040



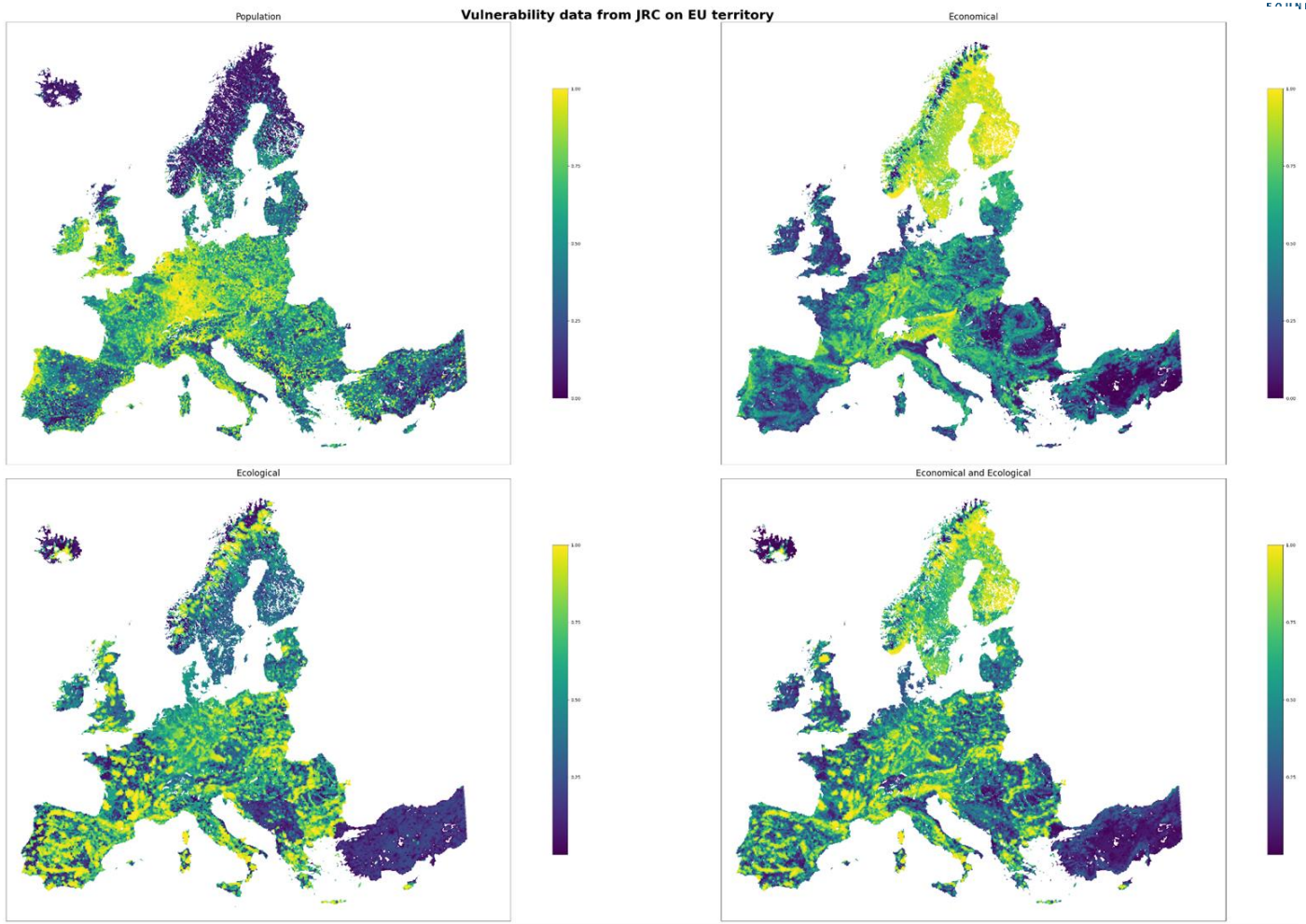
Degree of Hazard change RCP85 2041-2060



From Hazard to Risk

Vulnerabilities from JRC:

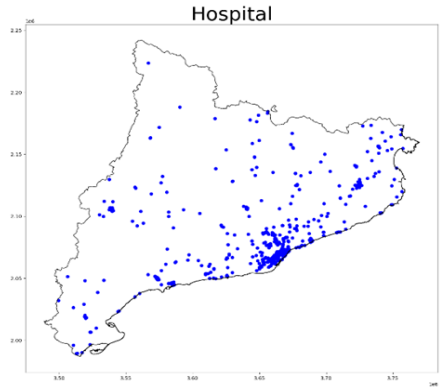
- Ecological
- Population
- Economical

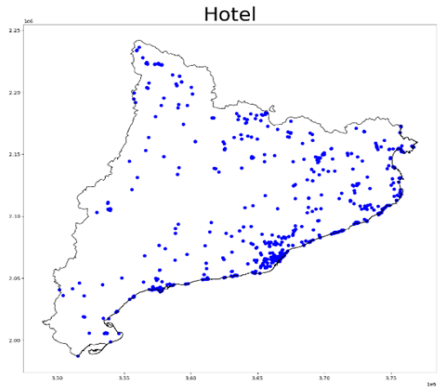


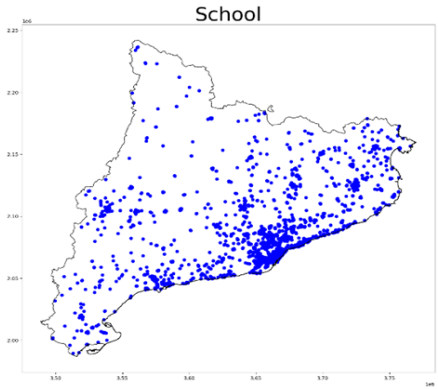
European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Costa, H., De Rigo, D., Libertà, G. et al., *European wildfire danger and vulnerability in a changing climate – Towards integrating risk dimensions – JRC PESETA IV project – Task 9 - forest fires*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2020, https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2760/46951

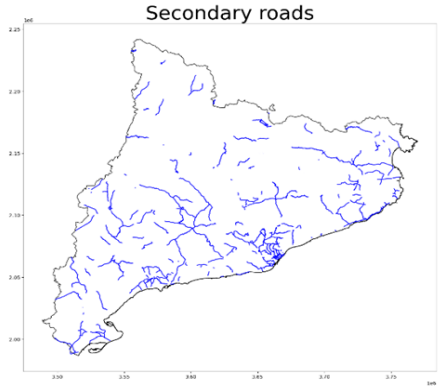
Exposed elements from Open Street Map:

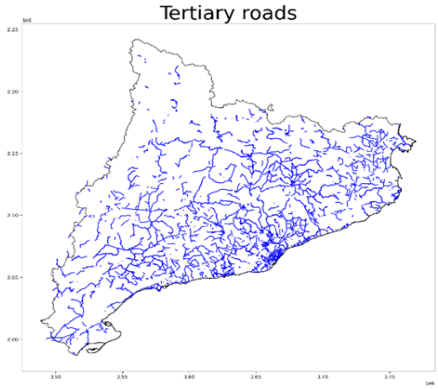
- Hospitals
- Schools
- Streets
- …

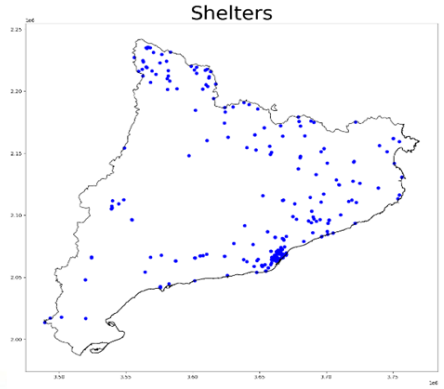












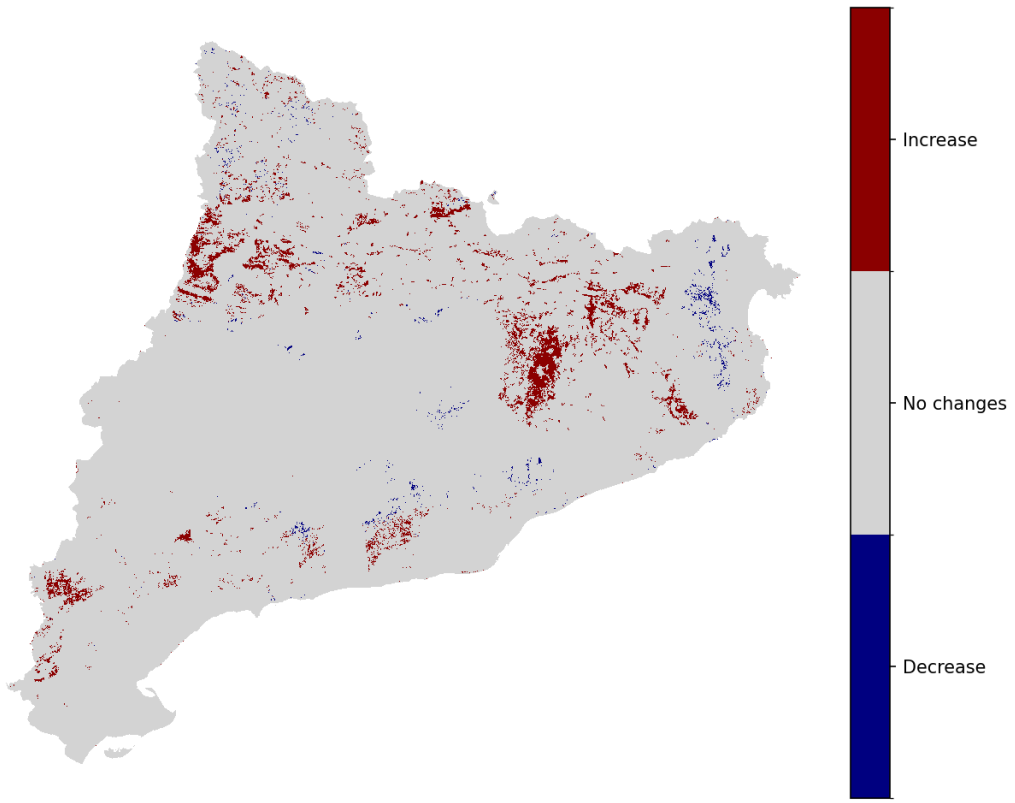
Several risk assessment strategies for different exposed elements:

- Degree of damage (vulnerability curves -> roads)
- Hazard x Classes of vulnerabilities
- Hazard x Population vulnerability x population exposure (categorized population density)

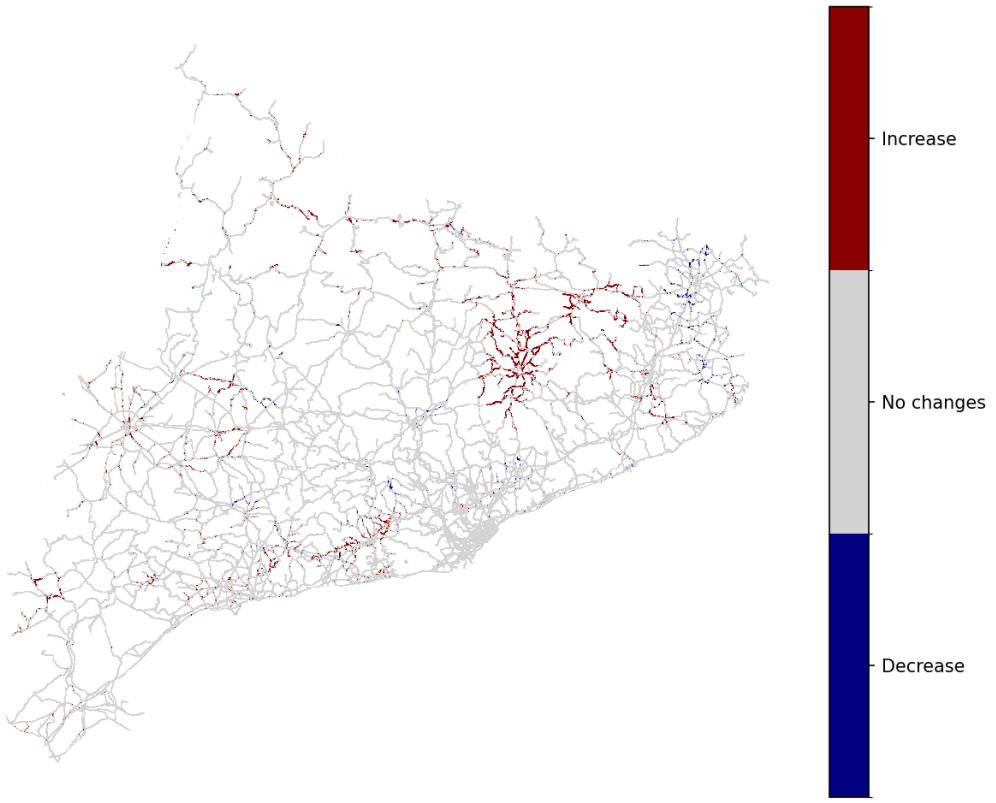
Contingency table

Hazard level / Damage level	1	2	3	4	5	6	Risk
1 Low	1	1	1	2	3	4	Moderate – low
2 Moderate	1	1	2	3	4	4	Moderate – high
3 High	1	2	3	4	4	4	High

Risk change in economy RCP45 2021-2040

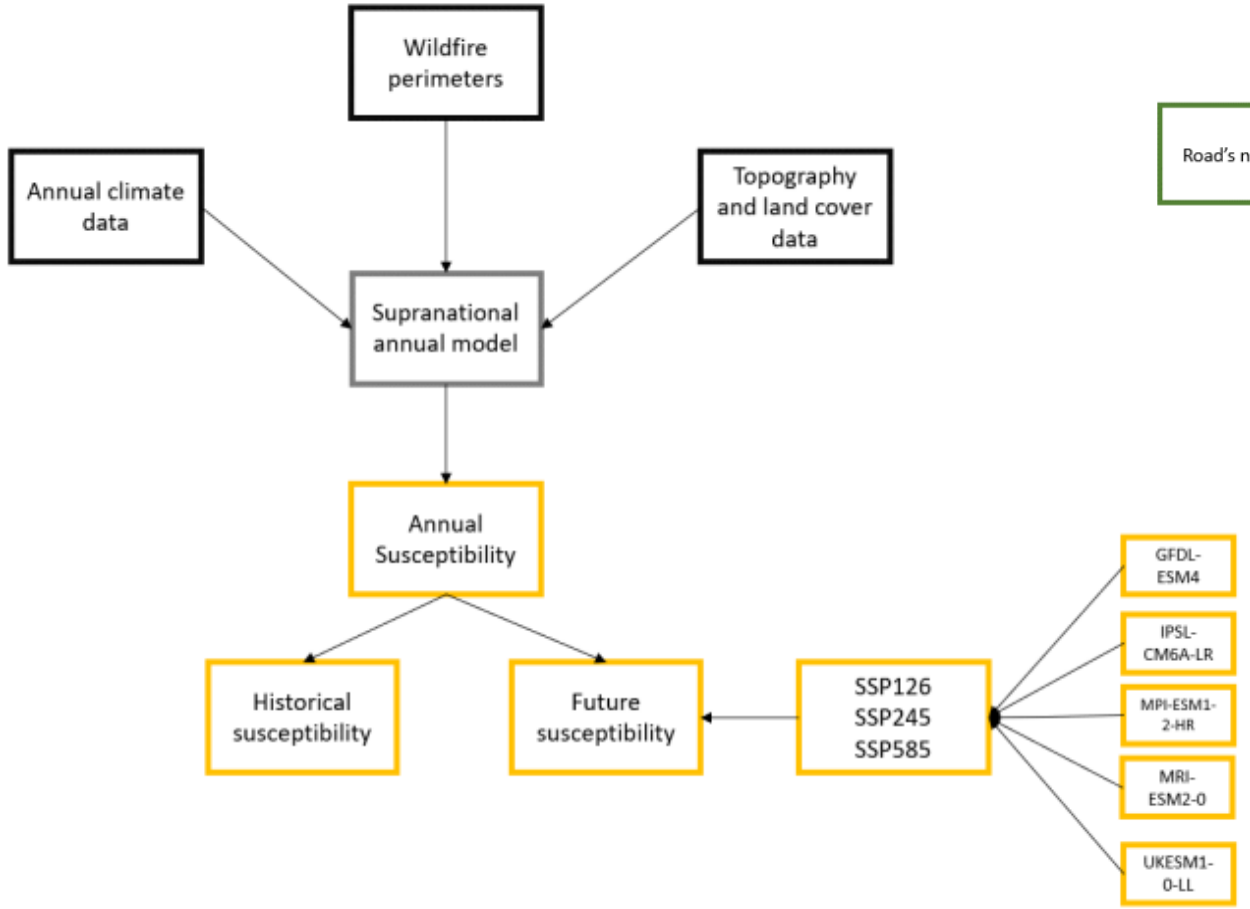


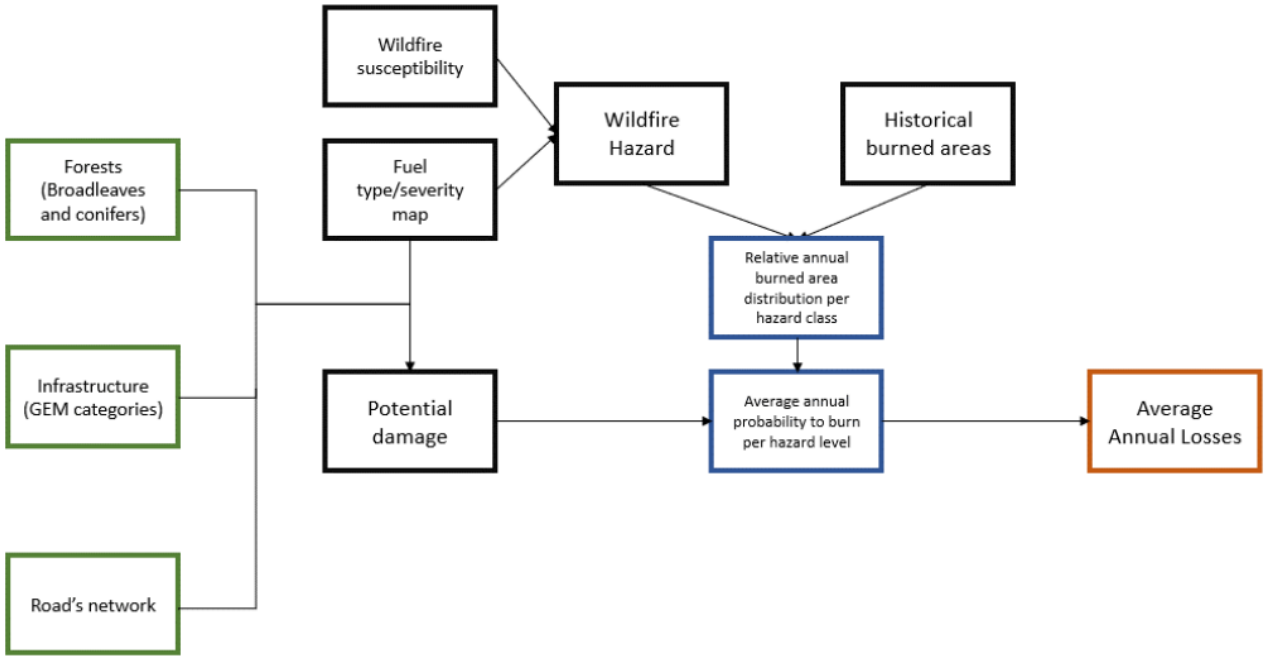
Risk change in roads RCP45 2021-2040



Recent **CRA with World Bank**:

- DG-ECHO project "Economics for Disaster Prevention and Prepardeness"
- **Full scale analysis:** susceptibility, hazard, risk, Average Annual Losses at **National Scale** for Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia and Greece
- Spatial resolution is **100m** and an annual temporal resolutior for climate forcing





Deep integrated analysis leveraging on ISIMIP climate data, national and global datasets, and both averaged and probabilistic models

Recent **CRA with World Bank**:

- DG-ECHO project "Economics for Disaster Prevention and Prepardeness"
- **Full scale analysis:** susceptibility, hazard, risk, Average Annual Losses at **National Scale** for Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia and Greece
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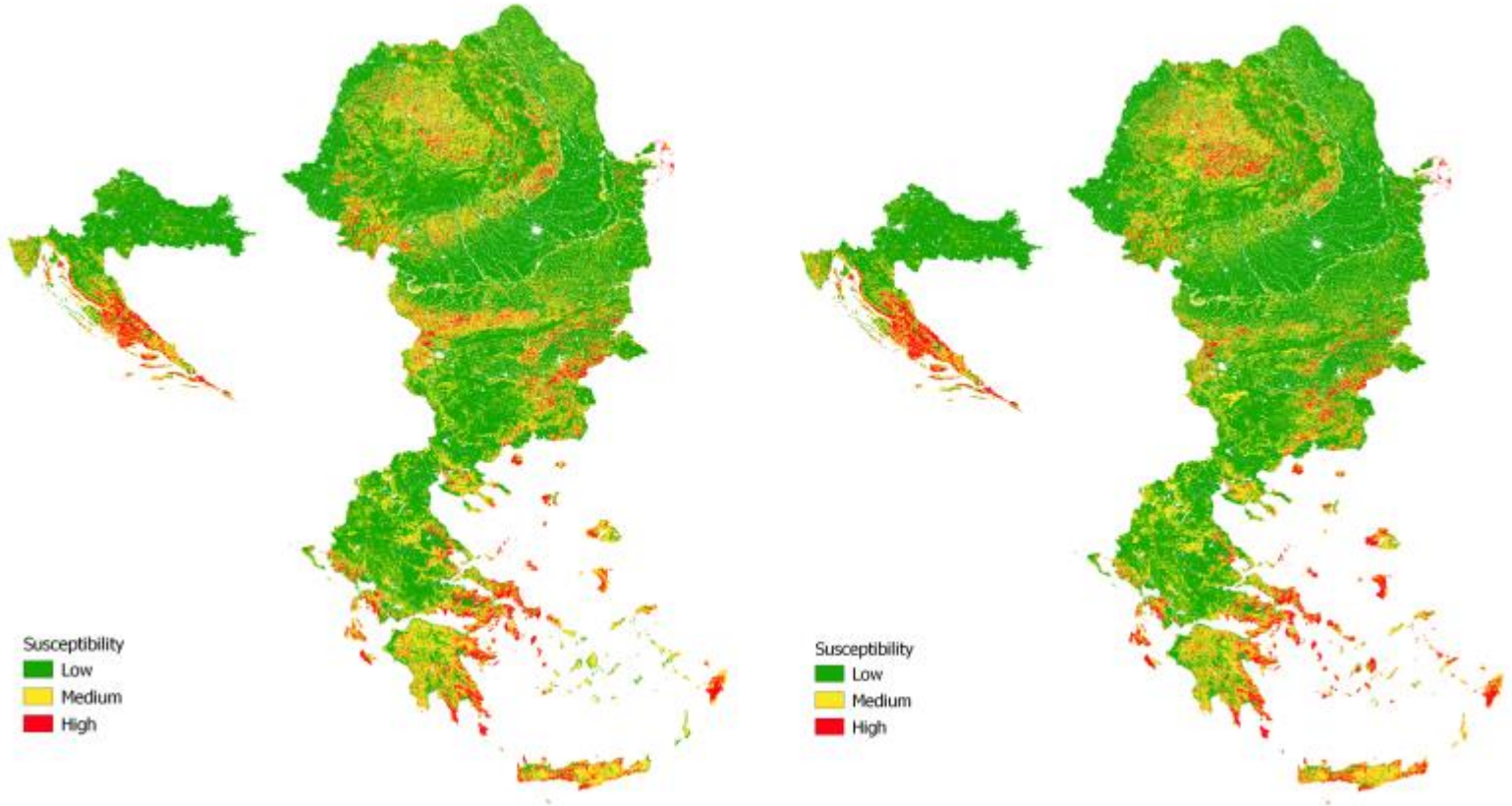
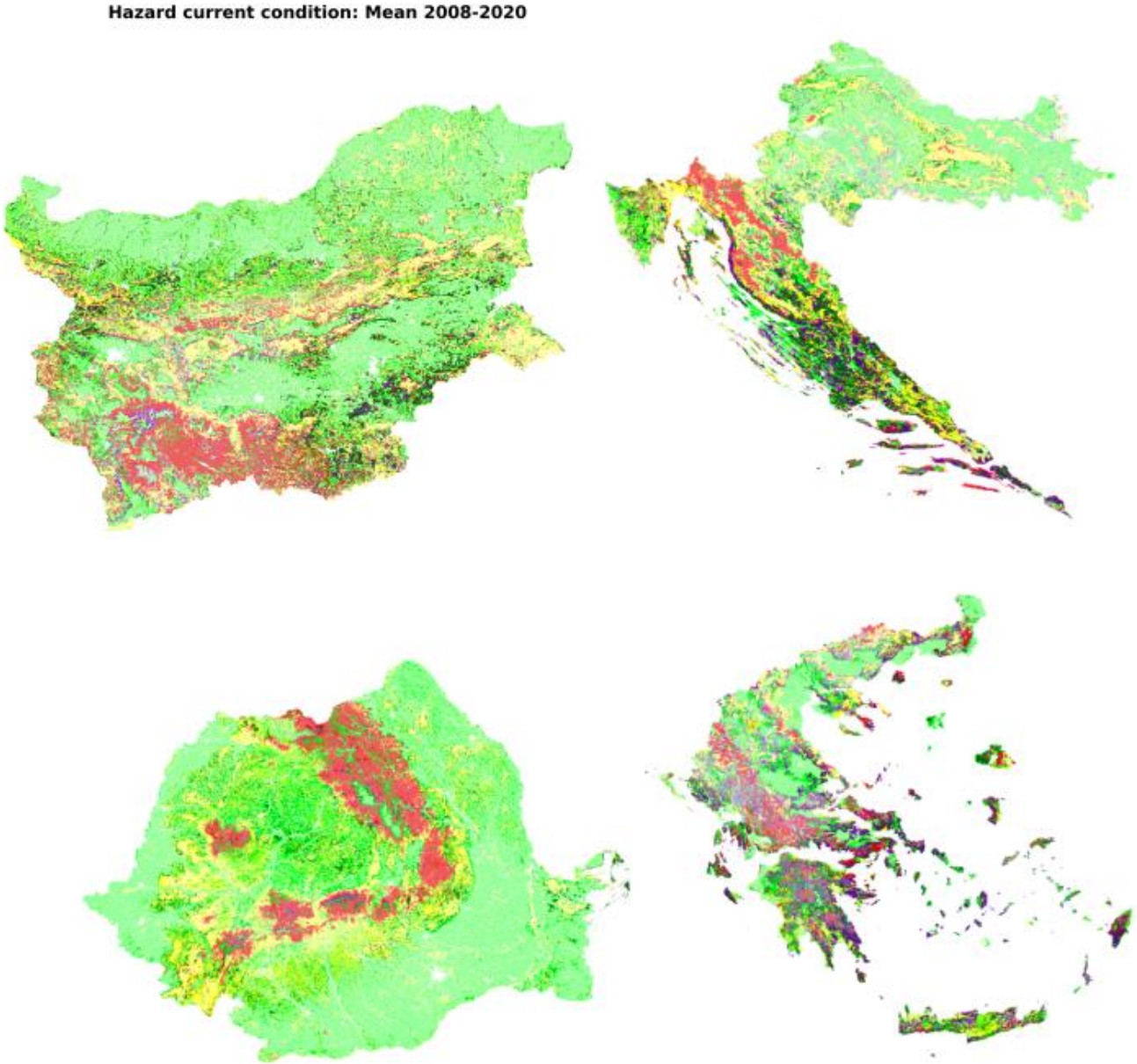
Yearly variability for susceptibility: historical and projected



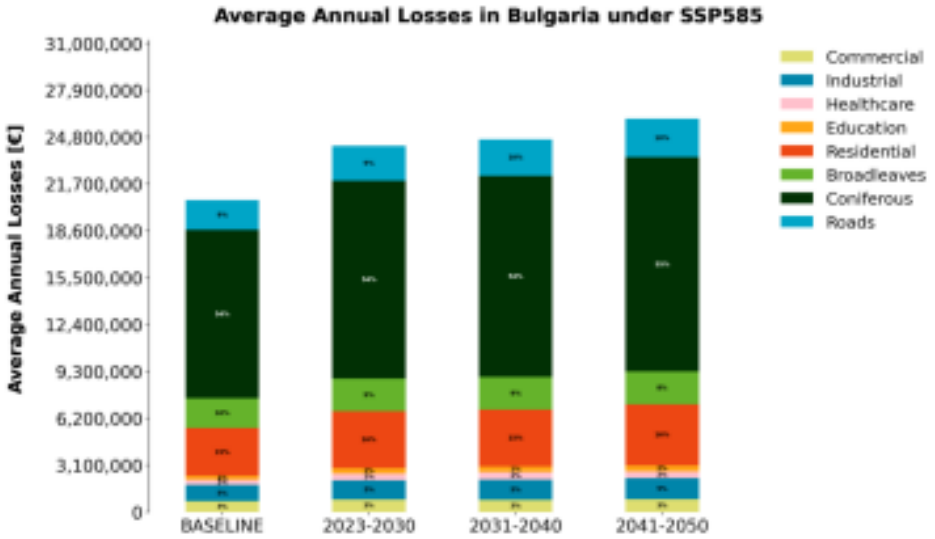
12 - classes hazard / fuel models (susceptibility vs Plant Functional Type)

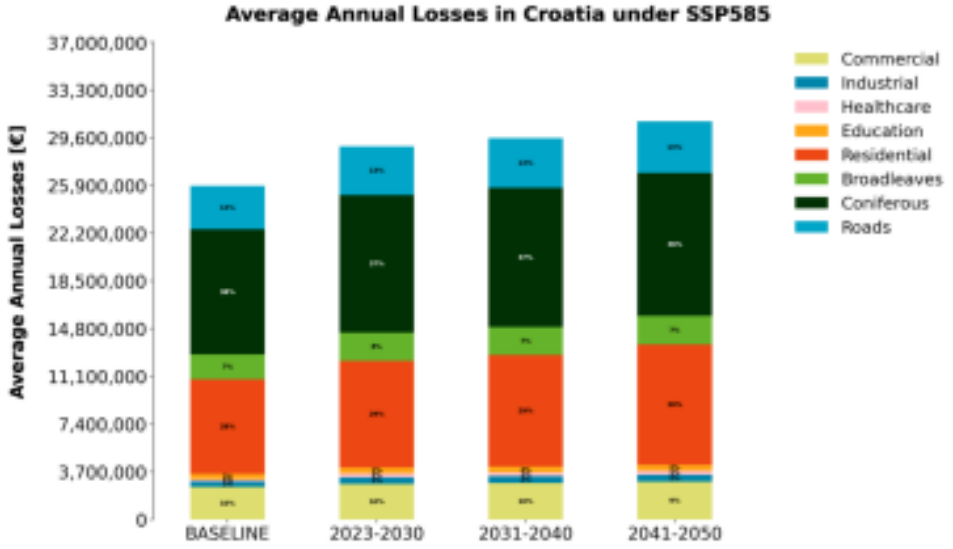
HAZARD MATRIX		FUEL TYPES			
		1 grassland and croplands	2 low flammable forest	3 shrublands	4 high flammable forest
SUSCEPTIBILITY	1 Low	1 low intensity surface fires with low likelihood	4 medium intensity forest fires with low likelihood (broadleaves forests)	7 High intensity bushfire with low likelihood	10 High intensity forest fires with low likelihood (coniferous forests)
	2 Medium	2 low intensity surface fires with medium likelihood	5 medium intensity forest fires with medium likelihood (broadleaves forests)	8 High intensity bushfire with medium likelihood	11 High intensity forest fires with medium likelihood (coniferous forests)
	3 High	3 low intensity surface fires with high likelihood	6 medium intensity forest fires with high likelihood (broadleaves forests)	9 High intensity bushfire with high likelihood	12 High intensity forest fires with high likelihood (coniferous forests)

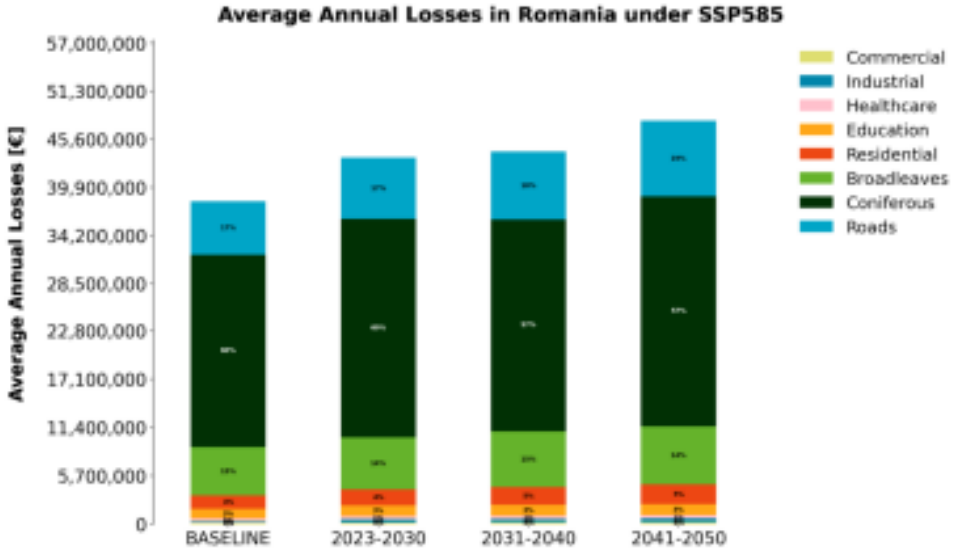


From Hazard to Risk:

- Exposed assets (according to data availability)
- Vulnerability aggregated at NUTS2/3
- Coping Capacity (no of Fire Stations, road density, ruggedness...)


Average Annual Losses in Bulgaria under SSP585
Average Annual Losses [€]
31,000,000
27,900,000
24,800,000
21,700,000
18,600,000
15,500,000
12,400,000
9,300,000
6,200,000
3,100,000
0
BASELINE
2023-2030
2031-2040
2041-2050
Commercial
Industrial
Healthcare
Education
Residential
Broadleaves
Coniferous
Roads


Average Annual Losses in Croatia under SSP585
Average Annual Losses [€]
37,000,000
33,300,000
29,600,000
25,900,000
22,200,000
18,500,000
14,800,000
11,100,000
7,400,000
3,700,000
0
BASELINE
2023-2030
2031-2040
2041-2050
Commercial
Industrial
Healthcare
Education
Residential
Broadleaves
Coniferous
Roads


Average Annual Losses in Romania under SSP585
Average Annual Losses [€]
57,000,000
51,300,000
45,600,000
39,900,000
34,200,000
28,500,000
22,800,000
17,100,000
11,400,000
5,700,000
0
BASELINE
2023-2030
2031-2040
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Commercial
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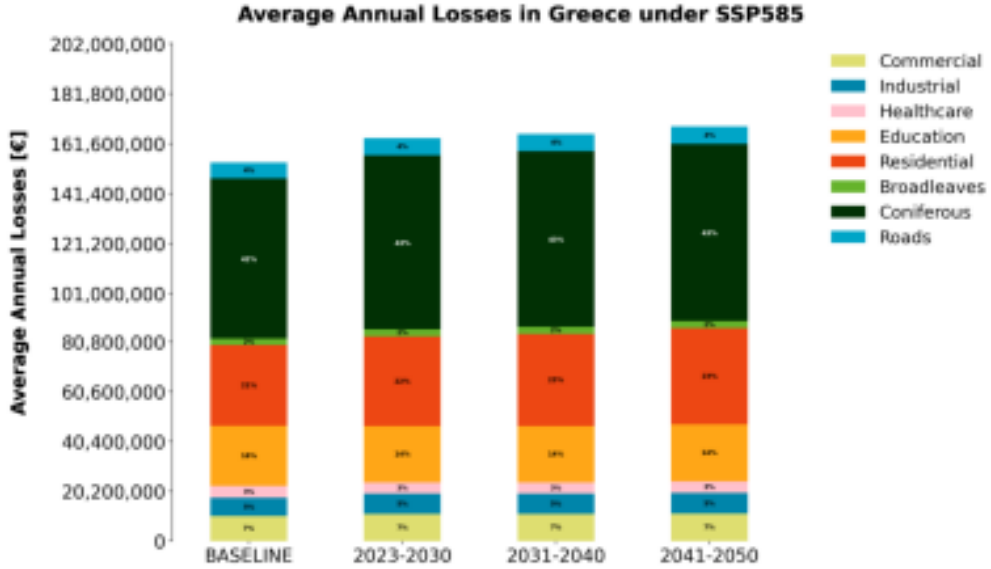
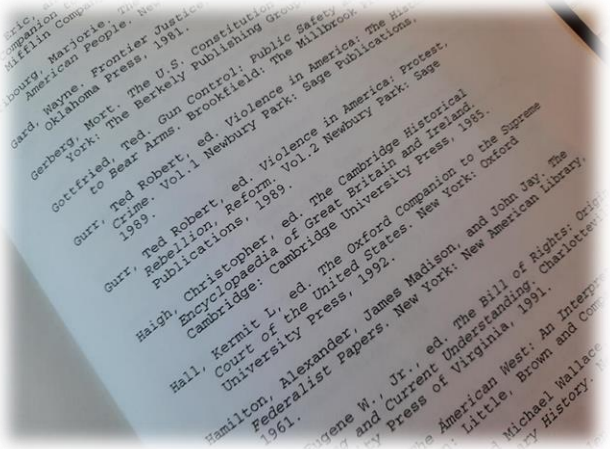

Average Annual Losses in Greece under SSP585
Average Annual Losses [€]
202,000,000
181,800,000
161,600,000
141,400,000
121,200,000
101,000,000
80,800,000
60,600,000
40,400,000
20,200,000
0
BASELINE
2023-2030
2031-2040
2041-2050
Commercial
Industrial
Healthcare
Education
Residential
Broadleaves
Coniferous
Roads



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Q&A session

Moderated by **Guido Schmidt**, MIP4Adapt

Supported by **Erlend Hansen**, MIP4Adapt, Ricardo Ltd.

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Showcasing experiences

Moderated by Claudia Berchtold

Fraunhofer Institute for Technological Trend Analysis, Germany
FIRELOGUE - https://firelogue.eu/

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TREEADS technologies:
(1) Seedball technology for replanting
(2) Virtual reality for firefighter training

Ragni Fjellgaard Mikalsen
RISE Fire Research, Norway
TREEADS https://treeads-project.eu/

supported for QA by **Dorotėja Vaitiekūnaitė** (LAMMC)
and **Razvan Purcarea** (SIMAVI)

TREEADS Seeding Systems

TREEADS seeding systems will be a key element for successful reforestation.

The seedballs contain all the components that a tree seedling may need to survive – microorganisms most importantly, as well as nutrient rich soil, gelling agent and of course seeds. The seeding capsules are engineered to contain a space for fertilizers and be manufactured with a special material composition to provide the seedling with the right nutrients.

Seedballs

Seeding Capsules

TREEADS

May 2024 - Progress on
T6.2 Reforestation / Drones for Agriculture
Using Drones for aerial mass release of seedballs

ACCELIGENCE

LAMMC

LITHUANIAN RESEARCH CENTRE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

TREEADS

Task 6.2: Treeads Artificial Intelligent Seedpods and Bioclip adaptation

Demonstration

Yannic Transier
Project Task Coordination and Management
GBD; Global Biodesign Scomm
transier@globalbiodesign.com

GlobalBiodesign Biocontrol Solutions

TREEADS has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101036926.

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Slido Question 2

Do you foresee any challenges in adopting the replanting technologies presented by TREEADS?

TREEADS VR Tool

TREEADS develops AR/VR training systems necessary for the training and development of firefighters' skills.

- Reduce the response time of firefighters in case of fire hazards.
- Familiarize them with new technologies and increase situational awareness.

TREEADS VR tool will be used in three Pilots.

- Romania
- Germany
- Austria

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Slido Question 3

Do you foresee any challenges in adopting the virtual reality training technology presented by TREEADS?

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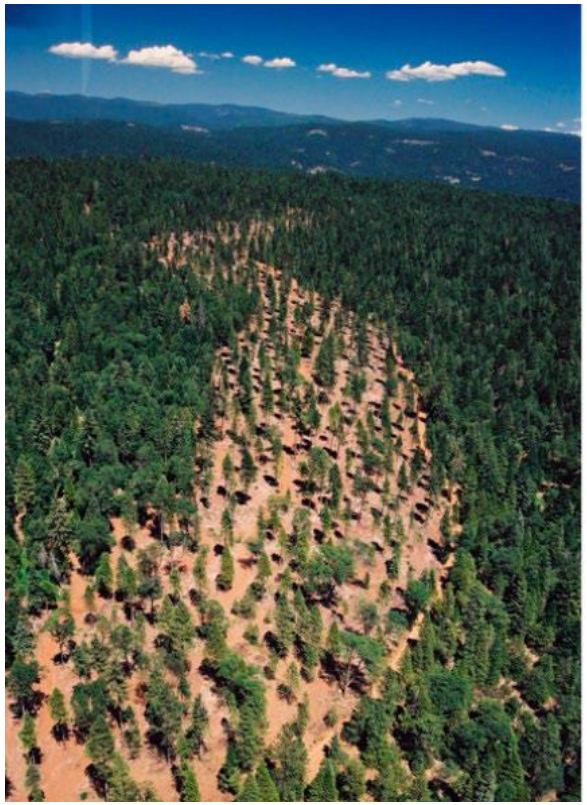
FIRE-RES Solutions: Light machinery for preventive silviculture

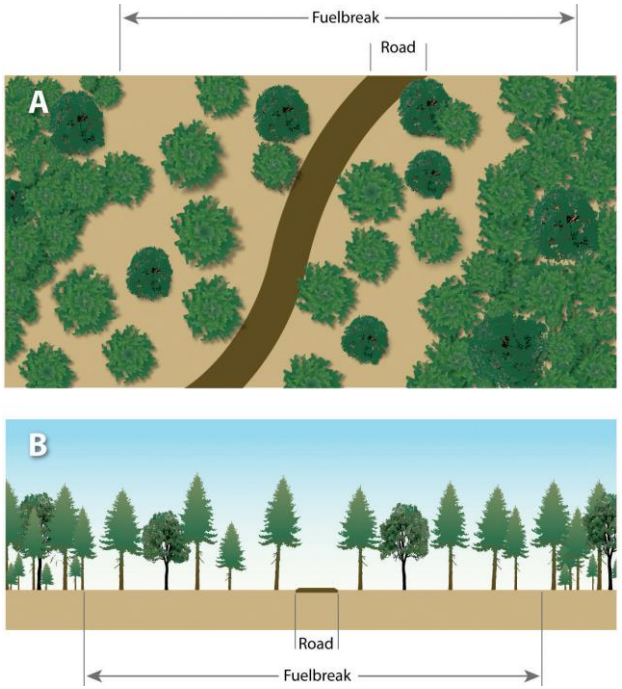
Gianni Picchi
National Research Council, Italy
FIRE-RES https://fire-res.eu/

FIRE-RES

Wildfire prevention infrastructure maintenance

Maintenance and recovery of fire and fuelbreaks





Images source USDA and Ascoli

Living Lab Sardinia (Italy)

- Highly time and labour consuming
- Mostly carried on by public authorities
- Ageing staff and low level of mechanization
- Limited financial resources vs large areas to manage

Wildfire prevention infrastructure maintenance

Proposal for alternative work systems in forest fuel removal (preventive silviculture).

Traditional: motor-manual and tractor

Innovative: motor-manual and excavator+winch

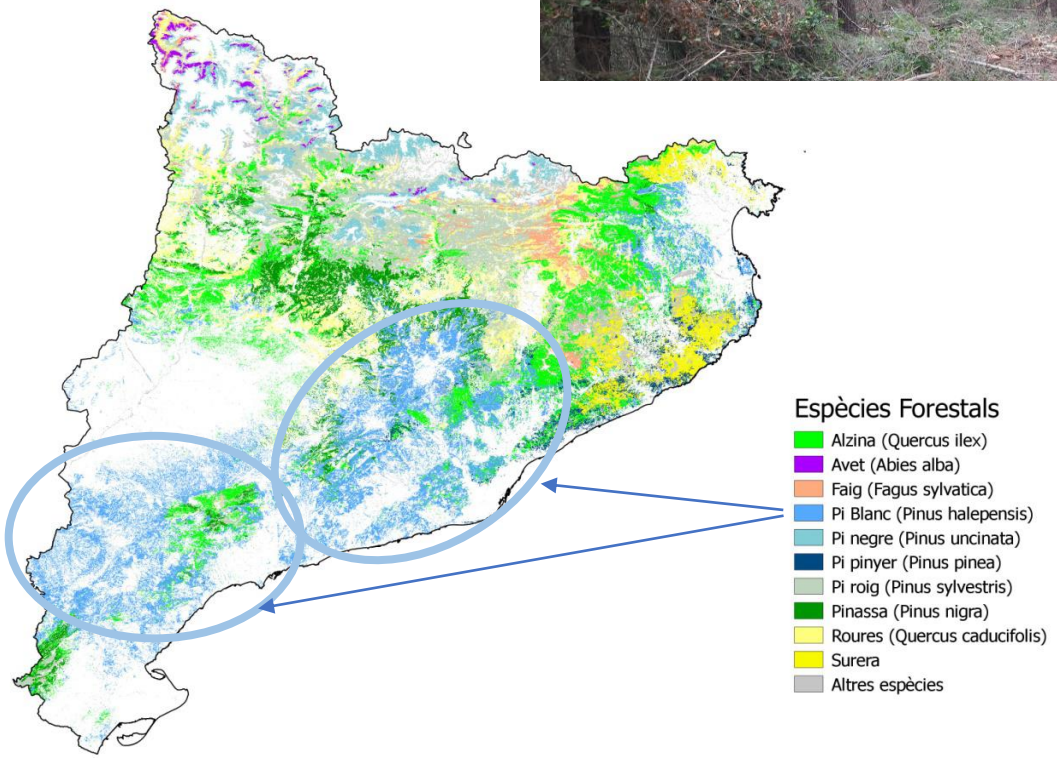
Living Lab Sardinia (Italy)

- Reduction of cost and strain
- Multiple services with low impact and low cost equipment

FUEL BREAK CHARACTERISTICS		
Plot	1	2
Main tree, shrub species	*Pinus spp.* , *Pistacia lentisus*	
Mean DBH (cm)	25	23
Trees removal (%)	30	30
Shrubs removal (%)	30	100
MECHANIZED WORK		
Costs per Area (€/ha)	-1,126	-2,792
MANUAL WORK		
Cost per Area (€/ha)	-1,714	-3,174
Cost decrease (%)	**-35**	**-13**

Preventive silviculture in young pine forests

Thinning of dense and extremely dense post-fire regenerated stands of Pinus halepensis



Living Lab Catalonia (Spain)

- Over 330,000 ha of Pinus halepensis
- Management challenge due to wildfire risk
- Excessive cost with current systems
- Release of coarse woody biomass
- Private landowners reluctant to accept public intervention, even if at no cost

Preventive silviculture in post-wildfire regenerate stands

Introduction of a professional light forest machine for thinning.

Living Lab Catalonia (Spain)

- High mobility and combo configuration for minimal relocation costs
- Relatively low acquisition and operative costs
- Minimal impact and narrow corridors

FOREST CHARACTERISTICS			
Plot	1	2	3
Main species	*Pinus halepensis*		
Density (trees/ha)	2040	5260	9620
Mean DBH (cm)	17	10	6
MECHANIZED WORK			
Costs per Area (€/ha)	-2,257	-3,336	-4,950
Value of biomass (€/ha)	1,516	1,835	809
Economic Balance (€/ha)	-741	-1,500	-4,141
MANUAL WORK			
Value of biomass (€/ha)	No biomass recovery		
Cost per Area (€/ha)	> -4,000	-3,000	-4,408
Public Subsidy (€/ha)	**2,000**	**2,000**	**3,000**

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Showcasing the integrated wildfire management platform

Lovorko Maric
MicroDigital
SILVANUS https://silvanus-project.eu/

SILVANUS

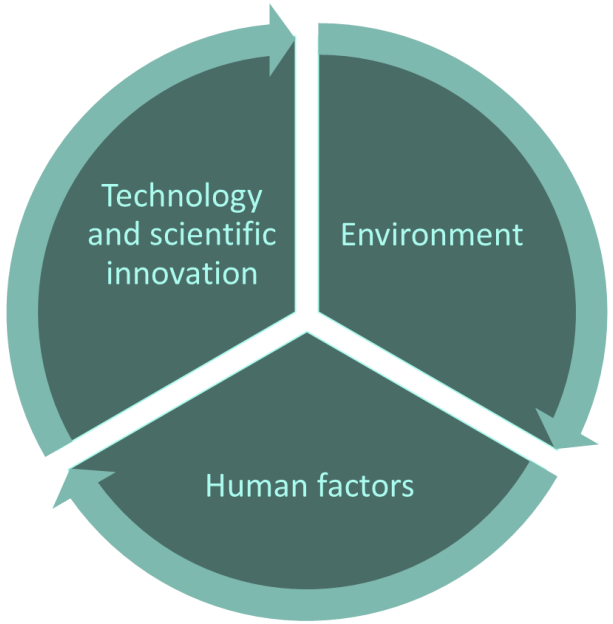
SILVANUS in a nutshell

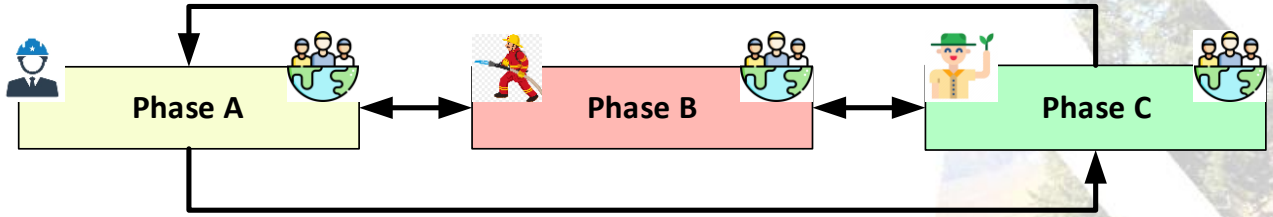
VISION

To develop an ***integrated technology platform*** with innovative ***toolkits*** that provide ***decision-making support*** in preparedness, response and recovery phase of ***wildfire management*** and enhancing the ***human, environment, and economic resilience to wildfires***

MISSION

Adopt synergistic alliance between





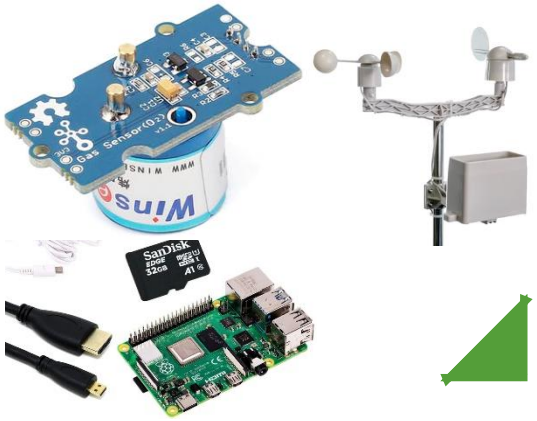
Emphasis on human factors for enhanced ***prevention and preparedness*** to wildfire [Phase A]

Data driven, ICT platform design for enabling insights for ***fire detection and response*** coordination [Phase B]

Adoption of evidence-based approach for the strategies and recommendations on ***forest restoration policies*** [Phase C]

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101037247

SILVANUS rings of protection



First line of defence

- identify the regions of high probability (consider historic cases, biofuel available in the region, etc)
- Use of in-situ devices. Such devices could include (but not limiting to), smoke sensors, humidity sensors, temperature sensors, cctv, etc.

Second line of defence

- Use of drones for visual inspection, use of human intelligence from social media (who report fire citing in social media)

Third line of defence

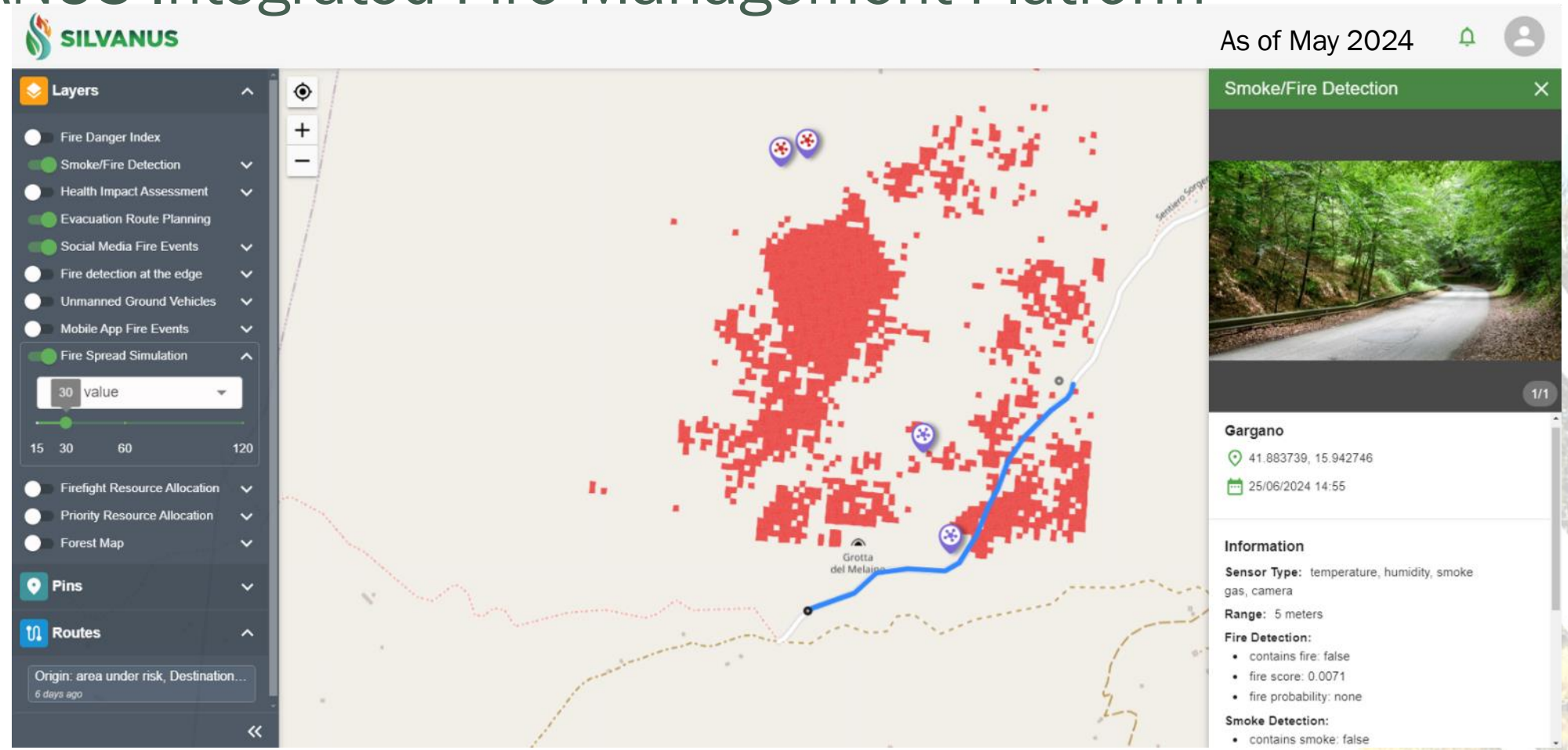
- robots, resource mobilisation, setup of forward command centre, bring people to safety, etc.

Fourth line of defence

- deploy water cannons, water bombs, etc.

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101037247

SILVANUS Integrated Fire Management Platform



SILVANUS users/stakeholders in integrated wildfire management

Civil Protection Authority

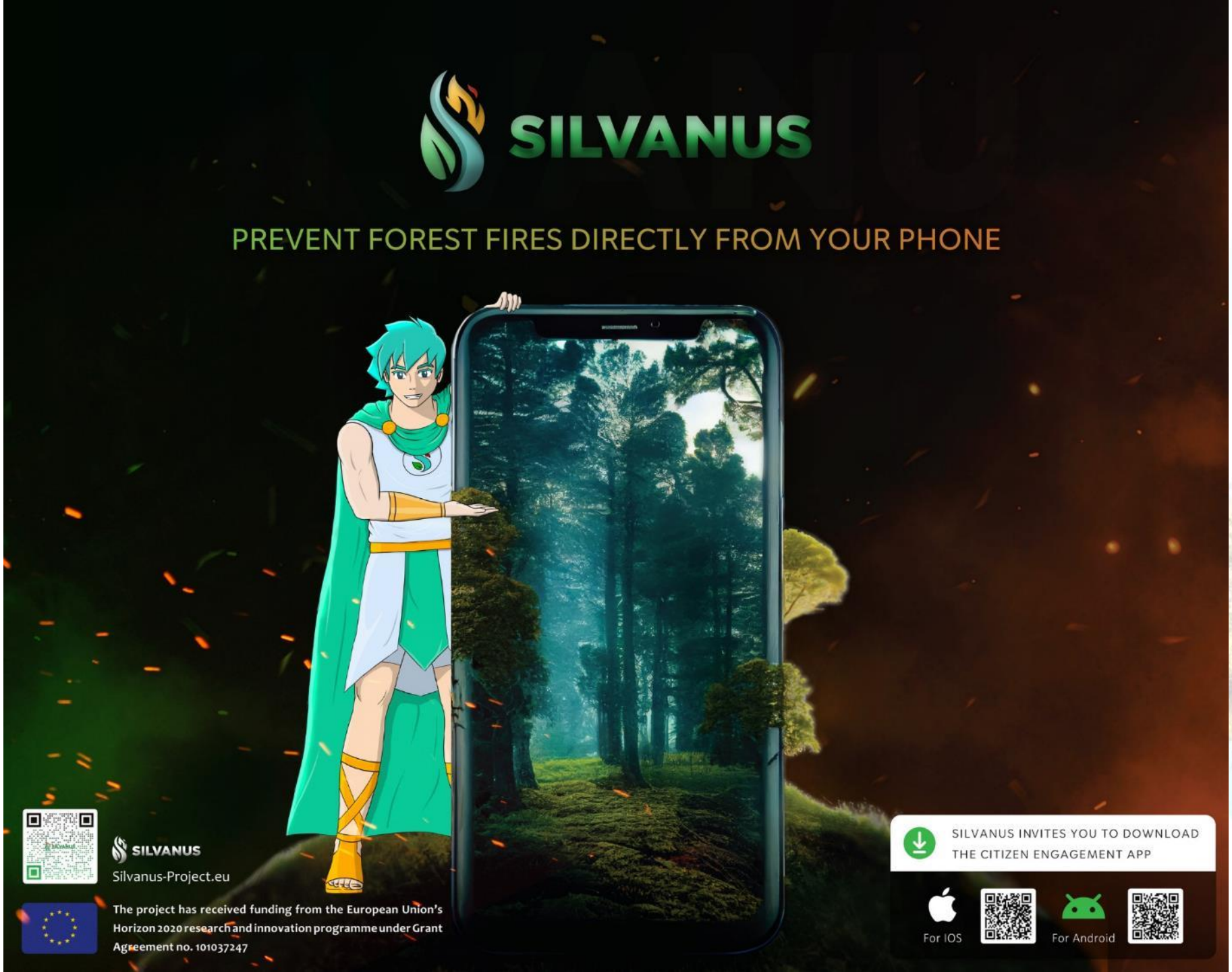
Forester/ Researcher

Firefighter

Citizens

Key pilot demonstration outcome of 2023

research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101037247


SILVANUS
PREVENT FOREST FIRES DIRECTLY FROM YOUR PHONE
SILVANUS
Silvanus-Project.eu
The project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement no. 101037247
SILVANUS INVITES YOU TO DOWNLOAD THE CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT APP
For IOS
For Android

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Slido Question 4

How can local and regional authorities help SILVANUS effectively engage citizens and communities to increase awareness and usage of the SILVANUS app and learn more about our project?

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When fire prevention becomes a driving force for rural development

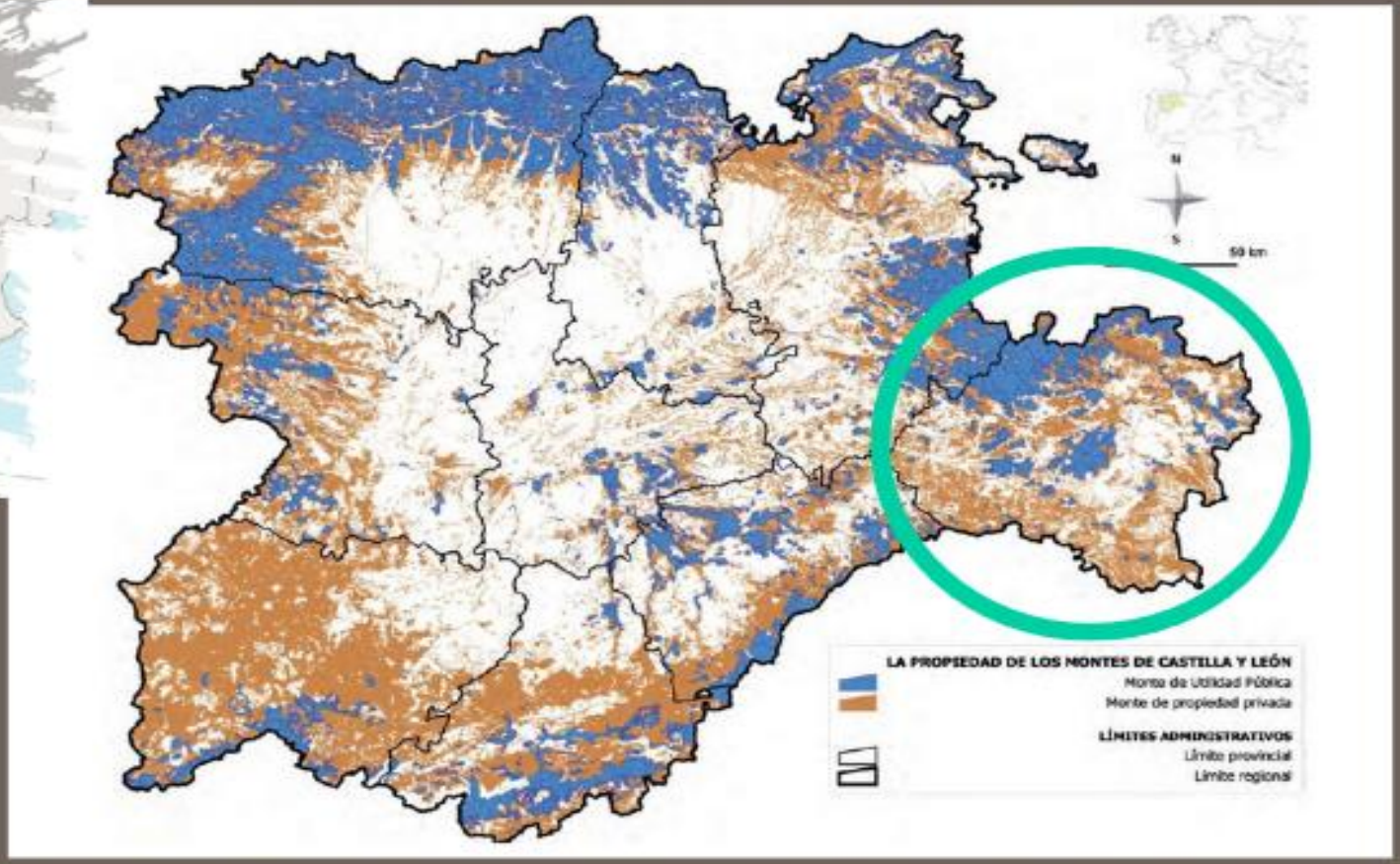
LIFE SORIA ForestAdapt

Beatriz Oliver Pozo
Fundación Global Nature, Spain
LIFE Soria ForestAdapt https://www.soriaforestadapt.es/

supported by **Amanda del Río** and **Vanessa Sánchez Ortega**

LARGE AREA OF PRIVATE FOREST PROPERTY

About 2/3 of the wooded forest area is managed by the private owners.



THE FOREST AS A NATURAL SHIELD

SUCCESS STORY IN FIRE PREVENTION

Europe's largest area of Juniperus thurifera

WHEN FIRE PREVENTION BECOMES A DRIVING FORCE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ForestAdapt

MODEL OF SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

The sum of all the factors, social and economic, that make forest conservation possible reduces the risk of forest fires.

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Slido Question 5

Do you think rural depopulation has an impact on the number of forest fires (in your area)?

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Q&A session

Moderated by **Claudia Berchtold**, FIRELOGUE

Supported by **Erlend Hansen**, MIP4Adapt, Ricardo.

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Slido Question 6

What is your primary source of information for enhancing wildfire risk management?

(Please include link or short description if possible)

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Feedback

Please share your thoughts on today's event:

What did you find most interesting or valuable?
What areas could be improved for future events?

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Closing remarks

Georgios Boustras

Mission Board Member

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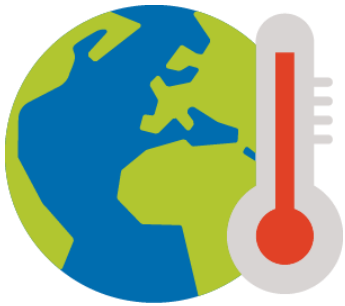
Closing remarks

- Recording, presentation and a summary report of the event will be shared on the online community site.
- Upcoming events

Thematic July Month: Temperature Rising

  - Heatwave Chronicles: Strategies for Resilience in a Warming World, 10 July



- We are moving our Community and associated services from CIRCABC to Futurium!
- Registration to the online EU Mission Adaptation Community

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Thank you !

#EUmissions

#HorizonEU

#MissionClimateAdaptation