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Forest Bioenergy in the Protected Mediterranean Areas

Report on the external events – III Forestry Congress in the Valencian Community "Management of Forest Fires in the context of climate change (IIICFCV)

Workpackage 2 - Communication
Activity 2.6 – Participating to external events
Deliverable 2.6.1 - Report on the external events

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Deliverable 2.4.2	Report on the external events
Summary:	The 3rd edition of the IIICFCV presents the management of forest fires in the context of climate change. Structured in five thematic lines, the Congress covers all aspects involved in the planning, management, prevention and extinction of forest fires in the Mediterranean region, as well as their characteristics, causes and consequences in a context of climate change.
Involved partner	PP5 AMUFOR – Association of Forest Municipalities of the Comunitat Valenciana
Responsible partner	PP7 Zadar County
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*Content of the report obtained of the Valencian Forestry Platform

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BRIEF EVENT DESCRIPTION

The IIICFCV was held in Calp (Alicante, Spain) from Thursday 15th to Friday 16th of November 2018. AMUFOR participated in the coordination of the Congress, as well as representing the ForBioEnergy through a scientific communication.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the Congress, 19 Conferences were grouped in 5 thematics "forest fires and climate changes (1); management of the forest fires (2); new applied technologies (3); urban-forest interface (4); perspective of a forest bioeconomy in the Mediterranean basin (5)" to discuss about the management of forest fires in the context of climate change which is, unfortunately, a topical issue in the Mediterranean arc, practically during all year.

Concretely, the communication of the ForBioEnergy project "Barreras y oportunidades para la gestión forestal sostenible y aprovechamiento de biomasa forestal en la Comunitat Valenciana - Barriers and opportunities for sustainable forest management and use of forest biomass in the Comunitat Valenciana" is located in the thematic line "forest management and prevention of forest fires", subthematic line "planning of the multifunctional management of the Mediterranean forest"

In addition, a round table of political debate was held with the assistance of the main parties represented in Les Corts Valencianes that have discussed about forest fires, in particular and on forest policy, in general.

1.1 Location

The IIICFCV was held in the Auditori de Calp, Avda. de Masnou 1 (Calp, Alicante – Spain).

1.2Who attended

More than 430 participants attended the IIICFCV, mostly all main target groups were represented: sectorial agencies; regional and local public authorities; interest

groups including NGOs, higher education and research; education/training centres and schools; enterprises and SMEs, etc.

BRIEF OUTLINE OF KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES ADDRESSED IN THE EVENT

The key topics and challenges addressed in the Congress are represented in the invited lectures:

1. Forest fires in a context of climate change.
2. Restoration of the areas affected by forest fires.
3. Ecology of forest fires a strategic tool.
4. Data management for the research in forest fires.
5. The landscape and wildland-urban interface fires: comprehensive diagnosis and protection.
6. Moving towards a circular bioeconomy: the role of the forests.

1.2. Purpose and scope

To bring experts and researchers who are analyzing causes and developing solutions across the life cycle of forest fires, from climate-vegetation relationships and fire risk to the application of new technologies in prevention and extinction, through the necessary changes in the planning, management and restoration of forest ecosystems.

1.3 Key messages, outcomes, recommendations and synergies with thematic community project

- The characteristics of forest fires in the Mediterranean regions are in a process of significant variation due mainly to the combination of two issues:
    - The sclerification of forest ecosystems caused by the increase of temperatures derived from climate change and the increase of young, unstable and continuous forest stands as a consequence of the lack of management.

  - Added to this situation is the human origin of the vast majority of forest fires at the national level, as well as a cultural use of fire rooted in our territory.

- This situation gives rise to important changes in the magnitude, frequency and intensity of forest fires, some of them remain outside the management capacity by current strategies, infrastructures and means of extinction. They are only controllable before a change in prevailing meteorological conditions.
- This type of fire poses a serious risk for urban areas (urban-forest interface), where the arrival of fire entails a great danger for the population and its goods, resulting in a multi-emergence forest fire with serious population risk, with an impact on lives, goods, infrastructures and economic activity.
- The scientific community agrees that there is a clear trend towards a significant deterioration of the conditions of initiation and spread of fire, accentuated by climate change. In addition, it is also urgent to investigate the best adaptation of our ecosystems to future scenarios in the short, medium and long term.
- The knowledge derived from these investigations must be applied to forestry planning in a realistic and effective way, as well as to the policy of integral management of fires, both in prevention and in extinction.
- New technologies and research results must be transferred and implemented to improve preventive measures and the work of extinction.

CONCLUSIONS

The three main conclusions of the IIICFCV are:

1. There is a good knowledge of the environment, based on the experience of professionals and public and private owners.
2. Forestry professionals are very aware of the danger represented by the current state of the forest. Although there is also a very important challenge in terms

of effective communication of this risk to citizens and their public decision-makers. *This is the challenge that lies ahead for all of us.*

3. New technologies are tools that allow an effective and instantaneous motorization and the prediction of risk, behavior and the impact of fire.

Within the ForBioEnergy Project communication, key actors who have to develop the actions were detailed, according to the regional report of A.3.6. (D.3.6.1 regional report).

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Municipality of Petralia Sottana

Zadar County

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