



NEWSLETTER N.2

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1. EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the new issue of the **MEFISTO Project** (Mediterranean Forest Fire Fighting Training Standardisation) a European cooperation project co-funded by the General Directorate for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operation (DG ECHO) of the European Commission (EC).

This is the second of four newsletters over the course of the MEFISTO project. The 2nd issue presents a brief outline of the progress that has been achieved over the previous period, a resume of the most important events and the future development of the project activities. Since the official start of MEFISTO one year ago, there has been significant advances on the development of a common approach on forest fires between Mediterranean countries, through the reciprocal exchange of information. In fact, the first year of the project have been mostly spent in a positive and fruitful debate on procedures and experiences between partners. Focused on the importance of an increasing collaboration at European level in the development of common strategies in the training of fire fighters, the EUFORFIRE (EUropean FORest FIRE fighting council) association has been founded. This foundation has been an important result actually achieved by MEFISTO.

I believe that this brief review of technical progress included in our 2nd newsletter, is a great opportunity for us to present our activities and results to stakeholders and interested followers. Please enjoy the newsletter and do not hesitate to send your suggestions on this publication as well as on project activities.

Enrico Marchi
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2. THE MEFISTO PROJECT

The project "MEDITERRANEAN FOREST FIRE FIGHTING TRAINING STANDARDIZATION", (MEFISTO), coordinated by the University of Florence, aims to raise the preparedness level through an efficient and standardized training protocol developed by a representative network of Mediterranean stakeholders.

This project addresses new opportunities for interoperability between Mediterranean training centres, allowing international cooperation against disasters related to forest fires. MEFISTO also aims at establishing training programs with specific sessions on the organization, protocols and procedures applied in neighbouring countries. Its general objective is to improve the effectiveness of cross-border fire fighting and to allow an easy and safe transfer of human and material resources from one Country to another.

Please visit www.mefistoforestfires.eu for detailed project's information.



3. STATE OF THE PROJECT

GUIDELINES REDACTION: SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EU MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES IN FOREST FIRE FIGHTING: A CHALLENGE FOR IMPROVEMENT (DELIVERABLE B.2)

This is the name of a document resulting from an exhaustive survey carried out by the MEFISTO partners on the organization of fire fighting and related activities in the corresponding countries and in the Mediterranean area in general. The document has been edited by the University of Florence, in collaboration with the whole consortium. Its main goal is to highlight similarities and differences regarding organization, techniques and procedures in fire fighting. This analysis is the basis for the identification of future improvements in the organizations operating against forest fires. The similarities will be the starting points to develop common approaches and procedures at the Mediterranean level, these being part of the next steps of the project.

FOREST FIRES MULTILINGUAL GLOSSARY

One of the aspects to be considered for developing European procedures in forest fire fighting is the standardisation of terms and concepts. In recent years, several glossaries and dictionaries on forest fires have been developed, although some of them are limited in words, and others have terms and definitions only in English. These glossaries (some of them carried out in previous European projects: FIRE4, EUFOFINET, etc.) have been the basis for making a new multilingual glossary with terms and definitions in English, French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese. In December 2017, the up to date glossary has been completed and terms and definitions have been translated in all the languages. In the month of January 2018 it will be revised to prepare the final version. The publication of the final glossary is expected by the half of April 2018, and the documents will be free downloadable at www.mefistoforestfires.eu.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE " EUROPEAN FOREST FIRE FIGHTING COUNCIL - EUFORFIRE "

The international network called EUFORFIRE (EUropean FORest FIRE fighting council) was officially created on November 10th, 2017, during a special session organized at the second official meeting of MEFISTO, held in Sintra (Portugal). All the parties gave their approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), prepared by REGIONE TOSCANA, which was then signed for the official creation of the network.

DEFINITION OF RIGHTS AND DUTIES BETWEEN COUNTRIES AIMED AT EFFICIENT CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATIONS

In the last months all the partners have compiled the information of their country/region related to the cross-border collaboration on forest fires (legislation, protocols, etc.). Considering all this information, ENTENTE has developed the deliverable "Definition of rights and duties between Countries aimed at efficient cross-border collaborations". This document describes the existing agreement and standardizes the rights and duties that should be taken into consideration for developing an efficient collaboration between countries during emergencies. This collaboration focuses mainly on big forest fires, which are usually those that require international support. In these cases, cross-border collaboration is essential and, thanks to the results of MEFISTO, organizational and technical aspects can be better planned, if the recommendations included in the document are applied.

TRAINING PROGRAMS STANDARDIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Each partner provided the information on the training courses commonly organised in their own country/region (objectives of the courses, programs, etc.). All these courses are analysed for finding the possible match among them. When the matches are found the minimum common structure, in terms of knowledge, capacity and ability acquired, has been developed. These courses are dedicated to the personnel that participates in forest fires extinction. This information is being processed by the partner responsible for this task (ENB).

BROCHURES AND POSTERS FOR THE DISSEMINATION OF THE PROJECT

The partner responsible for communication and dissemination of the project, CESEFOR, has prepared an information brochure on the MEFISTO project. Several copies were printed and distributed to all partners. It has also been posted on the project website for wider dissemination.

The MEFISTO poster or roll-up is being used in exhibitions and public meetings of the participating countries and others visited by the partners. It is available from our website.



Image of the roll-up of the MEFISTO project



4. EVENTS

2ND MEFISTO TECHNICAL MEETING

Sintra (Portugal), November 9th and 10th, 2017

In this second technical meeting, held in the wonderful context of Portuguese School for fire fighters (ENB), the state of the project has been reviewed, taking important decisions for the finalization of the document **"Guidelines redaction: Similarities and differences between EU Mediterranean Countries in Forest Fire Fighting : a challenge for improvement"**.

Another important point discussed was the preparation of the "Forest Fires Glossary". Questions were clarified and the future activities were planned. On the basis of the final version of the multilingual glossary, CESEFOR will develop a glossary App.

Important parts of the document related to cross-border collaboration on forest fires were also resolved, as well as the dates and content of the upcoming meetings hosted by CDF (Center for Defense against Fire) in León (Castilla y León, Spain) and ENTENTE in Valabre (Gardanne, France).

2nd MEFISTO Technical Meeting



ESTABLISHMENT OF THE "EUROPEAN FOREST FIRE FIGHTING COUNCIL - EUFORFIRE"

This second technical meeting has been the setting chosen for the official creation of the international network called EUFORFIRE (EUropean FOReSt FIRE fighting council).

The aim of the EUFORFIRE network is to disseminate the practices and results obtained through the collaborative work and knowledge transfer of MEFISTO, as well as to involve European training centres in the field of forest fire prevention, suppression and training.

Please visit www.mefistoforestfires.eu/content/euforfire-network for more detailed information and details about how to join the EUFORFIRE organization.

Signature of the EUFORFIRE memorandum of understanding



THE MEFISTO PROJECT IN THE ITALIAN NATIONAL FORESTRY CONGRESS

The 11th Congress of the Italian Society of Silviculture and Forest Ecology (SISEF) was held in Rome from 10th to 13th October, where the MEFISTO project was presented through a scientific communication in poster format.

DISSEMINATION ABOUT MEFISTO PROJECT IN TWO SPANISH EVENTS ON EMERGENCIES AND FOREST FIRES

During a seminar of the European project Interreg ARIEM +, held at the headquarters of the CDF (Defence against Fire Center, of the Junta de Castilla y León), in León, from 22nd to 23rd November, informative material about MEFISTO Project was distributed. The ARIEM + project is developed within the framework of the European funding program INTERREG V A Spain-Portugal, and aims to advance the joint coordination of cross-border forest fires between the regions of both countries participating in the project. In this seminar, various topics were discussed, including the specific training of personnel working in the suppression of forest fires.

Dissemination activity were carried out by CESEFOR also the conference "Forest fires: looking for solutions", organized within the Campaign "Let's stand against fire" developed by the University of León, in the Campus of Ponferrada (León).



5. NEXT ACTIONS AND EVENTS

In the coming months the works related to the glossary will be completed, with the creation of an App (Forest Fires Glossary - Mobile App) and the glossary in pdf format, both formats will be available on the project website. The common procedures for forest fires fighting among European countries in the Mediterranean region, as well as shared training programs, will also be completed.

THIRD MEFISTO TECHNICAL MEETING

CDF (Centro para la Defensa contra el Fuego), León (Spain), 14, 15 and 16 March 2018

The objective of the third meeting will be the follow-up of the MEFISTO project activities carried out together with the monitoring and the development of the future actions. In particular, the meeting will be the occasion for discussing the training standardization and the training objectives of the European forest fire fighter. Moreover, the next two events of MEFISTO project will be planned in detail: the pilot training course and the practical exercise, which will be held in Valabre (France) and Monticiano (Italy) respectively. During the meeting the participant will have the possibility to have information about training activities offered by the Centre CDF, its structure and to visit its facilities. A visit to the scene of the last big forest fire occurred in August 2018 in the province of León is planned.

FOURTH MEFISTO TECHNICAL MEETING - PILOT TRAINING COURSE

ENTENTE VALABRE, Gardanne , France, May 22-25, 2018

Between May 22 and 25, 2018, a pilot course will be held at Entente Valabre's facilities to train specialists in forest fires at a European level, one of the main results expected from the "Training programs" standardization and implementation". This meeting will also be used to carry out a fourth follow-up of the MEFISTO project by the partners.

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Partners:

www.mefistoforestfires.eu

