

# An integrated approach to extreme wildfires in Europe

Experts from all over Europe join forces to build a more fire-resilient EU

Extreme Wildfire Events are becoming a major threat to the whole Europe, mainly due to the consequences of climate change. The areas affected by the phenomenon are experiencing fires that break records in terms of burnt area, speed, behaviour, and impacts, and places that weren't hit so far are likely to become fire-prone regions in a few years, experts say.

That's why the European Commission is investing major resources to come up with new models and approaches to address the problem. The FIRE-RES project was financed within this framework.

FIRE-RES – which stands for “Innovative technologies and socio-ecological-economic solutions for fire resilient territories in Europe” – runs from December 2021 till the end of 2025. Its goal is to make Europe resilient in the face of Extreme Wildfires Events, by developing a stream of innovative actions. All this by taking into account the unfolding of such events on multiple levels, such as a better **understanding of extreme wildfires' behaviour and drivers**, their impact on the **landscape and local economy** and communities, while aiming at devising appropriate **emergency management strategies** and tools that lead to better governance, society resilience and **risk awareness communication**.

To do this, 34 innovative actions will be tested throughout 11 small-scale environments called [Living Labs](#), that will take place in a broad gradient of regions across Europe and beyond. They will be located in Nouvelle Aquitaine (France), Bulgaria, Canary Islands (Spain), Catalonia (Spain), Galicia (Spain), Germany-the Netherlands, Greece, Norway-Sweden, Portugal, Sardinia (Italy), and Chile. Each of them will see collaborations between the public sector, scientific communities, private companies, and citizens' associations. The strategies and actions implemented on a local or regional level will then be upscaled in order to make them a governance tool, applicable on a continental level in a wide variety of conditions.

FIRE-RES is expected to help reduce the number of human losses, as well as the negative impacts on buildings, land, ecosystems, and health, caused by wildfires in Europe. In doing so, the project will also contribute to achieving the [European Union's targets for 2030](#).

Behind FIRE-RES there is a consortium of [34 partners from 13 countries](#) featuring universities, research centres, emergency-response bodies, tech companies, industry and civil society organisations, coordinated by the Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia, Spain.

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