



## FIRE-RES Open Innovation Challenge now open: support available for developing, demonstrating and piloting solutions to combat extreme wildfires in Europe

Europe is facing an increasing number of extreme wildfires, often with devastating consequences for people and the environment. These fires affect southern Europe as well as central European and Nordic countries.

As the limits of fire suppression-centred strategies become evident, practitioners, researchers, and policymakers increasingly recognise the need to develop novel approaches that expand the scope of work in this field, including the root causes and the impacts of Extreme Wildfires.

Working towards greater resilience to such extreme fires, FIRE-RES and its partners launched the [FIRE-RES Open Innovation Challenge](#) for applications aiming to address the most important challenges faced in the prevention of and preparation for, in response to, and enabling recovery after extreme wildfires.

The [11 Living Labs](#) of FIRE-RES were assigned to identify these most pressing challenges, grouped into [seven themes](#) and 17 challenges: 'Risk Communication and Awareness', 'Engagement and Empowerment', 'Training and Education', 'Management Before, During and After Extreme Wildfire Events', 'Monitoring', 'Forecasting and Decision Support', 'Policy and Governance'. Explore all themes and challenges [here](#).

The Open Innovation Challenge is open to innovators, entrepreneurs, technologists, researchers, businesses of all sizes, experts, and all forward-thinking minds to step up and submit cutting-edge solutions addressing the challenges experienced by different stakeholders coping with the risks of extreme wildfires.

It is seeking innovative solutions of all kinds, for instance, technological, social or business-related: products, services, platforms, processes, procedures, best practices, etc. Solutions at all development stages are welcome, from early ideas, methods, and prototypes to close-to-market or market-ready services and products.

Successful applicants with early-stage solutions, such as ideas, will be supported to develop their solutions. Later-stage solutions, such as prototypes, close-to-market, or market-ready solutions, will be supported to demonstrate, pilot and upscale their solutions. This will include brokerage of on-the-ground contacts and testing of their solutions' feasibility in the realistic contexts of the Living Labs. Successful applicants will receive mentoring and in-kind support as well as, in selected cases, financial support. For the latter, a total of €168.000 is available for this Open Innovation Challenge, with individual entries being eligible for up to €5.000 for demonstration activities and up to €16.000 for piloting activities.

The FIRE-RES Open Innovation Challenge is open until **19 November 2023** (23:59 CET). For full details, please visit the website [here](#).



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Sign up for the FIRE-RES Newsletter and receive the latest updates about our activities and the Open Innovation Challenge [here](#).

For questions about applications, please contact: [ois@fire-res.eu](mailto:ois@fire-res.eu)

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FIRE-RES Open Innovation Challenge supporters

Pau Costa Foundation, ECMWF, Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico del gobierno de España, Firelogue, TREEADS, D.R.E.A.M. Italia, Centre National de la Propriété Forestière (CNPFF) - République Française, Ministry of Agriculture Executive Forest Agency of Bulgaria, SAFERS, Silvanus, FireEURisk and the Bioregions Facility.

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

FIRE-RES is a 4-year project (2021-2025) led by the Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia in Spain and funded under the European Union's H2020 research and innovation programme. The FIRE-RES Open Innovation Challenge is led by the European Forest Institute (EFI), INESC TEC and ForestWISE on behalf of the FIRE-RES consortium. The strategic objective of FIRE-RES is to provide the EU with the capacity to avoid collapsing in front of Extreme Wildfire Events projected to increase under a harsher climate. The project's general objective is to boost this socio-technological transition by integrating environmental, climate, health, safety and security, cultural and socio-economic aspects within a stream of innovations that encapsulates the demonstration and deployment of proactive governance processes, change of forest management practices, large-scale and community-based risk assessments, awareness and preparedness, models, methods, technologies and decision support systems to implement a holistic and integrated fire management strategy to efficiently and effectively address Extreme Wildfire Events.

### FIRE-RES consortium

Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior De Investigaciones Científicas (Spain), Airbus, Autoridade Nacional de Emergencia Eprotecao Civil (Portugal), Catalan Fire and Rescue Services (Spain), Centre National De La Recherche Scientifique (France), Instituto Sistemas Complejos De Ingenieria (Chile), Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (Italy), Corporacion Chilena De La Madera (Chile), Corporacion Nacional Forestal (Chile), Escola Nacional De Bombeiros (Portugal), Euromontana (France), European Forest Institute (Finland), Centre de Ciència i Tecnologia Forestal de Catalunya (Spain), ForestWISE, Gobierno de Canarias (Spain), INESC TEC (Portugal), Institut Cartografic i Geologic de Catalunya (Spain), Institut Européen de La Forêt Cultivée (France), Institut National De Recherche pour l'agriculture, l'alimentation et l'environnement (France), Mitiga Solutions, National Observatory of Athens (Greece), Norsk Institutt For Bioekonomi (Norway), Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso TransEuropa (Italy), Agenzia Forestale FO.RE.S.T.A.S. (Italy), School of Agriculture University of Lisbon (Portugal),



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Spire Global, Tecnosylva (Spain), The International Emergency Management Society (Belgium), Università degli Studi di Padova (Italy), University Of Forestry (Bulgaria), University of the Aegean (Greece), VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd (Finland), Wageningen University (The Netherlands), Xunta De Galicia (Spain).

Living Labs involved

Bulgaria, the Canary Islands, Catalonia, Chile, Galicia, Germany & the Netherlands, Greece, Norway & Sweden, Nouvelle Aquitaine, Portugal, and Sardinia.



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