



EUROPEAN FOREST FIRES NETWORK - EUFOFINET

Guidelines for the Transfer of Good Practices



1- Preamble

Following the major forest fires that have affected different parts of the European Union since the early 2000s, the European Parliament passed several Resolutions on this subject (especially those of 16 September 2009 on forest fires in the summer of 2009, of 7 September 2006 on forest fires and floods, and of 8 September 2005 on natural disasters [fires and floods] in Europe).

More recently, the Resolutions of the European Parliament of 21 September 2010 on the Commission Communication entitled “A Community approach on the prevention of natural and man-made disasters” (2009/2151(INI)), and of 11 May 2011 on the Commission Green Paper entitled "On forest protection and information in the EU: preparing forests for climate change" (2010/2106(INI)) have underlined the importance of measures to prevent natural disasters, recommending that the Commission should encourage the sharing of good practice on the subject, calling for the Regions to build on existing territorial and cross-border coordination networks to develop cooperation specifically with a view to preventing disasters, and advocating drawing on the valuable experience acquired in this field through projects implemented in the past under the Community’s INTERREG Initiative.

The EUFOFINET (European Forest Fire Network) project has been developed against the background of this initiative (the INTERREG IVC programme). It is designed to identify and share best practices for the prevention and control of forest fires.

The project runs for 26 months (from October 2010 to December 2012) and has a budget of 2 million euros, of which 75% is being co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The principal objective of the EUFOFINET project is to improve national or regional policies for the prevention and management of forest fire risk, by sharing good practices as already identified in the course of previous territorial cooperation programmes in which some of the partners participated and which these partners have implemented in their own regional operational programmes (notably OCR INCENDI).

EUFOFINET is therefore a project to share good practices, with the aim of optimising the results obtained by certain regions in the effort to protect forests against fire. It involves identifying, analysing and disseminating selected examples of good practice in this field, and transferring them to partner regions wishing to improve their policies and programmes via the EU’s Convergence and Competitiveness objectives and territorial cooperation.

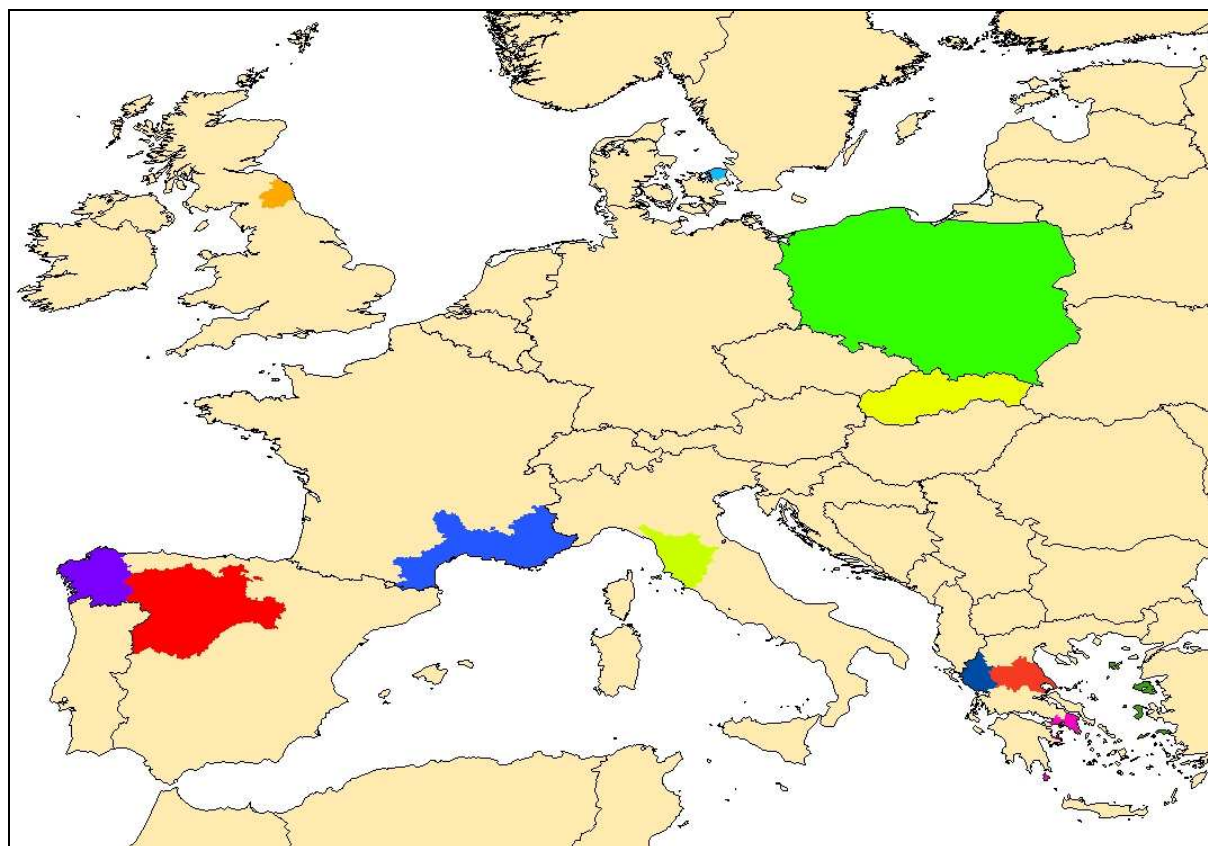
As in all projects of this type, the following two conditions must be satisfied:

- demonstrating that there are good practices that have already been identified and are suitable for transfer
- ensuring that “decision-makers” (e.g. Supervisory Authorities) are committed to the project

This project is involving 13 partners located throughout the European Union:

- The Regional Union of Municipalities of Attica, PEDDA, project leader (Greece),
- The Tuscany Region (Italy)
- The National Forests Centre (Slovakia)
- The Centre for servicing woods and forests of Castilla y León, CESEFOR(Spain)
- The North Aegean Region (Greece)
- The Epirus Region (Greece)
- The Thessaly Region (Greece)
- The Galician Public Safety Academy (Spain)
- The Frederikssund-Halsnæs Fire and Rescue Department (Denmark)
- The Forest Research Institute (Poland)
- The Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service (England)
- The National Forests Office (France)
- The Entente for the Mediterranean Forest (France)

A brief presentation of each partner can be found in Annex 1.



The purpose of these guidelines is to provide a coherent framework and an improved definition of the means by which the partners in the EUFOFINET project may analyse their own good practices, and to facilitate the transfer to other partners where possible. It is also intended to enable each partner to draw up an action plan for the improvement of its policy for preventing forest fires by transferring all or some of these good practices.

In order to ensure that the concepts employed in the project are fully understood by all concerned, this document proposes definitions for the main terms used in the methodology for sharing experiences in protecting forests against fires.

A glossary of technical terms will also be compiled in the course of the project, enabling the partners to agree on terms and standard definitions to facilitate the exchange and dissemination of knowledge between the regional networks.

For all administrative issues inherent in the project's management, the partners shall refer to the INTERREG glossary developed in 2005 as part of the INTERACT initiative and updated in May 2006.

2- Definitions

2.1- Capitalisation

Capitalisation is a process designed to optimise the results obtained in a specific field of regional policy, which in the present case concerns the protection of forests against fires. Capitalisation involves the identification, analysis, dissemination and transfer of good practice.

The following are the main phases of the process:

- ❖ Identification of a good practice
 - The good practice identification phase was carried out in previous programmes of territorial cooperation, by a process of inspection visits, workshops and organised discussions within the regional networks.
 - Among all the good practices identified, five examples were prioritised by the EUFOFINET partners for selection for the transfer phase into regional policies.
- ❖ Structuring the information
 - Choice of keywords and shared vocabulary: definition of terms, creation of a technical glossary.
 - Drawing up a standard form for describing good practice.
 - Creating a database of good practices.
- ❖ Analysing the good practices
 - Collaborative analysis of good practice by all partners.
 - Drawing up a synthesis document for each good practice.
- ❖ Communication, dissemination and transfer
 - Defining shared methods and tools for discussions on good practices and an assessment of their transferability.

- Making good practices available to other partners and, more widely, to any organisation working in the same field (via the project website, participation in workshops run by other cooperation projects dealing with similar issues, final dissemination forum).
- Providing a framework and support for bilateral exchanges (drawing up a common form for requesting supplementary information and bilateral support).
- Creating training programmes, and training for trainers.

2.2- Good practice

For EUFOFINET, a “good practice” is defined as a regional or local initiative that has already produced measurable positive results for achieving a specific objective, in the field of protecting forests against fires, and that can be transferred to another context by implementing a regional strategy and policy.

In most cases, good practice is validated by the entity that implemented it in the first place, because of the context in which it operates; for this reason, the factors for success identified will not necessarily be as influential in a different context.

Insofar as is possible, good practice should be validated jointly by the partners; this is the method adopted by the EUFOFINET partners, via a predefined procedure including a description of each example of good practice within a common framework, a workshop for discussions on each theme, and the drafting of a synthesis validated by all the partners.

2.3- Action plan

This is a strategic document precisely detailing the way in which the examples of good practice will be implemented in the Operational Programmes of each region participating in the capitalisation project.

This plan, which must fit into the overall framework of the regional operational plans, must be approved by the body overseeing the partner concerned if it only affects its own internal policy, or by the authority responsible for supervising the operational programme if it can have wider repercussions calling into question or modifying the actions laid down for these plans.

2.4- Transferability

This refers to the aptitude of an item or service to be moved or transferred from one location or context to another.

In the case of good practice, transferability therefore refers to its aptitude for being transferred from the context where it was initially implemented to another context, specific to the partner wishing to incorporate it in its action plan.

Assessment of transferability therefore consists in studying the conditions and characteristics of the successful implementation of the practice in its original context, and judging whether these conditions will apply in the specific context to which it is to be transferred.

If there are sufficient similarities, the good practice may be declared transferable.

If, on the other hand, there are too many divergences or political or financial obstacles, which cannot be overcome in the short or medium term, the good practice will be declared non-transferable.

2.5- Transferring good practice

This is a complex process, requiring that a project partner first demonstrate that another partner has successfully implemented a solution to one of the components of a policy for forest protection against fires that it is having difficulty with, and then decide to benefit from it in order to modify or adapt its own policy or procedures in all or part of its area of responsibility.

For this purpose, it must therefore identify and analyse the good practice, verify its transferability, with support from the partner(s) currently applying it, before setting up the organisation and the human and material resources necessary for its incorporation into regional policy. It may prove useful to include a learning phase, with training and tutoring provided by one of the partners currently using the good practice.

2.6- Role of the partners

Partners currently implementing an identified good practice are described as donor or exporting partners.

Partners planning to adopt one of the good practices are described as recipient or importing partners.

As each of the good practices covers a fairly wide field of action, certain donor partners have been able to improve one of their good practices by adopting one or more points developed in other regions: as a result, for a given good practice they are in the dual position of being both donor and recipient partners.

At the start of the project, each partner provided information about the good practices applied in its territory, for which it was prepared to act as donor.

After the workshops presenting each example of good practice, those partners interested in receiving all or part of one of them declared that they wished to be recipient partners.

It was possible for the role of each partner to change in the course of the project, up to the final analysis declaring the transferability of each of the examples of good practice initially selected.

The following table indicates the final position of the partners:



assignment of roles of each partner for each Good Practice : leader (L), donor (D) or recipient (R)

| | P1 | P2 | P3 | P4 | P5 | P7 | P10 | P11 | P12 | P13 | P14 | P15 | P16 |
|---------------------------------|-------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-------|----------------|-------|--------------|---------|----------|--------|
| | PEDA | TOSCANIA | ENTENTE | ONF | NFC | NORTH AEGEAN | AGASP | FREDERI KSSUND | FRI | NORTHUMBRIAN | CESEFOR | TESSALIA | EPIRUS |
| GP1 : intervention - strategies | R | D | D / R | D | - | R | D / R | R | D / R | L / D / R | D | - | R |
| GP2 : training with simulation | - | - | L / D / R | - | - | - | D / R | R | - | R | R | - | - |
| GP3.1 : detection | D | - | - | R | L / D / R | D / R | R | - | D | R | D | - | D |
| GP3.2 : prevention (fire plans) | D / R | D | - | D | - | D / R | R | L / D | D | D / R | D / R | R | - |
| GP4 : cartography | R | D / R | - | D / R | R | D | D / R | - | D | D | L / D | R | R |
| GP5 : restoration | R | R | - | L / D / R | D / R | R | R | - | D | D | D | R | R |

3- The good practices as identified by the partnership in the application form

The five categories of good practice selected by the partners are divided into 3 themes, but during the initial discussions, one of the five was sub-divided into two sub-categories:

Intervention strategies

- 1-Interventions on incipient fire - techniques for intervention

Technological innovation

- 2-Training by means of simulation tools
- 3-Strategies for monitoring, detection and prevention
 - ✓ 3.1 Detection
 - ✓ 3.2 Prevention plans
- 4-Mapping hazards and fire risks

Restoration of burnt areas

- 5-Techniques and procedures for restoring burnt areas

To organise the discussions over the course of the project and prepare the workshops, one partner was appointed Technical Leader for each of the categories of good practice.

In addition to being leaders for specific categories, the two French partners (Entente and ONF) were entrusted with the general organisation of the process for the transfer of good practice and for drawing up action plans.

4- Definition and content of the six categories of good practice

During the kick-off meetings in Athens (December 2010) and Brussels (February 2011) the partners validated the general content of each of the six categories of good practice finally selected (after subdividing one of the five identified while the project was being prepared into two separate categories) and, for each category, appointed a partner to be responsible for organising the corresponding technical discussions.

The six categories of good practice as defined during the kick-off meetings are listed below:

A – Strategy of Intervention

GP1 – Intervention techniques for wildland fires

Leader : Northumberland

All wildfires are initially uncontrolled events and the art of wildland fire fighting is to utilise appropriate suppression methods to bring them under control. Those fires that are beyond control of these tactics will remain out of control until there is a change in conditions within the wildfire environment. This thematic area therefore aims to demonstrate safe and effective fire suppression methods that can be used to bring wildfires under control.

The good practice to mutualize is how to intervene safely and effectively to bring a wildfire under control.

The working group will first make a description and a summary of the different techniques used by donor partners, considering three categories: tools, use of these tools, and the choice of types and combinations of use of these tools.

The working group will then look to identify which tools/techniques can be most effective when used in particular circumstances and conditions.

To better define good practice, the working group will describe which techniques are best to use in particular circumstances and conditions.

There are several words that can be used to describe the action of bringing a wildfire under control (for instance, "tools", "techniques", "tactics", "maneuvers", "strategies", "politic", "policies"). In order to support the identification of good practice in this and other thematic areas of the project, the working group will develop a common glossary of terminology. This glossary will help the project partners to better define key concepts and actions in order to better integrate them into the lexicon of the project.

To achieve a common understanding among the project partners, and to support the identification of all other elements of good practice during the project, the working group will produce a common glossary of terminology.

B – Innovative technologies - Cartography

GP2 - training with simulation tools

Leader : Entente

All the partners seem to agree that it is necessary to train stakeholders (different types of audiences can be targeted, to be defined by the working group) outside the operational period. For this there are two possibilities: by intervening in prescribed burning, or by simulating fires. The project focuses on this second possibility.

The good practice to mutualize might be the use of a simulation tool as realistic as possible and incorporating the effects of proposed actions by the trainee.

GP3 – monitoring - detection - prevention

Leader : Narodne Lesnicke Centrum

This topic area covers many elements. This has meant that the project team have had to make choices to ensure that the activities and outputs from this working group are not diluted and dispersed. Partner Narodne Lesnick Centrum is the leader of this good practice and will lead a working group focused on detection. Frederikssund-Halsnæs Brandvæsen volunteered to lead another working group focused on good practice in prevention strategies for territories.

The "detection" aspect of this work is still a very large topic area. Currently, detection often involves mobilizing thousands of human resources, but in the spirit of innovative technology we can focus on how detection can be automated.

The good practice to mutualize might be the use of technology to automate detection and warnings.

For the "prevention" aspect, an interesting point to focus on is multi-agency working to share the competencies of different partner organizations involved in prevention. This multi-agency working is often required when developing fire plans. These plans are often written by the forest authorities, with fire & rescue service and other organizations providing guidance and assistance. Once plans are completed they will be made available to firefighters if they are called to respond to an incident within a particular area. The working group will have to specify the contents of these plans and define their use.

The good practice to mutualize might be the use of fire plans (with common contents and use) developed through multi-agency working.

GP4 – cartography of risk and hazard

Everyone seems to agree that the basis of good prevention and good organization is a good geographical knowledge of various factors: vegetation, topography, climate, statistics, equipment, position of means ... these elements are used to create risk maps which can be used to better manage equipment and better organize the operational system. To be most effective, it is very important to have reliable and recent data.

The good practice to mutualize might be the use of tools and procedures to ensure the reliable collection of data, continuous updating and visualization of operational data.

The working group might study whether the response should be general or differentiated by type of data.

C – restoration of burned areas

GP5 – restoration of burned areas

Leader : Office National des Forêts

After the passage of fire, particularly in densely populated areas where public pressure is strong, the temptation is strong to clear the traces of fire as quickly as possible, often employing costly work. Here and there the experience has shown that sometimes it may have been wiser not to rush too much and to allow more time to think.

The good practice to mutualize might be the use of a guide (both political and technical) setting intervention priorities and practices to be implemented after the occurrence of fires.

5- Analysis and validation of the good practices concerned

For each of the six good practices, presentations, discussions and debates were held during a workshop organised by the corresponding Technical Leader.

This workshop involved a field demonstration of the good practice by the organiser, followed by presentations in the meeting room by all the other donor partners.

Before each workshop, each donor partner completed a **good practice description form**, using a predefined model (see Annex 2).

These forms were then collected by the Technical Leader and sent to each of the other partners.

After the presentations and debates, a summary of the good practice was written up by the Technical Leader, with input from the partners responsible for the project's technical organisation.

6- Collecting cases of good practice

Despite the preliminary definition work, as the workshops proceeded it became apparent that the examples of good practice presented by the donor partners could be very different from one another, and sometimes very difficult to synthesize with a view to extracting a single standard good practice.

The partnership therefore decided that for practical reasons the final report would not necessarily be limited to a synthesis of the practices observed by each of the donor partners, but that the round-up would include a collection of cases (described using the forms from the donor partners) from which the recipient partners could choose the practices to be transferred to their territories.

A transfer might therefore involve some overall aspect of good practice common to all the donor partners, a specific case, or even part of one of the cases presented that might have caught the attention of one of the partners and provided a solution to one of its regional issues, or at the very least encouraged it to carry out an experiment before transferring it definitively.

At the end of the project, each of the six good practices was documented in a separate handbook, including a collection of cases and the overall synthesis, supplemented by an analysis of any further information exchanged by the partners.

7- Form requesting supplementary information or other support concerning a good practice

When a partner was interested in implementing an example of good practice in its region, it might need supplementary information not mentioned by the donor partner or listed in the form, nor in the presentation during the workshop, or need to request help from the donor to assess its transferability.

Although the informal discussions that always take place during workshops provide an opportunity for certain points to be elucidated, a **form requesting supplementary information or support** has been drawn up (see Annex 3) that any recipient partner can use to specify requests on specific points and that the donor partner concerned can use to provide clear replies and go into more detail about key points.

Although their primary purpose is to structure bilateral exchanges, these forms are circulated to all partners, who can thus benefit from the new input, and are also collected by the Technical Leader for inclusion in the final deliverable.

8- Assessing transferability

Before drawing up a finalised action plan, each recipient partner needs to ascertain whether it is really possible to transfer the selected example of good practice and under what conditions. This step is formalised in a **transferability assessment form** (see Annex 4). This is completed after receipt of any replies requested from donor partners in the previous step.

This form is designed to help the recipient partner decide either that the example of good practice can be implemented during the project or relatively soon after the project, or that it can be implemented but only after overcoming a certain number of obstacles requiring a long-term action plan, or again that implementation is impossible in the current situation, despite the clear benefits of the practice in question, because of the excessive number of obstacles.

This form can also be used by each recipient partner as a framework for an action plan, as most of the items it deals with would need to be taken into account in the action plan.

9- Framework for an action plan

Depending on local circumstances, the method chosen for implementing the good practice, and the responsible authorities, an action plan may be drawn up in several different ways, but includes at a minimum:

- A description of the good practice to be transferred
- An explanation of how the practice fits into the structure of the operational programme applicable to the territory of the partner concerned
- The functions and roles of the individuals or organisations involved
- A precise description of the steps and actions required
- Relevant indicators for monitoring the implementation
- A breakdown of the budget for carrying out the plan

A specific workshop was organised for partners to discuss ways of drawing up action plans, and of harmonising the projected mutual support for finalisation and execution of these plans.

10- Procedures for approving action plans

Some partners may have the authority to approve the action plan (if the partner is an autonomous authority, at regional or national level), while others will depend on a higher authority.

If the action plan requires the use of funds whose source is the regional operational programme, the programme's supervisory authority must also approve the plan.

In all cases, such approval must be clearly expressed, ideally in writing, and where possible should be included in the final deliverable.

Approval may take several different forms: a decision by the Director or President of the partner organisation, the minutes of its management board or elected assembly, notification of approval by the higher authority, etc.

11- Deliverables

In the course of the project, the successive versions of the definitions of the good practices and the table showing the roles of the partners are put on line on the project's website. All information concerning a good practice (written descriptions, supplementary information forms, transferability assessment form) will also be placed on line in relevant areas (one per good practice).

At the end of the project, one deliverable is published per good practice, including:

- the original definition, decided jointly
- a summary of the cases presented by the donor partners
- a synthesis written by the Technical Leader for the category
- in conclusion, a list of the transfers made to recipient partners.

A written description of each case presented by the donor partners, together with the supplementary information forms submitted by the recipient partners and completed by the donors, was attached to the deliverable as annexes.

The action plans, together with the transferability assessment forms, were collected to create a deliverable per partner.

The full set of deliverables consists of eight handbooks (these "Guidelines for the Transfer of Good Practices", the glossary of the main technical terms related to the six good practices, plus the six handbooks, each describing one of the good practices), and also a CD containing the electronic version of the eight handbooks plus several other documents as annexes (presentations given during the workshops, supplementary documents, detailed descriptions, information exchange documents) together with the action plans of the different partners.

With a view to disseminating the results of the project, all these deliverables are available to any interested parties or entities, both via the final conference held in Brussels and via the project's website.

In addition, the EUFOFINET partners have set in motion a project to create a regional institutional network of expertise on the procedures to tackle and manage forest fires.

12- Assessment of the transfers made

In total, the project has produced 40 possible transfers of 78 (6 x 13 good practice partners) i.e. a proportion of 51%. This represents an average of 3 transfers per partner (in practice 1 to 6 per partner).

In addition, all partners have decided to translate the glossary in their language and to disseminate it under this form. This decision is reflected in the partner's action plan or in support to another partner using the same language. This glossary will therefore exist in 8 languages: English, Danish, French, Greek, Italian, Spanish, Slovak and Polish.

Most partners have also decided in their Action Plan to engage in further cooperation activities within regional network of managers in the field of prevention and fight against forest fires. In fact 5 of them are already involved in an application on the LIFE + program.

Of the 40 transfers included in the action plans, 29 are direct transfers and 11 experiments before transfer. These experiments concern two cases: some partners do not have direct responsibility for implementing certain practices considered interesting, and will therefore conduct experiments to convince the managing authorities of the opportunity to implement these good practices, in other cases, the practice is costly and experimentation is needed to verify the appropriateness of the transfer prior to a major investment.

If we analyze the transfers per good practice, we realize that two good practices ("training with simulation tools" and "detection") that use advanced technologies more expensive to implement and require a certain level of mastery, have been transferred by 4 or 5 partners ie only one third of the partners, while the other 4, more related to policies and strategies or more traditional techniques less expensive and more easily manageable, have been transferred by 7 to 8 partners i.e. two thirds of the partners.

The synthesis table of the transfers made can be seen on next page.

Transfer (T) or experimentation before transfer (E) for each partner and for each Good Practice

| | P1 | P2 | P3 | P4 | P5 | P7 | P10 | P11 | P12 | P13 | P14 | P15 | P16 |
|---------------------------------|------|----------|---------|-----|-----|--------------|-------|---------------|-----|-------------|---------|----------|--------|
| | PEDA | TOSCANIA | ENTENTE | ONF | NFC | NORTH AEGEAN | AGASP | FREDERIKSSUND | FRI | NORTHUMBRIA | CESEFOR | TESSALIA | EPIRUS |
| GP1 : intervention - strategies | T | | E | | | T | T | T | T | E | | | T |
| GP2 : training with simulation | | | T | | E | | T | T | | T | T | | |
| GP3.1 : detection | | | | E | | T | T | | | E | | | |
| GP3.2 : prevention (fire plans) | T | | | | E | T | T | | | E | E | T | |
| GP4 : cartography | T | T | | E | E | | T | | | | | T | T |
| GP5 : restoration | T | T | | T | E | T | T | | | | | T | T |
| Wildfire Prevention Network | | | X | X | X | | | X | X | X | X | | |
| Glossary Diffusion/Translation | X | X | X | | X | | X | X | X | X | | | |

ANNEX 1 : quick presentation of the partnership

The Regional Union of Municipalities of Attica, PEDTA (Greece)



LEADPARTNER:
www.tedkna.gr

The Region of Attica is a triangular peninsula jutting into the Aegean Sea. Four mountains, Aigaleo, Parnitha, Penteli and Hymettus (clockwise from the southwest) delineate the hilly plain on which the Athens-Piraeus metroplex now spreads. Pine and fir forests cover the area around Parnitha. Hymettus, Penteli, Myrrhinous and Laurium are forested with pine trees, whereas the rest are covered by bushery.

The Local Union of Municipalities and Town Councils of Attica (T.E.D.K.N.A.) (as of the 6th of October would be renamed to PEDTA i.e. Regional Union of Municipalities of Attica) is a union of 66 municipalities within the boundaries of the Attica region, as well as of the islands of the Argo-Saronic Gulf.

Within this area 4.5 million citizens are residing, the majority of whom live in the City of Athens, in the port city of Piraeus and along the coast of the Peninsula of Attica. The region stands as a melting pot of numerous nationalities. Nowadays, the immigrant/population ratio for the region is around 11% as compared with 7,3% for Greece, with over 80% of immigrants coming from less-developed countries. Region's economy is based primarily to the tertiary sector. The tertiary sector (i.e. business and services) makes up 77.7% of the GDP; 35% of the country's entrepreneurs are found in the Attica region. Secondary sector contributes to the GDP by 21.7% and analytically mine 0. 2%, processing industries 11.6%, energy 1%, manufacturing and construction 8.9%. Several EU co-funded Programs have been implemented by TEDKNA and its members. One could refer to FLEXLEARN (FP7) - The use of digital technology in education, ALES (CULTURA 2007): Art Laboratories in European Schools, OPEN DOOR YOUTH IN ACTION): Promotion of equal opportunities for minorities ATHINA (EQUAL): Promotion of the equality in the job market for women technicians, IDEA(EQUAL) -Raising the awareness of employment opportunities,

CRESENT(EQUAL)- Organization of a centre for regional, social and cultural entrepreneurship in tourism, ANTICIPATION (ADAPT) Promotion of IT technologies in SMEs, ARI-ACTI2003-2006 Information Society)- Information Society for the Quality of life in the Region of Attica through actions of e-traffic, e-waste, e-home health care and e-democracy, ODISSEIA-Operational Development Integrated Strategic Scheme of Employment in Attica funded by the ESF, promoting the equality of the sexes, integrating vulnerable social groups, immigrants and refugees,

MEDINS (Medoc Programme Interreg IIB) - "Identity is Future: The Mediterranean Intangible Space": Promotion of cultural heritage in the Mediterranean, Forest Cities - LIFE08)- Local Authorities for Forest Fire Prevention

Regione Toscana (Italy)

www.regione.toscana.it



Regione Toscana

Tuscany is an Italian region located on the west coast of Central Italy. The "Regione Toscana" is a regional administration with specific commitments and responsibilities defined by national laws. The regional office involved in the project EUFOFINET is the "Programmazione Agricola-Forestale - Antincendi boschivi

The National law on forest fires, released on 21 November 2000, N. 353, gives to the Italian Regions a fundamental role in planning and managing activities of forest fire prediction, prevention and fighting. Therefore the programmazione Forestale - Antincendi boschivi (AIB)" Office - of Tuscany Region Administration - is responsible of the prevision, prevention and fighting activities about forest fires. The AIB organization is also in charge to set up the regional multi-annual operational plan (called Piano Operativo Antincendi Boschivi) in order to plan and define the forest fire prevention and fighting activities. Fire statistics, fire risk index and hazard, general prevision, prevention and fighting activities relating to forest fire, operative procedure, training, and information activities are included in this operational plan. The Region of Tuscany for forest fire fighting may rely on : over 1000 engines (off-road vehicles with tank of different capacity), up to 10 helicopters of the regional fleet, and about 4000 firefighters.

The organization, implementation and management of the unified operational center (SOUP) are in charge of the AIB Regional Office. The duty of the SOUP is to coordinate the prevention and suppression activity for the whole territory of Tuscany. The SOUP is managed following specific operating procedures that allow the coordination at regional level of all firefighting activities. The SOUP is open 24/7 (all the year, 24 hours a day).

In order to improve efficiency and effectiveness in forest fire prevention and suppression specific training programs for firefighters, fire bosses and fire managers were developed since 1991 in the Regional forest fire training center.

The AIB office organizes and promotes the cooperation between the institutions and agencies involved in forest fire prevention and suppression at regional level. Partnering activities with research organizations, foreign partners in European projects, and other entities involved in protection against forest fires, are also carried out

Entente for the Mediterranean Forest (France)



www.entente-valabre.com

ENTENTE is a governmental agency for the protection of the forest and the environment against fires: 15 departments of the South of France covering 4 regions (Provence Alpes Cite d'Azur, Languedoc-Roussillon, Corsica and Rhine-Alpes). It was created in 1963 and since directed by elected official and fireman officer. This agency was created around the departments the most affected by fires, in a common and non political will, to join and better fight the situation. The Entente works with a network of users which is composed by all public entity with forest fire protection activity; Civil Protection, emergency services and local authorities (SDIS, ONF, DDAF, EMZ, Prefecture etc ...). ENTENTE has the support of the Prefecture of the PACA region (State institution). The measure 3.5 of the OP ERDF PACA is addressed specifically to the natural risks including forest fire and will finance the actions plan. See the letter of support 2009.

The 4 essential missions of the ENTENTE are (i) to help all actors involved in forest protection against fire to use new technologies of information and communication... (ii) to study forest fire protection means and test equipment and fighting techniques, (iii) to train forest fire intervenes through the Interregional Civil Protection Training Centre of Valabre, and (iv) to inform public and enforce prevention actions in parallel, or with the help of other public or private.

Given its training capacities and experience, the ENTENTE will organise one of the workshops sessions ("Training with simulation tools"). These practices were respectively tested in the ENTENTE zone and the region of Provence Alpes Cite Azur in France. The ENTENTE will assist other Regions during the implementation of its practices and will contribute to the dissemination of all the practices identified by the partners to local and regional stakeholders in France.

National Forest Office, ONF (France)



www.onf.fr

The French National Forestry Office (ONF) manages nearly 5 million hectares of public forests belonging to the French State or to local authorities and plays a major role in regional sustainable development.

The ONF works for the protection of many different environments, from coast lines, dunes and marshes, to peat bogs, mountains, glaciers and grasslands. ONF has the support of the Prefecture of the PACA region (State institution). The measure 3.5 of the OP ERDF PACA is addressed specifically to the natural risks including forest fire and will finance the actions plan. See the letter of support The ONF conducts continual fire watches during high risk periods and informs the public on the danger of forest fires.

The ONF participates actively in the rehabilitation of natural burned areas and employs specialists in natural risk prevention.

Through various project it was involved in, the ONF acquired know-how in the management of wildland-urban interfaces and the restoration of burned areas. These practices have been implemented in the South-East of France and provided satisfactory results. Within this project, the ONF will contribute to the transfer of knowledge and experience regarding these good practices to partners and stakeholders from various European regions (trainings, site visits and workshops). It will also provide technical support to regions that are willing to implement the above practices.

The ONF strives to expanding its knowledge regarding environmental management and improving its working methods and techniques.

By strengthening its research and development capabilities, expanding its environmental management objectives, and improving its working methods and techniques, the ONF is striving to provide better answers to the changing expectations of citizens and the users of natural resources.

National Forest Center (Slovakia)



www.nlcsk.sk

In Slovakia, National competency is concentrated in Ministry of Interior Affairs (control inspection). Ministry of Agriculture (prevention), as well as National Forest Center (NFC), as well as national "Fire Brigade".

There are particular management authorities managing funds and Operational programs, e.g. for Structural funds related to the Research it is Ministry of Education, as for the Management authority for INTERREC initiative it is Ministry of Economy of Slovak Republic, however issue of forest fires is at the same time considerably influenced by the Ministry of Agriculture which is MA of our institution. Actually, NFC cooperates closely with the Ministry of Environment in all issues regarding environmental impacts, very soon, the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture will be merged, which is the direct ma. The merge result will be only one Ministry, carrying out all relevant decisions.

Fire Brigade, NFC, the future Ministry of Agriculture-Environment, Ministry of Interior Affairs are responsible for implementing good practices in the field. National Forest Centre (NFC) is a leader in forest fire protection focused on air monitoring, as well as institution introducing and implementing Forest watch automated wildfire detection system in Slovak Republic. It is an automatic surveillance system, using video to determine if there is a potential fire, and if there is, where it might be on the CIS map. Forest watch is used to detect and locate fires. additionally, the operator can tour all camera presets and manually classify fires or other features of interest as "watches" (non-fire events which may turn into fires e.g. lightning strike locations or recently extinguished fire locations) and "bookmarks" (non-fire events, bookmarks can be used for security purposes as well If the operator saw something suspicious).

Centre for servicing woods and forests, CESEFOR, Castilla y León (Spain)

www.cesefor.com



The CESEFOR (Wood and Forest Service Center) is a private, no-profit foundation that began its operations in January 2003. The mission statement of Cesefor is to support the growth of forestry sectors and forestall industries of the Region Castilla y Leon that uses forestry resources in ways that make a large contribution to sustainable development, through their projects and services.

The main objectives of Cesefor are the improvement of the sustainable management and the sustainable exploitation of forestry resources, the improvement of the competitiveness and the development of our industrial network and the increase of the level of sustainable industrial processing of the forestry products.

In particular, the mission of Cesefor is the development of the forestry sector and the industry built upon the exploitation of forestry resources so they make a greater contribution to the sustainable development of their environment. Specifically to:

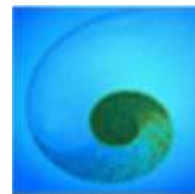
- o improve the management and sustainable exploitation of forestry resources;
- o improve the competitiveness and development of the industrial base;
- o increase the degree of sustainable industrialization for forestry products.
- o Addressed to organization and companies in the following sectors:
 - o Forestry: property and management;
 - o Forestry exploitation: biomass, wood, resin, pine kernel, chestnuts, mycological
 - o products and other non-wood forest products;
 - o Timber Industry: sawmilling, boards, packaging, carpentry, structures,...
 - o Furniture/Habitat/Contract.

Services we offer:

- o Carrying out Projects aimed at developing and improving the competitiveness of the sector
- o Technical Assistance in promotion and competitiveness for companies and organizations.

There are about 50 people working for Cesefor.

North Aegean Region (Greece)



www.ptaba.gr

The region of Northern Aegean is found in north-eastern side of Greece and South-eastern border of European Union. It consists of 3 provinces, Lesvos, Chios and Samos with 9 inhabited islands in total (Lesvos, Lemnos, Agios Efstratios, Chios, mousses, Psara, Samos, Ikaria and Fomous). The total extent of the Region is about 3.836 sq.km. and total population of 204.108 citizens(2001 census). Lesvos belongs to the islands of the Northern Aegean.

The biggest inhabited islands of the Region are Lesvos, Chios, Lemnos, Samos and Ikaria. The total extent of Lesvos is 2.154 km², the total length of coasts is 696 km, and the total population is about 105.194 people. In Lesvos Island there are 2 main mountainous regions almost with an altitude of 1000, Olimpos and Lepetimnos respectively. The average rainfall is 750mm per year and the main characteristics of the weather are mild winter and hot summer. The island's economies depend on the Rural Sector (23%), industry (22%) and Services (58%). Although the main source of income comes from Services, around 55% of the population is rural.

- o Use of Land :
- o Agricultural Land : 30%
- o Pastures 49%
- o Forests 16,6%

Forests are mainly located on the islands of Lesvos, Samos, Chios, and Ikaria.

Having worked together with most of the partners in OCR Incendi project which was proven to be successful has given to NAR the incentive to continue to work in the difficult subject of forest fires. The experiences and competences of NAR in forest fires are mainly in Dissemination Activities and Cartography which were done for the first time in the region and probably in Greece as well by a regional authority. As a region NAR is directly involved with the local authorities of the region and all the departments of the Aegean University in order to endorse local policies in a way which comply with the regional policy plan, which has the forest fires issue as a priority. Furthermore, the president of the public authority and Secretary General of the region influences directly the decisions made about the Regional Operational Plan for the period 2007-2013.

The Managing Authority of the Operational Program will be actively involved in the project, in order to transfer the knowledge obtained from EU.FO.FI.NET to the Operational program. Other bodies of our Region, involved in the project are the Forestry Services of the Region, the University of the Aegean and the Fire Services of the Region which are directly relevant to the project.

Thessaly Region (Greece)



www.pthes.gov.gr

The Region of Thessaly occupies the central eastern part of continental Greece. Its territory of 14,036 square kilometers is characterized by a highly variable landscape, possessing some of the most fertile agricultural plains in the country, surrounded by tall mountains and with an island complex in its eastern administrative boundaries.

According to the census of 2011, the population of the Region of Thessaly was 730,730 people. The economy of Thessaly is mostly based on activities related to the tertiary sector, which accounts for 60.9 % of the regional GDP. The primary sector continues to have an important share to the composition of Thessaly's economy, as it covers the 35% of the regional GDP. The role of the Region in the transportation sector is vital since it is crossed by the main growth axis in Greece, also included in the wider European Network of Transports. The development planning of Thessaly focuses mainly on rural development, economic growth, employment, sustainability of tourism and improvement of the Region's infrastructure.

Some of the projects implemented by the Region are the following: RENEWING HEALTH -Regions of Europe Working together for Health (ICT PSP, 2010-2013, budget 14.000.000), IMMODI - Development of mountain and rural territories through cooperation in the fields of e-government and e-health (INTERREG IVC, 2010-2011, 1.871.795), WASMAN - Water management as Policy Tools for Corporate Governance (ERDF, 2009-2011,1.616.961), DEMIFER -Demographic and Migratory Flows affecting European Regions and cities (ESPON 2013, 2008-2010, budget 781.600), MOUNTAIN-RESRUE - rational use of mountainous energy resources (INTELLIGENT ENERGY, 2007-2009, budget 838.669), CONNECTED CITIES - Promotion of urban sustainable transport and mobility (INTERREG NIC, 2005-2007 budget 1.300.000)

Epirus Region (Greece)



www.php.gov.gr

The Region of Epirus occupies the north-western part of Greece, sharing internal borders with Western Macedonia (to the north-east), Thessaly (to the south-east), Western Greece (to the south) and the Ionian islands (to the west). The north-western part of the Region borders Albania, while to the west there are links, through the port of Igumenitsa, with nearby Italy.

Region's name derives from the Greek word apeiros, meaning unbounded, without limit. It has a total area of 9.203 sq. kilometres, comprising 6.97% of the total area of Greece. Mountain areas cover 74.2% of the total area of the Region and are home to 33.4% of its population. The population of the Region is 353,820 inhabitants, representing 3.2% of the total population of Greece. Population density is 38.4 persons per square kilometer, which makes it one of the most sparsely populated areas in Greece (national population density is 80 persons per square kilometer).

The largest areas of commercially exploited forest are located in the prefectures of Ioannina and Arta (29.5% and 40% respectively). Those in Arta are located in the northern and northwestern parts of the Prefecture and consist mainly of fir and oak trees. The commercially exploitable areas of the Prefecture of Ioannina are in the northern and north-eastern areas of the Prefecture (Konitsa, Metsovo, Pogoni, Zagoria) and consist of fir, pine, beech, oak and other evergreen trees. Significant quantities of timber are felled and processed in the Region, including timber for industry, electricity and telephone poles, firewood, charcoal, etc.

Galician Academy for Civil Security (Spain)



ACADEMIA GALEGA
DE SEGURIDADE PÚBLICA

<http://agasp.xunta.es>

The Galician Public Safety Academy was created in 1992: autonomous body of administrative nature, with the objective of developing learning activities addressed to the professional training of police and fire-fighters of the entire Galician region, as well as volunteers in fires extinguishing and prevention, civil protection and forest agents.

The Region of Galicia, with a forest area of less than 10% of Spanish forest surface, averaged over the last 10 years, 46% of forest fires in Spain, which represents an average close to 8578 annual fires. The situation experienced in 2006, tens of large forest fires out of control, several people died and hundreds of houses evacuated, necessitated the assistance of national media and allowed to learn from past mistakes and start to develop good practices in the first intervention, early detection strategies and risk mapping, which can be transferred to other partners. The Galician regional government has transferred the responsibility for woodlands, forestry, cattle routes and grazing, subject to the jurisdiction of the Spanish State to enact basic legislation on the subject. This means that corresponds to the Galician regional government coordinating the actions of prevention and protection against forest fires. Such actions are carried out through the Ministry for Rural Affairs.

The body responsible for managing fire severity level 0, from the Ministry of Presidency, Public Administration and Justice, which is responsible for fire management level severity 1,2 or 3 and the Galician Public Safety Academy (AGASP). AGASP, as an autonomous agency of the Galician regional government has assigned the following functions:

- o The professional training of emergency management services.
- o The commitment to generate and transfer knowledge bases to improve policies for managing emergencies.
- o The drive for quality in emergency management services for improved citizen services and satisfaction of its operators.
- o Research, study and dissemination of technical and documentation of emergency management, to which end is involved in various committees related to public safety.
- o The promotion of trade relations and cooperation with other national and international institutions associated with the management, training and research in emergencies.

Frederikssund-Halsnaes Fire and Rescue Department (Denmark)



www.fh-brand.dk

Frederikssund-Halsnaes Fire and Rescue Department provides fire and rescue services to the municipalities of Frederikssund and Halsnaes in the centre of the island of Seeland, in Denmark. The two municipalities are home to approximately 76,000 inhabitants who live within a land area of 382 square miles.

The Fire Departments key activities and responsibilities include responding to and preventing: fires; road accidents; flooding; fires at sea; hazardous material and chemical incidents; major incidents including terrorist attacks; boat preparedness; and providing other humanitarian services such as rescuing casualties from a variety of emergency scenarios. Like all fire and rescue services in Denmark, Frederikssund-Halsnaes's operational activities are overseen at the national level by the Ministry of Defense.

Frederikssund-Halsnaes Fire and Rescue Department has long term strategic aims of improving the social, economic and environmental well being of the residents of Frederikssund and Halsnaes. Central to this is a focus on preventing fires and other emergencies from happening and in doing so reducing death, injury and damage to property.

Frederikssund-Halsnaes Fire and Rescue service has several large forest areas, in the forest areas have been built summerhouses, camps and more. Frederikssund-Halsnaes fire and rescue service have been affected by large forest fires, thankfully so far has only caused damage to the forest.

If fire occurs Frederikssund-Halsnaes fire and rescue service has challenges due to the large summerhouse areas adjacent to forests.

Experience from this project will be implemented in both Frederikssund-Halsnaes fire and rescue service, as in the rest of the Danish fire brigades. Experience will also be presented to the Danish emergency management agency, so the experience can be part of the national educations in Denmark.

Forest Research Institute (Poland)



www.ibles.pl

The Forest Research Institute (FRI) is an institution which closely cooperates with the State Forest and National Forest Holding and the Ministry of the Environment, implementing the results of research works. The FRI is subordinated to the Minister of Environment which is the MA. FRI was established under the Act on Research and Development Institutions of the Ministry of the Environment, in above mentioned Act is a notation that FRI is supervised by the Ministry of the Environment.

The cooperation has steady character and all organizational solutions from the scope of the forest fire protection are being consulted with the FRI. Among others the Poland forest fire protection system was worked out in the FRI and implemented to the Polish law. The signed declaration from the Ministry of Environment is a guarantee of implementing results of the project.

The FRI has over 45 years experience and big achievements in the field of the scope of problems being a subject of the project.

This experience and the knowledge will be helpful in its realization and the worked out solutions and will be moved to the domestic practice. The Institute actively participates in elaborating legal acts and other documents, including those resulting from international conventions and agreements, and from Forest Policy of the State, and it undertakes activities for organs of the state power.

The EUFOFINET project, in which the Forest Research Institute participates, is implemented, just like the EFFMIS (European Forest Fire Monitoring using Information Systems) project, within the confines of the Environment and risk prevention priority, Sub-theme: Natural and technological risk (including climate change) and this is in which its similarity consists. However, tasks and goals of both projects are different, only the research subject is common, i.e. fire protection. The Institute will perform different tasks in both projects and double financing is not possible.

Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service (England)



www.northumberland.gov.uk

Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) provides fire and rescue cover to the County of Northumberland in northern England. The County covers an area of almost 2,000 square miles (approximately 500,000 hectares) and is home to approximately 310,000 people. NFRS has a broad range of expertise and understanding concerning wildfire / forest fires and is recognized within the UK as the lead Fire and Rescue Service on wildfire training and operational policy issues. Alex Bennett, Acting Chief Fire Officer of NFRS, is currently the Lead Officer for Wildfire within the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) and Assistant Chief Fire Officer Paul Hedley is the Chair of the CFOA Wildfire Working Group (Operations). In addition to these duties, NFRS holds the Chair of the England and Wales Wildfire Forum, a multi-agency partnership of wildfire stakeholders.

NFRS has extensive experience of working in partnership at a local, regional, national and international level to establish best practice and to improve co-operation, understanding and awareness of wildfire issues.

At the local level, NFRS has worked with partners to establish an efficient and effective inter-agency partnership (the Northumberland Fire Group) which aims to prevent wildfire and forest fire incidents, increase the knowledge and understanding of wildfire within rural agencies, and to establish safe and effective systems of work when managing and dealing with wildfire incidents. The Northumberland Fire Group is now considered an example of good practice and has been replicated in other regions of the UK.

At the national level, NFRS is a developer and provider of training related to wildfire suppression activities. NFRS has developed excellent training systems for wildfire suppression and delivers training courses to a number of Fire and Rescue Services across the UK. NFRS also provides wildfire suppression training to Fire and Rescue Services in the Republic of Ireland and Denmark. Another key element of NFRS's work at the national level is the tactical assistance it provides to other Fire and Rescue Services in the UK during severe wildfire incidents. Most recently, during the Spring of 2011, NFRS wildfire specialists were deployed to provide tactical support for the successful suppression of a large wildfire in the South of England. At the international level, NFRS has been forward-thinking in its approach to developing and maintaining international partnerships with leading wildfire organisations from around the World. NFRS is able to maintain and further develop its wildfire capabilities and expertise through a constant two-way exchange of information and experience with these international partners, in recent years, NFRS has collaborated closely with partners in Spain, Portugal, France, Greece, Italy, Denmark, Finland, the United States of America, Australia and South Africa on wildfire issues.

In summary, NFRS is in an excellent position to make a significant contribution to the EUFOFINET Project and to influence local, regional and national policy in relation to wildfire and forest fire issues.

ANNEX 2 : Good Practice description form for Donor Partners

Form for description and analysis of the good practice by a donor partner

GP :

Donor Partner :

Quick presentation of the Good Practice

Objective : summarize in a few lines the key elements of the good practice

Place in regional policy :

Goals and achievements :

Stakeholders involved :

Implementation stage :

Context and Issues

Objective : good knowledge of the context in which the good practice is implemented

Regulatory Context :

Socio-economic context :

Technical context (state of technical knowledge) :

Detailed Characteristics

Objective : detail the conditions of the implementation of the good practice

Description of the implementation :

History of establishment :

Priorities identified :

Actions carried out :

Governance (responsible authority):

Means (human, material, financial...):

Problems / solutions incurred :

Result / Lessons learnt

Objective : compare the results obtained to the objectives set at the establishing of the good practice

Evaluation process (if exists) (internal or external) :

Assessment of results (quantitative and qualitative) :

Comparaison with fixed objectives :

Analysis of the differences :

Consequences (corrections implemented) :

Impact of the good practice

Objective : evaluate the impact of the good practice on regional policy and on the population

Impact on regional policy :

Impact on decision processes :

Relationships with local or national policy :

Relationship with other stakeholders :

Role of the local population :

Impact on the local population :

Durability of the good practice

Objective : evaluate the integration of the good practice in the regional policy and its sustainability

Regulatory Framework :

Stability of the human environment (partnership, structures, population) :

Financing modalities :

Transferability of the good practice

Objective : giving elements to evaluate how to transfer the good practice to recipient partners

Success factors (political, technical, human, financial...) :

Risk factors :

Offers of collaboration for recipient partners :

Additional elements

Documents joined :

Web links :

Contact facts :

ANNEX 3 : form requesting supplementary information or support



sheet for additional information on Good Practice and request for support from Donor Partners

Task: Process each Good Practice document presented by the donor partners of the thematic

Title of the Thematic

Recipient Partner

Donor Partner:

| Point No | Paragraph or phrases included in the GP document of the donor partner which are eligible for adoption by your action plan or even arouse interest for adoption. | Pinpoint place in the original text | Adopt as is (please mark with X) | One-to-one collaboration needed to elucidate point in text (please indicate contact persons) | Questions to donor partner and need for help | Comments |
|----------|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|----------|
| 1 | | | | Recipient's contact person (name,e-mail): <hr/> Donor's contact person (name,e-mail): | Q1: Q2: | |
| 2 | | | | Recipient's contact person (name,e-mail): <hr/> Donor's contact person (name,e-mail): | Q1: Q2: Q3: | |
| 3 | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | |

Answers from donor partner

| | |
|-------|--|
| 1.Q1: | |
| 1.Q2: | |
| 2.Q1: | |
| 2.Q2: | |
| 3.Q3: | |

| |
|---|
| <p>3- Organizational aspects Explain the organizational means required for implementation (organization of the institution...)</p> |
| <p>4- Skills and human resources Explain the human means required by the institution partner</p> |
| <p>5- Economical and financial aspects Explain the financial means needed, and the form they can take (grant, credit, funding...)</p> |
| <p>6- Juridical aspects Determine the possible changes in the juridical aspects of your institution that may be required</p> |
| <p>7- Monitoring and evaluation Determine how you intend to monitor the implementation of the good practice</p> |
| <p>8- Process of implementation Explain how the implementation of the good practice should be accompanied by a regional action plan</p> |

C – Conclusion

In this part, you should conclude :

- the possibility of implementing the good practice within the timeframe of the project, or within a very short time following the end of the project,
- if implementation is possible but only after addressing a number of issues (be precise about these issues) before implementing a plan for long-term action,
- or, finally, if implementation is impossible due to current circumstances and obstructions, despite the existence of strong interest in the good practice.