



EUROPEAN FOREST
INSTITUTE

Fire-Smart?

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Why is *FireSmart* not happening?

Not enough Knowledge?
Not enough Communication?
Not enough Partnership?
Not enough Leadership?
Not enough Champions?
Not enough Dedication?
Not enough Mandate?

.....

Money? Tools and Toys?

Enough Frustration?



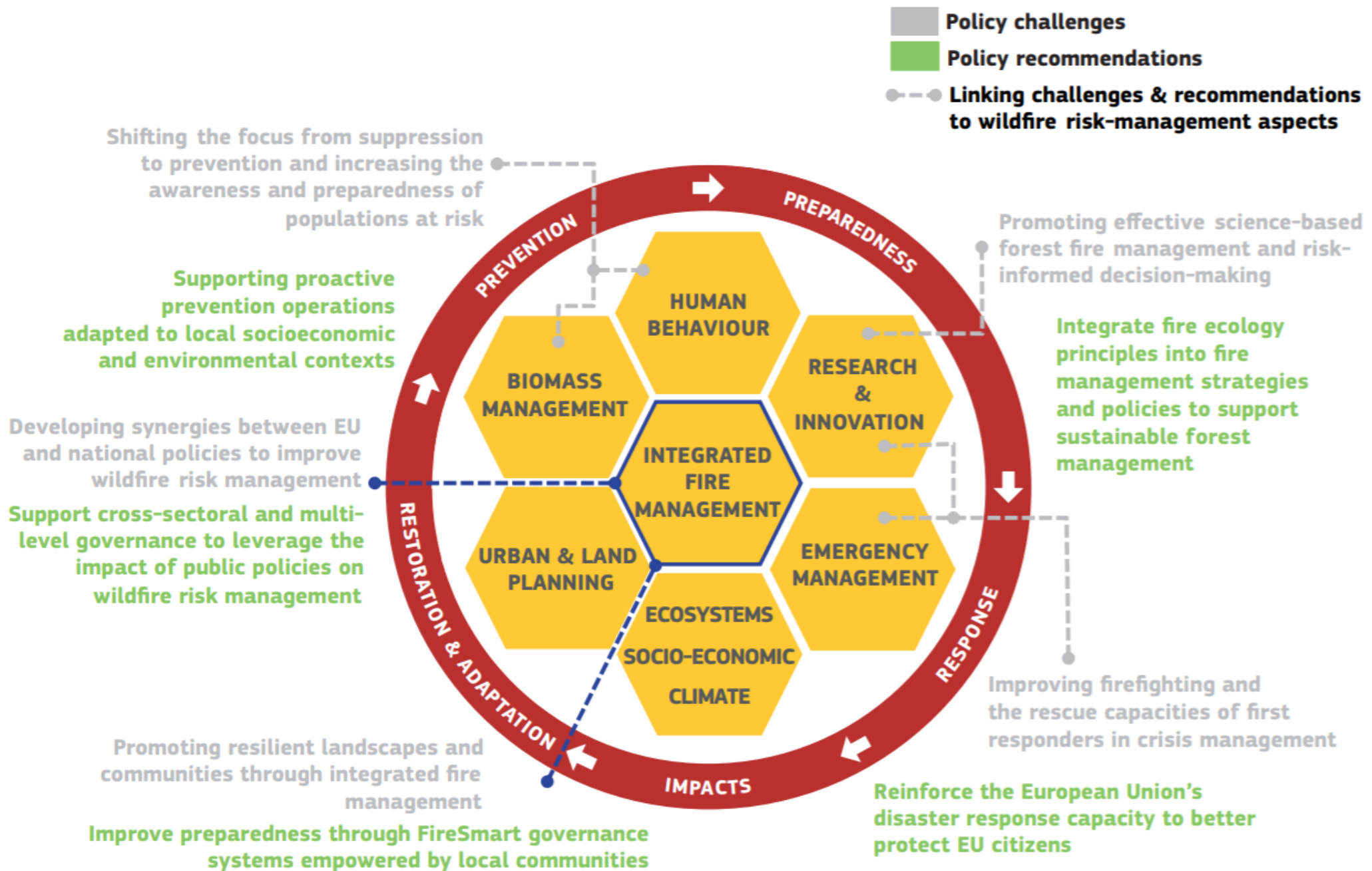
The EU is investing in research for
**better fire prevention, suppression
and integrated management**



**€103
million**

invested over **20 years**
in 56 forest fire-related
research projects

**EU-funded research stimulates advances in fire knowledge,
operational management and decision-support mechanisms while
improving cooperation among key actors**



Challenges



Effective forest fire management and decision-making requires science-based information



New wildfire context calls for better prevention and preparedness



Firefighting and rescue services need better coordination



Laws and policies must be adapted in fire-vulnerable areas



Landscapes and communities need to become more resilient to forest fires

...and then **rescEU**?????

The Good News

“Manage the Fuels – Reduce the Risk”: The slogan is used, shared and multiplied!

By now we have understood the basics of fire: Heat, Oxygen, **Fuel**. (Climate Change making fuel management even more imperative!)

The Fire Basics have arrived also in the Media: “The potential for large, intense fires is determined by some fundamental ingredients: a continuous expanse of **fuel**; fire weather conditions; and ignitions, either human or lightning. These act as a set of switches: all must be “on” for major fires to occur.”

“More than climate change driving Queensland fires, explain climatologists”

The focus is (slowly) shifting from fire suppression to fire-smart management, with very good exemplary case studies.



WILDFIRE STRATEGYNICE TO HAVE

- Shared Vision and Strategy of all affected and mandated stakeholders:
 - (Forestry, Agriculture, Environment, Civil Protection)
- Avoid Catastrophic Fires
- Reduce Unwanted Fires
- Reduce Negative Fire Effects
- Use Positive Fire Effects
- Increase Fire-Fighter Safety (!) and fire-fighting efficiency

resilient landscapes – adapted communities –adequate response



WILDFIRE STRATEGYNICE TO HAVE

- Rapid Detection
- Good Access
- Well trained and equipped fire service
- **Reduction of Fuel Load and Fuel Availability**
- **Forest Conversion towards**
“Continuous Cover Forestry”



resilient landscapes – adapted communities –adequate response



Fire Smart Management and avoided Megafires?

Wishful thinking?

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and the Ozone layer

1929 CFC invented by Thomas Midgley

1957 First Concerns and Warnings

1974 Serious Warnings (and nobody did foresee the hole in the ozone layer)

1975-86 Conferences, Round Tables, Workshops

1986 196 countries and the EU: Montreal Agreement (1990 aggravated)

Fire-Management and Mega-Killer- Fires

1910 Fire Suppression becomes a policy

1970-90 Fire Fighting becomes better, and better

Large scale Prescribed Burning (WA, for instance)

1989-2019 Int. Wildland Fire Conferences

1995 “Wildfire Use”

2000.... Killer Fires, Climate Change etc



Fire Smart Management and avoided Megafires?

Wishful thinking continued!

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and the Ozone layer

1995 Nobel Prize for Paul Crutzen

2010 Turning point

2015 hole in the ozone layer keeps shrinking

2050 discussion on CFC and Ozone layer closed.

(Wikipedia!!)

Fire-Management and Mega-Killer- Fires

2019 ManageTheFuelReduceTheRisk conference

2020 Nobel Price for Chuck Bushey (IAWF) and Johann Goldammer (GPMC) and Craig Hope!

2021 197 countries and the EU ratify the “Mafra-Protocol”

FAO takes global lead on a cohesive ManageTheFuelReduceTheRisk Strategy

2022 200 national implementing programmes start large scale fuel reduction, close to nature forestry, resilient landscapes, educated communities



Fire Smart Management and avoided Megafires?

Wishful thinking continued!

CFSs...what?

Fire-Management and Mega-Killer- Fires

**2050 Resilient Landscapes – Adapted
Communities – Adequate Response:**

Living with Fire.

However, policy is influenced by and reacting to public opinion.

The Telegraph

**Motorists face 5p a litre
rise, warns AA, as first fi
in wake of Saudi attacks**

The AA compared the impact of the attacks to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf of Mexico in 2005, which also pushed up a litre of petrol by 5p before falling away.



Conclusion? Solution?

Keep doing what you are doing!! So we are ready to implement change.

Collaborate, Cooperate, Share, Train, Travel, Trust, Network, Burn,
herd sheep and goats and cattle,
Research,
Workshop, meet, and talk about it,

campaign to the public and to policy!

If we stop doing what we are doing:
see Germany and the phase-out of nuclear energy.





HOW DO WE GET THERE??

- Build and strengthen network of willing partners (“know, like, trust”)
- Influence public opinion
- Influence policy
- Pursue directional ideas and allow for intersectional ideas (weird, strange, crazy, out-of-the-box)
- European Forest Risk Facility (@EFI), Pau Costa Foundation, EFFIS, EWWF, CMINE, EU Wildfire Hub, FireLinks, etc.....and this needs effective LEADERSHIP.



Keep your house well prepared and keep the bush well burnt!



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Thank You for your time!

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