

PREVAIL - PREVENTION ACTION INCREASES

LARGE FIRE RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS

WORKSHOP "RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME & WILDFIRE PREVENTION MEASURES"

18 OCTOBER 2019

Venue: Room 69 - Building B - Via Po, 14, Roma (RM)

18 OCTOBER – MORNING SESSION

- 9.00 Registration of participants and welcome coffee**
- 9.15 Welcome and general introduction**
- 9.30 Overview of the results of the WP2. Review and analysis of existing large fire prevention measures and preparedness actions (data collection).**
Antonio Tomao (University of Tuscia, Italy)
- 9.50 Presentations by invited experts: "Current status of RDP funding for fire prevention across Mediterranean Countries: technical limitations and challenges" (20 mins each)**
- Raoul Romano (CREA, Research Centre for Agricultural Policies and Bioeconomy, Italy)
 - Giovanni Filiani (Tuscany Region, Italy)
 - Ms Aikaterini Koutla. (Department of Forest Protection and Rural Safety, Direction of Forest Protection, Greece)
 - Mr Nuno Sequeira, (member of the directive board of the Nature Conservation and Forest Institute, Portugal)
 - Representative of Forest Service from Catalonia (pending of confirmation)
- 11.30 Coffee break**
- 12.00 Round table "Improving the efficiency of expenditure for fire prevention in the current and in the next RDP program"**
- 13.30 Lunch**

18 OCTOBER – AFTERNOON SESSION

- 14.30** **Wrap-up session**
- 15.00** **Internal meeting for PREVAIL partners**
(Limited to the Prevail partners)
- 17.00** **Departure of participants**

Abstract

The project "PREvention Action Increases Large fire response preparedness - PREVAIL", funded by the Union Civil Protection Mechanism Program of the European Union (<https://www.prevailforestfires.eu/>), involves universities and research institutes from four Mediterranean Countries (Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece). The aim of the project is to promote approaches and techniques of land management that can help to reduce the frequency and size of large fires, through more effective integration of prevention and suppression.

As part of PREVAIL project activities, an analysis of the financial resources invested in fire prevention, intended as direct forest measures (e.g. cleaning up of shrubs, firebreaks, silvicultural prevention interventions) and indirect measures aimed at the agricultural sector (e.g. reduction of fuel load by means of grazing), was carried out in the four participating Countries. The most important source of funding for such interventions is the Rural Development Program (RDP). PREVAIL has collected both quantitative data, including the amount of expenditure, and qualitative data in the four partner countries for the 2007-13 and 2014-20 programming periods.

The results of the analysis will be presented as part of the Workshop "Rural Development Program & wildfire prevention measures" which will be organized in Rome on October 18th, 2019. Experts involved in the RDP planning, funds' allocation process and the evaluation of effectiveness of the RDP measures are invited to attend and to actively participate to the workshop.

The aim of the workshop is to collect useful information to make recommendations to improve efficiency of the provision of RDP funds for fire prevention in rural areas, both in the current and future RDP programs. To this aim the level of implementation of RDP measures relevant for the forest fires prevention and the main challenges (regulations, procedures, lack of information, etc.) in the planning-activation-implementation process of RDP measures in the Mediterranean countries will be discussed.

The official language of the workshop will be English.

Main topics of workshop on 18th October

Workshop objectives: Workshop will focus on the results obtained implementing fire prevention measures (and any other measures) within past and current funding programmes and will highlight the critical issues. In addition, given that the common agricultural policy for the period after 2020 is in progress, the workshop aims to evaluate fire prevention strategies for the future National Strategic Plans in the most functional, transversal and integrated way.

Specific issues

- Project types and operations funded by measure 8.3 about natural risks prevention
- How much prevention principles have been applied to the restoration measure 8.4 (integrated approach of restoration and prevention)?
- Which other non-specific measures have promoted projects which include also fire prevention?
- Are there examples of Leader approaches or GAL (local action groups) establishments including which include fire prevention?
- Limitations on the use of funds allocated to fire prevention
- Cases of successful applications of fire prevention and best practices
- Which fire risk planning tools have been adopted to strategically steer the reward of prevention projects towards RDP measures?
- How can we improve the focus of fire prevention measures in high-risk areas?
- How to provide a functional, transversal and integrated framework for prevention in the next RDP