

CONCLUSIONS

EFFMIS 3rd Project Meeting

1st to 3rd June, 2011

Soria / Spain

EFFMIS project is co-financed
by the ERDF and made possible by the INTERREG IVC programme

The 3rd project meeting of the Interreg IV Capitalisation project EFFMIS (European forest fire monitoring using Information systems) took place in the province of Soria (Spain) during 1-3 June 2011. The previous objectives of the meeting were: 1) To continue with the Good Practices explanations from the partners; 2) To have a deep experience with the Castilla y León Good Practices; 3) To celebrate the 3rd Steering Group committee of the project.

The event took place during 3 days: 1 day of technical sessions, 1 day of a technical trip and the last one for both technical sessions and the Steering group committee.

Day 1 – Wednesday, 1st June 2011 – Technical sessions



After the official opening, led by the president of Cesefor (**Gerardo Martínez**), the director of the Provincial Environmental Department of Junta de Castilla y León (**José Antonio Lucas**), the Lead partner (University of Western Macedonia) representative (**Yiannis Bakouros**), and **Rodrigo Gómez**, (IT head at Cesefor), the technical sessions began with an overview of the Castilla y León Efmis Good Practices explanation.

Teresa Mompín, (from the Forest Protection Section of Junta de Castilla y León) made an introduction of the different IT projects implemented in this region about **prevention and extinction**. This speech helped the partners to have a general idea of these projects and the internal organization of all the involved resources. She made a glance of **SINFO**, a web information system of Wild land fires - that allows sharing real-time information and obtaining statistics.

The core of the session was the exposure of all the technical projects and tools implemented in the regional government of Castilla y León related to IT and fires prevention and extinction.

Enrique Rey, also from Junta de Castilla y León (involved in formative actions at *Centro del Fuego*, León), made an overall explanation of all the **GIS tools** and methodologies used in this Spanish region as an Efmis good practices, specially **NOMO** GPS device tracking and **EMERCARTO** as resources information system. The first project helps to measure wildfire surfaces with GPS “Nomo” devices. Measuring in the field is easy and fast, sending the result as a digital file in real time with GSM technology to the command centers. Emercarto monitors the location of all the

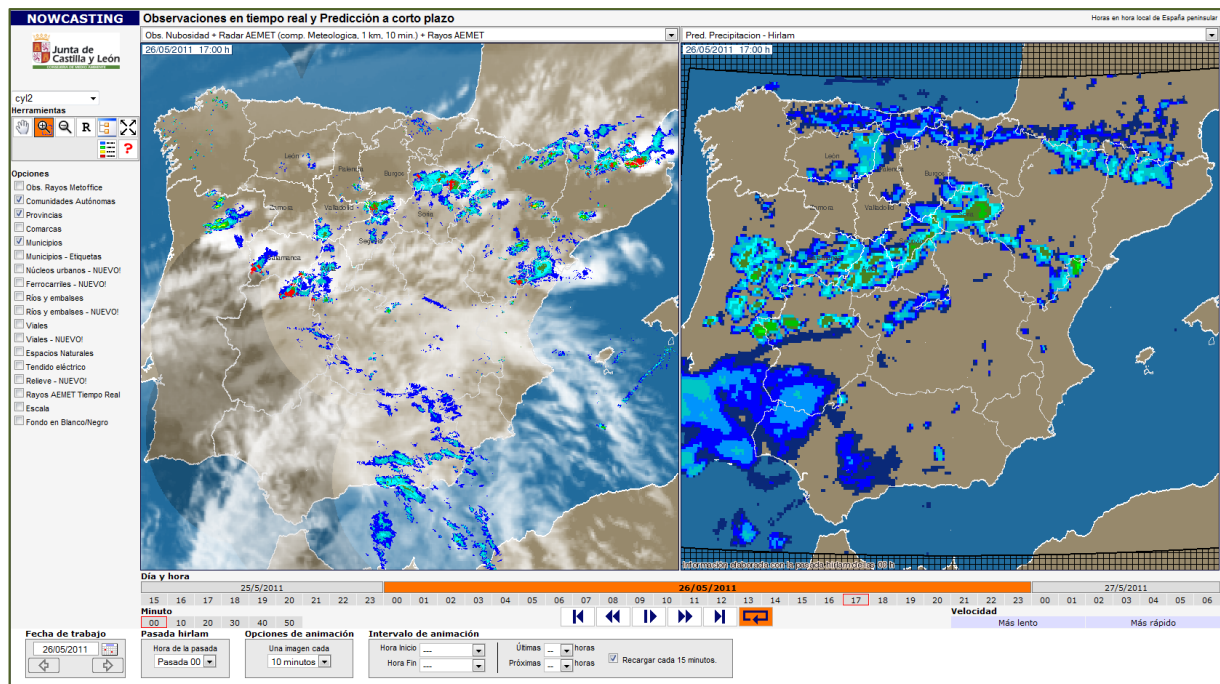


moving means (teams, water trucks, dozers, etc.) using personal GPS trackers, a GSM mobile phone net and a web application with geographical visualization.

Rafael Borén showed **MeteoGIS**, a web-based application which provides a wide range of meteorological and forest fire weather information using a GIS environment. MeteoGIS includes the SIPRO subsystem, a fire simulator that uses local weather forecast parameters.



Both services are designed to provide quick and easy user access to information useful for decision making. These developments also help to fire suppression, civil protection measures, and early detection of fires caused by lightning and deployment of resources in prevention activities. **Juan Barroso**, explained the **protocol for the investigation of causes**. This investigation helps to know the different causes of fires, with objective and certain data. Juan showed why these collected information must be always the base to design any preventive actuation. Otherwise, it can be a high risk of not achieving important aims. Through this investigation, authors of the fires can be detected, helping the authorities to begin legal processes.

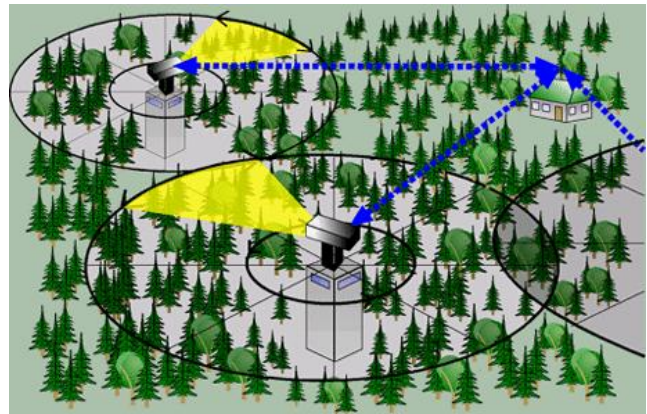


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Angel Sánchez, from Junta de Castilla y León explained the **brush-out subventions** program and its efficiency into the fight against fire: its origin, the way the contracts work and how the livestock farmers get involved in the prevention objectives. He showed brush-out subventions as a powerful strategy to finish with the traditional use of fire as a territory management tool and to improve grassland management.

Finally, **Diego Vázquez-de Prada** explained the **ground brigades** and its concept as a union of both prevention and suppression. Diego showed the information system used to manage the stop hours of ground brigades associated to weather forecast. The difficulty of this system lies in achieving the balance in order to optimize brigades work. On one hand, it allows brigades to be located close to the fire risk areas and perhaps available at any time and rested to undertake the extinction. On the other hand, it is possible to have people who are linked to the forest to carry out preventive work throughout the year. The purpose of this information system is to implement a protocol as well as finding an index that allows you to assign daily stop hours modules to the brigades according to historical and meteorological forest fires risk.

In the afternoon, other partners explained their Effmis Good Practices: **Giovanni Laneve**, from the University of Rome “La Sapienza” exposed a real regional planning for fires prevention at Sardinia Island. He also showed the detection methodology developed by his department using **MODIS satellite imagery**.



Marius Aleinikovas and **Liana Sdauskiene**, from the Institute of Forestry of Lithuania exposed a glance of the forest fires situation in their country and the different technic and human resources to manage them. Special focus on the **FIREWATCH** vigilance system: 84 automatic towers with optical sensors (OSS) that send information to 25 offices.

Day 2 – Thursday, 2nd June 2011 - FIELDTRIP



The whole day was dedicated to technical demonstrations through a daytrip around the province of Soria. First, the Aerial Base of Garray hosted a practical explanation of the fire resources and its communication

system with the Command Center. Provincial and regional media agents (press, radio and television) interviewed the Castilla y León provincial delegate (**Carlos de la Casa**), José Antonio Lucas and Yiannis Bakourous.

Raimundo Barrio (Fires Section coordinator of Soria) and **José Antonio Lucas** explained the emergency protocol, and **Victor Cabrerizo** made a demonstration of the **NOMO** project showing how the GPS signal is received in the **EMERCARTO** software in real time for resources tracking. The partners saw the IT equipment for emergencies of the vehicles. The very windy morning ruined the chance to see the helicopter exhibition.



The next stop took place in the provincial **Command Center**, at the Junta de Castilla y León offices. **José Antonio Lucas** and **Raimundo Barrio** explained the emergencies protocol during a real fire. Actually, an environmental agent provoked a real tiny fire in the small town of Suellacabras. The alarm was real and all the partners could see a real actuation: detection through the visible and thermal cameras, communication with the human resources and resources tracking through Emercarto. MeteoGIS also showed the estimations of the fire shape and surface. The fire was extinguished and the protocol was closed so all the attendants could understand the whole process.



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In the afternoon, a brush-out subventions explanation was briefly exposed by **Gonzalo Gonzalo**. Later on the project group visited the Forest Pinar Grande to see live the sustainable forestry management in this area. **José Antonio Lucas** and **Raimundo Barrios** showed available resources and the Educational Center of “El Amogable”. The partners were taught about the keys of the ancient importance of the forestry resources, related to the medieval laws of “Suertes de pinos”. This particular management system interested to the attendants and many questions were made for the better comprehension of it.

The adventure park was also visited to see a real example of the nice combination of other use in the forest: recreation.

Moreover, the visit to “Cabeza alta” allowed the group to see a great panorama of the area and its continuous forest. People could climb to the top of the vigilance tower and understand the daily work of the fire’s viewers.



Finally, some partners made some questions about the relation of other forestry uses in the area like hunting, mushroom productions a pasture exploitation.

Coming back to the city, there was a final stop at the small village of “Molinos de Duero”, where people could see the tradicional architecture of the area and an example of one forestry traditional ethnographic festival: “Pingada de Mayo”, where once a year singles men in the village lifts up the tallest trunk they find in the forest.

The trip took about 10 hours and about 200Kms in a round-way circuit.

Day 3 – Friday, 3rd June 2011 Technical sessions & Steering Group Meeting

Aris Anastasiadis, representing the Ministry of Environment of Greece, presented their good practice in Fire Management with the use of ICT tools. **Antonis Kostaridis**, in the same context, showed their methodologies in crisis management: before the incident (strategic level); during the crisis (tactical level); and the post-incident management. As a real project, he showed the deployed system at Messinia, where IT tools are integrated in the **S.A.F.E.R.**, a telematic system for: Incident / Crisis Management; Operational Resource Management; Resource Tracking; Resource Notifications & Dispatching; Mission Planning; End user collaboration tools; 3D streaming GIS engine.



Ioannis Oikonomou exposed an **Integrated Fire Management System** aiming at prevention, surveillance and early warning (with the installation of a wireless telematic system, meteorological stations and an information system for fire simulation with applications, on-line warning, incidents coordinates depiction on digital maps, optimization of visibility zones, disasters assessment and rehabilitation measures) and confrontation of forest fires in the area.

Pedro Cortés, representing the Portuguese municipality of Batalha explained the peculiarities of the competences which local administrations have in Portugal on fires prevention and extinction. As well he explained us their methodology to classify fuel models in the municipality of Batalha.



Out of the technical session, the **Steering Group Committee** discussed about administrative issues of the project such the regular control reports demanded by



the European Commission: The Lead Partner explained that the Second Progress Report is expected before October first and explained the calendar for the second Financial Report. Also, the Lead Partner

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highlighted the importance of the information and dissemination activities: the newsletters quality, the website, the participation in external events for results dissemination, a vast technical mailing list to enlarge the information, and finally the decision to have a virtual discussion forum to advance in technical tasks.

Another discussed technical important point was the design a two-three years Action Plan (to be applied after the end of the Project) to be done by the partners and signed by the Regional or National Governments. In this sense, **Thasos Kanavos**, from the University of Patras made a useful presentation about **Information Systems**, their cycle of life, cost and stages of decision process.

Following the proposal of the Lithuanian Partner, the Committee decided to celebrate the following meeting in Kaunas, Lithuania (last week of September 2011) and considered the commitment of the University of Coventry, UK, to celebrate the following one on first week of December 2011. The Spanish partner (Cesefor) also showed the interest to celebrate a linked seminar of this project with a EUFOFINET project seminar at the beginning of February 2012.



GROUP PICTURE

Written by the Cesefor – Junta de Castilla y Leon EFFMIS collaborators
Castilla y León, Spain, 2011 June 9th
Pictures from Cesefor and the Institute of Forestry of Lithuania

PRESSBOOK (See the Screenshots on the Annexe)

Nº DOC.	DATE	MEDIA	TYPE	LINK
1	04/03/2011	Indforma	Digital	http://www.cesefor.com/noticiaindforma.asp?txtCodNoticia=26197
1	01/06/2011	Televisión CYL	TV	
2	02/06/2011	Televisión CYL	TV	
		El Mundo. Diario de		
1	09/05/2011	Soria	Press	
2	31/05/2011	www.cesefor.com	Digital	
1	31/05/2011	Agencia Ical	Digital	
		Prensa Junta de		http://www.prensa.jcyl.es/ver/nota-de-prensa/soria-acoge-desde-manana-el-tercer-encuentro-europeo-del-proyecto-effmis
2	31/05/2011	Castilla y León	Digital	
2	01/06/2011	Indforma	Digital	http://www.cesefor.com/noticiaindforma.asp?txtCodNoticia=27047
1	02/06/2011	Agencia Ical	Digital	
2	02/06/2011	abc.es	Digital	http://www.abc.es/agencias/noticia.asp?noticia=837120
1	02/06/2011	heraldodesoria.es	Digital	http://www.heraldodesoria.es/index.php/mod.noticias/mem.detalle/idnoticia.76572/relcategoria.104
		Prensa Junta de		http://www.prensa.jcyl.es/ver/nota-de-prensa/la-junta-muestra-a-los-socios-del-effmis-los-medios-de-extincion-de-incendios-utilizados-en-soria
3	02/06/2011	Castilla y León	Digital	http://soria.cope.es/noticias//02-06-11--expertos-interNacionales-en-la-lucha-contra-los-incendios-forestales-destacan-a-soria-como-ejemplo-en-materia-de-prevencion-245878-1
1	02/06/2011	COPE Soria	Digital	
		El Mundo. Diario de		
1	03/06/2011	Soria	Press	
2	03/06/2011	Indforma	Digital	http://www.cesefor.com/noticiaindforma.asp?txtCodNoticia=27076
2	03/06/2011	heraldodesoria.es	Digital	http://www.heraldodesoria.es/index.php/mod.noticias/mem.detalle/idnoticia.76696
1	04/06/2011	Heraldo de Soria	Press	
		El Mundo. Diario de		
1	04/06/2011	Soria	Press	
		Prensa Junta de		
2	03/06/2011	Castilla y León	Digital	http://www.prensa.jcyl.es/ver/nota-de-prensa/\$42537
2	06/06/2011	Indforma	Digital	http://www.cesefor.com/noticiaindforma.asp?txtCodNoticia=27089

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