



740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
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## Project Deliverable

<b>Project Number:</b> 740575	<b>Project Acronym:</b> FIRE-IN	<b>Project Title:</b> Fire and Rescue Innovation Network
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<b>Instrument:</b> COORDINATION AND SUPPORT ACTION	<b>Thematic Priority:</b> H2020 SECURITY
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<b>Title</b> <b>D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4</b>
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<b>Due Date:</b> Month 48 (April, 2021)	<b>Actual Submission Date:</b> 06 May 2021
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<b>Start date of project:</b> May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2017	<b>Duration:</b> 60 months
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<b>Organization name of lead contractor for this deliverable:</b> SAFE	<b>Document version:</b> V0
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<b>Dissemination level (Project co-funded by the European Commission within the Horizon 2020 Programme)</b>		
<b>PU</b>	Public	X
<b>PP</b>	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission)	
<b>RE</b>	Restricted to a group defined by the consortium (including the Commission)	
<b>CO</b>	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission)	





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FIRE-IN

D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4

**Abstract:**

This document reports how FIRE-IN has engaged with practitioners during the fourth year of the project. Three major actions are described here: 1/ the leadership of FIRE-IN to engage with other networks in Europe; 2/ the mitigations measures associated with COVID19 crisis; and 3/ the perspectives for the last run of the project to come

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**Keywords:**

Dissemination, interaction, practitioners, associated experts, FIRE-IN, networks, website, COVID, webinars.

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740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
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## Executive Summary

The FIRE-IN project is an initiative funded by the European Commission and initiated on the 1st of May 2017. FIRE-IN has been designed to raise the security level of EU citizens by improving the national and European Fire & Rescue (F&R) capability development process. FIRE-IN addresses the concern that capability-driven research and innovation in this area needs much stronger guidance from practitioners and better exploitation of the technology potentially available for the discipline.

The purpose of this report is to inform how FIRE-IN has engaged with practitioners during the fourth year of the project: number and profile of practitioners reached, type of interactions etc. It also describes the interactions between FIRE-IN and other existing networks in civil protection. Finally, this report details how FIRE-IN has addressed the COVID19 crisis and the strategy developed to keep in touch with the community during this period and beyond.

**Table 1. FIRE-IN partners**

Participant No.	Participant organisation name	Part. short name	Country
1	Pôle de compétitivité SAFE CLUSTER (ex Pôle Pégase)	SAFE	France
2	Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Officiers de Sapeurs-Pompiers – French National Fire Officers Academy	ENSOSP	France
3	Italian Ministry of Interior, Department of Fire Corps	CNVVF	Italy
4	Bundesanstalt Technisches Hilfswerk	THW	Germany
6	INERIS Development	INEDEV	France
7	Fraunhofer INT	FhG-INT	Germany
8	Fire Ecology and Management Foundation Pau Costa Alcubierre	PCF	Spain
9	Catalonia Fire Service Rescue Agency	CFS	Spain
10	Scientific and Research Centre for Fire Protection	CNBOP	Poland
11	The Main School of Fire Services	SGSP	Poland
12	Council of Baltic Sea States Secretariat	CBSS	Sweden
14	Center for Security Studies	KEMEA	Greece
15	Czech Association of Fire Officers	CAFO	Czech Republic
16	GAC Group (ex inno TSD)	inno	France





740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
--------	---------	--

## Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
1.INTRODUCTION	5
2.INTERACTING WITH FIRE-IN PRACTITIONERS	5
2.1.Five online workshops .....	5
2.2.The FIRE-In platform.....	8
3.INTERACTION WITH EXISTING NETWORKS	10
3.1.The JITT webinar: a Success story during pandemic .....	10
3.2.Other European projects .....	12
3.3.Dissemination across Europe .....	13
3.4.FIRE-IN Interaction Map .....	20
4.SOCIAL MEDIA	20
5.PERSPECTIVES FOR THE FINAL RUN OF FIRE-IN	28
5.1.Increased investment in interactions .....	28
5.2.Expected participation in conferences.....	28
6.CONCLUSION	31





740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
--------	---------	--

## 1. Introduction

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Interacting with practitioners and networks is one of the key pillars of FIRE-IN project.

To identify fire and rescue capability gaps (Work Package 1), on one hand, it is necessary to have all the European end-users community involved in the process.

On the other hand, the project intends to disseminate research results and solutions identified in Work Package 2 to boost the access to the state of the art. The targeted audience has to be as wide as possible.

Therefore Work Package 4 is supporting the key task of interacting and engaging with practitioners.

The deliverable 04.07, submitted 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017, described Initial Dissemination and Communication Strategy and Plan. It mentioned the general strategy planned to reach the fire and rescue community across Europe.

The project duration is five years and interactions with practitioners and existing networks are reported every year; due dates are month 12, 25, 37, 48 and 60. The present document reports what has been achieved during the fourth year of the project.

The workshops organised in FIRE-IN are key opportunities for interactions as we eventually bring together tens of practitioners. There are three cycles of workshops planned in the 5 years' project life time. The first one happened at the beginning of 2018, the second one at the beginning of 2019 and the third one, initially planned in 2020, was obviously widely perturbed by COVID situation and travel restrictions. The mitigation actions we have implemented are exposed in the first part of the document.

Then, we detail how we have kept in touch with the many projects and initiatives we are connected to, in addition to the efforts to communicate through our website and social media

Finally, we detail our strategy to boost interactions during the next and final run of the project.

## 2. Interacting with FIRE-IN practitioners

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### 2.1. Five online workshops

The third cycle of FIRE-IN was supposed to run similarly to the two first cycles. At the root of those cycles, we start with thematic workshops where practitioners gather during two days to elaborate on their challenges.

The COVID situation has led to restrictions to travel across Europe and to organise face-to-face events for 14 months now. That has made the workshops impossible to run with the initial format. For the partners, there was rapidly a dilemma:

- Should we keep the momentum and organise online events?
- Or should we postpone the workshops to keep a face-to-face format, which has really been the strength of our project?

While the second option was our favourite at the beginning of the crisis (early 2020), the uncertainty about the duration of COVID restrictions finally forced us to go for webinars. Therefore, we conducted five online workshops in Nov-Dec 2020 as starting point of the third cycle.





740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
--------	---------	--

**9/11/2020 TWG A workshop:** *Improving innovation circuits around practitioners, facing the next 10 years of increasingly complex emergencies management in the era of information and uncertainty*  
The workshop involved 21 participants from six countries: Spain, France, Italy, Portugal, Netherlands and Israel.

**10/11/2020 TWGB workshop:** It was attended by 15 experts (first responders, fire engineers and researchers) from 11 European countries. Also present were 14 partners from nine different organizations.

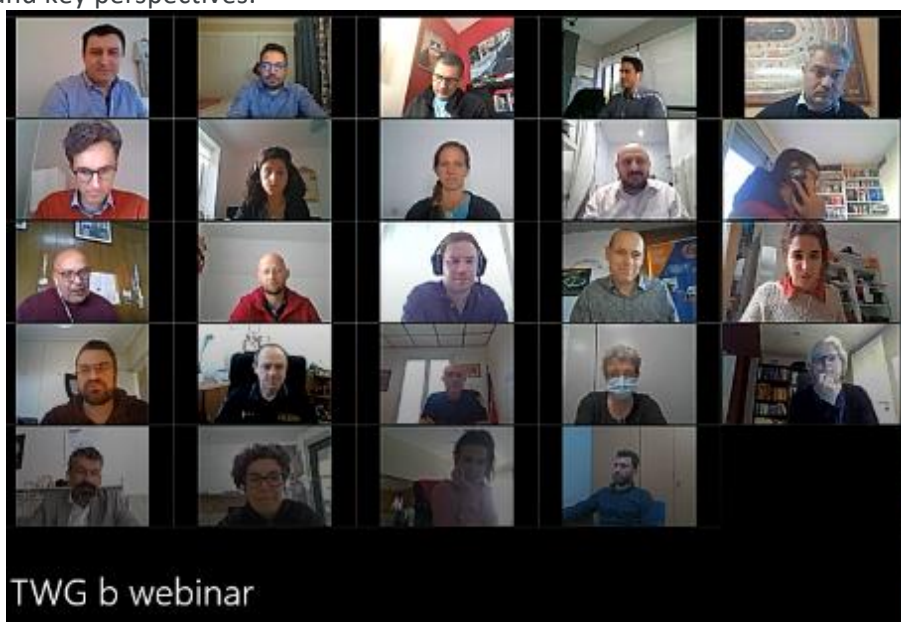
The title was: “Create resilient communities capable of dealing with the fires of structures that will characterize cities in the decade 2030-2040”.

The webinar was introduced by the coordinator of the TWGB, Giovanni Fresu (CNVVF), who proposed the scenario of the webinar, based on the most accredited studies that for the period 2030-2050 foresee an aging of the European population, a greater concentration of inhabitants in increasingly tall buildings, with the recovery of existing buildings also through the energy efficiency of the same with the use of materials that can constitute a danger in case of fire.

The keynote speakers who spoke more widely about the proposed themes were:

- Margaret McNamee, Lund University (Sweden), Professor in Fire Safety Engineering at Lunds University in Sweden. She was the first author of the IAFSS position paper on fire safety research challenges for the future – IAFSS Agenda 2030. She spoke about **“Sustainability and Fire Safety in the Built Environment”**.
- Quentin de Hulst, Executive Chair of Modern Building Alliance (Belgium). Mr de Hulst is engaged in the European Fire Information Exchange Platform and the European Fire Safety Alliance and presented a report entitled **“Building renovation and fire safety : perspective from construction product manufacturers”**.
- Ruggiero Lovreglio, Senior Lecturer at the School of Built Environment of Massey University (New Zealand), and illustrated the most recent studies on new technologies to support first responders and the evacuation of occupants in case of fire, in the presentation **“A.I. and new technologies supporting Fire Safety”**.

After the presentations, the participants discussed the main themes proposed by identifying future challenges and key perspectives.





740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
--------	---------	--

**14/12/2020 TWG C workshop:** *What disaster fires tell us about global change and future landscape fire challenges*

The workshop involved 27 participants from nine countries: Germany, Greece, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Netherlands, UK and South Africa

**12/11/2020 TWG D workshop:** *Future challenges in Natural Hazards management: the example of Tsunami in the Mediterranean Sea*

It involved 24 participants: 13 were Associate experts; the others were moderators/ presenters/ representatives from project partner side. Nine countries were represented: Germany, Greece, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Italy, Israel, Lebanon and Spain

The 13 AEs were either practitioners from fire fighters and NGOs as well as governmental representatives, regional local governmental structures as well as the representative from the JRC.

The TWG workshop was attended by the DAREnet representative

We also included the expertise from the AGITHAR initiative via one of our speakers

The EU Tsunami Alert Exercise from the Tsunami Last Mile projects was an input from the attendant from the JRC side

**13/11/2020 TWG E workshop:** *Multiple risks and cascading effects in future emergency events*

The workshop involved 27 participants from 14 countries: Czech Republic, Austria, Spain, Belgium, Croatia, Poland, Lithuania, Israel, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Italy, France, and Greece.

*Scenario:*

In the future, emergency events can be expected, which will take place in specific conditions and will be characteristic by multiple risks. Emergencies with a combination of specific risks with a global impact will be typical. In the case of CBRNE, these may be pandemics, contamination by radioactive or chemical substances in several countries or continents. Under the conditions of these threats, other incidents will take place, both of a natural and manmade. For example, events in areas contaminated with radioactive substances - Fukushima, Chernobyl. These need not only be accidents at nuclear power plants, but also, for example, accidents or intentional damage to radioactive material storage facilities. Events associated with the release of hazardous substances, floods, earthquakes with the need to move a large number of people in the area affected by the pandemic



*Fukushima area 2011*



*Chernobyl forest fires 2020*



*Ukraine 2020 – floods in COVID-19 area*

*Challenges discussed:*

How to assess risks?

Most model events in the past based on one dominant risk with a relatively short time effect and local impact. How to analyse risks more effectively and plan for preparedness?

How to improve cooperation between regions and states?

The impact of the emergency modelled at the level of regions or individual states. Regional, cross-border or international assistance could be use. However, they can reduce the specific risks of providing this assistance, for example by restricting the movement of people and depleting capacity.





740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
--------	---------	--

How to improve cooperation between regions and states in the event that large areas are affected or the movement of people is restricted?

How to prepare the population?

How to prepare the population and how to increase its resilience to situations associated with emergencies in specific conditions - contaminated territory, pandemic area?

How to improve Standard Operations Procedures and resilience of First Responders?

Standard operations procedures focused on the specific risks associated with the scene of the intervention, not with an immediate impact on the functioning of the rescue services. How to increase the resilience of rescue services, hospitals etc. in case an emergency paralyzes employees or the organizational system? How to adjust the organization of First Responders permanently operating in the danger area? How to design buildings for rescue services to be resistant to specific risks? How to implement new technologies that will allow more effective interventions, reduce the danger to those intervening? How to adjust the procedures for rescue, evacuation and provision of medical care in case of combined risks?

## 2.2. The eFIRE-IN platform

### 1/ Maturation phase

We pre-opened the eFIRE-IN platform at the end of September 2019, only to fire-in partners to carry out some tests. Months of September 2019 to January 2020 have been dedicated to move forward with the provider: taking into account the feedback from partners at the ergonomic level, but also on more important subjects. The production of the deliverable D1.3 and the “policy briefs” helped us to integrate content into the platform and continue the tests: uploading, layout, tests.

January and February 2020 were thwarted by several larger shortcomings, notably related to the hosting of the platform.

### 2/ Deployment

At the beginning of March 2020, we entered a phase of global stabilization of the platform, allowing us to deploy our communication efforts in order to create traffic and generate new registrations.

Since it also corresponded with the beginning of the COVID crisis throughout Europe, we rapidly invited our partners and experts to share on the platform their best practice to face the situation, so that we have now collected 75 guidelines, videos and other documents from 10 countries, in different languages [Coronavirus: European countries share their best Practices! | Fire-In project - A 5 Year European Project](#)

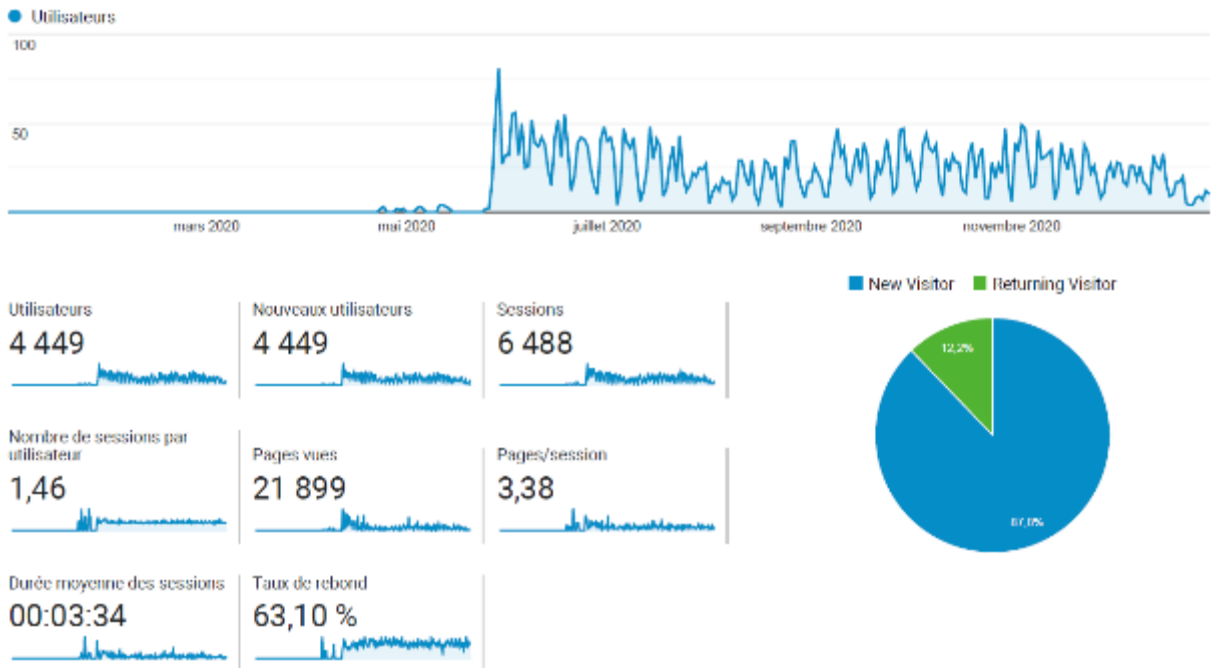
The figure below provides indicators of the visits on the platform along 2020.







740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
--------	---------	--



### 3/ First Birthday

On Wednesday March 10, 2021, a fire broke out overnight on the site of OVH's hosting servers, affecting eFIRE-IN platform, whose data is hosted in this data center. However, within one week, the platform has been restored with recently saved data, so that only minor information was lost.

The current figures are (last update 05/04/2021):

**Solutions collected on the eFIRE-IN platform: 229**  
**Total of shared documents: 117**

The partners have invested efforts in translating the main pages of the platform.

Therefore, interestingly, we begin to have now visitors in French, Spanish, Italian, Greek, Portuguese and Deutsch, in addition to English (Figure below). This is an important achievement for the community of Fire & Rescue practitioners, which is rarely English speaking.

Langue	Utilisateurs	% Utilisateurs
1. en-us	1 805	40,48 %
2. fr-fr	442	9,91 %
3. en-gb	424	9,51 %
4. fr	188	4,22 %
5. es-es	165	3,70 %
6. it-it	129	2,89 %
7. en	111	2,49 %
8. el-gr	91	2,04 %
9. pt-pt	82	1,84 %
10. de-de	77	1,73 %





740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
--------	---------	--

Regarding the FIRE-IN expert network, an approach to identify experts has been implemented by all project partners since 2017.

The following network includes all of our contacts registered first on our website, then on the eFIRE-IN platform:

**Total registered on the eFIRE-IN Platform: 222**

**Total registered before the eFIRE-IN Platform: 323**

## 3. Interaction with existing networks

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### 3.1. The JITT webinar: a Success story during pandemic

For more than three years now, FIRE-IN has been very active in strengthening the links with other EU projects of 'networks of practitioners'. The initial plan was to organize a common dissemination event in the frame of Interschutz fair event, initially planned in June 2020. The rationale behind that choice is that Interschutz, which is normally run every four years in Germany, brings together hundreds of thousands practitioners.

As soon as we launched the idea, four H2020 projects, all parts of the 'projects of networks' EU community, gave a positive feedback:

- eNOTICE, EU network of CBRNE training centers,
- DAREnet, A Practitioner Network to Strengthen Flood Resilience in the Danube Region,
- NO-FEAR, Network Of practitioners For Emergency medicAl systems and cRitical care,
- MEDEA, The Mediterranean & Black Sea Security Practitioners' Network.

The plan we developed then was to run a one-day conference on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020, bringing together our respective networks, i.e. project partners and associated experts.

FIRE-IN took the lead in coordination meetings (10 during one year) involving SAFE, ENSOSP, CBSS and the coordinators of the 4 other projects.

Obviously, the COVID crisis, which stroke Europe mid-March 2020, totally changed the game. Some days after most countries applied lockdown measures, Deutsche Messe announced that Interschutz event was postponed in 2021, then postponed again in 2022.

To keep the momentum, we have decided with the other projects to run a common webinar on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020 on Just in Time Training (JITT) for responders in case of sudden and major emergency.

Because COVID19-induced lockdown measures result in multiplication of teleconferences and therefore screen fatigue, we decided to keep that webinar within 2 hours.





740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
--------	---------	--

### Announcement for the webinar:

**Just-in-time training**  
A webinar on best practices and methodologies in the medical, flood response and CBRN fields

**Tuesday, 18 June 2020**  
**10:00 a.m. CEST**

More information and access to the webinar at [www.practitionernetworks.eu](http://www.practitionernetworks.eu)

**DAREnet** **MEDEA** **NO-FEAR**

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Coordination and Support Action programme under grant agreement No 740575 (FIRE-IN). For more information, see [www.practitionernetworks.eu](http://www.practitionernetworks.eu)

### Press release:

**Five EU-funded security networks of practitioners – DAREnet, FIRE-IN, NO-FEAR, eNOTICE and MEDEA – will organise a live webinar on the topic of just-in-time training applied to their domains on Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> 2020, from 10am to 12pm CET.**

In the medical, civil protection and security fields, just-in-time training is delivered to practitioners to allow for the rapid acquisition of specific skills or knowledge when the need arises. Drawing from the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in the demand for immediate training of medical staff and other first responders in different aspects of infectious disease management, the webinar will expand on the current and potential applications of this concept response organisations with best practices and methodologies from three speakers with different backgrounds.

Luca Ragazzoni, scientific coordinator at the Research Center in Emergency and Disaster Medicine (CRIMEDIM) of the Università del Piemonte Orientale, will present a concrete example of just-in-time training at a tertiary referral hospital in northern Italy in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. Zsolt Kelemen, vice president of the Hungarian Firefighters' Association and president of the Budapest Firefighters' Association, will provide an overview of the learnings that resulted from the training of volunteers during the floods that struck the Danube region in 2013 and how these have been applied to subsequent emergencies mobilising volunteers. Finally, Police Inspector Elizabeth Benson, head of Performance Development at West Midlands Police (the UK's national CBRN centre), will address the pivotal question of online learning as an alternative to face-to-face training during crises that require sustained response from responders.

Participation is free and open to practitioners, researchers and other interested professionals from different disciplines. Each presentation will be followed by an exchange with participants. A position paper summarizing key outputs of the webinar – particularly identified challenges and best practices – will be published after the event.





740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
--------	---------	--

## Results

The webinar was a very successful event with 380 registrations and about 300 attendants. The presentations of three keynote speakers and the exchanges with participants were summarized in a position paper that was released one month later. All the outputs, including the presentations, video recording and the position paper are still available on a dedicated website: [Practitionernetworks – Practitionernetworks](#)

## 3.2. Other European projects

FIRE-IN partners are involved in several H2020 European projects, INTERREG projects or DG ECHO funded projects.

They interact with networks through these projects and disseminate FIRE-IN activities during workshops or other events.

The table below presents the ongoing European projects recognised as relevant in the Fire and Rescue area. One or several of the FIRE-IN partners are also partners in most of these projects. Whereas they are not, the project consortia have invited FIRE-IN partners to attend events and present FIRE-IN.

**FIRE-IN interactions with European projects and initiatives (May 2020-April 2021 period)**

acronym	FIRE-IN Partners involved or present in project events	Date of event with FIRE-IN partner participation	input/ results
AFAN	PCF ENSOSP CFS SAFE CNVVF	23 Feb 2021 20 April 2021	Memorandum of Understanding and exchange of knowledge between AFAN and FIRE-IN
AGITHAR	THW		
ARCSAR	CBSS CAFO		
BELICE	CNVVF		
BroadWay	SAFE ENSOSP	3 February 2021	
CIRCABC	CAFO	27 Jan 2021	1st Workshop on the Radiological and Nuclear Training Framework in the European Union, participation on online workshop, dissemination of invitation to AEs
CIVILnEXt	ENSOSP	29 January 2021	
DAREnet	THW		
ENCIRCLE	CAFO	May 2020 19 May 2021	Review of ENCIRCLE standards collection workbook CBRN State of the Art virtual event
E-notice	CAFO	June 2020	planning of common activity during eNOTICE meeting in Vyskov (Czech republic) – presentations of CBRNE SOPs in Fire Brigade of Olomouc Region and Fire-In results – postpone due COVID – 11/2021





740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
--------	---------	--

HEIMDALL	PCF CFS CNVVF		
INCLUDING	CAFO		Connect with project, Exchange of results between project Fire-in and INCLUDING via email
INPREP	CNVVF		
INTREPID	ENSOSP	23 Nov 2020	
MEDSTAR	KEMEA THW CNVVF		
STEPWISE	ENSOSP	26 January 2021	
STRATEGY	KEMEA INEDEV SAFE	8 March 2021	A synergy with project STRATEGY has been initiated during February and March 2020. More particularly after the first exchanging of emails between KEMEA and the coordinators of project FIRE-IN and project STRATEGY a kick-off meeting was setup in 8 March 2021. In the meeting, the coordinator of FIRE-IN (SAFE Cluster), KEMEA and INEDEV and the coordinator of the STRATEGY project participated and discussed the common ground between the two projects
SYNERGY	CNVVF		
TAMIR	THW	27 October 2020	
TERRIFFIC	ENSOSP	11 Dec 2020	

### 3.3. Dissemination across Europe

Although most events were turned into virtual, FIRE-IN has remained deeply involved in European or international events:

- **11th International Sustainability Transition Conference 18.-21. August 2020** (Virtual / Vienna, Austria): “Governance challenges in changing environments. Cross-organizational and multi-national wildfire risk management”. Presenter: Dr. Florian Neisser (FhG),
- **European fire safety community digital summit: 29 October 2020,**
- **DRK Fachtagung Katastrophenvorsorge (German Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction). 19-20 October 2020** Session topic: EU International cooperation & procedural interoperability in wildfire management: can it be improved through lessons learned and overseas experience? Session Hosts: Dr. Claudia Berchtold & Dr. Florian Neisser; Guest speaker: Jean-Paul Monet (French Fire Department SDIS13); Peter Goxharaj (THW – Federal Agency for Technical Relief, Germany),
- **PSCE Webinars 20 November 2020 - Use Cases and Scenarios for Good Practitioner-led innovation in PPDR,**
- **Nicosia Risk Forum 26 November 2020 – Preparing for the next Pandemic – The important role of Civil Protection: A Regional View.** Under the Auspices of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus. SGSP partner gave a talk to present FIRE-IN,
- **PSCE Online Conference, 19-20 January 2021.**





740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
--------	---------	--

### **Community of European Research and Innovation for Security (CERIS)**

FIRE-IN has remained deeply involved in The Community of Users, transformed in Community of European Research and Innovation for Security (CERIS) in 2020. Several partners have attended the meetings on:

- 15-17 September 2020,
- 24 November 2020,
- 24 February 2021,
- 10 March 2021,
- 30 March 2021,
- 21 April 2021.

The coordinator (SAFE) presented FIRE-IN outreaches to the community on 15/09/2020 and 21/04/2021.

### **FIRE SAFE EUROPE**

Noticeably during the period May 2020 - April 2021, CNVVF (TWG B leader) strengthened interactions with FIRE SAFE EUROPE, participating in a number of webinars as a representative of FIRE-IN, such as:

- FSEU Digital Roundtable - Energy-efficient & fire safe renovations, 23rd of March 2021,
- Digital Roundtable: Boosting the EU Green Deal initiatives on buildings with fire resilience, 30th of September 2020,
- The importance of Fire Resilient and Sustainable Buildings amid Covid-19 Pandemic, 26th of June 2020.

In addition, a contribution was made in the **“Comparative study of national fire safety requirements. Part two: Hospital.”**

Luigi Palestini (CNVVF) participated, as first responder and member of TWG E, at the European project PROACTIVE in a workshop (February 2020) and a survey (December 2020), both organized by the same project in online mode. The PROACTIVE project (<https://proactive-h2020.eu>) has a three-year duration 2019-2022 and involves 15 international partners. The main objective of the PROACTIVE project is to improve preparedness and response to a CBRNe incident through better harmonization of procedures between various categories of professionals and a better understanding of the needs of vulnerable citizen groups.

Luigi Palestini (CNVVF) participated as a speaker at the SICC CBRNe 2020 international conference held in virtual reality from 10 to 12/12/2020 and presented on 12/12/2020 the poster "Communication and Decision Support Systems for rescue and emergencies" (attachment to the present), in which the European projects FIRE IN and IN PREP were mentioned. The intervention concerned internal communication activities during emergencies, particularly important for supporting decision-making bodies, for evaluating in real time the best actions to be taken and the platforms capable of supporting decisions to be taken in risky situations: the so-called decision support systems (DSS), software that allow you to increase the effectiveness of the analysis of the situation, support for all those who have to make strategic decisions. At the same time, it was highlighted that scenarios and technological solutions of this type have been the object of in-depth study by the European project FIRE IN. In general, the need was highlighted to respond to the challenges posed by technological evolution, to have specific skills in different areas and to communication systems based on information technology, to use common procedures, standards and languages between the agencies that intervene and effective tools and methods for internal





740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
--------	---------	--

and external communication and to carry out effective civil protection planning involving all the agencies concerned and the population, making use of modern technologies.



### **FIRE-IN interactions in the Baltic Sea Region**

- On 8 June 2020, the Danish chairmanship of the CBSS Civil Protection Network hosted the **18th Meeting of the Directors General for Civil Protection in the Baltic Sea Region**. During this online meeting CBSS Secretariat briefed the Directors General on the progress of flagship projects, including FIRE-IN, and the project's efforts in gathering COVID-19 best practices and guidelines from European Fire & Rescue services and just-in-time training webinar.
- On 5 November 2020, the **Policy Area Secure of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) gathered for its 14<sup>th</sup> Steering Group meeting**. CBSS Secretariat briefed the Steering Group members on the FIRE-IN progress.
- On 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020, CBSS Secretariat informed the joint online meeting of **EUSBSR Policy Areas Ship and Policy Area Safe** about the progress of the flagship projects, including the latest developments in the FIRE-IN project, its latest COVID-19 best practices and just-in-time training webinar paper.
- 15 March 2021, CBSS Secretariat informed the participants of the first online meeting of the **NET-CBRN-REACT project (2021-2022)**, which received funding from the Union Civil Protection Mechanism Meeting about the synergies with the FIRE-IN project and possibilities to include representatives of the FIRE-IN CBRNe TWG into the project's planned workshops.
- 19 March 2021 the CBSS Secretariat had an information exchange meeting with another Horizon 2020 project – **Impetus** (Intelligent Management of Processes, Ethics and Technology for Urban Safety) and discussed the potential use of the e-FIRE-IN platform in the project's activities.

FIRE-IN results and progress **was featured in the following newsletters of the Policy Area Secure of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region**. The audience are 430 societal security experts in the Baltic Sea Region, among them civil protection agencies, fire and rescue, ministries of interior, research institutions, training facilities.

<https://mailchi.mp/b8a5ff785307/pa-secure-newsletter-20201-news-project-updates-funding-calls>  
<https://mailchi.mp/9183e7aef740/pa-secure-newsletter-20202>





740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
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### **CNBOP dedicated activities in Eastern Europe and beyond**

In the fourth year of the FIRE IN project implementation, the epidemiological situation forced a change in the forms of contacts, mainly through ICT tools. Among these tools, the webinar was the most optimal and it is recommended to use this form more often during the further implementation of the project.

Interactions with the network's stakeholders also took place through individual meetings with officers of the State Fire Service as well as participation in demonstrations of solutions dedicated to supporting rescue and firefighting operations. These activities contributed to establishing new contacts and arrangements within the rescue and firefighting community.

Regardless of the above, it was decided to reach practitioners through public activities, visible to a wide range of people. A webinar entitled "Drones in a pandemic - opportunities and challenges"<sup>1</sup>, which seamlessly referenced the FIRE-IN project and synthesized the benefits of joining the network and interviewed industry, volunteer firefighters and science representatives.

The presence of project team members in the existing teams and structures of the State Fire Service was also used, i.e. membership in the Working Team for the group of new products "Unmanned and autonomous platforms", Unmanned aerial vehicles, "Robots" appointed by the Chief Commander of the State Fire Service for the purpose of monitoring changes in the regulation Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration of June 20, 2007 on the list of products used to ensure public safety. During the team's videoconference on August 7, 2020, officers specializing in ride-on, floating and flying UAV were invited to join the network of practitioners. The invitation was met with interest and declarations of willingness to register.

By interacting with thematically related projects and activities, project contractors participated in a number of online events like fe.: Systematic events regarding Europe's air traffic management system proposed by the Single European Sky ATM Research (**SESAR**) project<sup>2</sup>; **CIVILnEXT** project Webinar on Innovation Potential<sup>3</sup>; **Skydio** event „The Five C's: Principles on the Responsible Use of Drones by Public Safety Agencies“; **AUVSI** Virtual event -Verification, Validation and Qualification of Autonomous Safety Critical Functions<sup>4</sup>; interaction with **SAFERS** project<sup>5</sup>.

Several events highlighted below deserve special attention:

- **BFPaaS (Beyond Visual Line of Sight Flight Planning as a Service) system demo**

Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) Flight Planning as a Service, or BFPaaS, is a project commissioned by the European Space Agency (ESA) by a Polish consortium led by Creotech Instruments S.A. with the participation of dlapilota.pl and the Wrocław Institute of Applications of Spatial Information and Artificial Intelligence, actively supported by CEDD.

The demonstration of the BFPaaS (Beyond Visual Line of Sight Flight Planning as a Service) system took place in Dąbrowa Górnicza on September 10-11<sup>6</sup>. During the event, contact was made, among others with the author of the system from the company Dla Pilota sp.z o.o. and encouraged to register on the FIRE-IN platform. Thanks to this, a wider group of officers will have the opportunity to learn about the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6wHDzRAO>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.sesarju.eu/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/civilnext-webinar-innovation-2021>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.auvsi.org/events>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8MIfYrdaAI>

<sup>5</sup> <https://mailchi.mp/31818d5c19f0/safers-survey>

<sup>6</sup> <https://cedd.pl/2020/09/11/bezpieczny-lot-pozza-zasiegiem-wzroku-za-nami-test-systemu-bfpaas-do-oceny-ryzyka-lotow-dronami/>







740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
--------	---------	--

proprietary and fully Polish technology supporting the planning of drone flights beyond the range of the pattern through the automated provision of up-to-date and accurate data on the terrain profile and obstacles.

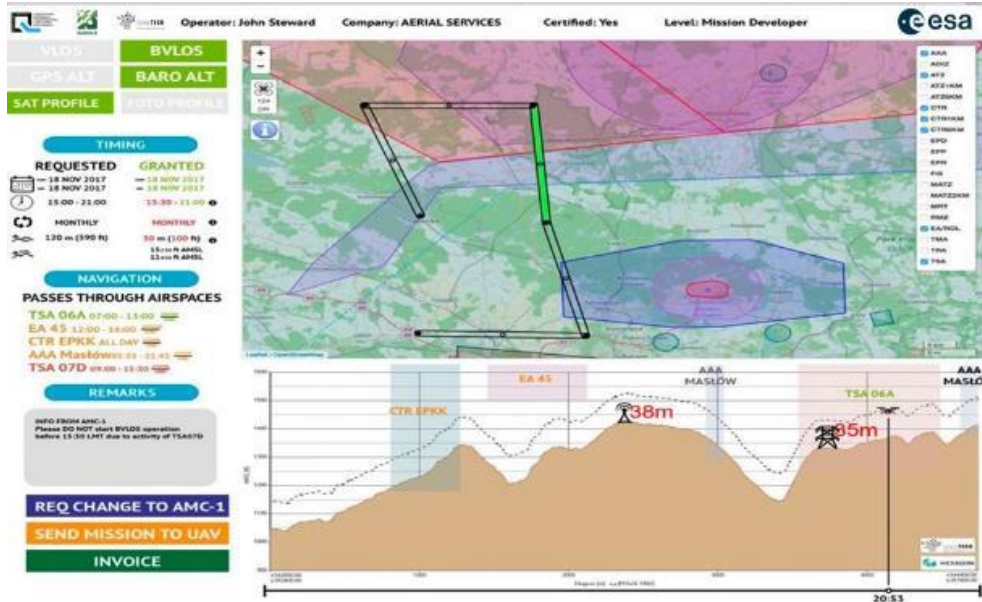


Figure 1: BFPaaS system- analysis of the terrain profile in BVLOS flights.

- **Drone Tech World Meeting 2020**

On November 6-7, the largest event in Central Europe devoted to unmanned technologies, i.e. the 5th DroneTech World Meeting 2020, was held<sup>7</sup>.



Figure 2: Presentation of the FIRE-IN project during Drone Tech World Meeting 2020.

<sup>7</sup> <https://dronetech-poland.com/wystapieniadt2020/>





740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
--------	---------	--

As part of the conference, a presentation promoting the FIRE-IN project was made<sup>8</sup> as well as multiple interactions through a networking tool (so-called "virtual lobbies") provided by conference organizers. This method of communication allowed for a more personalized contact. Experts from many different fields reported great interest in the network, which translated into numerous questions during networking and in telephone calls with inquiries about the FIRE-IN network after the conference. Moreover, data from companies and research centers in the conference catalog were used to provide them with information about the project and encourage their involvement in it. Subsequent teleconferences were also arranged and held, where individual registration on the platform was encouraged and opportunities for participation in the project were presented<sup>9</sup>.

- **Clustering Webinar: End User Requirements for First Responders' Technologies**

Clustering Webinar on New Technologies for First Responders<sup>10</sup>, took place on December 3rd 2-17.00 pm. The event was organized by the Public Safety Communications Europe Forum. It was a good opportunity to get to know other projects and to talk to other professionals from the field. It was an internal inter-project event but CNBOP-PIB team, as participants of the international project #ASSISTANCE, took part in this webinar. During the meeting, the contractors of 7 EU research and development projects related to rescue activities presented their achievements, statements and results on the requirements of end users in the field of rescue technologies.

Tentative agenda of event included Introduction to New Technologies for First Responders Antonio - Fernandez RANADA-SHAW (European Commission) and presentation of projects: **ASSISTANCE, CURSOR, RESPOND-A, SEARCH&RESCUE, RESPONDRONE, INGENIOUS, SIXTHSENSE**



Figure 3: Screenshot of webinar on New Technologies for First Responders.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-IvBsqvYWKo&list=PLOwldaMxaBXtC71fcyKOyUZcjHiIcf1qP&index=16>

<sup>9</sup> There were teleconferences with, among others, the Port of Gdynia Authority SA, Avy Drone, Navigate, Military University of Technology, Specter Solutions, Radio-Telecom, Securo.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L9UKLgUUpp8>





740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
--------	---------	--

- **IN-PREP 3rd Full Scale Exercise (FSX)**

The most interesting event in which the representatives of the FIRE IN project had the opportunity to participate were the Full Scale Exercises carried out as part of the IN-PREP project<sup>11</sup>.

The exercise objective was to demonstrate IN-PREP Platform, test participant response readiness levels and train them to use the system.

This FSX took place in Island of Rhodes and Athens, Greece on 4 February 2021. This was the final full-scale exercise of the IN-PREP Project and was carried out remotely due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

15 agencies on 2 levels of command participated in the exercises. CNBOP-PIB took role of observer in this event.



Figure 4: Trainees layout.

The scenario included several incidents: traffic accident, forest fire, people at risk near sea, risk of liquefied gas tanker explosion

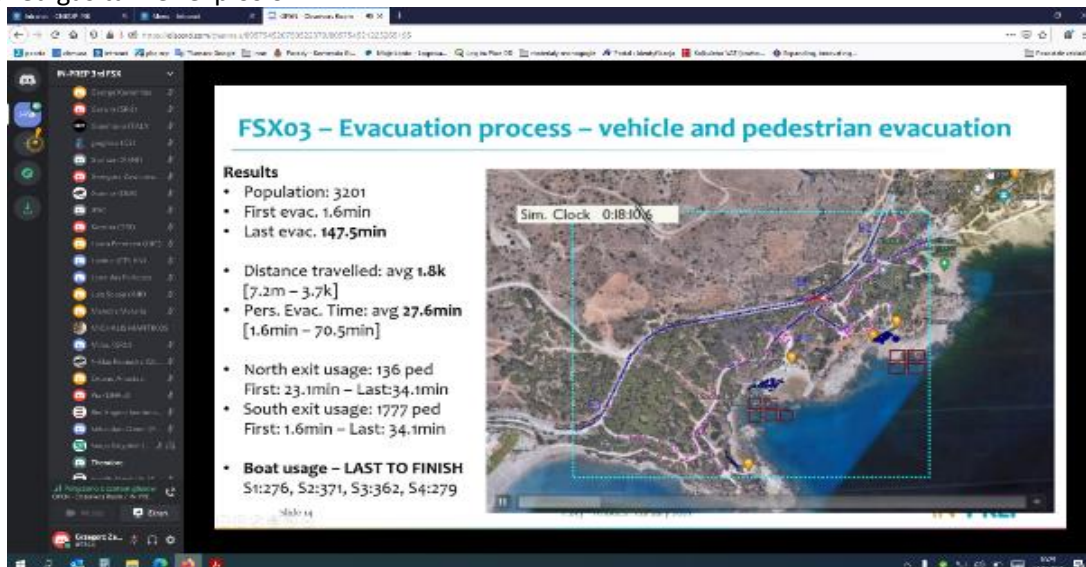


Figure 5: Screenshot from FSX- One of view of tool.

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.in-prep.eu/rhodes-and-athens/>





740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
--------	---------	--

Training was very interesting and organization of this exercise was on high level. The CNBOP- PIB team was impressed by the professionally conducted exercises despite the remote form. In our opinion, the tools developed in the project are worth attention and we will observe their further evaluation with curiosity.

### 3.4. FIRE-IN Interaction Map

PCF continuously implements the following map to make the impact of the project visible:

<http://demo.fire-in.eu/#map>

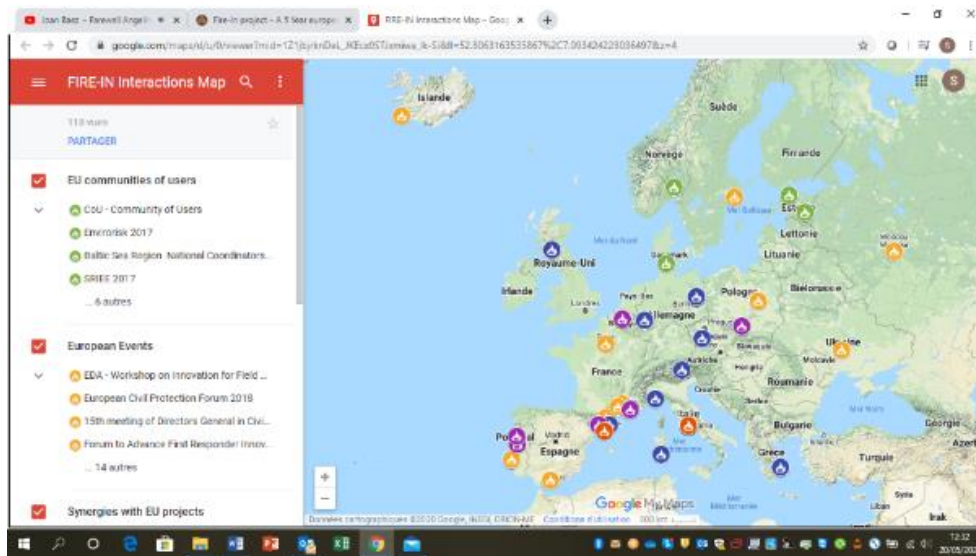
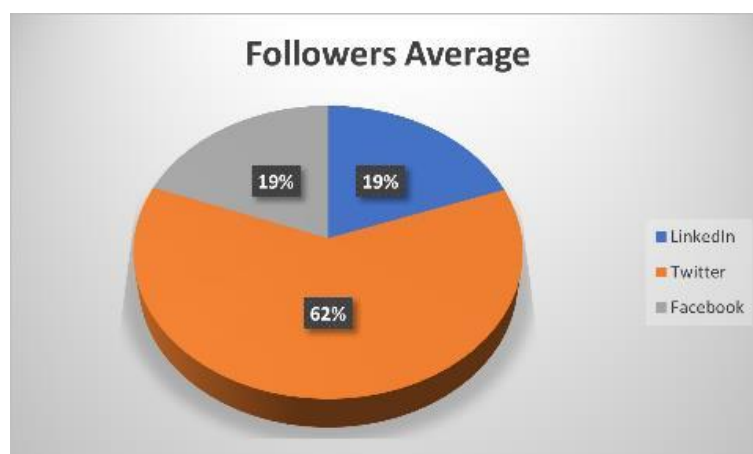


Figure 6: European vision of the FIRE-IN Interactions Map.

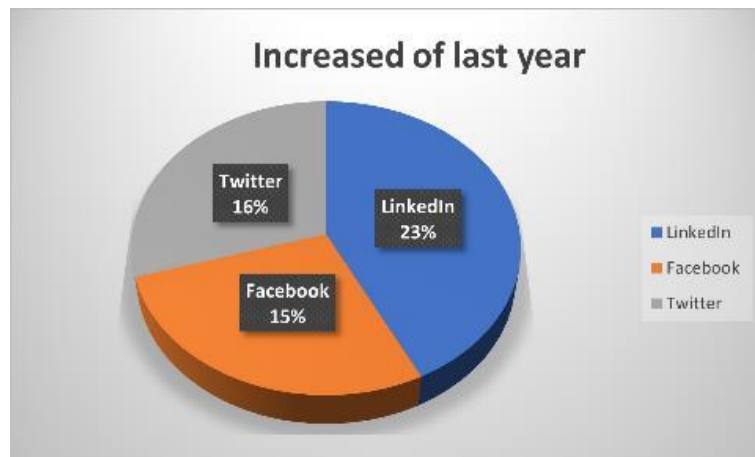
## 4. Social media

FIREIN social media is also a channel to interact with practitioners and network. During this year, FIRE social media have been used to inform about the project’s activities and to create synergies with other project and initiatives. The social media indicators show that the followers have increased during the last year, especially in LinkedIn.





740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
--------	---------	--



### Twitter

Total number of followers: 951 followers.

Increased: 16% followers.

Total number of tweets: 666 tweets.

**TOP TWEET** during this period with 6740 impressions and 275 engagements.



### Facebook

Total number of followers: 296.

Increased: 15%.

The peak of visits was on the 15th December 2020.





740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
--------	---------	--

**Performance for your post**

<b>6,166</b> People Reached		
<b>111</b> Likes, Comments & Shares		
90 Likes	16 On Post	74 On Shares
5 Comments	2 On Post	3 On Shares
16 Shares	16 On Post	0 On Shares
<b>212</b> Post Clicks		
57 Photo views	0 Link clicks	155 Other Clicks

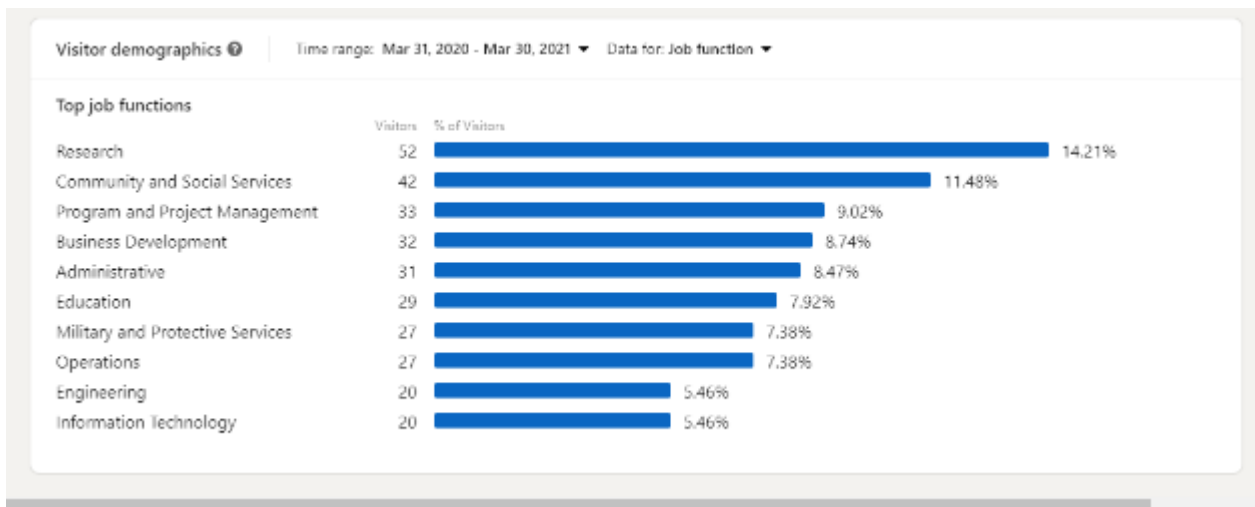
**NEGATIVE FEEDBACK**

0 Hide post	1 Hide all posts
0 Report as spam	0 Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

**LinkedIn**

Total number of followers: 300 followers.  
 Increased followers: 23%.  
 Total number of page views during this period: 430.  
 Visitor job function:





740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
--------	---------	--

Below is an example of the efforts of dissemination made by KEMEA partner

- 1) LinkedIn promo for Rfl procedure from Georgios Sakkas (KEMEA) personal LinkedIn profile.

Post views: 239



Figure 7: Screenshot of LinkedIn's post.

- 2) General promotion of the e-FIRE-IN platform and in the EUvsVirus Hackathon results announcement in 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2020. An event with more than 20,000 participants.

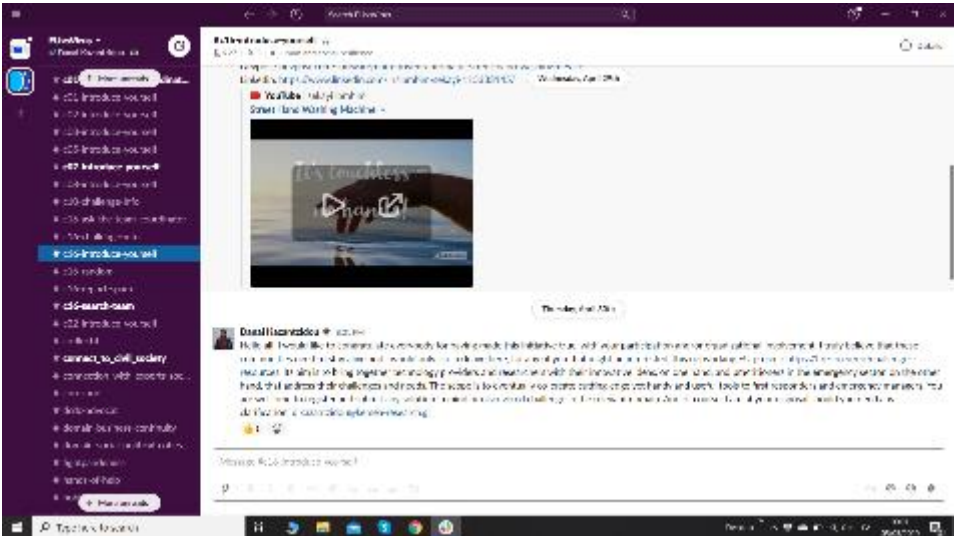


Figure 8: Screenshot of FIRE-IN communication among the slack channels of EUvsVirus Hackathon.





740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
--------	---------	--

3) Like in LinkedIn of the picture of the FIRE-IN virtual annual meeting June 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>,2020.



Figure 9: Screenshot of the like of the FIRE-IN virtual annual meeting.

- 4) Translations in Greek for the e-plattform according to the guidelines of WP4 leader.
- 5) - Forward of the invitation of the joint dissemination event to various people. Notification was forwarded internally to KEMEA colleagues, more than 100, which consequently forward to many people (not easy to follow the exact number). LinkedIn promotion as well. Like to a colleague's post. Participation to the annual dissemination co-organised with MEDEA, Enotice, Darenet and No Fear webinar, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020, 10:00 a.m. for about three hours. Share Just - in-time training, LinkedIn like and forward (dissemination from KEMEA).

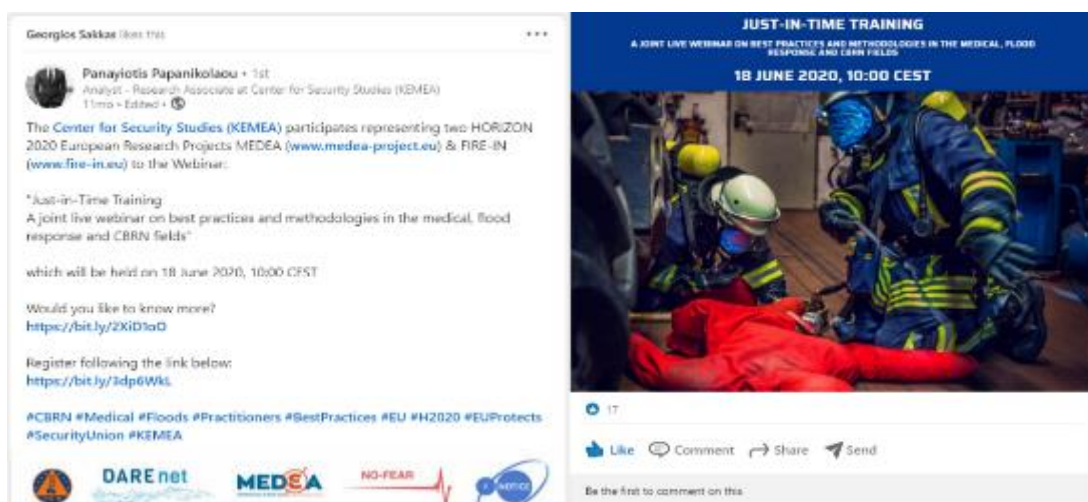


Figure 10: Screenshot of the post from Panayiotis Papanikolaou(colleague in KEMEA) personal LinkedIn profile.







740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
--------	---------	--

6) FIRE-IN workshops promoted to Georgios Sakkas (KEMEA) personal LinkedIn profile.



Figure 11: Screenshot of Workshop 1.

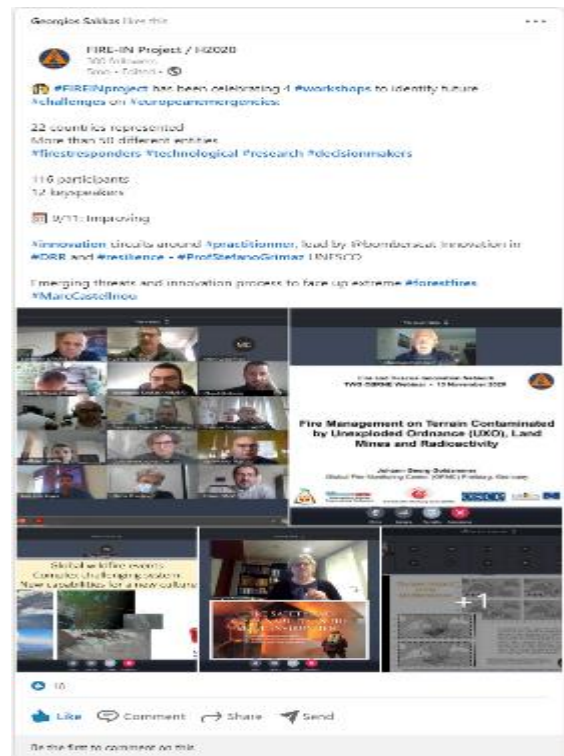


Figure 12: : Screenshot of Workshop 2.



Figure 13: Screenshot of Workshop 3

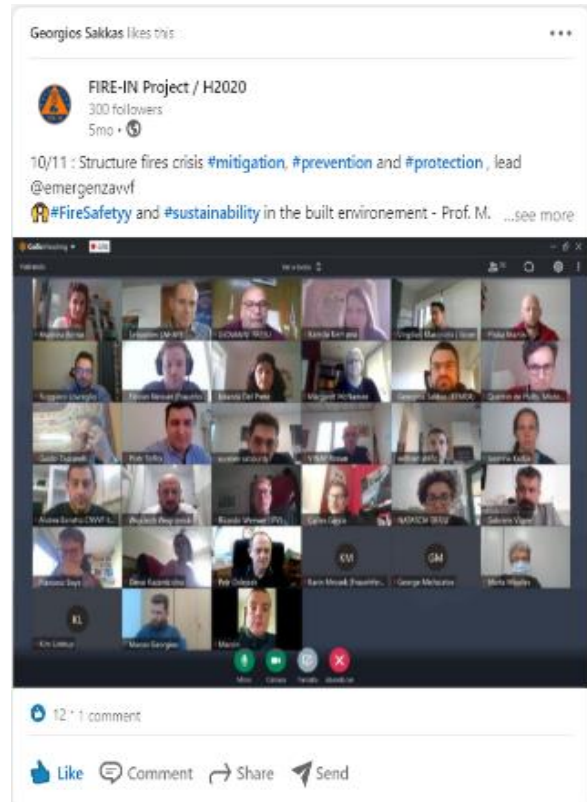


Figure 14:Screenshot of Workshop 4.





740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
--------	---------	--



Figure 15: Screenshot of Workshop 5.

- 7) Preparation of paper to be published on the Open Research Europe platform. The paper will concentrate on the results of the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle of FIRE-IN of the TWG-D and especially on tsunamis. KEMEA, in collaboration with THW and experts that participated in the respective workshop. Still in progress.

Title of the paper (not final): Addressing Gaps in the context of Natural Hazards-in the Framework of the FIRE-IN Project ([www.fire-in.eu](http://www.fire-in.eu)): Future Risks context of Tsunami Risk in the Mediterranean Sea.

- 8) Upload on LinkedIn the re-operation of the FIRE-IN platform on April 2021 on my profile: 11 Likes, 481 views. Shared by Panayiotis Papanikolaou (colleague in KEMEA).

Post views: 192

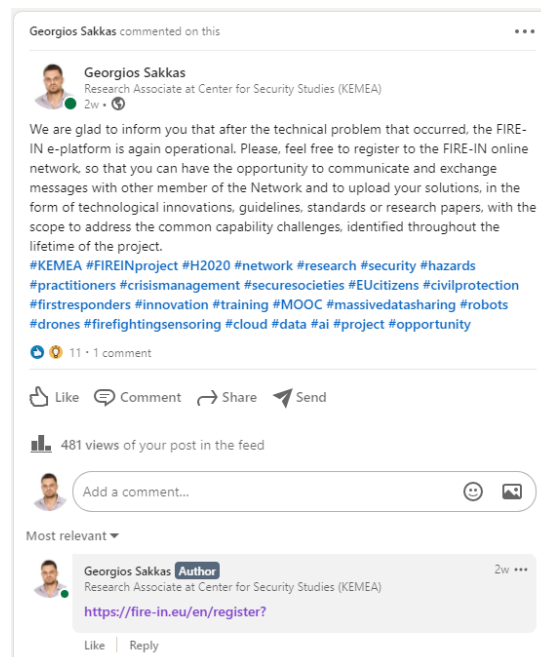


Figure 16: Screenshot of the post of Georgios Sakkas (KEMEA) personal LinkedIn profile.





740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
--------	---------	--

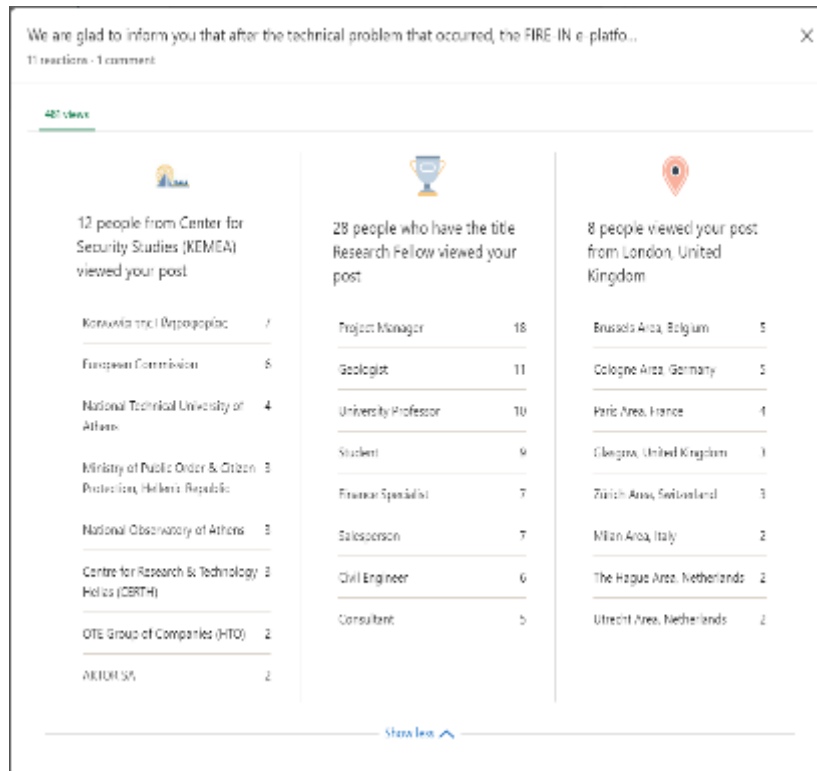


Figure 17: Screenshots of the views of the post.

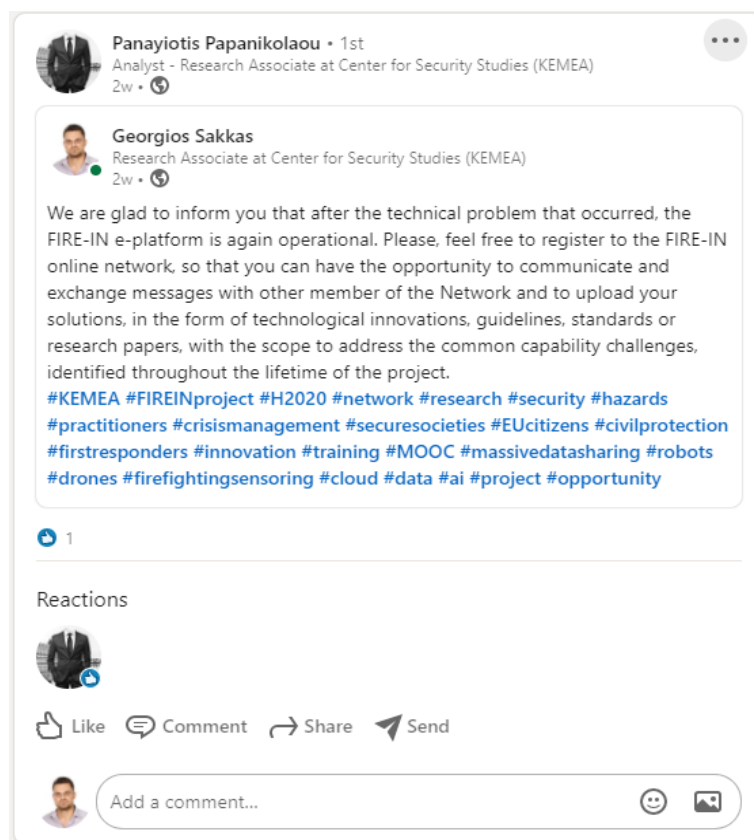


Figure 18: Screenshot of shared post from Panagiotis Papanikolaou (colleague in KEMEA) personal LinkedIn profile (Post views: 192).





740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
--------	---------	--

## 5. Perspectives for the final run of FIRE-IN

### 5.1. Increased investment in interactions

After more than one year of interactions limited to online exchanges because of COVID situation, FIRE-IN plans to re-invest widely in face-to-face exchange of knowledge during next months.

To achieve that, we are now preparing the following actions:

1. Organizing a European dissemination event in the frame of the National Congress of French Firefighters in Marseille, 13-16 October 2021,
2. Postponing the end of the project from April 30<sup>th</sup> to September/October 30<sup>th</sup> 2022 to be able to attend Interschutz Hanover in June,
3. Reporting part of the travel costs not used in the frame of the third cycle of workshops to fund a substantial number of expert travels to both Marseille 2021 and Hanover 2022 events.

In the same time, SAFE has just hired a new resource to increase the interactions with the network. So, Mr Michel Bour, previously Fire chief and already connected with International networks of Fire practitioners, will actively work on that during the final run of FIRE-IN.

### 5.2. Expected participation in conferences

- **On 25 May 2021, FIRE-IN partners (FhG, SAFE, CFS) will organize a side event in the frame of the International Association of Wildfire (IAWF) conference**

The session title is: **“Envisioning different firefighting futures”**

The session description is:

“In our interactive workshop we will discuss and explore a participatory approach to challenges and potential futures of firefighting organizations. The idea is to introduce a method following a structured explorative approach to assess the status quo of Firefighting and First Responder Organizations as socio-technical systems.

Different aspects of these systems are subject to change including for example incident scenarios but also socio-economic, demographic and technological developments will determine future capability needs and related organizational development options.

Thus, we address future course(s) of practice, management, and research in response to local, regional, and global challenges resulting from different future development pathways. The so-called FATE method (Futures Assessed alongside socio-Technical Evolutions) was originally developed for the NATO Defense and Security context. However, the initial authors and creators of the method note, that it “would be even better if more people tested it to its limits, and if it were exploited beyond the borders of defense” (Adlakha-Hutcheon et al. 2020, p. 9). In order to test this approach for the wildfire context and to exploratively discuss future challenges, we suggest to interactively examine Firefighting Organizations as socio-technical systems, take a look at future scenarios and potential actions of these organizations.

How do we/you work in different futures? What are the challenges, what are changes (and related actions that need to be implemented)? What this approach offers: - An interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary discussion and viewpoint - A discussion of drivers, resistors and impacts - An understanding of complex interactions determining future work environments in a broader perspective we are aiming to identify the awareness of already existing technologies, methods, lessons learnt or standards that cover specific challenges. Are there any solutions that could be used as a basis to develop a new technology or method in order to cover a specific future challenge?





740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
--------	---------	--

The general idea stems from our engagement in the EU Horizon 2020 Coordination and Support Action FIRE-IN (The first European Fire and Rescue Innovation Network). Among other goals, the FIRE-IN project aims to identify current and future capability challenges and to improve on operational capability gaps.

We cordially invite experts from fire departments, first responders, academic experts on fire ecology, landscape management, disaster risk management etc. to participate in lively discussions and to test innovative methodological strands in the field of anticipatory analysis and risk governance. By this workshop we would like to a) test the mentioned method in the wildfire context, b) assess the socio-technological systems in play and c) facilitate discussions about future challenges and needs.”

• **SAFE and PCF have submitted a proposal for a side event in the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDR Sendai framework initiative) in Portugal 24-26 November 2021. [European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction \(EFDRR\) 2021 - Home | EFDRR \(undrr.org\)](#)**

Here is the description of the proposed session:

*In the frame of the FIRE-IN project, initiative funded by the European Commission, designed to raise the security level of EU citizens by improving the national and European Fire & Rescue capability development process, SAFE coordinator of this project proposes in the respect of the criteria, presentations on:*

**“Boosting citizens’ awareness with the support of Fire & Rescue practitioners to accelerate implementation of the Sendai Framework”.**

1. [Pau Costa Foundation \(Spain\) about Firewise transfer in Europe for forest fire awareness raising.](#)

The involvement of citizens in wildfire risk reduction and fire prevention is becoming more important in areas with a high wildfire risk. There are several actions that citizens living in communities exposed to wildfires can do to make those communities more aware of the risk and less vulnerable. For more than 20 years, the NFPA has implemented the FIREWISE program on more than 20,000 communities in the US. This program provides the tools and support to communities that take action in their home, garden and WUI to be better prepared for wildfires. The FIREWISE program landed in Europe a few years ago with a lot of potential to make a difference in a continent that is densely populated and most of its population lives in WUIs (Wildland Urban interface). We will present some experiences on how FIREWISE is being adapted to the European context and complemented with some educational and risk awareness initiatives that contribute to the engagement of citizens in risk reduction.

2. [ADAI \(Association for the Development of Industrial Aerodynamics\) Portugal, about public awareness by responders, in connection with FirEUrisK](#)

FirEUrisK European project which involves 38 Partners, has started in 2021 to develop, test and disseminate an Integrated and science-based strategy for wildfire risk management in Europe. In that frame, we will develop here how we build on lessons learned from past cases of extreme fires to strengthen resilience of Wildland-Urban Interfaces. Among the key steps of the process, we will emphasis on 3 main pillars:

- Gathering feedback from the responders involved in extreme fires;
- Involving citizens in wildfire risk reduction, through participatory approach;
- Sharing best practises from Australia in the engagement of responders to communities.





740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
--------	---------	--

3. SAFE about results of the different FIRE-IN working groups of practitioners during the last 3 years.

The main needs identified are recurrent.

- Improving awareness, preparation and training of the population, based on the observation that in the event of a major crisis, the civil protection response is hampered if the population is not prepared.
- Common procedures, interoperable tools for sharing information, and common inter-service/inter-border training.
- Tools and procedures for information and data sharing with the population and field workers in real time during the crisis.

FIRE-IN addresses the concern that capability-driven research and innovation in this area need much stronger guidance from practitioners and better exploitation of the technology potentially available for the discipline.

4. EC representative about the European funding for such initiatives in the frame of DRS program, research orientations around that theme





740575	FIRE-IN	D4.5 Annual report on interaction with practitioners and existing networks and dissemination conference #4
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## 6. Conclusion

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As for many others, COVID situation and travel restrictions have deeply affected FIRE-IN during the last year. This is especially key for a project of network, which strength is in the ability to connect people.

However, and although uncertainty, which is continuing, the consortium has adopted the following strategy to maintain the final achievement:

1. Keeping the momentum and proposing online short events in replacement of the initially planned workshops during the 2020-2021 period,
2. Reporting to the final year of the project (2021-2022), completed by an extension of 6 months, the efforts and budget to increase contacts and networking during this period.

