

***FIRE PARADOX* INTERNATIONAL PROJECT PRESENTED “TOWARDS INTEGRATED WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT – FINAL OUTCOMES”**

On the 25th and 26th of February 2010, the European Commission 6th Framework Programme project ‘*Fire Paradox*’ presented its final results, in Freiburg, Germany. The conference was entitled “Towards integrated wildland fire management – Outcomes of the European Project - FIRE PARADOX”.

The aim of the conference was to introduce new views and perspectives on the use of fire in the prevention and response phases, thus stimulating new strategies and policy actions towards integrated fire management (IFM) at regional, national and European levels. IFM is a concept for planning and operational systems that include social, economical, cultural and ecological evaluations with the objective of minimizing damages and maximizing benefits from fire. These systems include a combination of prevention and suppression strategies and techniques integrating the use of technical fires and the regulation of traditional burning.

This conference was targeted to European and national policy makers and representatives of agencies/organizations responsible for forest and land management and fire protection. The main outcomes of the project are already summarized in the official website of the project (<http://www.fireparadox.org/product.php>) and were presented along the pillars of the project that are linked in order to achieve effective integration and coherence: prescribed burning (proactive management tool for mitigating wildfire risk), techniques of suppression fire (use of fire in fire fighting) and fire use practices and policies. The presentations were complemented by interactive demonstrations and poster sessions.

The social, economical and environmental consequences of the current wildfire regime in southern Europe are severe, and are likely to aggravate and geographically expand in the future. FIRE PARADOX, having started in March 2006, has developed contributions for mitigating fire impacts by creating the scientific and technical foundation for practices and policies consistent with the concept of integrated wildland fire management.

The conference was an event organized by the FIRE PARADOX consortium, consisting of 36 partners, lead by the Centre of Applied Ecology “Prof. Baeta Neves”, Superior Institute of Agronomy (ISA-CEABN) Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal. It was hosted by the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) and the Central European Regional Office (EFICENT) of the European Forest Institute (EFI), both located in Freiburg, Germany.

