

## Other Activities

Project Team participated at several meetings and conferences during the last six months:

### Participation in a meeting for forest fire prevention at SPAY

TEDKNA is collaborating with SPAY (Association of Municipalities for the Protection and Development of Hymettus Mt.) on providing information about the existing Action Plan for Hymettus Mountain protection and dissemination of the project to representatives of the Municipalities.

The meeting, held on October 5, 2010 at the offices of SPAY, presented the project, the objective and the results so far of those present.

At the end of the presentation of the project, a discussion around all the problems that exist on both the organization and the failure in people and equipment took place.

The meeting was attended by representatives of municipalities, members of the Association.

The second meeting will be held concurrently with the meeting of the working groups will be implemented upon completion of processing of the questionnaires.

### ARCFire platform and forest fire prevention

In November 2010 a conference held in Athens on the development of specific GIS software platform for forest protection.

The ArcFIRE platform enables the management of the problem of forest fires by using information technology, advanced mathematics, wireless sensors, video analytics, wireless communications and other modern solutions.

The administration is organized into 4 main phases

- 1.Awareness {A}: Prevent 'before fire'
- 2.Emergency {R}: Crisis Management "during the fire"
- 3.Impact {I}: Impact Assessment "on fire"
- 4.Dissemination {D}: Practice & Experience Tour "after the fact. "

*For further information please visit our website:*

[www.forestcities.gr](http://www.forestcities.gr)



## Local Authorities Alliance for Forest Fire Prevention

LIFE08 ENV/GR/000553



## Newsletter – Issue No2 (January 2011)

### EUFOFINET and Forest Cities

FORESTCITIES project is implemented in the framework of the funding tool LIFE – Environmental Policy and Governance. The main target of the project is the assessment of the current status in forest fire protection and prevention, in Greece and Mediterranean Countries (Italy, Spain, S. France, Portugal and Cyprus). Through the project, the current status in Local Authorities regarding management structure in civil protection and forest fire prevention, the legislative framework and propose new measures for improvements.

#### Project Partners:

Local Union of Municipalities and Communities of Attica (TEDKNA)

University of Athens – Department of Geology and Geoenvironment– Laboratory of Natural Hazards (UoA)

Technical University of Crete – Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering (TUC)

Municipality

Municipality of Ilioupoli

Subcontractors:

- Energy Environment Local Development (EPTA)

In October 2010, launched the European project with the original title "EUFOFINET" financed by the INTERREG IVC and the area of prevention of forest fires and forest management.

The main aim of the project is to transfer knowledge and best practices to improve national and local policies on the prevention of forest fires and forest management. The specific objectives of the project are:

- 1) Exchange of views, practices, models that already exist to activate the network of information, education and exchange at national and local level.
- 2) Updating and enhancing the existing good practices identified by the IIC South RFO "INCENDI", with new processes and experiences from the European South. In this context, recognition of practices and the adoption of new data will help to complete the formulation of regional policies. To implement such a prerequisite is the project partners to develop action plans. Therefore, each partner is required to contribute or to adopt new standards and practices in upgrading and updating the action plan to implement until now.
- 3) Develop a network of organizations and agencies active in preventing and protecting from forest fires. It is true that transnational and interregional cooperation enhances border partnerships, while combining the knowledge from different regional and national strategies to prevent and tackle forest fires.

Under these conditions, TEDKNA held its inaugural meeting of the project and inviting the team work of the European Project LIFE Forest Cities to exchange views and future cooperation. Through the meeting decided that the trip will take place in Italy to demonstrate the action plan for Italian partners the period from March 2011.



[www.forestcities.gr](http://www.forestcities.gr)

## Editorial

Google Inc., in the framework of the of the UN Climate Conference in Cancun, presented a new technology for the protection of tropical forests. Scientists all over the world will have the chance to monitor real-time changes occurring in tropical forests via satellite platform.

The platform "Google Earth Engine forests" collects images from U.S. and France satellites and stores them in open databases sharing. So the scientists via computer can monitor and record changes that occur in forests.

Source: econews.gr



### 1<sup>st</sup> set of questionnaires: Recording and data collection on the current status on forest fire protection in Local Authorities.

In the framework of the LIFE+ Forest Cities, on strengthening the role of local authorities in forest protection, developed a questionnaire to describe the existing situation of the municipalities, regarding the prevention of forest fires.

More specifically, the questionnaire was developed assess the current status of municipalities on public protection and in particular the prevention of forest fires. The questionnaire includes the following indicative questions:

- Information about the personnel in the civil prtotection department
- Municipality level of prevention and protection status and implementation of the local action plan
- Geodata, maps, satellite images, etc
- Other collaborations, such as volunteer organizations, fire department, Prefecture, etc

The questionnaire is available on the project website [www.forestcities.gr](http://www.forestcities.gr) and the eforum <http://forestcities.geol.uoa.gr/geol/Upload/index.php>

## Project Progress



Regarding the progress of the project during the first six months, the following actions have been realized:

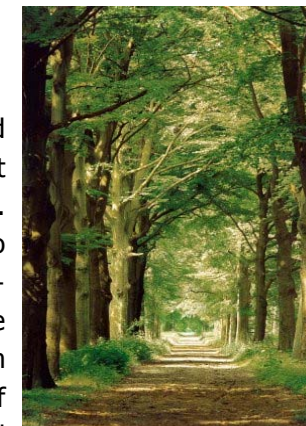
### Project Communication

Project team developed an e-forum web based application for online collaboration and exchange of information between the project team and relevant stakeholders from Local Authorities. The e-forum can be found at the following address:

<http://forestcities.geol.uoa.gr/geol/Upload/index.php>

### 2<sup>st</sup> project Meeting

On September 2011, the second project meeting took place at the premises of UoA in Athens. The meeting attended also representative of the LIFE+ Monitoring Team. During the meeting, the project team discussed on the progress of Forest Cities and also planned future actions.



### Working Group

In the framework of the project and in order to discuss on issues regarding forest fire prevention, a Working Group is developing. This Group is consisted by representatives from Universities, the central government, volunteer organizations, fire department, etc.

The Working Group will assess the results from the first set of questionnaires and propose new measures for the protection of forests and especially the prevention of forest fires.

### E-Forum

E-forum is part of the project LIFE ENV GR-000553 (Local Authorities Alliance for Forest Fire Prevention). It is part of action 2 (Creation of Greek Cities Network - a network created Greek Cities) networking through e-forum. Responsible for this action is TEDKNA (Local Union of Municipalities and Communities of Attica), while the operation

of the e-forum is the laboratory of natural hazards prevention and management of the University of Athens.

The e-forum is a network for the exchange and dissemination of information and expertise on issues of prevention against forest fires, with emphasis on strengthening the role of local government in forest protection.

It consists of 3 stages.

1st Round: Participants of the program

2nd Round: the scientists as they set list specific to the National Working Group (experts in National Working Group)

3rd Round: any person for the purpose of the program mainly by local municipalities through the network already established in the program to exchange views, experiences and best practices around the issues of forest protection.