CILIFO (Iberian Centre for Forest Fire Research and Control)

www.cilifo.eu

The CILIFO project (Ref. 0753_CILIFO_5_E) is a project of the Interreg V-A Spain-Portugal Cross-Border Cooperation Programme (POCTEP 2014-2020).

CILIFO's objectives

1. To strengthen and unite cooperation, working procedures and training among the forest fire prevention and extinguishing mechanisms in the cooperation area of the Euroregion Alentejo-Algarve-Andalusia.

2. To promote the creation of lasting and quality employment in the area, as well as to reduce the economic cost of the fires by creating a rural economy linked to the landscape.

3. To improve the response capacity to forest fires of the administrations and authorities involved in the fight against forest fires.

General information

24,6 M€.

36 months (2019-2021)

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Financed at 75% by the FEDER funds

Fifteen public and private beneficiary entities participate in CILIFO, which is led by the Andalusian Regional Government through the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Sustainable Development. The CILIFO consortium is shown below:

OUTSTANDING MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS
TO DATE

INFRASTRUCTURE

CILIFO is a clear example of collaboration between the cross-border regions of Spain and Portugal. Thanks to this, joint protocols for action, knowledge and exchange of good practices are being established, which are being translated into the implementation of infrastructures for the extinction and prevention of forest fires. During this first year of the project (2019), tender documents have been drawn up for works in several Portuguese municipalities. Technical field visits have also been made to study plans and logistics.
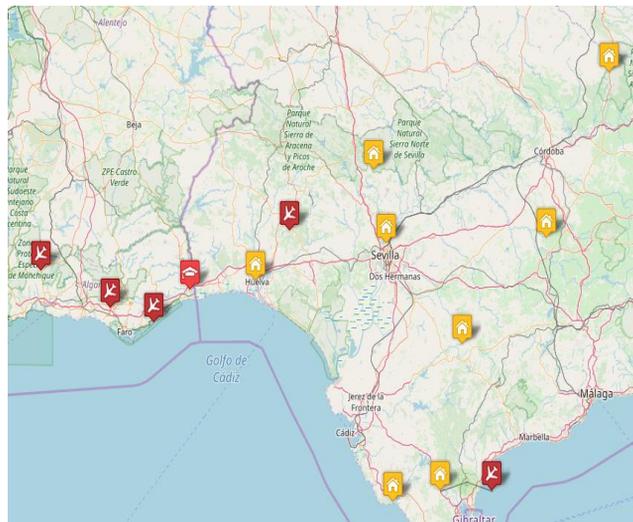
TRAINING

Creation of a Working Group for the development of common shared training materials for professionals and operational managers. During the years 2020 and 20201 training actions will be implemented on both sides of the border.

AWARENESS

Creation of a working group for the creation of joint protocols on accessibility and eviction of people with reduced mobility and disabilities, in natural areas, in the event of natural risks due to fire.

Establishment of a working group for the elaboration of informative materials focused on educational work in schools in Spain and Portugal.

Ground/space, passive/active remote sensing observations coupled with particle dispersion modelling to understand the inter-continental transport of wildfire smoke plumes

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ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

During the 2017 record-breaking burning season in Canada/United States, intense wild fires raged during the first week of September in the Pacific northwestern region (British Columbia, Alberta, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and northern California) burning mostly temperate coniferous forests. The heavy loads of smoke particles emitted in the atmosphere reached the Iberian Peninsula (IP) a few days later on 7 and 8 September.

RESEARCH

Creation of working groups for the exchange of knowledge and experiences between researchers and technical personnel from Spain and Portugal, and the establishment of joint protocols for the design and implementation of joint research projects and the attraction of Community funds.

COMMUNICATION

- International presentation of the project and the future CILIFO Centre in international and EU forums.
- CILIFO was invited, in December 2019, to participate as a collaborating entity of the COP25 - United Nations Conference on Climate Change for the presentation as cases of good practices at international level.
- CILIFO was presented at European Union forums, such as its direct participation in working groups and presentations at the European Week of Regions and Cities, organised by the Committee of the Regions, in October 2019.
- CILIFO participated in the organisation of a seminar in Brussels as part of the European Week for Waste Prevention, organised by the European Commission, in November 2019**.**