

SECOND EURO-MEDITERRANEAN WORKSHOP ON WILDFIRES

25-26 NOV 2025—BARCELONA

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25-26 November, Barcelona

As wildfires seasons across the Mediterranean grow longer and more unpredictable, this workshop will convene operational services, scientists, civil protection authorities, and policy actors to share lessons learned, align early-warning systems, and strengthen preparedness, response, and regional coordination.

This edition's aim is to accelerate practical cooperation across the Euro-Mediterranean area, including cross-border frameworks that complement and integrate with the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), while also promoting the use of cutting-edge technologies—from satellite services to AI-driven modelling—in risk analysis and emergency operations.

Building on previous regional work, including the UfM's Action Plan on Civil Protection 2030 and PPRD Med roadmaps, the two-day workshop is designed as a discussion-centred platform to share best practice, identify challenges and shape practical solutions that improve situational awareness and response times. Topics to be explored span ground, aerial and space-based tools such as sensor networks and GIS, drones for surveillance and assessment, and satellite imagery for early detection and monitoring.

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AGENDA

Simultaneous interpretation in English, French, and Arabic is offered

Day 1 – 25 November 2025

09:00 – 09:30 Opening Session

1. Welcome Remarks:
 - Representative of DG ECHO
 - Representative of the Union for the Mediterranean
 - Representative of the Algerian civil protection
2. Introduction by DG ECHO and UfM

09:30 – 09:45 Group Photo

Session 1: Lessons learnt on major wildfire

10:00-11:00 wildfire season case studies

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

Session 2: Wildfire Early Warning System (EWS)

11:30 – 12:30

Discussions will examine how to strengthen wildfire early warning systems to ensure timely preparedness and enable rapid, localized response. A focus will be on experiences from recent wildfires such as in Spain and other Mediterranean countries. The session will also explore opportunities to reinforce cross-border and Mediterranean cooperation through regional and proximity-based mechanisms, complementing existing instruments such as the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). Particular attention will be given to the role of citizens and volunteers in wildfire prevention and preparedness at the community level. Contributions from operational actors, technology experts, and public authorities will help highlight the operational realities, the potential of new technologies, and the need to adapt public policies to the evolving risks faced by Mediterranean territories.

Speakers:

- From different national civil protection authorities
- other speakers

This session will focus on wildfire Early Warning Systems (EWS), with an emphasis on reviewing current practices, technologies, and models supporting early detection and risk assessment. It will highlight innovative tools, predictive modelling approaches, and project outcomes that contribute to more effective wildfire preparedness and decision-making. The session will also examine key challenges to the deployment and operationalization of EWS, including technological limitations, insufficient technical capacities, and legal or institutional barriers. Contributions from leading institutions and field practitioners will provide insights into risk mapping, sustainable forest management, and the integration of advanced technologies across the EU and Mediterranean contexts.

Speakers:

- Representative from the EU Joint Research Centre

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- other speakers

12:30 – 13:30 Case studies

This session will present national and local case examples illustrating innovative approaches to wildfire risk evaluation, monitoring and response. Through concrete experiences the discussion will highlight diverse strategies for implementing early warning capacities and enhancing public risk awareness. These case studies aim to inform future practices and foster peer learning across the Mediterranean region.

Speakers:

- Representative from different national civil protection authorities
- other speakers

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch

Session 3: Preparedness & Regional Coordination

14:30 – 16:00 Preparedness Systems

This session aims to explore key components of wildfire preparedness systems and their relevance across the Mediterranean region. Discussions will focus on enhancing regional coordination frameworks, integrating new technologies into operational contingency planning, and addressing practical challenges in cross-border cooperation. The session will also examine the role of volunteer-based systems and the strategic value of UCPM pre-positioning in strengthening national and regional readiness for wildfire response.

Speakers:

- Representative of the UfM
- Representatives presenting examples of operational cross-border cooperation

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – 18:00 New Technologies

This session will highlight recent advancements in technological solutions for wildfire risk management, with a focus on simulation tools, satellite-based systems, and artificial intelligence. It aims to showcase how emerging technologies can support fire prediction, early detection, and operational decision-making. The session will also encourage knowledge sharing on the integration of these tools into national and regional preparedness strategies.

Speakers:

- Representatives from national civil protection authorities
- Representatives from academia
- Representative from PPRD Med programme

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20:00 Official Dinner

Day 2 – 26 November 2025

Session 4: Wildfire Response

09:00 – 10:30

This session will examine the operational mechanisms and resources mobilized in response to major wildfires. It will focus on EU-level support and deployments coordinated by the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC), national-level expertise in fire analysis and tactical coordination, and the role of field-deployable communication systems. The discussion will aim to highlight lessons learned, interoperability challenges, and innovations that contribute to more effective, timely, and coordinated wildfire response operations.

Speakers:

- Representative of the ERCC, DG ECHO
- Representatives from national civil protection authorities

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30 Conclusions / Key Findings / Closing

Session chaired by:

- Representative of DG ECHO
- Representative of the Union for the Mediterranean

Topics:

- key findings: presented by UfM and DG ECHO
- Feedback from participants
- Planned follow-up actions
- Closing remarks: UfM, DG ECHO, Syrian civil protection, Algerian civil protection

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch