
ENFORSA

Enhancing forest management and fire risk prevention through advanced spatial analysis and applied measures in the Greece–Albania border area

Project at a Glance

Programme:	INTERREG VI-A IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Greece – Albania 2021–2027
Priority / Specific Objective:	Priority 1 – Supporting transition to greener and more resilient cross-border regions RSO 2.4 – Adaptation to climate change
Duration:	24 months (September 2025 – September 2027)
Total Budget:	€727,883
EU Co-financing:	€ 582.306,40 (ERDF/IPA) + €145.576,60 national funds
Sector:	Climate change adaptation and natural disaster risk prevention
Geographic Focus:	Amynteo, Western Macedonia (Greece) Lushnje, Fier Region (Albania)
Partners:	Hellenic Agricultural Organisation – Dimitra / Forest Research Institute (Lead) Municipality of Lushnje (Albania)
Strategic Partners (without funding):	Municipality of Amynteo (Greece) General Secretariat of Forests (Greece)
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Project Description

The ENFORSA project addresses the increasing threat of wildfires driven by climate change in two vulnerable cross-border areas: Amynteo (Greece) and Lushnje (Albania). Rich in forests and agricultural land, both areas face escalating risks due to the rising frequency and intensity of fires. ENFORSA aims to develop and implement innovative, data-driven strategies for fire prevention, preparedness and management, combining advanced technology with practical ground-level measures to increase local resilience.

The project follows a two-pronged approach: (i) leveraging Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for advanced fire risk assessment and decision-support; and (ii) implementing on-the-ground measures including firefighting vehicles, fire management equipment, and local civil protection planning. ENFORSA also promotes applied research into green infrastructure solutions aligned with the *New*

European Bauhaus initiative for climate resilience.

To strengthen public awareness, the project will develop a mobile application providing real-time data on fire risks and ecological advice, and organise information events to engage local communities. By integrating technology, local planning and community participation, ENFORSA offers a replicable model for cross-border wildfire resilience and climate change adaptation.

Project Outcomes

1. GIS-Based Wildfire Risk Assessment Platform

A web-based GIS platform providing spatially explicit wildfire probability, hazard and vulnerability maps for the cross-border area. The tool integrates remote-sensing data, terrain analysis and field data to support evidence-based decision-making by local authorities and civil protection services.

2. Joint GIS-Supported Action Plan

A cross-border strategy and action plan for fire risk assessment and mitigation, jointly developed by both partners, constituting the project's main result indicator (RCR79 – Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations = 1).

3. Applied Fire Management Measures in Lushnje

Procurement and deployment of firefighting vehicles and mechanical civil protection equipment in the Lushnje area, directly enhancing the operational capacity of local authorities for wildfire response.

4. Mobile Application for Real-Time Fire Risk Information

A cross-platform mobile application offering real-time fire risk alerts, ecological guidance and prevention tips for citizens in both target areas, promoting public awareness and community preparedness.

5. Green Infrastructure Research (New European Bauhaus)

Applied research exploring nature-based solutions and green infrastructure for climate resilience in suburban environments, contributing to the New European Bauhaus initiative and aligned with EU Biodiversity Strategy targets.

6. Capacity Building and Civil Protection Planning

Evaluation and strengthening of the Civil Protection Plan of Lushnje municipality through cross-border knowledge transfer, workshops and training activities, building local capacity for sustainable wildfire management.

7. Awareness and Dissemination Campaign

A series of Info-Days, cross-border events, communication materials and original videos targeting local communities, schools, authorities and wider stakeholder networks, ensuring lasting engagement beyond the project lifetime.

8. Project Website and Knowledge Repository

An openly accessible project website serving as a repository for case studies, best practices, methodologies and training materials, enabling other regions and institutions to adapt and replicate the ENFORSA approach.

The project is implemented within the framework of the INTERREG VI-A IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme “**Greece – Albania 2021–2027**”, co-financed by the European Union and by national funds of the participating countries.