



## Press release

### EU project ALP FFIRS approved

The ALP FFIRS (Alpine Forest Fire waRning System) project was approved in the 9-10 June session of the UE INTERREG Alpine Space 2007-2013 Programme Committee.

The project aims to improve forest fire prevention in the Alpine Space with the creation of a shared warning system based on weather condition affecting fire potential. Main goal is the development of a decision support tool for actors involved in forest fire prevention and suppression, consisting in a daily fire danger level assessment and forecast to identify critical periods in advance of their potential occurrence. Major target is the univocal Alpine Space Forest Fire Danger Scale definition and common danger level interpretation with resulting preparedness plans and operational procedures. Mutual aid in vigilance and extinction procedures will be defined. An Alpine network on forest fire impact mitigation will be assembled reflecting common political strategy in prevention management, also in relation to climate change affecting fire potential. The project allows modulation and coordination of alerting process and means dislocation in different countries as well as mutual aid protocol adoption.

The project partners are 14 public institutions from Alpine Space regions (2 from Austria, 1 from France, 1 from Germany, 5 from Italy, 2 from Slovenia, 3 from Switzerland): weather services, fire brigades, universities, regional/national authorities in charge of prevention, forestry services.

The European Regional Development Found assigned to the project a €2,074,162 funding for three years.

At the University of Agricultural Sciences (BOKU) and in cooperation with the Central Institute for Meteorology and Geodynamics (ZAMG) the frequency, distribution and the risk of forest fires in Austria will be investigated. The ambitious goal of ALPFIRS is to set up a framework for a common warning system for forest fire danger for the whole Alpine region taking into account current weather conditions, vegetation and socio-economic factors. The system will provide stake holders as well as the general public with enhanced and more accurate predictions of forest fire danger. Through cooperation with the partner countries, methodologically similar and standardised action can thus be ensured.