



## Action D2: On-site Dissemination

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Report on Round Tables and Meetings

**30/09/2014**

<b>Project location</b>	Greece – Attiki region
<b>Project starting date:</b>	01/10/2012
<b>Project ending date:</b>	30/09/2015
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LIFE11 ENV GR 975

FLIRE: Floods and fire Risk assessment and management



## Summary

During the period 01/10/2013 - 30/09/2014 the Project consortium organized a number of meetings with stakeholders, local authorities and local organizations mainly related to the forest fire component of the FLIRE DSS. The objective of these meetings was related to the familiarization of the users with the FLIRE DSS concept and the capabilities provided to local authorities using the respective forest fire module.

These meetings were initially structured around a proper questionnaire prepared by the FLIRE consortium concerning both the forest fire and the flood component of the FLIRE DSS. Several questions relative to the needs and requirements of the local authorities were discussed with representatives of the Rafina-Pikermi Municipality and eventual preferences that may facilitate the use of the system's web services were identified. The meetings familiarized the local end users with the operational potential that the system may provide to the local authorities and helped the consortium assess the interest and the capacity of the end users for operating the system in practice.

The approach adopted for the organization of the meetings was based on the three following steps:

- a. Collection of information concerning users' expectations and preferences using properly prepared questionnaires
- b. Setting up a computer of the Local Authority for running and testing the web-based forest fire management and
- c. Training the operator(s) for using the respective web application

The meetings were organized primarily with employees of the Municipalities who are responsible for environmental and technical issues. They included interaction and involvement of representatives from the Environmental Management and Technical Department of the Municipalities of Rafina-

**LIFE11 ENV GR 975**

**FLIRE: Floods and fire Risk assessment and management**



Pikermi and Marathon. These employees are in charge of interacting with local population concerning the relative issues. All these meetings were organized by the Project consortium in the respective Municipalities with the participation of ALGOSYSTEMS, which ensured the uptaking of the three steps mentioned above.

### **Meetings**

The meetings that took place during this reporting period (01/10/2013 - 30/09/2014) are listed below following a chronological order.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> FLIRE round table**

**meeting Date:** 07/03/2014

**Place:** Municipality of Rafina-Pikermi (MRP), Rafina

**Participants:** George Eftychidis (ALGO), George Christopoulos (MRP-Mayor), Georgia Legaki (MRP-Forester) and Alexandra Skamaga (MRP-Architect)

**Summary:** ALGOSYSTEMS organized a structured interview with the Technical Service of the Municipality of Rafina-Pikermi in order to present the FLIRE questionnaire and collect relative feedback from the FLIRE stakeholders in MRP.

**Conclusion:** The round table was focused on the presentation-preparation of the questionnaire, which will be distributed to the next stakeholder meeting in order the FLIRE team to take the relative feedback.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> FLIRE round table**

**meeting Date:** 26/03/2014

**Place:** Municipality of Marathon (MM), Nea Makri

**Participants:** George Eftychidis (ALGO) and Marianna Lanta (MM- Agronom)

**Summary:** ALGOSYSTEMS organized a structured interview with Mrs. Lanta who is the person in charge for the environmental issues in the Technical Service of Marathon Municipality. The meeting had the purpose to explain and discuss the FLIRE questionnaire and get relative feedback.

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**FLIRE: Floods and fire Risk assessment and management**



**Conclusion:** The meeting's aim was to discuss the questionnaire with another neighbor municipality and get the relative information.

### **7th FLIRE round table**

**Date:** 17/03/2014

**Place:** Premises of the General Secretariat of Civil Protection (GSCP), Athens (Attica)

**Participants:** George Eftychidis (ALGO) and Foivos Theodorou (GSCP)

**Summary:** The purpose of this meeting was to inform the GSCP for the objectives and current results of FLIRE project. The discussion focused to the FLIRE questionnaire and the fire-related module of the DSS. Mr. Theodorou mentioned that the objective of the Project is quite local for GSCP as a centralized service with coordination role of other services. Thus the questions of the questionnaire are rather addressed to local stakeholders and they do not fit proper to the role and mission of the GSCP. However the DSS concept aggregating forest fires and floods is quite interesting for GSCP in case it could be applied in a greater spatial scale (regional or national). Despite the fact that the questions focused to local stakeholders, Mr. Theodorou provided feedback that complements the information gathered and the conclusions made based on the answers of the local stakeholders.

**Conclusion:** The GSCP expressed a big interest on the Fire Service of the DSS platform. The FLIRE Team got relative feedback by providing the questionnaire to representative of the GSCP. This was very helpful in order to assess the impact that FLIRE project has to national and local authorities.

### **8th FLIRE round table**

**Date:** 22/03/2014

**Place:** Hellenic Fire Service Headquarters, Athens (Attica)

**Participants:** George Eftychidis (ALGO), Antonis Panagiotakis (Major, FS)

**LIFE11 ENV GR 975**

**FLIRE: Floods and fire Risk assessment and management**



**Summary:** The meeting had the purpose to discuss the FLIRE questionnaire and the fire-related module of the DSS. Mr. Panagiotakis provided feedback to the questionnaire although he mentioned that the questionnaire does not fit closely to a centralized organization such as Fire Service. In general, the Hellenic Fire Service is interested in the fire management module of the DSS of FLIRE. Fire Service is not involved in management of floods and they act only as rescue and response actors in specific cases. Thus he was not able to provide consistent replies to the questions concerning floods despite the fact that he recognized the importance of the combination of fire and floods at the local scale. After discussing the FLIRE questionnaire, a brief presentation made concerning the forest fire management module of the FLIRE DSS. This module and in particular its potential to be applied in larger spatial scales is quite interesting for the Fire Service. Mr. Panagiotakis mentioned that such a decision support module for the region of Attica would be very helpful for Fire Services in case it is proved reliable and accurate. The provision of access to Mr Panagiotakis to the G-FMIS application module (lite version of the FLIRE Fire Management DSS module) in order to test and experience the use of the relevant web-based module of the FLIRE DSS was arranged.

**Conclusion:** The Fire Service was very positive to the presentation of fire services of the FLIRE System and they note that this service would be very helpful, as a supplementary tool to their work.

### **9th FLIRE round table**

**Date:** 17/04/2014

**Place:** Hellenic Fire Service Headquarters, Athens (Attica)

**Participants:** George Eftychidis (ALGO), Antonis Panagiotakis (Major, FS)

**Summary:** Following the meeting with Major Panagiotakis that took place on 22/03/2014 (described above) it was arranged that he would be provided with the appropriate credentials to access and test the G-FMIS web application, which is a lite version of the fire propagation simulation included in the DSS of

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**FLIRE: Floods and fire Risk assessment and management**



FLIRE since it uses the same fire propagation and meteo data web services. This meeting was arranged for supporting familiarization of Mayor Panagiotakis with the G-FMIS web application. The FLIRE consortium provided a short training concerning the use of the application which is quite simple and can be used straight forward even by users non-specialized in informatics. The G-FMIS web application has all necessary datasets and can run for the entire region of Attica (extended FLIRE area). It can provide contours of the fire propagation and characteristics of the fire in several points of the burning area. Following several runs the propagation results were quite interesting and Mayor Panagiotakis expressed his interest to use and test again the application upon the finalization of the FLIRE DSS.

**Conclusion:** The ALGOSYSTEMS provided a short training to Mayor Panagiotakis-Fire Services for the G-FMIS web application. After several runs Mayor Panagiotakis expressed his interest to use and test again the application upon the finalization of the FLIRE DSS.

### **10<sup>th</sup> FLIRE round table**

**meeting Date:** 18/04/2014

**Place:** Municipality of Rafina-Pikermi (MRP), Rafina

**Participants:** George Eftychidis (ALGO), Georgia Legaki (MRP-Forester) and Alexandra Skamaga (MRP-Architect)

**Summary:** The meeting was devoted to the setting up by ALGOSYSTEMS of a PC of MRP that will be used for running the fire management web service. The MRP users were provided with specific credentials for accessing the fire management module of the FLIRE DSS through the web and running the respective application. The credentials are necessary for identifying the user accessing the service. During the meeting Mrs. Legaki was trained so as to be able to use the GFMIS web app (fire propagation module).

**Conclusion:** Representative of the MRP – Mrs Legaki was trained in order to use the Fire Management module. Mrs Legaki declared that the GFMIS interface was user friendly in order to be ease of use for no specialists.

**LIFE11 ENV GR 975**

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## **11<sup>th</sup> FLIRE round table**

**meeting Date:** 24/04/2014

**Place:** Municipality of Marathon (MM), Nea Makri

**Participants:** George Eftychidis (ALGO) and Marianna Lanta (MM- Agronom)

**Summary:** The meeting was devoted to the setting up by ALGOSYSTEMS of a PC of MM that will be used for running the fire management web service. The MM users were provided with specific credentials for accessing the fire management module of the FLIRE DSS through the web and running the respective application. The credentials are used for identifying the user accessing the service. During the meeting Mrs. Lanta was trained so as to be able to use the GFMIS web app (fire propagation module).

**Conclusion:** The GFMIS service was installed to the software of the MM. The FLIRE team provided credentials to representatives, in order to be able to use the service.

**LIFE11 ENV GR 975**

**FLIRE: Floods and fire Risk assessment and management**



## **12<sup>th</sup> FLIRE round table**

**meeting Date:** 26/04/2014

**Place:** Municipality of Rafina-Pikermi (MRP), Rafina

**Participants:** George Eftychidis (ALGO), End users of FLIRE DSS from the MRP and representatives of local groups of citizens

**Summary:** The Municipality of Rafina-Pikermi and the Athens Forest Research Institute (FRI) organized an awareness workshop in context of the INCA initiative of the FRI concerning the Forest Fire Prevention campaign of 2014. The event took place held in the premises of the Municipality of Rafina. The aim of the workshop was to involve local stakeholders in the forest fire prevention campaign. ALGOSYSTEMS represented the FLIRE consortium in the workshop. During the workshop the FLIRE Project was presented by the Mayor to the present stakeholders. A short live demo of the fire propagation web service of the FLIRE DSS was presented by ALGOSYSTEMS to the participants. Representatives from the Rafina-Pikermi Civil Protection office, the Fire Service as well as citizen groups and local associations from Kallitechnoupoli, Etos, and Neos Voutzas settlements participated in this workshop. During the workshop discussions with stakeholders concerning FLIRE benefits for the local society were organized and suggestions were provided to the stakeholders on how FLIRE capacities can be used for strengthening the participation of the local community in forest fire prevention. Furthermore arrangements were made with a representative of the Technical Service of the Municipality of Spata-Artemida, an adjacent Municipality to Rafina-Pikermi, for installing also there the GFMIS FLIRE fire management component. This activity is planned to take place during the third year of the Project. Contacts were also made with the Nea Makri (Municipality of Marathon) Fire Fighting Volunteers group in order to inform them on the potentials of the GFMIS FLIRE fire management component, already installed in the Municipality of Marathon for improving fire prevention planning in the area. Finally the FLIRE consortium collaborated with the Municipality of Rafina

**LIFE11 ENV GR 975**

**FLIRE: Floods and fire Risk assessment and management**



in order to inform the Citizen Group of Neos Voutzas (Mrs. Maria Mila) about the objectives of FLIRE and the potential use of the module installed in the Municipality for supporting fire prevention activity in the area.

**Conclusion:** This meeting was focused especially to involve local stakeholders in the forest fire prevention campaign and to establish contacts with the other municipalities, included in the borders of the study area.

**13<sup>th</sup> FLIRE round table Date:** 20/05/2014

**Place:** Premises of the General Secretariat of Civil Protection (GSCP), Athens (Attica)

**Participants:** George Eftychidis (ALGO) and Foivos Theodorou (GSCP)

**Summary:** During this meeting, discussions focused on the presentation of the web-based fire propagation module of the FLIRE DSS which is of interest to the GSCP in case it can be applicable for wider geographic areas. It was clarified that the web service can support fire propagation simulation for any region given that the required data (topography, forest fuels, current weather) exist and are updated. Following this discussion it was arranged to provide credentials to GSCP to access and test the G-FMIS web application, which is a lite version of the fire propagation simulation included in the DSS of FLIRE since it uses the same fire propagation and meteo data web services. GSCP ran a number of simulations for the region of Attica using this web app and provided comments concerning mainly the user interface. The propagation results were found quite accurate, based on the experience of the users, although no validation with metrics was made to these results.

**Conclusion:** Credentials to GSCP to access and test the G-FMIS web application for the greater area of Attica, were provided. The GSCP noted that the results were found quite accurate and comments on the user interface were discussed with the FLIRE team.

LIFE11 ENV GR 975

FLIRE: Floods and fire Risk assessment and management



## Conclusions

It is highlighted here that most of the interaction of the Project consortium with the local stakeholders is organized through the contacts with the Municipality of Rafina-Pikermi, which is the Municipality directly concerned by the FLIRE results. Based on the results of the recent communal elections of the 25th of May 2014 in Greece the municipal authorities in both Rafina-Pikermi and Marathon municipalities have changed. The new authorities assumed their responsibilities on the 1st of September 2014. FLIRE consortium has started reestablishing relevant contacts and organizing appropriate meetings with representatives of the new authorities in order to keep them informed and close to the FLIRE Project.

The 2nd Stakeholder's meeting of FLIRE will be organized by the consortium in cooperation with Municipality of Rafina – Pikermi. The meeting will take place at the premises of the Municipality of Rafina – Pikermi and is planned for the end of October.

LIFE11 ENV GR 975

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