



## Action D4: Networking with other projects

### 1<sup>st</sup> Networking Meeting Report

**30/09/2014**

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## 1. Extended Summary

During this reporting period numerous networking activities between the FLIRE Project and other relevant projects took place. These networking activities include *inter alia* meetings and contacts with research organizations, researchers and public services dealing with flood and forest fire issues. In the framework of these networking meetings and workshops the FLIRE Project either became the main topic of discussion, or it was discussed among other relevant topics. Such activities were organized in order to establish a network between the FLIRE Project and other relevant projects and to complement the results of the meetings held with local authorities and local stakeholders (described in detail in the relevant report “2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Report on Round Tables and Meetings”, available at the website of the Project).

During this period a lot of effort was invested by the relevant partners of the consortium towards the completion of the flood services. Hence, NTUA undertook some networking activities with researchers and research organizations involved in flood-, fire- and Early Warning Systems (EWS) - related projects. The purpose of these meetings was the dissemination of FLIRE results, outputs and conclusions drawn so far and the exchange of knowledge, lessons learnt and experience accumulated from the implementation of the Project hitherto, having as an ultimate target the exploration of the possibility to use the components of the FLIRE system in other, similar areas and relevant projects.

At the same time, the fire services were almost completed during this period and therefore ALGOSYSTEMS organized a number of meetings with centralized public services that are in charge of forest fire management and civil protection tasks. The purpose of these meetings was to investigate the possibility of using FLIRE and in particular the web-based fire propagation

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component beyond the level of the local municipalities. For this reason several meetings were held with the General Secretariat of Civil Protection (GSCP) and the Hellenic Fire Service. Aiming to consider the potential of integrating the Project results with relative work of other research teams activated in the same area, meetings were also held with the Forest Research Institute of Athens (Forest fire Lab), the Forestry School of the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki (Remote Sensing Lab) and the National Center of Scientific Research DEMOKRITOS (Environmental Research Lab). Furthermore FLIRE was presented among the research activities of ALGOSYSTEMS during its participation in the Hellenic National Network for Security Research, in which more than fifty organizations that work on R&D issues related to homeland security, civil and environmental protection participate. Finally ALGOSYSTEMS started contacts with the Center for Security Studies (KEMEA) of the Hellenic Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection in order to investigate the possibility of endorsing the use of the system and operate the FLIRE DSS in context of a planned pilot coordination center for crisis management after the end of the Project.

During the networking activities, researchers from several projects of relevance with FLIRE and representatives of centralized public services expressed their particular interest on the results of the FLIRE project, possible synergies and integration of FLIRE results with relevant work.

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## **2. Networking Meetings on the sharing of know-how and promotion of the state of the art technology in the field of floods and fires risk assessment and management and collaboration with relevant projects**

The networking activities that were undertaken during this reporting period include networking meetings and contacts between the FLIRE consortium and relevant research and operational teams, as well as networking activities during scientific conferences. All these networking activities are presented in the following.

### **2.1 Networking meeting with the “Blue-Green-Dream” project (ICL)**

**Date:** 18/04/2013

**Place:** Premises of ICL, Skempton Building, South Kensington Campus (London)

**Participants:** Cedo Maksimovic (ICL), Callum Clench (ICL), Maria Aivazoglou (ICL) and 16 more attendees from ICL, KTH Stockholm, NTU Taiwan and freelance researchers

**Summary:** In the framework of the implementation of Action D4 ICL has taken part in a networking meeting with researchers involved in another ongoing project that is of relevance to FLIRE. More specifically, ICL participated in a meeting of the “Blue-Green-Dream” project (funded by Climate KIC (Knowledge and Innovation Community)). Representatives of the “Blue-Green-Dream” project from ICL, KTH (Royal Institute of Technology) Stockholm and NTU (National Taiwan University) Taiwan participated in this meeting. ICL made an oral presentation of the aim and objectives of FLIRE, as well as of the way it is implemented and its future impact.

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## **2.2 Networking meeting (during the Steering Committee meeting of the Euromediterranean network of experimental and representative basins (ERB))**

**Date:** 04/10/2013

**Place:** Skocjanske park, Betanci (Slovenia)

**Participants:** Luca Brocca (IRPI), Hubert Holzmann (ERB), Miroslav Tesar (ERB), Joao de Lima (ERB), Ladislav Holko (ERB) and 9 more attendees from the steering committee of the ERB

**Summary:** Dr. Brocca attended the ERB Workshop (the Steering Committee meeting of the Euromediterranean network of experimental and representative basins) held in Betanci (Slovenia). During the workshop, Dr. Brocca presented a work entitled “*Modeling Floods with Only Soil Moisture Observations*” during which the FLIRE Project was presented, focusing on the case study of the Rafina River basin, *i.e.* the study area of the FLIRE project. In particular, Dr. Brocca showed the results of the study carried out in collaboration with NTUA in the framework of the FLIRE project, already published in the Hydrology and Earth System Science Journal (Massari C., Brocca L., Barbetta S., Papathanasiou C., Mimikou M., Moramarco T. (2014), ‘Using globally available soil moisture indicators for flood modelling in Mediterranean catchments’, *Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci.*, 18, 839–853, 2014, [www.hydrol-earth-syst-sci.net/18/839/2014/](http://www.hydrol-earth-syst-sci.net/18/839/2014/) doi: 10.5194/hess-18-839-2014). The audience expressed its particular interest in the FLIRE Project and the outcomes of this particular study.

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### **2.3 Networking meeting with FST**

**Date:** 16/12/2013

**Place:** Fakulti Sains dan Teknologi (FST), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, 43600 UKM Bangi (Selangor)

**Participants:** Christian Onof (ICL), Wan Zawiah (FST) and approx. 30 attendees

**Summary:** ICL presented the FLIRE Project during a speech in Malaysia. The FLIRE Project was presented by Dr Christian Onof, staff member of ICL, as part of the work undertaken under the EWRE section of ICL, during the speech "Imperial College Water Resources: an overview". The audience was made up mainly of researchers, PhD students and staff members of the FST of the University.

### **2.4 Networking meeting (during a networking meetings of the National Observatory of Forest Fires)**

**Date:** 14/02/2014

**Place:** Forestry School, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), Thessaloniki

**Participants:** George Eftychidis (ALGO), Ioannis Gitas (AUTH) and George Zalidis (i-BEC)

**Summary:** Information concerning the FLIRE Project was provided by Mr. Eftychidis during a meeting organized in Thessaloniki concerning the National Observatory of Forest Fires (NOFF). The NOFF is a national program of the Hellenic Forest Service which is currently in progress. It is coordinated by the Forestry School of Thessaloniki in cooperation with the inter Balcan Environment Center, based in Langadas. Dr. Gitas presented the NOFF approach and Mr. Zalidis the plan for implementing NOFF approach in other Balcan countries in the future. The discussions that took place after the presentations focused on the exchange of information (forest fuel

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classification and mapping approach, fire propagation tools) concerning potential future synergy between FLIRE and the NOFF. It was concluded that FLIRE and NOFF will continue exchanging results and information that may have interest for both projects and that a meeting will be organized once the DSS module of FLIRE will be finalized, in order to discuss eventual further common exploitation opportunities.

### ***2.5 Networking meeting (during the workshop “Use of soil moisture products for operational purposes at the Department of Italian Civil Protection (DICP)” of the DICP)***

**Date:** 26/02/2014

**Place:** Premises of the Office of Prediction, Evaluation, Prevention and Mitigation of Natural Hazards, Department of Civil Protection, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, (Rome)

**Participants:** Luca Brocca (IRPI), Luca Ciabatta (IRPI), Silvia Puca (DICP) and approx. 20 attendees (members of the DICP)

**Summary:** IRPI participated in a workshop organized by the Department of Italian Civil Protection (DIPC) at 26<sup>th</sup> of February 2014. The title of the workshop was “*Use of soil moisture products for operational purposes at the Department of Italian Civil Protection*”. IRPI presented to the competent technicians the aim, main targets and outcomes of the FLIRE Project, focusing on the results of the application of hydrological modelling, which were produced in collaboration with NTUA and published in the Hydrology and Earth System Science Journal (Massari C., Brocca L., Barbetta S., Papathanasiou C., Mimikou M., Moramarco T. (2014), ‘Using globally available soil moisture indicators for flood modelling in Mediterranean catchments’, *Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci.*, 18, 839–853, 2014, [www.hydrol-earth-syst-sci.net/18/839/2014/](http://www.hydrol-earth-syst-sci.net/18/839/2014/) doi: 10.5194/hess-18-839-2014). The audience was very interested in the results of the FLIRE Project.

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Picture 1. Dr. Luca Brocca is presenting results of the FLIRE Project during the networking event of DICP (26/02/2014).

## **2.6 Networking meeting with IPRETEA**

**Date:** 20/06/2014

**Place:** National Center for Scientific Research “Demokritos” (NCSR), Aghia Paraskevi, (Attica)

**Participants:** Vassiliki Varela (ALGO), George Eftychidis (ALGO), Thanasis Sfetsos (NCSR), Diamando Vlachogianni (NCSR) and Nikolaos Gounaris (NCSR)

**Summary:** FLIRE was presented to the Environmental Institute (IPRETEA) of the National Research Center for Scientific Research “Demokritos”. The Environmental Institute of NCSR work on seasonal risk indices of forest fires and the meeting had the objective of investigating eventual synergy opportunities and complementarity of the work of the two teams. The possibility that NCSR develops a relative web service that could be integrated in the FLIRE DSS was discussed. NCSR shall consider this suggestion in their workplan in the near future. The work of NCSR was presented by ALGOSYSTEMS to the FLIRE stakeholders (end users from the

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Municipality of Rafina-Pikermi) by ALGOSYSTEMS in order to assess their interest for using normally such kind of information.

## **2.7 Networking meeting with FIRESENSE (EU Project)**

**Date:** 27/06/2014

**Place:** San Gallo Hotel, Perugia (Umbria)

**Participants:** Christos Makropoulos (NTUA), Chrysoula Papathanasiou (NTUA), Silvia Barbetta (IRPI-CNR), Christian Massari (IRPI-CNR), George Eftychidis (ALGO), Maria Aivazoglou (ICL), Nektarios Chrysoulakis (FORTH), Dino Torri (IRPI-CNR) and Claudia Pandolfo (Umbria Region).

**Summary:** During the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the partners meeting in Perugia (26-27/09/2014), NTUA collaborated with IRPI and organized a networking session with invited speakers involved in FLIRE-related projects and activities. Invited speakers included Dr. D. Torri, a researcher from the FIRESENSE FP7 Project and Dr. C. Pandolfo, a representative from the Department of Umbria Region responsible for the issuing of flood warnings. Dr. D. Torri presented to the consortium the methodology, the results and the experience gained during the fire-related project FIRESENSE and Dr. C. Pandolfo presented details on flood warnings issued for the area by the Umbria Region. Mrs. Papathanasiou presented the FLIRE Project in detail and a relevant discussion on possible synergies between the methodologies examined by the researchers for flood warnings and fire danger management followed the presentations. FLIRE leaflets (English version) were distributed during the meeting and several copies were delivered by the invited speakers to their organizations.

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*Pictures 3 and 4. The participants in the 9<sup>th</sup> FLIRE networking meeting that took place during the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the partners meeting in Perugia (27/06/2014).*

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## **2.8 Networking meeting with ADRIPLAN Project**

**Date:** 15/09/2014

**Place:** Premises of NTUA, Zografou (Attica)

**Participants:** Vassiliki Pagana (NTUA), Chrysoula Papathanasiou (NTUA) and Vassilios Krassanakis (HCMR)

**Summary:** A networking meeting between the FLIRE Project and the ADRIPLAN (ADRIatic Ionian maritime spatial PLANning) project (DG MARE/2012/25, MSP) was organized on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2014 at the premises of NTUA. Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) is a project partner of ADRIPLAN and was represented by Dr. Krassanakis during the meeting. After a presentation of both projects, the discussion focused on the methodology applied for the development of flood risk maps, which is relevant with a methodology applied to ADRIPLAN project in order to model the impact of different fields to the coastal environment. The attribution of appropriate weights to the different layers combined for the production of flood risk maps was discussed in detail, focusing on environmental and socioeconomic aspects of the FLIRE Project. Technical issues including e.g. the appropriate grid cell size for the analysis were also discussed during the meeting. Dr. Krassanakis expressed his interest for further communication after the execution of the final results.

## **2.9 Networking meeting (during the event: European Researchers Night 2014)**

**Date:** 26/09/2014

**Place:** Premises of FORTH (Heraklion)

**Participants:** Dimitrios Poursanidis (FORTH), George Kogchylakis (FORTH) and approx. 500 attendees (the event was open to the public)

**Summary:** European Researchers Night 2014 is a mega event that takes place during one night, in several hundred cities in Europe and other places in

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the world and has a target to present to the citizens the work of local research centers. Citizens have access to research products and interact with the researchers on their work. The FLIRE DSS platform was presented to attendees of the event in Heraklion by Mr. Poursanidis and Mr. Kogchylakis.



*Picture 6. Mr. Dimitrios Poursanidis is presenting the FLIRE DSS platform to local citizens in Heraklion during the networking event of the European Researchers Night 2014 (26/09/2014).*

### **3. Networking Meetings on the potential adoption of FLIRE by other regions/institutions**

#### ***3.1 Networking meeting (during the event: Forest Fire Prevention 2014)***

**Date:** 05/06/2014

**Place:** Forest Research Institute, Athens (Attica)

**Participants:** Vassiliki Varela (ALGO), Gabriel Xanthopoulos (FRI-organizer) and approx. 40 attendees

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**Summary:** FLIRE was presented during the annual networking event of INCA initiative, which is coordinated by the Forestry Research Institute of Athens. The meeting was entitled “*Forest fire prevention 2014*” and the audience included representatives of the fire research community, personnel and decision makers from civil protection organizations as well as staff from Local Administration and Municipalities from the Regions of Attica and Korinthia. The FLIRE consortium was represented by Mrs. Varela, who presented the FLIRE Project focusing on the fire propagation module of the FLIRE DSS.



Picture 2. Mrs. Vassiliki Varela is presenting the FLIRE Project during the networking event of INCA initiative (05/06/2014).

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### **3.2 Networking meeting with the National Security Platform of R&D organizations**

**Date:** 21/07/2014

**Place:** Center for Security Studies-KEMEA, Hellenic Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection, Athens (Attica)

**Participants:** George Eftychidis (approx. 50 attendees)

**Summary:** FLIRE was presented during the networking meeting of the National Security Platform of R&D organizations hosted by the Ministry of Citizen protection on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2014. Being a member of the abovementioned network of organizations, ALGOSYSTEMS presented FLIRE within the R&D activities of the company related with civil protection related applications. The presentation was made by Mr. Eftychidis.



*Picture 5. Mr. George Eftychidis is presenting the FLIRE Project during the networking event of the Center for Security Studies-KEMEA (21/07/2014).*

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### **3.3 Networking meeting with KEMEA**

**Date:** 02/09/2014

**Place:** Premises of Center for Security Studies-KEMEA, Hellenic Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection, Athens (Attica)

**Participants:** George Eftychidis (ALGO), George Leventakis (KEMEA), Vassilios Gkrizis (KEMEA)

**Summary:** A first discussion was organized by ALGOSYSTEMS concerning the potential exploitation of the FLIRE DSS after the end of the Project by KEMEA in the framework of a small-scale pilot crisis management coordination center which is currently under development by them. The discussion focused on the eventual operational use of FLIRE within this context. The meeting included the presentation of a live demo of the fire propagation module in order to demonstrate the approach and capabilities of the modules included in the FLIRE DSS. The representatives of KEMEA expressed their interest and agreed to organize a more comprehensive presentation when all the modules of FLIRE will be operational. Issues that they pointed out include the reliability of the results of the modules and the fact that the FLIRE system may have rather local interest.

## **4. Networking during scientific conferences**

Further to FLIRE networking meetings and contacts, the FLIRE consortium proceeded to networking activities during scientific conferences. Such networking activities, which were undertaken during this reporting period, are listed below following a chronological order.

Given that one of the Project's main targets is the dissemination of Project objectives and outcomes to areas with similar hydrometeorological and

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geomorphological characteristics and the uptake of FLIRE outcomes by these areas, the Project was presented by Mrs. Papathanasiou (NTUA) at 26-29/06/2013 at the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference of EWRA "Water Resources Management in an Interdisciplinary and Changing Context" in Porto, Portugal. The title of the oral presentation was "*An innovative approach to Floods and Fire Risk Assessment and Management: the FLIRE Project*". Criteria for the selection of the given conference were not only the relation of the Project with the topics addressed by the Conference, but also the fact that the Conference was organized in an area that deals with both floods and forest fires, similarly to the study area. Networking with other researchers was established during the conference.

Similar networking activities took place during the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Meteorology, Climatology and Atmospheric Physics (COMECAP 2014), which was hosted by the University of Crete, Heraklion, during 28 - 31 May 2014. FORTH collaborated with ALGOSYSTEMS and NOA for the preparation of a poster on fire-related web-services entitled "*A web service for the assessment of the behaviour and the spread of a forest fire*". Mr. Poursanidis (FORTH) presented this work to the conference audience and established networking with other researchers.

IRPI also established networking activities with researchers from other projects during the EGU (European Geophysical Union) 2014 General Assembly at 27/04-02/05/2014. In this conference, Dr. Brocca (IRPI) presented the work "*Soil as a natural rain gauge: estimating rainfall from global satellite soil moisture data*" during an oral presentation, while Dr. Massari (IRPI) presented the work "*A Wiener-Wavelet-based filter for de-noising satellite soil moisture retrievals*" in a poster.

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Finally, networking activities with other researchers were also established during the *SPIE Remote Sensing Conference 2014*, which took place in Amsterdam RAI Exhibition and Convention Centre Amsterdam, Netherlands 22 - 25 September 2014. In this conference, Dr. Chrysoulakis (FORTH) presented the work entitled "*Web service tools in the era of forest fire management and elimination*" during an oral presentation.

## **5. Networking contacts**

In addition to the aforementioned meetings, FLIRE networking contacts between the FLIRE consortium and representatives from other projects of relevance with FLIRE have been established with during this reporting period. These networking contacts are listed below following a chronological order.

### ***5.1 Networking with ArcFUEL (LIFE10 ENV/GR/000617) project and FUELMAP (Contract of JRC, Ispra) project***

ALGOSYSTEMS also participated in another LIFE Project, i.e. ArcFUEL LIFE10 ENV/GR/617 (completed 31/12/2013). ARCFUEL has been a particularly interesting 27-month long LIFE project. This project resulted in the production of fuel classification mapping for effective forest fire management in the Mediterranean region. The relevance between the FLIRE Project and ARCFUEL is quite significant, as fuel maps are required for the implementation of the FLIRE Project. Direct communication between projects was established by ALGOSYSTEMS from the first stages of the FLIRE Project. Parallel to that, the outputs of the FUELMAP Project (Contract of JRC, Ispra, coordinated by GMV (ES)), mainly in terms of fuel map classification, are taken into consideration and further exploited during the FLIRE Project.

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## **5.2 Networking with CALCHAS (LIFE08/ENV/GR/558) project**

NTUA communicated with the contact person of the CALCHAS (LIFE08/ENV/GR558) project, Prof. S. Haroutounian, in order to inform him about the FLIRE Project, its main objectives and outputs. The FLIRE newsletter and the link of the FLIRE website were sent to the contact person of the CALCHAS, who distributed this information to the consortium of the CALCHS team. Research teams of FLIRE and CALCHAS projects will keep being in contact.

## **6. Conclusions**

During this reporting period, and following the general instructions included in the Article 13.9 of the Common Provisions, the FLIRE consortium participated in 17 FLIRE networking meetings, established contacts with several projects of relevance to FLIRE and proceeded to scientific publications in conferences, during which additional networking activities were undertaken. The overall reaction of the other researchers and representatives of centralized public services and other consortia to the FLIRE project was particularly positive. Discussions during networking with researchers focused on exchange of knowledge, lessons learnt and experienced gained during the implementation of FLIRE, aiming to explore possible synergies between FLIRE and other projects. Discussions during networking with representatives from public services targeted the investigation of the possibility of using FLIRE beyond the level of the local municipalities and integrating the Project results with relevant work of other research teams activated in the same area. Networking activities will keep being intense during the next reporting period, aiming to increase the visibility of FLIRE components, further explore synergies with other projects of relevance with FLIRE and foster the Project replication in similar contexts.

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