

Impact Assessment Breakout Group Notes

The breakout group addressed three crucial topics regarding the Wildfire Risk Management (WFRM) impact assessment.

Topic 1 - Assessing Impact and Moving Forward Beyond the three Innovations Actions: The group proposed identifying specific Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) aligned with WFRM project goals, establishing a common monitoring framework using both quantitative and qualitative methods, and normalizing data across regions. Policy advocacy for mandatory data collection, stakeholder engagement from the outset, case studies, and collaboration with diverse organizations were suggested. Emphasis was placed on capacity-building programs among countries, effective communication through publications and dissemination, and integration of research outcomes into policies at various levels.

Topic 2 - EU Level Binding WFRM Targets: The group acknowledged the diversity in legislations and cultures across EU countries, making common targets challenging. While some targets were deemed more meaningful at the national level, there was an argument for measuring targets at the lowest available data level and then aggregating. A unified legislation at the EU level was considered essential to create a sense of collective responsibility and obligation for compliance.

Topic 3 - Impacts on European Commission Directorates-General: The group proposed questions to the European Commission (EC) and more specifically to the Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) regarding targets, best practices, directives, and support for continuation. Questions to DG Environment (DG ENVI) and DG for Climate Action (DG CLIMA) focused on steps taken and integration of climate action strategies. DG for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) was queried on collaboration with global partners.

In **conclusion**, an effective wildfire risk management (WFRM) approach demands the implementation of adaptable, region-specific key performance indicators (KPIs) and monitoring frameworks capable of assessing the diverse impacts across different areas. While acknowledging the significance of national-level targets, it is imperative to recognize the inherent challenge in achieving uniformity given geographical variations. Addressing this, the establishment of unified EU legislation becomes a necessity to enforce WFRM solutions consistently across member states. Collaborative efforts with key Directorate-Generals (DGs) are crucial for formulating comprehensive strategies that can effectively address the complexities of wildfire risk management at both national and international levels.

Moving forward, the outlined **next steps** entail the collective engagement of all Innovation Actions in an ongoing effort to foster knowledge sharing and collaborative ideation concerning the impact assessment methodology. This collaborative endeavor is envisaged to transpire through regular meetings, scheduled every three months under the Firelogue's direction. To facilitate the seamless

exchange of information and promote effective collaboration, it is imperative to secure support from the European Commission and Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO).