



# How can weather and climate information services improve wildfire management in Northwestern Europe?

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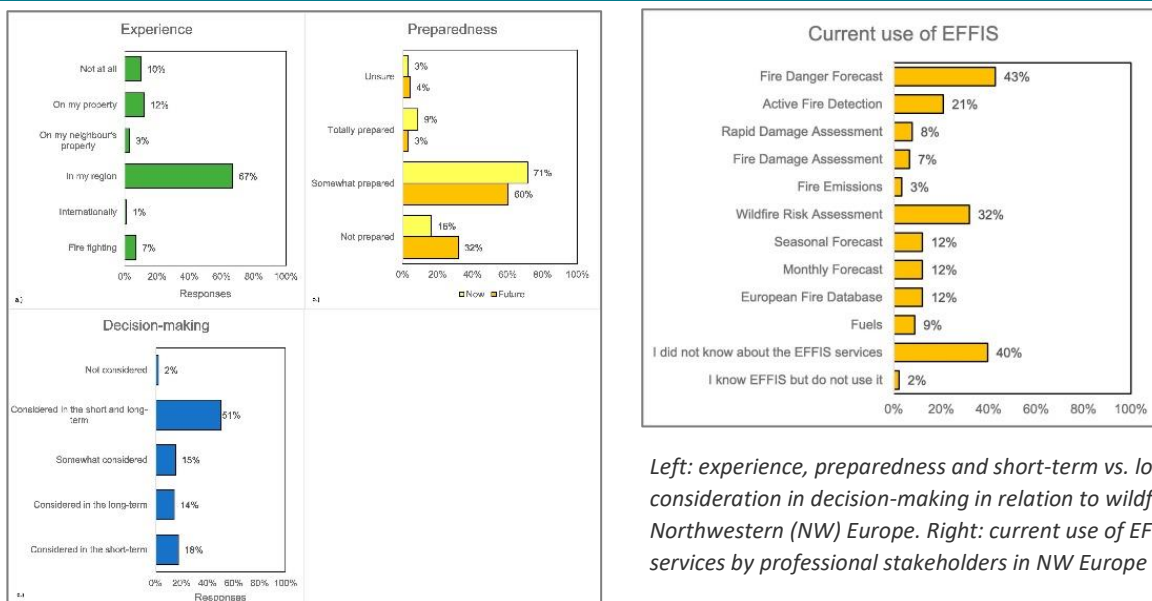


## CONTEXT

Climate change is increasing wildfire risks worldwide, including in Northwestern Europe, where wildfires were historically rare. Rising temperatures, heatwaves, and droughts are making vegetation drier, increasing the likelihood of fires. However, wildfire management in this region often lacks long-term planning tools like climate projections.

Hugo Lambrechts' research explores how weather and Climate Information Services (CIS) can enhance wildfire preparedness and management in Northwestern Europe, focusing on the needs of professionals such as firefighters, land managers, and policymakers.

## OUTCOMES



Left: experience, preparedness and short-term vs. long-term consideration in decision-making in relation to wildfires in Northwestern (NW) Europe. Right: current use of EFFIS services by professional stakeholders in NW Europe

- **Awareness vs. preparedness:** most professionals feel prepared for current wildfire conditions (80%). Preparedness for future wildfire risks is lower (63%), showing uncertainty about long-term conditions.
- **CIS usage:** short-term weather forecasts are widely used (77%). Long-term tools, like climate projections, are underutilised (31%).
- **EFFIS Services:** awareness of European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) products is low (40% of respondents were unaware). Among those familiar, the most used tools are fire danger forecasts (43%) and risk assessments (32%).
- **Gaps in CIS:** professionals want locally tailored, higher-resolution data for better decision-making.

## IMPACT ON WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT

- **Improved CIS** can bridge the gap between short-term actions and long-term wildfire risk reduction.
- Greater awareness of **EFFIS tools** could enhance cross-border collaboration and risk management.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICYMAKERS

- Increase funding and accessibility for **local-scale climate information services** tailored to regional needs.
- Promote **awareness and training** on EFFIS tools to improve their adoption and integration.
- Support **co-production** of CIS by engaging all stakeholders in wildfire management.

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### Collaborators



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