

TRACK 5: Integrated Wildfire Risk Management

21st International Conference on
INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR CRISIS RESPONSE AND MANAGEMENT

“Theme: Embracing the Crisis Management Lifecycle”

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University of Münster and State Fire Service Institute North Rhine-Westphalia
<https://iscram2024.ercis.org/>

INTRODUCTION TO THE TRACK

Anthropogenic climate change and landscape transformation are altering the dynamics of extreme wildfire events, leading to increasing wildfire risk globally. In 2023, the number of hectares burnt has beaten many records. To name just two examples, in Canada, more 13 million hectares had burned by August¹ and in Greece, the record area burnt was already exceeded in July by 10.000 ha² while large fires on the island of Rhodes required for the evacuation of almost 20,000 people including large amounts of tourists.³

In line with these developments, the call for more integrated wildfire risk management and efforts for enhanced governance approaches are increasing. The release of the “Landscape Fire Governance Framework”⁴ at the International Wildland Fire Conference in Porto as well as the publication of the “Wildfire

¹ Data released by the [Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre](#) indicates that in early August—about halfway through the fire season—the number of hectares burned throughout the country was roughly double what is normally burned during an entire season. As of August 10, 2023, that area totaled 13.5 million hectares (33.4 million acres), about the size of the state of Mississippi. ([Relentless Wildfires in Canada \(nasa.gov\)](#), 06.09.2023).

² [Information Bulletin 168 - The Copernicus Emergency Management Service monitors the wildfires in Greece | COPERNICUS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICE](#) (06.09.2023)

³ [Greece carries out its biggest ever evacuation as wildfires rage on Rhodes | Greece | The Guardian](#) (06.09.2023)

⁴ [Framework \(wildfire2023.pt\)](#)



Peer Review Assessment Framework”⁵ (Wildfire PRAF) by the Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (DG ECHO), both in May 2023 are just two examples. Simultaneously, the European Commission is investing more than 60 Mio. € in enhancing wildfire risk management through research and innovation under the Green Deal⁶. However, governance approaches and technological innovations need to be brought together systematically to unfold their impact while Wildfire Risk Management requires a very complex collaboration of all stakeholders (from civil protection to citizens, forest owner, land-use planners, infrastructure operators or insurances) and across risk management phases (prevention, preparedness, response and recovery). Due to the complexity, importance of the topics and number of innovations being developed in this thematic field, an entire hazard-related track is proposed.

TRACK TOPICS⁷

The Track aims to bring the technological and procedural innovations together with the aim to boost integrated wildfire risk management at larger scale. In this sense, it deals with general aspects of integrated wildfire risk management, including the application of new methodologies and the mainstreaming thereof, the involvement of multiple stakeholders, and perspectives, with the aim to facilitate the governance of extreme wildfire events.

It suggests the following topics to be included in the conference programme:


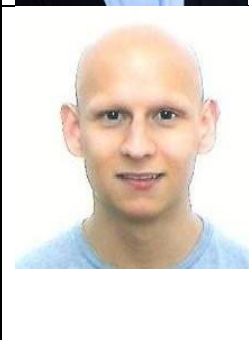
- Upscaling Integrated Wildfire Risk Management: the governance perspective
- Innovative tools and approaches for enhancing Wildfire Risk Assessment
- Risk evaluation and tolerance
- Good management practices for landscape resilience to wildfires
- Multi-stakeholder integration
- Requirements for citizen and media engagement
- Insurance instruments and related technologies for wildfire risk reduction
- Extreme events: new challenges for inter-agency response
- Recovering from extreme events: the need for new restoration and recovery approaches

⁵ civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-06/Wildfire_PRAF_V2.pdf

⁶ A dedicated call on “Preventing and fighting extreme wildfires with the integration and demonstration of innovative means” had been issued under the Green Deal.

⁷ Please note that this Track is complementary with the Track on “Emerging topics in wildfire risk management: social resilience and local community response”

TRACK CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR

	<p><i>Dr. Claudia Berchtold*</i> Claudia.berchtold@int.fraunhofer.de</p> <p><i>Fraunhofer Institute for Technological Trend Analysis (INT)</i></p>
	<p><i>Mr David Martín</i> dmartin@paucostafoundation.org</p> <p><i>Pau Costa Foundation (PCF)</i></p>

**Corresponding Chair*



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