



International workshop held in Italy

Part of the ERASMUS+ project Fores Adapt, there was a three days workshop (3 – 5 October 2022) held in Potenza, Basilicata, Italy where all partners of the project participated together with some of the experts involved in the project's activities.

One of the main results of the project is to create a *Local Adaptation Plan in case of wild forest fires* which can be implemented in any of the participants countries.

The aim of the project is to bring together local rural communities from Romania, Bulgaria, Italy and Spain for the development of the "Local Forest Fire Adaptation Plan" and the creation of internationalized local learning environments by training the community population and organizational staff to prevent and limit the effects of fires natural forests.

The project promotes social inclusion by addressing adults living in rural communities closer to forests and remote areas, with socio-economic difficulties and disabilities/health problems, creating inclusive environments that respond to the needs of the wider community: climate change adaptation, wildfires forestry.

Besides the educational aspects of the workshop, it also aimed at creating the real environment where specific work inside of the projects network can be done and concrete results to be developed, forming a practical *joint cooperation* between participating institutions and experts.



Through all the activities organized during the three days in Potenza, we wanted to accomplish of the project's objectives of bringing the European dimension to the local level in the field of adaptation to natural forest fires through creation of small joint networks capable to respond in an effective manner to local disasters caused by forest fires.

During the meeting, the partners discussed the Local Action Plan, then presentations were made by representatives of local authorities in Basilicata: Local Fire Department, Civil Defense, Forestry Carabinieri, Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry of the Basilicata Region.

We also visited the University of Basilicata where Professor Angelo Nole and Professor Francesco Ripullone spoke about the effects of natural disasters on forests.

The first topic analyzed was "**climate change risk and vulnerability assessment**".

Specifically, the analysis of risk factors in each region (such as climate change, anthropogenic, etc.) was discussed through data, evidence and real examples.

The issue of climate change affects the whole world and it was interesting to understand how this influence differently by geographic region.



One of the most important risks of climate change is certainly forest fires. For this reason, directly dealing with the fire department was very formative in understanding how to prevent fires and what they are major vulnerabilities and hazards.

This was the right opportunity to discuss the main **risk factors** regarding climate change and forest fires, starting from the visualization of data and information from regional/national plans. In this way, it was possible analysis of the different techniques of prevention, limitation and rehabilitation that different subjects highlighted during the meeting.

All participants were able to actively discuss with stakeholders. Once all the issues were analyzed, it was possible to identify **the best practices** that all actors should implement as quickly as possible.

Success stories, local best practices and inspiring experiences have proven to be very helpful in creating, as a result, a regional framework that helps a broad and comprehensive vision of the subject.

