

Agricultural Policy Forum 2026

Agricultural Policy Coherence in South-East Europe: EU Integration Dynamics, Institutional Reforms and Climate Adaptation

Landscape Fire Management and Climate Change

*Prof. Nikola Nikolov,
Head of the Regional Fire Monitoring Center (RFMC)*

With support from



Federal Ministry
of Agriculture, Food
and Regional Identity

by decision of the
German Bundestag



Prishtina
03 – 05 June 2026





ABOUT REGIONAL NETWORKING AND REGIONAL FIRE MONITORING CENTER (RFMC)

Regional networking in South East Europe has been initiated in 2002.

http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/SEEurope/SEEurope_0.html



Antalya 2004, ECE / FAO / ILO Conference



Regional consultation, Macedonia, 2005



20.04.2010



Regional Fire Monitoring Center (RFMC)



www.rfmc.mk

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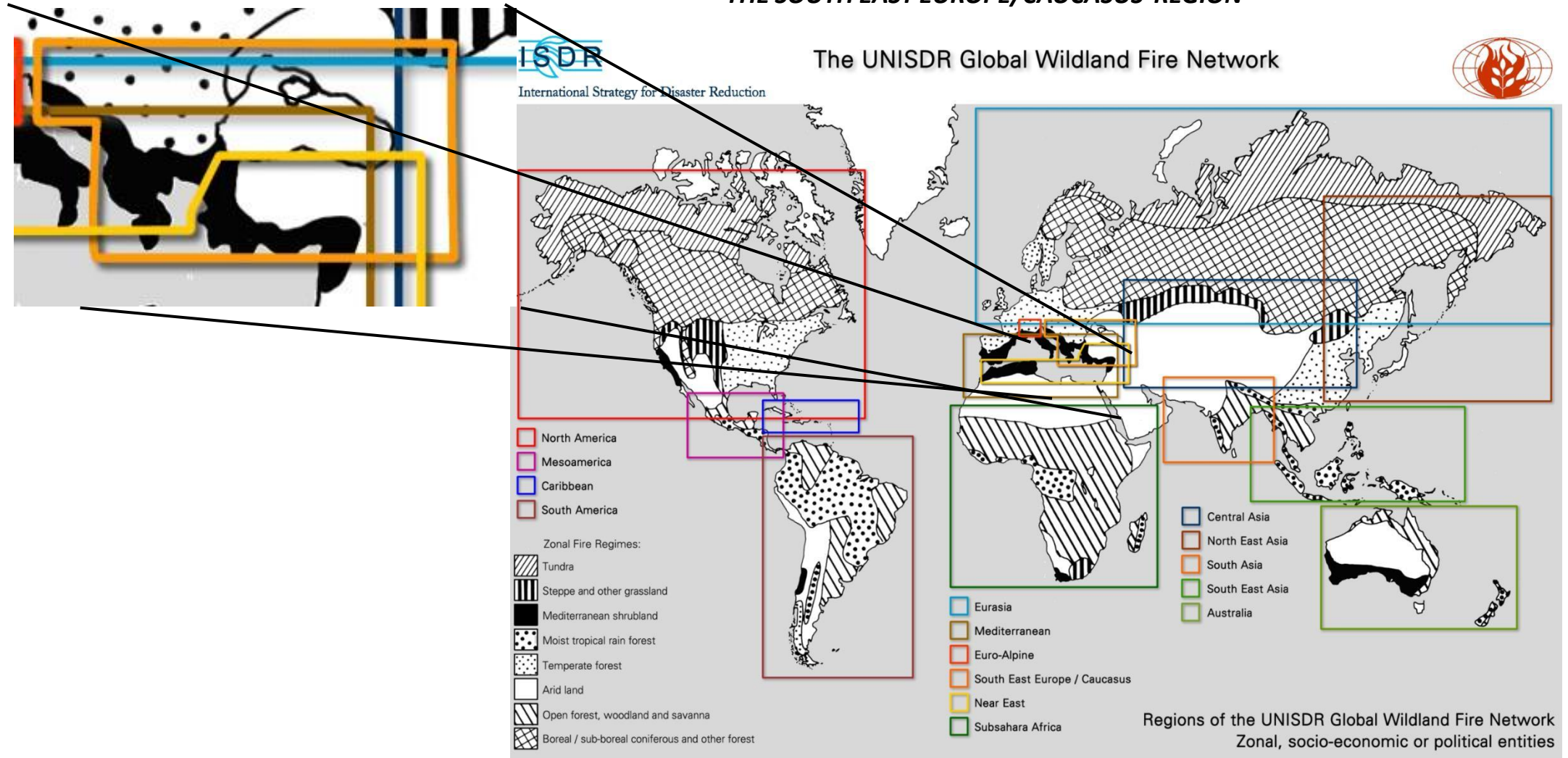


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THE UNISDR GLOBAL WILDLAND FIRE NETWORK - THE SOUTH EAST EUROPE/CAUCASUS REGION -



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Landscape Fire Management approach

Landscape fire: Overarching term for fires burning in the vegetation of natural, cultural and urban-industrial landscapes (especially the peri-urban and rural residential areas)

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THE CONCEPT OF FIRE PROTECTION

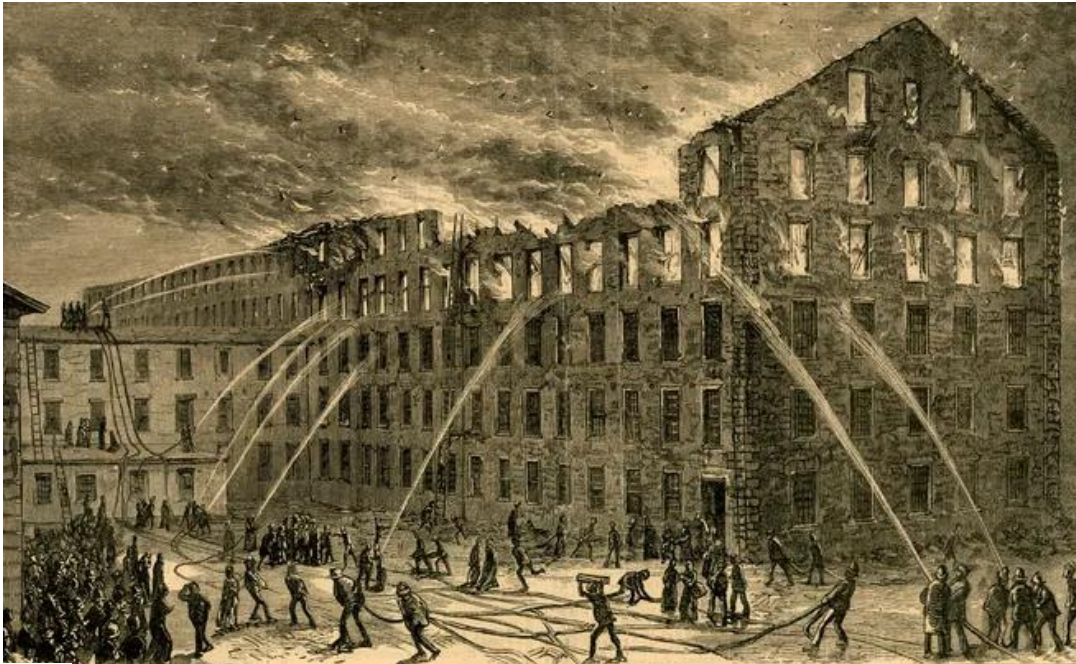
In general

FIRE SUPPRESSION ORIENTED

The end of eighteenth century - industrial revolution

The nineteenth century - industrial development and growth of the cities

Between 1805 and 1911, the proportion of the French population living in cities increased from 25% to 44%; in Germany during the same period, urban population increased from 30% to 60%



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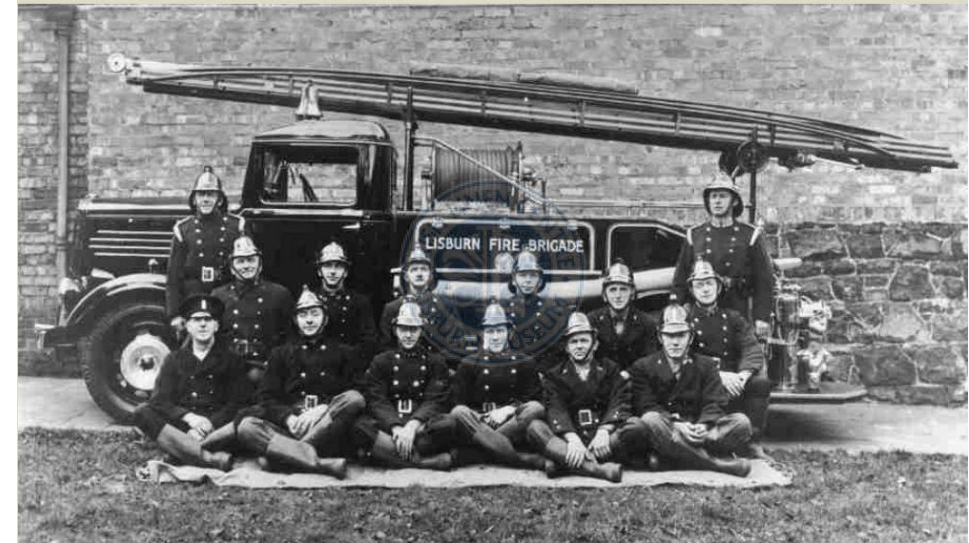


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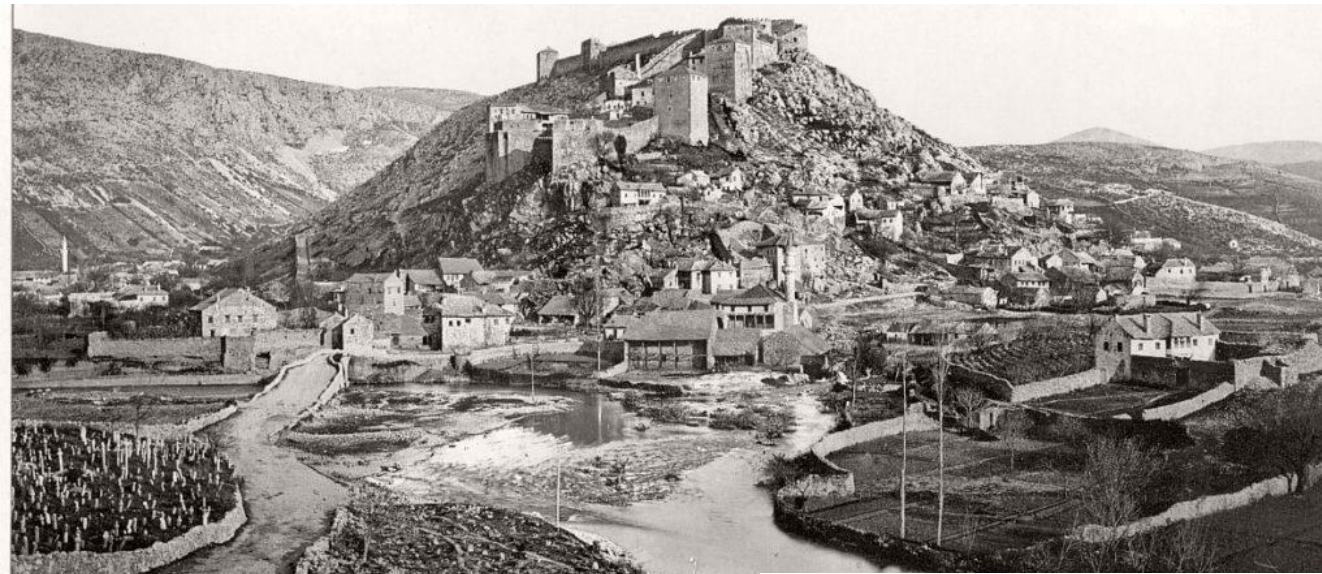
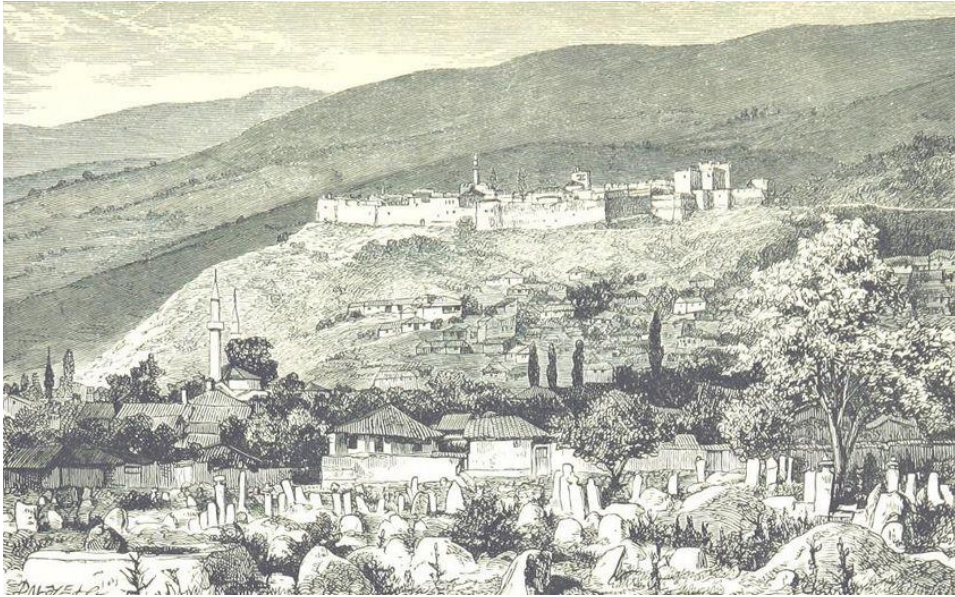


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Natural and Cultural landscape - Nowadays

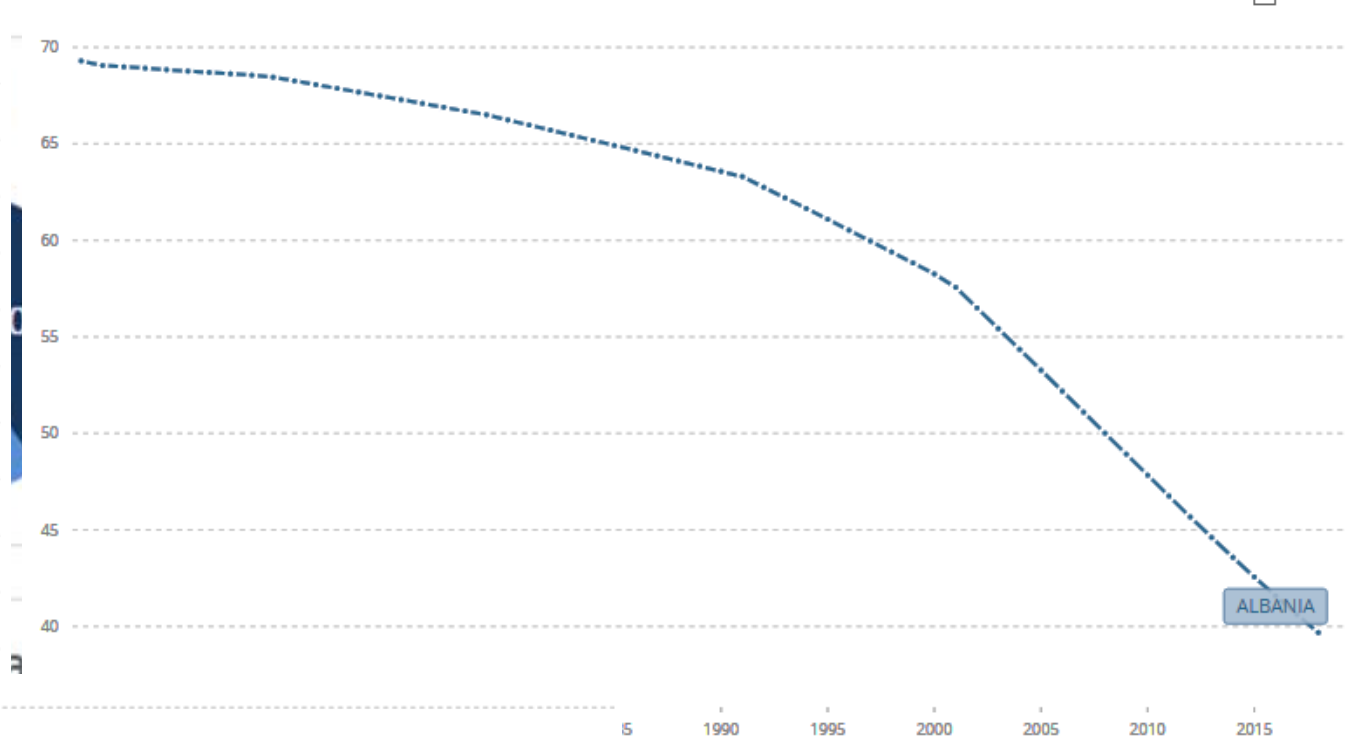
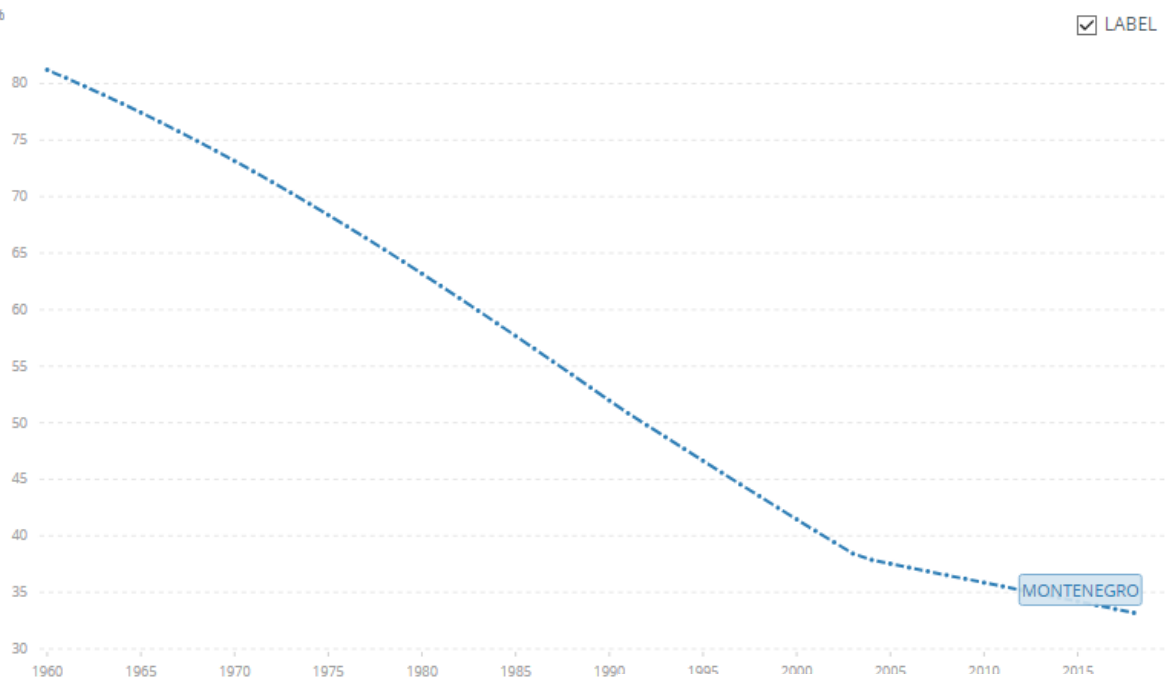
STILL FIRE SUPPRESSION ORIENTED SYSTEMS

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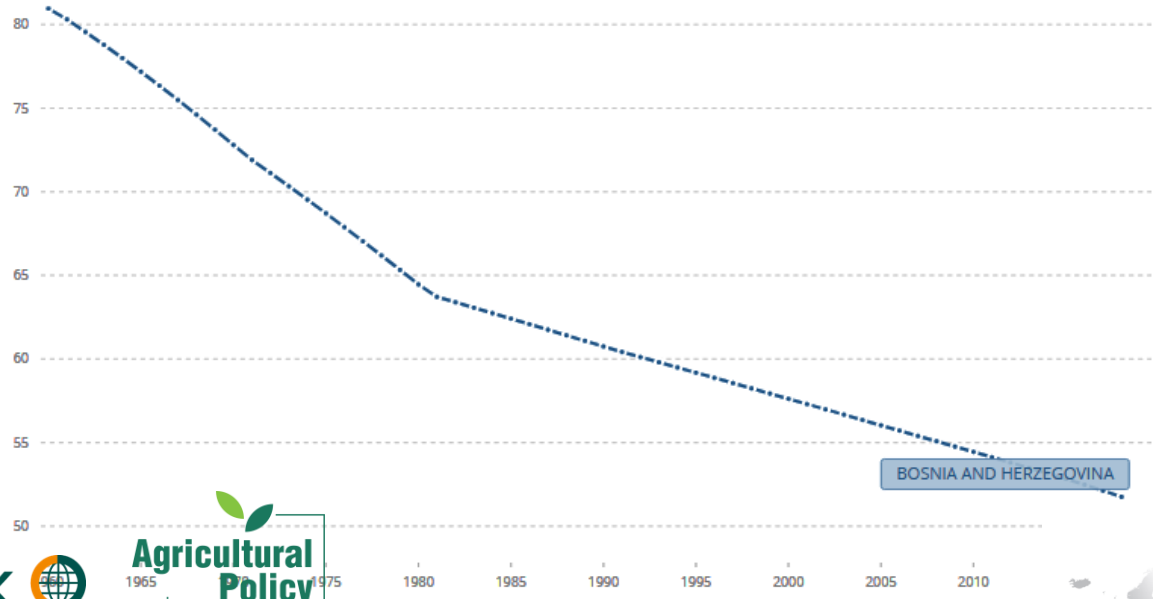
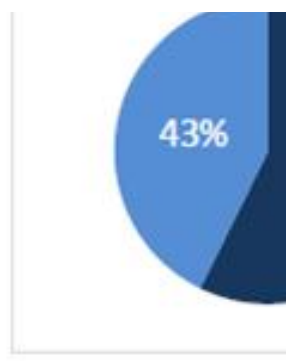


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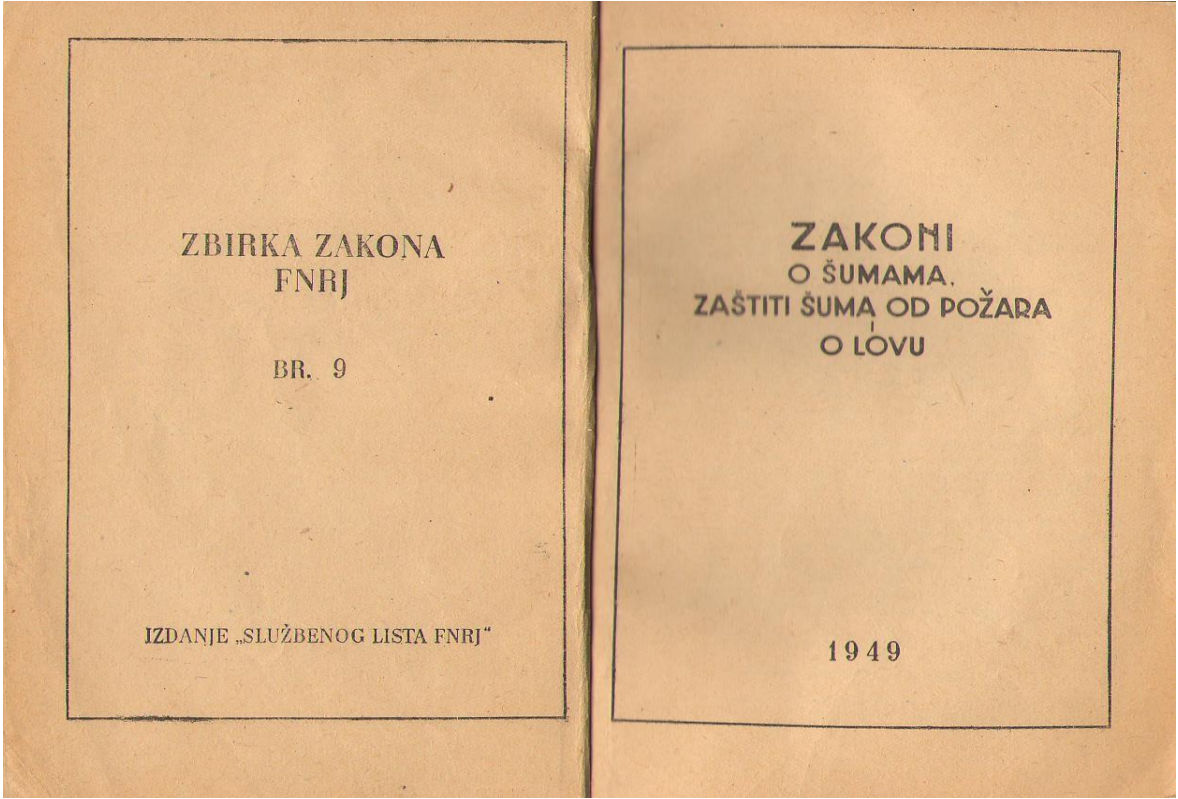
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Regional Climate Partnership
GERMANY – WESTERN BALKANS

german cooperation
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iako su to bili predviđeni.
 Rasprostranjenost šuma i šumskog zemljišta po na-
 rodnim republikama izgleda ovako: NR Srbija ima oko
 21%; NR Hrvatska oko 34%; NR Slovenija oko 45%;
 NR Bosna i Hercegovina oko 48%; NR Makedonija oko
 26% i NR Crna Gora ima oko 37% šuma i šumskog
 zemljišta od ukupne površine.
 Ovako nasledeno degradirano stanje šuma nije

Forest and forest land:	1949	2020
Serbia	21%	30%
Croatia	34%	35%
Slovenia	45%	60%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	48%	63%
Macedonia	26%	42%
Montenegro	37%	61%



South Eastern Europe
 Standing Working Group

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➤ **Causes:**

- Agricultural and pasture burning
 - Arson
 - Negligence (waste burning etc.)
- } **Caused by human**

➤ **Large territory of abandoned agricultural land and pastures as well as villages:**

- Fuel accumulation
 - No fuel management activities
 - Social-economic changes
 - Demographic changes
- } **Landscape changes**



“extremely fire prone landscape”



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Australia



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Chile 2016-2017



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Los Angeles 2024



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A **megafire** is an extraordinary fire that devastates a large area.
intensity, size, duration, and uncontrollable dimension. There is no precise scientific definition.



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Athens 2009



Greece

Mati 2018

103 fatalities



66 fatalities

Portugal 2017



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- Bosnia and Herzegovina 2020 -



- Montenegro 2017 -



- Macedonia 2021 -



- Serbia 2024-



- Albania 2021-



- Croatia 2017-



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➤ **Climate change !?**

Climate change in the WB Region

Projected change in temperature (July) and change in annual precipitation in the WB countries until 2040-2059 according to RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 in comparison to the reference period 1986 - 2005

Change until 2040-2059	Change in temperature in July		Change in annual precipitation	
	RCP4.5	RCP8.5	RCP4.5	RCP8.5
Albania	+2°C	+3°C	-41.3 mm	-52 mm
BiH	+1.9°C	+2.9°C	-20.9 mm	-19.7 mm
Kosovo	No data	No data	No data	No data
Montenegro	+2°C	+3°C	-24.8 mm	-27 mm
N. Macedonia	+2.3°C	3.5°C	-36 mm	-49 mm
Serbia	+2.2°C	+3.5°C	-14 mm	-22.9 mm

► **forestry:**

- » high risk of widespread forest degradation related to the increased fire frequency and spreading, flash floods and mortality because of the faster climate change than natural migration,
- » widespread disappearance of present taxa (varieties) over the region;

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“extremely fire prone landscape”



➤ **Climate change !?**

“with the climate change as a main precondition/driver”

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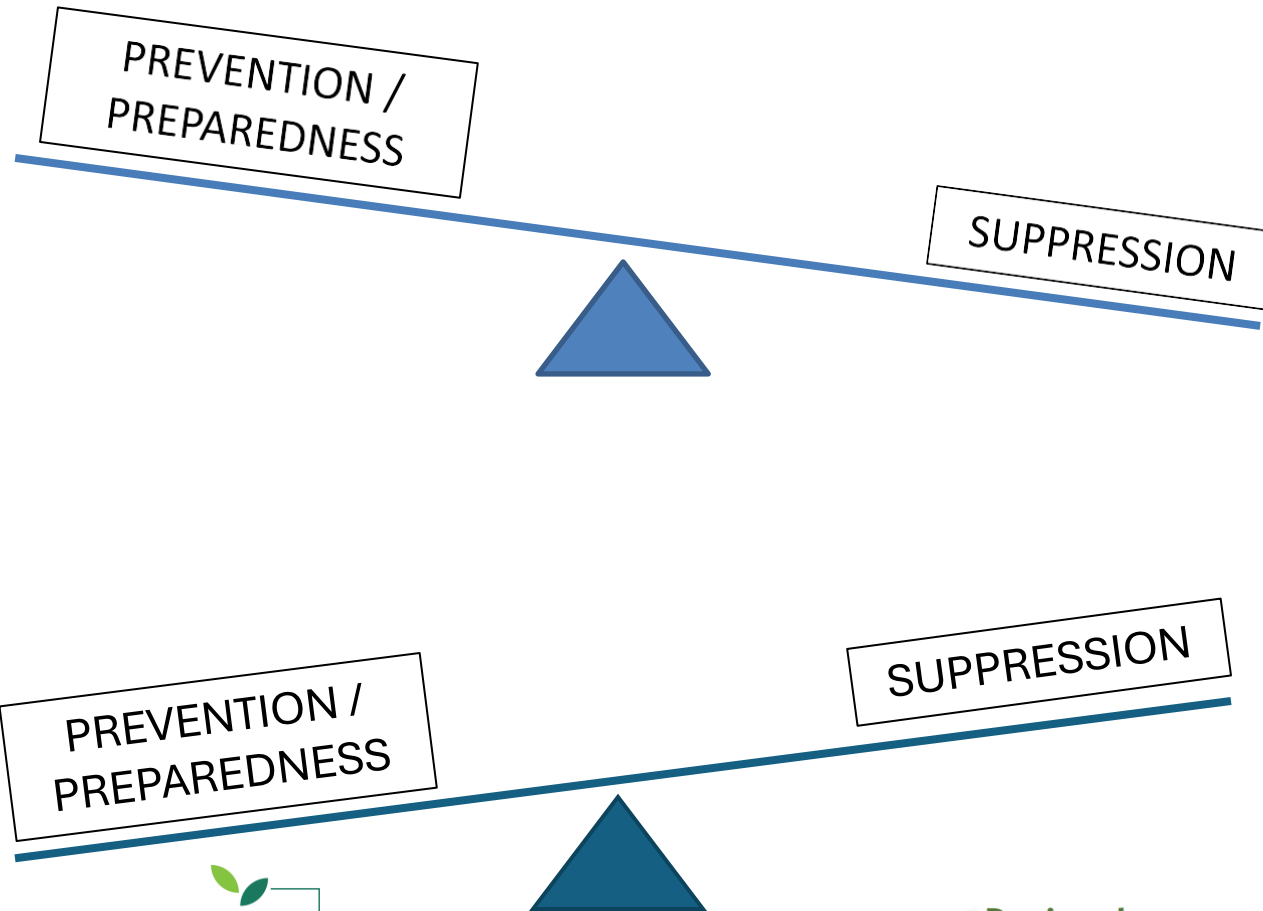
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➤ Climate change



“with the climate change as a main precondition/driver”

1. measures of prevention



➤ Causes:

- Agricultural and pasture burning
- Arson
- Negligence (waste burning etc.)

Caused by human

- ***Legal measures*** (laws, rulebooks and other legal documents)
- ***Measures of education***
- ***Informative-propaganda measures***

2. measures of preparedness

➤ Large territory of abandoned agricultural land and pastures as well as villages:

- **Fuel accumulation**
- **No fuel management activities**
- Social-economic changes
- Demographic changes

Landscape changes

PREPARATORY MEASURES

1. Early fire detection
2. Organizing of system for communication
3. Organizing transport for the firefighters, tools and equipment
4. Procurement of appropriate tools and equipment
5. Recruitment and training of fire fighters

fuel management

6. **Building of firebreaks and fuelbreaks**
7. **Fuel mapping and fuel reduction**
8. **Creating of early warning system**
9. **Preparation of annual forest fire operational plan (annual fire management plan)**

Forestry (*management technics and planning*)

Agriculture (*management technics and planning*)

Government (*legal framework and finances*)

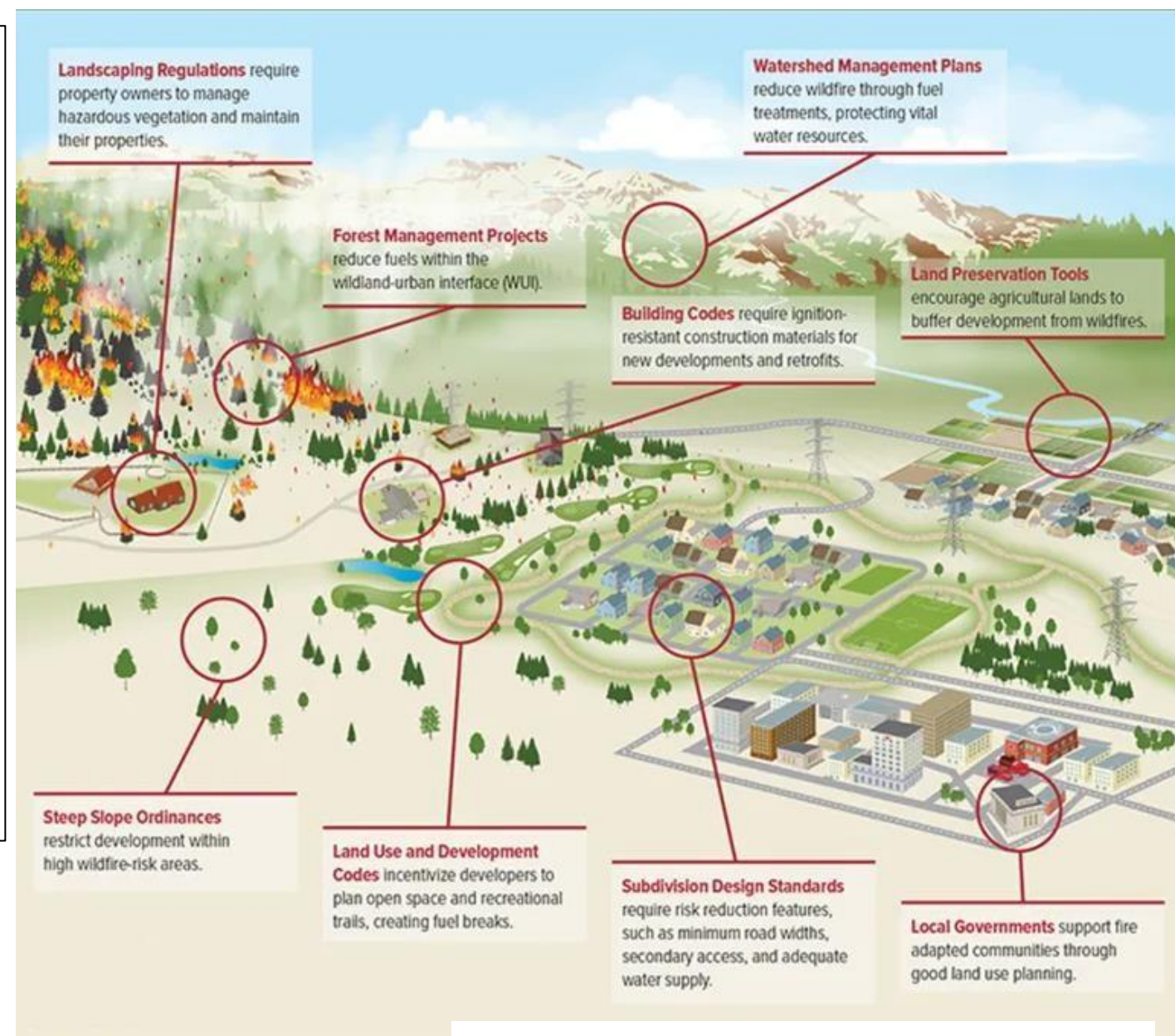
Cadastre (*land use data support*)

Municipality (*legal framework, planning and finances*)

Min. of ecology (*legal framework and finances*)

Local population (*management practices and planning*)

Science (*knowledge, innovations e.t.c.*)



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