USE4FOREST – PROJECT CLOSING EVENT

“From prevention to resilience: European territories facing the challenge of forest fires”

Aude Department, Carcassonne
23, 24 and 25 November 2026

General programme

Monday 23 November 2026

9:30 a.m. – 5:15 p.m., Conference, Gaston DEFFERRE room, Department Headquarters

Tuesday 24 November 2026

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Field visits

Wednesday 25 November 2026

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Sharing of good practices based on the population protection exercise conducted in Miranda do Douro, Department Headquarters, Pic de Nore room

Monday 23 November 2026

Conference: "From prevention to resilience: European territories facing the challenge of forest fires"

Interpretation: ESP, EN, FR

9:30 a.m.	**Registration and accreditation of participants**
10:00 a.m.	**WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS (15 min)** ≡ **Ms Hélène Sandragné,** President of the Aude Departmental Council ≡ **Mr José Lago,** Provincial Deputy, Provincial Council of Ourense, Lead Partner of the project ≡ **Representative of the French National Authority**
10:15 a.m.	**KEYNOTE SPEECH: EUROPEAN COMMISSION (30 min)** ≡ **Ms Claire Kowalewski,** DG ECHO. ≡ **Ms Katalin Fortuné,** Departmental Councillor for the Corbières canton, Aude Department.
10:45 a.m.	**COFFEE BREAK**
11:15 a.m.	**Round Table 1** **WHY ARE OUR FORESTS BURNING MORE? Understanding how risks are evolving in our territories (60 min)** **Moderator: Mr Manuel Francisco Gutiérrez,** Director General for Forest Protection, Xunta de Galicia **Speakers:** ≡ **Mr Juan Picos,** Doctor and researcher at the University of Vigo**.** ≡ **Mr Francisco Rego,** Forest Fire Expert, University of Lisbon (Emeritus) ≡ **Mr Froilán Sevilla,** Head of the territorial section in the province of Burgos, Castile and León region. ≡ **Mr Frederic Mortier,** IGEDD Inspector – Forest fire prevention and response policy.

	Questions / answers with the audience
12:15 p.m.	**<u>Round Table 2</u>** **ACTING TOGETHER AGAINST FIRE: INNOVATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN TERRITORIES, CITIZENS AND EUROPE (60 min)** **Moderator: Mr Noel Afonso –** Sub-regional Commander in charge of emergency and civil protection for the Terras de Trás-os-Montes region, within the National Emergency and Civil Protection Authority (ANEPC) **Speakers:** ≡ **Ms Hélène Sandragné,** President of the Aude Departmental Council ≡ **Mr Alfredo García,** Demographic Challenge Expert**.** ≡ **Ms Ángela Iglesias Rodrigo,** Head of the Forest Fire Service (ADCIF), Directorate-General for Biodiversity, Forests and Desertification, MITECO. Questions / answers with the audience
1:15 p.m.	≡ **BUFFET LUNCH** ≡ **Demonstration and introduction to the forest fire prevention awareness game created by the Corbières-Fenouillèdes Regional Natural Park**
2:45 p.m.	**<u>Round Table 3</u>** **NEW SOLUTIONS TO SUPPORT TERRITORIES TOWARDS RESILIENCE** **Analyse, prevent and act (90 min)** **Moderator + opening contribution: Ms. Laura Alonso Martínez,** Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Vigo (15') **Speakers:** ***1 | Impact of forest vegetation types and densities on fire protection.*** ● **Mr João Azevedo,** Coordinating Professor at the School of Agriculture of the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (15 min) ***2 | Preventive planning and rapid intervention to improve fire prevention***

	and management. ● **Mr David Prieto Fernández,** Deputy Director for Fire Prevention, XUNTA DE GALICIA (15 min) ***3 | Modelling fire behaviour to quantify and prevent its spread.*** ● **Mr Alejandro Cantero Amiano –** HAZI (15 min) ***4 | Productive firebreaks: territorial wealth, population retention and fire prevention*** ● **Mr Hervé Baro,** President of the PNRCF and 1st Vice-President of the Aude Department (15 min) Questions / answers with the audience
4:15 p.m.	**<u>Closing</u>** **LOOKING AHEAD: WHAT NEXT? (45 min)** **Presented by: Mr Javier Rodríguez Novoa,** Provincial Council of Ourense, Lead Partner of the USE4FOREST project. **Keynote Speech: Mr Wiktor Szydarowski,** Director General of the ESPON programme (20 min) ≡ **Ms Isabelle Roger, Director,** SUDOE Joint Secretariat (5 min) ≡ **Mr André Viola,** elected representative in charge of European and international affairs, Aude Department, Member of the European Committee of the Regions (5 min) ≡ **Mr Vincent Guglielmini,** President of the Pays Sud Charente Joint Association (5 min) ≡ **Mr Pedro Lima,** President of CIM TTM (5 min) ≡ **Mr. Ángel Sánchez Martín,** Director General for Forest Fire Prevention and Control (5')
5:20 p.m.	**END OF THE DAY (return by bus to the hotel)**

Tuesday 24 November 2026

Interpretation: ESP, FR

Field visit

– 8:00 a.m., meeting point in front of the Tribes Hotel, departure by bus from Carcassonne

– 9:15 a.m., meeting point in front of the Talairan cooperative winery and official welcome by Ludovic Roux, President of the Aude Chamber of Agriculture and President of the cooperative winery

Programme of visits:

9:30 – 10:30 a.m., Theme: experimentation with mulch and compost on vineyard soils:

- Malric plot: presentation of cutting, mulch production and pastoral maintenance (Mr Malric and Stéphane Lobier, Aude Chamber of Agriculture) – 20 min

- La Rune estate, 10:00 a.m.: presentation of the mulch-compost/vine experiment by the estate and the Aude Chamber of Agriculture project officer – 30 min

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Theme: opening up areas and winter transhumance

- St Martin Chapel: coach stop on the disused section of the departmental road and walk to the cleared site

- Presentation of area opening/winter transhumance by Margaux Lecrocq and Stéphane Lobier of the Aude Chamber of Agriculture / contribution by a livestock farmer (20 min)

- Presentation of the virtual fencing experiment, PNRCF + Sup Agro + Aude Chamber of Agriculture

12:30 – 3:00 p.m., departure by bus to the lunch venue:

4:00 – 4:30 p.m., Theme: adaptation of tree species

- Arrival at La Mugue and presentation of experimental plantations on departmental property and the “Seeds of the Future” project; speakers:

- Christophe Gonzalez, Head of the Environment and Agriculture Department

- Olivier Baron, Head of the departmental nurseries, and Laurent Decarsin, officer responsible for the management of departmental properties

4:45 p.m., Departure for Carcassonne

Wednesday 25 November 2026

Working session

Interpretation: ESP, FR

Venue: Department Headquarters, Pic de Nore room

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Sharing of good practices based on the "population protection exercise conducted in Miranda do Douro"

The final day of the closing event will be devoted to working and exchanging with European partners on protecting populations from the risk of forest fires.
Building on the experience carried out in Miranda do Douro, this session will provide an opportunity to compare the preparedness, alert and population protection arrangements implemented in the different territories.
The Portuguese and French experiences presented will make it possible to identify practices that could be transferred or adapted to other territorial contexts.
Beyond sharing experiences, the discussions will seek to draw common lessons and identify practical ways to strengthen territorial cooperation and resilience.
This session will thus build on the work of the USE4FOREST project by focusing on the collective capacity of territories to anticipate, manage and overcome crises related to forest fires.

- Mr Noel Afonso – Sub-regional Commander in charge of emergency and civil protection for the Terras de Trás-os-Montes region, Portugal, within the National Emergency and Civil Protection Authority (ANEPC)

- A representative of the Aude Fire and Rescue Service (SDIS), La Pradelle hamlet operation

- Mr Jean-Paul Baylac, Aude Forest Fire Prevention and Protection Project Manager, protection measures implemented around UNESCO sites

End of the closing event