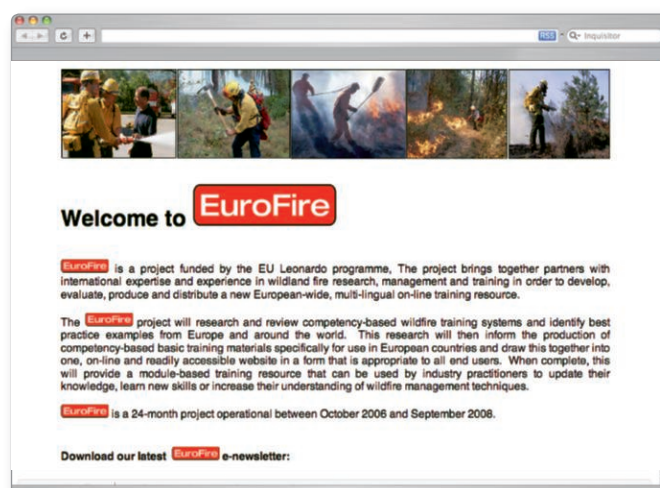


# InForm

## Welcome to issue two

**The Eurofire international partnership has had a great year. Initial concepts have been turned into vegetation fire competency standards and training materials.**

**This information is available for you to download from our improved website at [www.euro-fire.eu](http://www.euro-fire.eu).**



The idea for EuroFire came from the experience of the difficult wildfires in 2003 around Europe. The International Association of Firefighters (CTIF) the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) and Rural Development Initiatives Ltd (RDI) created the EuroFire partnership and project to start to tackle some of the training issues. EU Leonardo da Vinci approved funding for EuroFire as a

pilot project and supported the project from October 2006 to December 2008.

The project has successfully produced new competency based basic level wildfire and prescribed fire training material. The training resources are designed to be used by a wide range of stakeholders, especially from the fire service and land management communities.

Six competency standards and four training modules have been produced. The standards have been produced in English, French and German. Sixty-seven new illustrations have also been produced as part of the training materials in two styles, with an English and an International version. Access to the materials is through the EuroFire website.

### Activities at a glance:

**April 07** Development of competency based training concept

**May 07** Launch at Eurofire & CTIF (international association of firefighters) side meetings at 4th International Wildland Fire Conference

**June - Dec 07** Joint meetings with Fire Paradox Project

**Nov 07** Development of 6 key Level 2 vegetation fire management competency standards

**Oct 07 - March 08** Consultation over standards with interested parties

**April 08 - Oct 08** Translation of standards into French and German

**Oct 08** Final meeting with CTIF, in Greece

**Oct - Dec 08** Production of standards in graphic template

**April 08 - Dec 08** Development of 4 training modules

**April 08 - Dec 08** Development of 67 illustrations with graphics, in two formats: English and International

# Competency standards and the training cycle

**Competency standards are the hub in the wheel. All stages of a vocational training cycle can be mapped against competency standards:**

## Identification of needs

measurement through appraisal, performance review, training needs analysis, and self assessment using competency standards as a benchmark

## Training programme

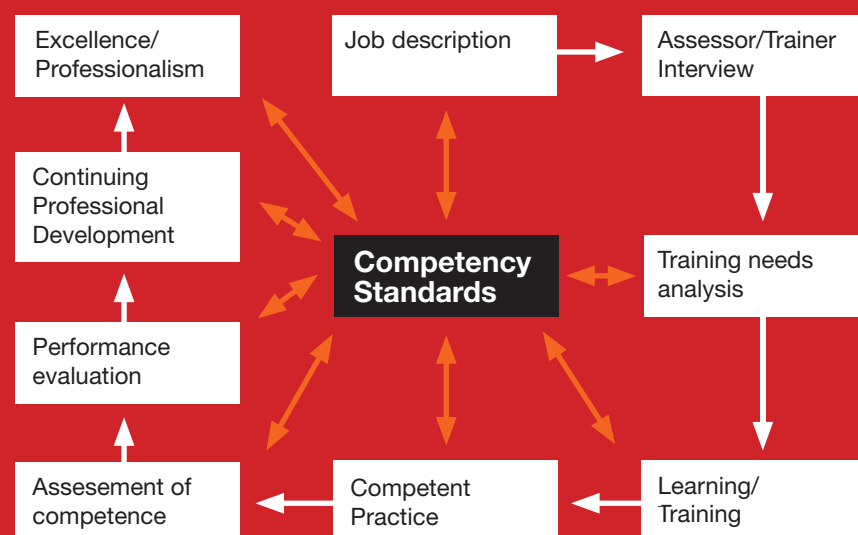
planning of learning activities, to deliver the skills, knowledge, attitudes and standards expected. Using competency standards to support development of training objectives and detailed syllabus.

## Delivery of training

options include: informal learning, attending courses, doing projects, work shadowing, coaching, mentoring, external training, and internal training. Benchmark against competency standards.

## Assessment

measuring performance level back in the workplace, this looks at the transfer and acquisition of skills, knowledge and ability. Measurement is against competency standards that provide the benchmark.



## Training modules

The EuroFire training materials have been developed to support fire training for a Level 2 work environment. That is for members of a tanker crew, hand crew, or prescribed burning team, who are instructed to do tasks and who work under direct supervision.

The priority for development of training materials has been to fill knowledge and skills gaps. Wildfire and prescribed fire management create specific challenges in terms of risk management, fire behaviour knowledge and familiarity with specialist tools and techniques.

Research and consultation with the industry helped identify the skills gaps and prioritise the work. An example of the challenges involved for firefighters is that crews that are competent in the use of water may not be as familiar with the use of hand tools. Each tool and technique has its place.

### EF1

Ensure that your actions in the vegetation fire workplace reduce the risks to yourself and others.

### EF2

Apply techniques and tactics to control vegetation fire.

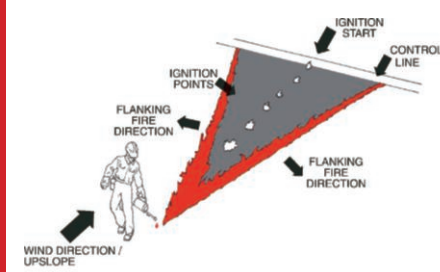
### EF4

Apply hand tools to control vegetation fire.

### EF6

Apply vegetation ignition techniques.

Language barriers still exist in Europe. A picture says a thousand words. The project has therefore made considerable efforts to produce a new set of diagrams to breach language barriers. The diagrams come in two versions. One version has English text the other has no text to allow trainers in each country to add the text in their own language.



## Website



Top: Claire Glaister (RD), overall direction of project.  
Bottom: Stefan Maisch (GFMC), website developer.

**The EuroFire website [www.euro-fire.eu](http://www.euro-fire.eu) has been updated. All six competency standards are available as PDF downloads in English, French and German. The four training modules are also available, in English, as PDF files. The sixty-seven illustrations in English and the international illustrations with no text are available on request to fire schools and accredited training providers.**

The training concepts behind EuroFire, including: competency based training, the European Qualifications Framework, competency standards and the role of assessment are discussed and reference materials provided. There is also project information and contact details of all the EuroFire Partners along with a reference list and a list websites of other training organisations and existing training material.

## Assessment

**Assessment of competence is a key part of a Competency Based Training system. It is a quality assurance system that can lead to certification and qualifications.**

Competence should be assessed in the work place, with the candidate observed doing the job and using the skills and knowledge defined in the competency standards. Candidates can collect evidence from a variety of sources in a portfolio to show that they are competent.

This is a very different approach compared to doing tests in a classroom. There is no pass or fail in the system, just an assessment of whether the candidate is competent, not yet competent or there is insufficient information to make a judgement.

**For quality assurance it is important that evidence is:**

### Valid:

it relates to the competency standard you are trying to prove

### Authentic:

the evidence, or an identified part of it (e.g. report) was produced by you

### Consistent:

achieved on more than one occasion

### Current:

usually not more than two years old

### Sufficient:

covers all the performance and knowledge requirements laid down in the standards

## Q&A

with Prof Johann Goldammer, Director of GFMC



**Q. Who is going to look after the website and materials?**

**A. The GFMC are going to maintain the website and have custody of the materials**

**Q. Eurofire is a pilot project, how can I give feedback on the materials?**

**A. There is a feedback form on the website and the contact details of GFMC and all the other partners**

**Q. How do I get copies of the competency standards and training materials?**

**A. The six standards and four training modules are available as .pdf downloads from the EuroFire website**

**Q. How can I get copies of the illustrations for my training courses?**

**A. Make a request to GFMC, indicating which fire school or training provider you work for along with an indication of the qualifications and/or experience you have training in this area. The illustrations will then be sent to you**

**Q. Will EuroFire keep going and produce more material?**

**A. This depends on obtaining funding for further work. We also hope to get feedback on the current material before extending the project**



# Messages from Partners

"Fire is in many cases a necessity for biological diversity and needs to be handled in the right way. The EuroFire competency standards is an excellent way of showing the public the skill and knowledge that is required when dealing with fire. That goes both for suppression efforts or prescribed fire for conservation purposes."

**Tomas Rydkvist**  
Fire manager  
Västernorrland  
Sweden

"With climate change skills for tackling wildfires are going to become more important for fire and rescue service personnel. The Eurofire pilot project with its combination of standards and training materials gives a clear indication of the skills that we will need. The website based informal learning approach will be particularly useful because the threat from wildfires is so geographically spread out. Firefighters will be able to access the training material from anywhere."

**Paul Bowers**  
Senior Divisional Officer  
Deputy Director  
Safer Communities

EuroFire is being funded with support from the European Commission. The information presented here reflects the views only of the author and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

find out more about us, email:  
[eurofire@gfmc.org](mailto:eurofire@gfmc.org)

# EuroFire Project Development

**The Steering Group and Project Team have given the EuroFire Project some solid foundations and significant achievements have been made.**



These are outcomes that can be built in the future. The concepts, standards and training materials will benefit from further field testing, evaluation and feedback.

The partners will continue to meet and discuss the material to further refine and improve it. Meantime it is in the hands of the GFMC to look after.

## The Steering Group for the project comprised:

**Professor Johann G. Goldammer**  
Director, Global Fire Monitoring Center  
(Max Planck Institute for Chemistry)

**Mark Jones** DCFO Chairman  
Forest Fires Commission CTIF  
(Essex Fire and Rescue Service)

**Paul Bowers** Essex Fire and Rescue Service

**Claire Glaister** Director, Rural Development Initiatives

## Project Team Members

**Michael Bruce** Project Manager, concept, standards, training materials, illustrations, and communications. GFMC & RDI

**Emily Dixon** Assistant Project Manager. RDI

**Ethan Bigelow** Training materials development. RDI

**Alex Held** Training materials development & German translation. GFMC & Working on Fire International

**Stefan Maisch** Website development. GFMC

**David Peters** Graphics development The Brand Group (Scotland) Ltd

**David Gray** Illustrations



Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)  
[www.gfmc.org](http://www.gfmc.org)



The International Association  
of Fire and Rescue Services (CTIF)  
[www.ctif.org](http://www.ctif.org)



Rural Development  
Initiatives (RDI)  
[www.ruraldevelopment.org.uk](http://www.ruraldevelopment.org.uk)



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