FIREDEFEND

Interreg IPA Greece – North Macedonia

Co-funded by the European Union

Fire Detection and Enhanced Fire Emergency Network for Waste Disposal – FIREDEFEND

Project Launch Event & Partnership Meeting

PREVENT | DETECT | RESPOND | PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

CLEANER COMMNITIES • SAFER TOMORROW

EVENT INFORMATION

Event	Project Launch Event & Partnership Meeting
Date(s)	21 – 22 September 2026
Organized by	PB2 – Centre for Development of the South-East Planning region
Venue	**Hotel Tsar Samuil, Bansko, North Macedonia** *Address: village Bansko, 2400, Strumica* *Directions: https://maps.app.goo.gl/bp15GGLyLmFEw8EVA* *Telephone: +389 34 345 141*
Local contact person	Ms. Marija Bandulova Taseva Email: mariabandulova@gmail.com +389 78 891 938 (mobile phone)

KICK-OFF CONFERENCE | 21 September 2026 (Monday)

11:00 – 11:30	**Registration of Participants & Welcome Coffee** *Arrival and registration of participants, distribution of event materials and informal networking over welcome coffee.*	• Organizing Team – **Centre for Development of the South-East Planning Region (CDSEPR)**
11:30 – 12:00	**Media Statements** *Short media statements and key messages from institutional representatives and project partners highlighting the importance of cross-border cooperation in wildfire prevention and environmental protection.*	• Mr.Erdzan Selimi, **Deputy Minister of Local Self-Government of the Republic of North Macedonia** • Mr. Petar Jankov, **Mayor of the Municipality of Strumica** • Mr. Risto Manchev, **Mayor of the Municipality of Bosilovo** • Mr. Jovan Kocev, **Acting Director of the Centre for Development of the South-East Planning Region** • Mr. Michalis Geranis, **President of the Regional Association of Solid Waste Management Agencies of Central Macedonia (FODSA KM), Greece**
12:00 – 12:30	**Official Opening & Welcome Remarks** *Official opening of the event with welcome addresses from high-level institutional representatives and the host organization.*	• Ms. Marija Taseva, **Moderator / Event Host from CDSEPR** • Mr.Erdzan Selimi, **Deputy Minister of Local Self-Government of the Republic of North Macedonia** • Mr. Petar Jankov, **Mayor of the Municipality of Strumica** • Mr. Risto Manchev, **Mayor of the Municipality of Bosilovo** • Mr. Jovan Kocev, **Acting Director of the Centre for Development of the South-East Planning Region** • Mr. Georgios Tachmetzidis, **General Secretary of the Regional Association of**

		Solid Waste Management Agencies of Central Macedonia (FODSA KM), Greece
12:30 – 12:40	**FIREDEFEND Project Overview** *Presentation of the FIREDEFEND project, including its objectives, strategic framework, partnership, implementation approach, key activities, expected outputs and contribution to strengthening cross-border cooperation in wildfire prevention and waste management*.	• Mr. Ioannis Koumantos, **FIREDEFEND Project Manager**
12:40 – 12:55	**Presentation of the Regional Association of Solid Waste Management Agencies of Central Macedonia (FODSA), Greece** *Introduction to FODSA, its institutional role and expertise in integrated waste management, as well as its responsibilities within the FIREDEFEND project and coordination of project implementation.*	• Ms. Anthi Oikonomou, **Biologist of Regional Association of Solid Waste Management Agencies of Central Macedonia (FODSA KM), Greece** • Ms. Argyro Vaumvouraki, **Agronomist of Regional Association of Solid Waste Management Agencies of Central Macedonia (FODSA KM), Greece**
12:55 – 13:10	**Presentation of the Host Organisation – Centre for Development of the South-East Planning Region (CDSEPR)** *Introduction to the Centre for Development of the South-East Planning Region, its mandate, role in promoting balanced regional development, and contribution to cross-border cooperation and environmental resilience initiatives in the South-East Planning Region of North Macedonia.*	• Mr. Nikola Stamenov, **Centre for Development of the South-East Planning Region (CDSEPR)**

13:10 – 13:40	**Presentation: "Mapping and Risk Analysis of Unmanaged Landfills in the South-East Planning Region"** *Presentation of the methodology, key findings and recommendations from the mapping and risk assessment of unmanaged landfills, highlighting environmental risks, wildfire prevention measures and future interventions within the project.*	• Mr. Aleksandar Manchevski, **Senior Technical Expert from Association 6th Star**
13:40 – 14:30	**Networking Cocktail & Informal Exchange** *Opportunity for project partners, institutional representatives, stakeholders and invited guests to exchange experiences, discuss future cooperation and strengthen networking in an informal setting.*	• Project Partners, Stakeholders & Invited Guests

2nd WORKING MEETING | 22 September 2026 (Tuesday)

09:00 – 09:30	**Opening of the 2nd Working Meeting & Welcome Coffee** Welcome remarks, confirmation of the meeting objectives, overview of the agenda, expected outcomes and priorities for the second day of the meeting.	• Organizing Team – **Centre for Development of the South-East Planning Region (CDSEPR)**
09:30 – 10:00	**WP1 – Project Management & Coordination** *Review of project management and coordination activities, implementation progress, administrative and financial matters, reporting obligations, timeline and upcoming project milestones.*	• Mr. Ioannis Koumantos, **FIREDEFEND Project Manager**
10:00 – 10:30	**WP2 – Communication & Visibility** *Review of communication and visibility activities, branding and dissemination requirements, communication tools and materials, stakeholder engagement, media activities and planning of upcoming communication actions.*	• Project Partners / **Communication Manager**
10:30 – 11:00	**WP3 – Know-How Transfer** *Presentation and discussion of planned know-how transfer activities, exchange of expertise and good practices, capacity-*	• All Project Partners

	building activities, study visits, workshops and knowledge-sharing mechanisms between project partners and stakeholders.	
11:00 – 11:30	**WP4 – Pilot Actions** *Presentation and discussion of the planned pilot actions, implementation methodology, responsibilities of partners, technical requirements, expected results and timeline for implementation.*	• All Project Partners
11:30 – 11:50	**Discussion on Next Steps & Action Points** *Agreement on key decisions, responsibilities, deadlines and immediate follow-up actions to ensure effective project implementation.*	• Mr. Ioannis Koumantos, **FIREDEFEND Project Manager**
11:50 – 13:00	**Technical Site Visit – Bosilovo Pilot Area** Guided field visit to the proposed pilot area in the Municipality of Bosilovo, providing partners with an overview of the potential installation location for the wildfire detection system.	• Representatives of **Regional Association of Solid Waste Management Agencies of Central Macedonia (FODSA), Greece** • Representatives from **the Centre for development of the South-East planning region** • Representatives from the **municipality of Bosilovo** • Technical Experts
13:00 – 14:00	**Light Lunch & Departure of Participants** *Light lunch and informal networking and conclusion of the 2nd Working Meeting.*	• All Project Partners