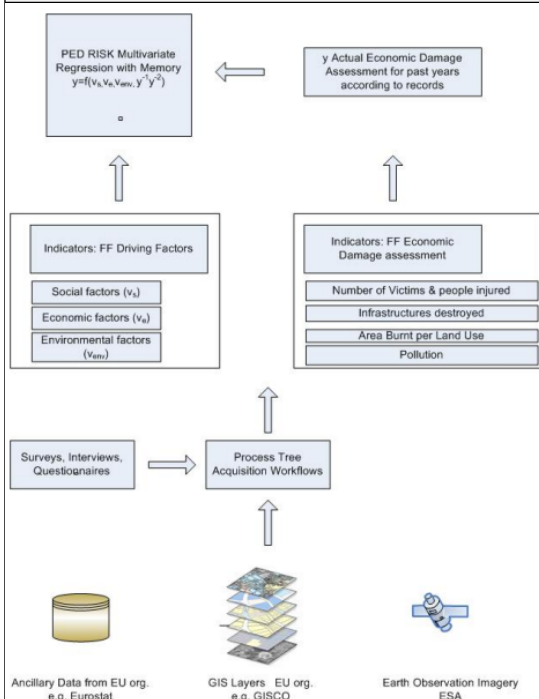




## SOCIO-FIRES: PREVENTION VS. RECOVERY IN FOREST FIRES POLICIES: A SOCIO-ECONOMIC “TOOLBOX” AND RISK MODEL

| Country | Contract value (€) | % carried out by Epsilon | No of staff provided | Client              | Origin of funding | Date (start/end)         | Consortium Members |
|---------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Malta   | 1,885,380          |                          | 8                    | European Commission | EC HORIZON        | 01/01/2010<br>01/01/2013 | 15 Partners        |

### Description of the project



The SOCIO-FIRES project is a collaborative research initiative aimed at developing a socio-economic toolbox and risk model to enhance policies on forest fire prevention and recovery. The project addresses the increasing number and severity of both natural and man-made forest fires in the EU. SOCIO-FIRES focuses on understanding forest fire driving factors, assessing economic damage, and calculating the risks and benefits of prevention versus recovery actions. The project aims to create a mathematical model and a set of guidelines to help policymakers assess the costs and benefits of fire prevention. SOCIO-FIRES also promotes collaboration among international stakeholders, focusing on Europe, the USA, Australia, and India, to disseminate best practices for forest fire prevention and management. Socio-Fires objectives are:

- To develop a comprehensive Toolbox to assess forest fire (FF) economic damage and compare the costs of prevention versus recovery.
- To create a standardized Inventory of Indicators for forest fire impacts, ensuring consistency in how data is collected, processed, and used across the EU.
- To design a mathematical model to quantify the economic benefits of fire prevention compared to post-fire recovery efforts.
- To facilitate the sharing of best practices and knowledge among key stakeholders through an international network, with participation

from Europe, the USA, Australia, and India.

- To promote policy recommendations and guidelines on FF prevention, informed by case studies and test regions across the Mediterranean and beyond.
- To support capacity building through training and dissemination activities, including the establishment of an international Topic Center on forest fire prevention.

### Services provided

#### Project Management:

- Epsilon coordinated the entire project, ensuring all activities, including technical and administrative aspects, were on track. This involved consolidating project plans, reports, and managing communication among partners.

#### Toolbox Development:

- Epsilon played a central role in the design and development of the "Toolbox," a socio-economic tool aimed at assessing the costs, risks, and benefits of forest fire prevention versus recovery.

#### Guidelines and Standardization:

- Epsilon was responsible for creating guidelines on hazard/risk mapping and standardizing indicators for economic damage caused by forest fires. This included working with other partners to gather legislation and best practices for efficient forest fire prevention.

#### Dissemination and Impact Assessment:

- Epsilon lead the project's dissemination activities, ensured results were communicated to stakeholders across the EU, USA, Australia, and India. The company also contributed to quality management, evaluation, and impact assessments throughout the project.