# Communication strategy

The FIRE-BOX Project aims to prevent and reduce damage to ecosystems and the community caused by forest fires through the development of standardized tools for forecasting and managing forest fire risk and its environmental impacts.

**Expected results of the project**:

The project develops innovative and harmonized fire risk management tools in Italy, divided into three macro sections:

1. **Fuel box**: nationwide fuel maps containing information necessary for the use of fire modeling systems.
   - D.1        Database of fuel characteristics
   - D.2        Map of fuel types
   - D.3        Fuel model paper
2. **Fire severity box**: database of forest fires from 2007 to 2022 containing detailed information on weather conditions, fire severity, and emissions.
   - D.1        Archive of all fire for 2007-2022
   - D.2        Fire-related weather data archive 2007-2022
   - D.3        Archive of pre- and post-fire satellite images
   - D.4        Input data for fire emissions modeling 2007-2022
3. **Fire Risk box**: modeling tool to simulate fire spread allowing for hazard estimation and assessment of the vulnerability and exposure of Italian national parks, to support fire planning and prevention.
   - D.1        Modeling tool
   - D.2        Risk exposure map
   - D.3        Analysis of hazard, vulnerability and exposure of national parks.

**Target audience**:

*Regional governments*, *local authorities with expertise in forestry and firefighting*, and *professionals in* the field are the natural beneficiaries regarding the dissemination of tools to support anti-fire planning and programming.

*Protected area management bodies* and their national contacts (Ministry of Environment and Energy Security) are the main beneficiaries of the specific analyses that will be carried out in the project for risk prediction in National Parks.

The general public, and particularly the younger generation and their trainers, and the media, are considered secondary targets for the broad dissemination of the concepts and importance of silvicultural forest fire prevention and the increased dissemination of a fire risk prevention culture in society.
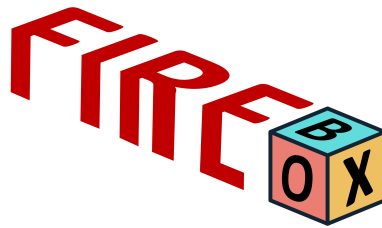
**Communication channels and activities**:

1. Stakeholder Meetings: The project's ambition is to directly involve its key beneficiaries in the development of its results, with particular reference to protected area management bodies and MASE representatives, by listening to their needs in **three dedicated meetings** during project activities in order to create functional and easily usable products.

2. The products of the project will be made available through the creation of a **web- GIS** that can make the data collected and developed from the analyses easily searchable and accessible. In this context, it is planned to organize tutorials and guides for their proper use. The web-GIS will dialogue with the web page of the new National Forestry Information System (Sin-For) managed by CREA.

3. The scientific community will be informed of the innovations brought and by the project through the publication of **scientific articles** in peer-reviewed journals (iForest, Environmental Modelling & Software... ) regarding the deliverables, methodologies and scientific activities carried out by the project, and of **data papers** with the main data collected and harmonized by the project, which may be useful for the calibration and validation of further fire risk prediction tools and for the drafting of reports and information on fire activity and fire risk in Italy.

4. Citizenship will be involved through the publication of **informative articles** in magazines such as "Montagne360" (monthly magazine of the Italian Alpine Club), "La Protezione Civile Italiana" (monthly information and studies magazine for national service and civil defense components), the magazine "Sherwood" (bimonthly forestry magazine), which can show the progress and results of the project to a wide audience, including non-professionals. The published materials will be presented at **public webinars** or meetings organized by the magazines themselves, and in collaboration with associations such as CAI or SISEF, to increase the reach of communications.

5. It is planned to create a **project website** where all the news and activities of the working groups can be collected, so that they can be easily found by the public as well as connect all the partners involved. The site will be divided into 5 sections:
   - ❖ *Main Page* - the general information of the project;
   - ❖ *News* - news about project activities;
   - ❖ *Deiverables & publications* - list of products produced (with external links) and publications related to research activities;
   - ❖ *People* - List of various research groups with information regarding members;
   - ❖ *Description* - more detailed description of the project.