EU FIRESTAT PROJECT - CLOSING DATA GAPS AND PAVING THE WAY FOR PAN-EUROPEAN FIRE SAFETY EFFORTS
1ST STEERING GROUP

22nd January 2021; 14:30-16:00 GMT+2 Online meeting

Meeting minutes

1. Opening of the meeting and introduction

Heikki Väänänen (DG GROW) opened the floor and welcomed all the participant of the steering group.

Fulvia Raffaelli (DG GROW) expressed that the aim of the project is to map data collected and best practices in Member States. The Commission believes that setting common definitions for fire statistics will help in sharing the best practices and lessons learnt, and support regulators in decision-making. For this aim, all participants are invited to "spread the word" about the project, participate actively in the different phases of the project and to provide input for its successful execution.

2. Presentation of the project

Eric Guillaume (Efectis) presented the consortium partners and an overview of the project including how the different tasks are defined, as well as the overall timeline. The presentation is available in the attachments.

3. Current status of the project (Tasks 0, 1 and 2)

Task 0 – Diagnostic of terminology, data collection and interpretation issues

Mohamad El Houssami (Efectis) presented a summary of Task 0. The goal of this first task of the project was to collect all the information spread across and accessible to the consortium partners and to provide an overview of existing fire statistical data "landscape".

The main findings were summarised and it was concluded that the relevant information regarding the national fire statistics (number of fires, fire fatalities, fire injuries, fire losses) will have to be improved at European level through common terminology, common methodology for collecting and analysing reports. Training and qualification of persons in charge of filling in the fire report, including uncertainty estimation methods are also necessary. The findings of this task will be used as preliminary groundwork for all the reflections, discussions and analysis that will occur during this project and as an input for all the following tasks. The presentation is available on the project website and more details are available in the first progress report.

Task 1 – Terminology and data collected survey

Task 1 was presented by Martina Manes (University of Edinburgh). This task aims at understanding and examining the available fire statistics in the EU Member States by collecting information about terminologies, data fields available and methodologies adopted in the various countries. An analysis of different data fields available was presented. Task 1 was still ongoing at the time of the meeting, this is why only a partial report of Task 1 was included in the 1st progress report. The final report of Task 1 will be made available in the context of the 2nd project progress report. The next steps of this task will be to investigate the analogies and differences in the definitions available in EU27, other European and Non-European countries, and comparing the definitions with those provided by ISO 17755-2. The presentation is available on the project website.

Task 2 – Data needed for decision making

Task 2 was presented by René Hagen (EuroFSA). The purpose of the Task 2 is to identify which data is to be considered for informing policy options and decisions in the field of fire safety. A questionnaire was developed and sent to fire safety regulators of the EU Member States. Task 2 was still ongoing at the time of the meeting, this is why only a partial report of Task 2 was included in the 1st progress report. The final report of Task 2 will be made available in the context of the 2nd project progress report.

The next steps of this task will be to analyse the answers of the questionnaires and to develop a proposal on the data that are essential for developing and implementing policies in the field of fire safety. The presentation is available on the project website.

4. Comments and questions from the Steering Group

Comment by Gary Strong (RICS): This report was published in December by RICS, and may be useful to this work; https://www.rics.org/uk/news-insight/research/insights/developing-a-global-standard-for-fire-reporting/
Answer: Thank you for the link to this report, this is a document we studied and considered in the work

Question by Anders Frost-Jensen (Insurance Europe): Will we have access to the presentations?
Answer: Yes the presentations will be made available in the context of / in parallel to the meeting report.

Comment by Alan Cox (ANEC): Did you look at the quality of the data?
Answer: The quality of data was assessed qualitatively in Task 0 depending on the measures taken for data definition, collection and analysis methods.

Comment by Benoit DOME (FEEDS): Please have a look at www.feedsnet.org
Answer: Thank you for the link

Comment by Susan Fitzgerald (Ireland): If the definitions have not been submitted yet, is it too late to do so?
Answer: It is not late yet, any input is welcome to the project. Definitions are necessary for Task1 that is currently ongoing. It will be added to the finale report of Task 1, which will be available in the 2nd progress report.

Comment by Alan Cox (ANEC): Did you consider collecting "near misses" this is where a serious fire is prevented by a simple measure such as "fire resisting furniture" stopping a serious fire from starting? Very often these events provide very valuable information that can often be overlooked but is very helpful in preventing further fires.
Answer: Although they are very important, near missed are difficult to capture in general. We did not find data on this matter.

Comment by Alan Cox (ANEC): Did you consider consulting the firefighter's union representatives eg. FBU in the UK - sometimes they have areas of concern that may not be considered in the executive response e.g. firefighters health?
Answer: The questionnaire was focusing mostly on EU member state representatives, however it was also sent out to different firefighter representatives in the different countries, through EuroFSA, CTIF and FEU.

Comment by Mikkola Esko (Finland): How many answers were from fire safety experts representing fire safety engineers doing fire safety design in practice?
Answer: The questionnaire was mostly sent out to EU Member State representatives. Fire safety engineers were not targeted at this stage.

Comment by Kees Both (SFPE): Happy to mobilise fire safety engineers through SFPE Europe - propose to discuss offline with Mo.
Answer: We are open to all discussions.

Comment by Anders Frost-Jensen: Could it be important knowledge where [*near misses occurred*], for example sprinkler systems have been triggered?
Answer: Indeed it could be interesting feedback knowing when fire protection measures have been successful or not.

Comment by László BARTA-VÁMOS (Hungary): If we find data old (1998-2005) in the summary of the survey, what is the method to upgrade those?
Answer: "Old" data was also taken into account in the analysis, when available.
Follow-up question: So it is not necessary to upgrade data, because the focus is on terminology?
Answer: Yes, in Task 0, we aimed at understanding what was done in European countries, we accept additional information that is missing in our report, but the priority now (in Task 1) is to understand the terminology in each country.

Comment by Tommy Arvidsson (CFPA): Did you not get wishes to collect sex?
Answer: In Task 1, a field related to gender is examined for fatalities and casualties.

Comment and question from Alan Cox (ANEC) supported by Susan Fitzgerald (Ireland): If you are talking about "prevention campaigns" then including near misses are important. Can these be added?
Answer: We did not find statistics on near misses until now. If you have statistics on this matter please send it to us.

Mohamad El Houssami to everyone: Please feel free to contact us in EU.FireStat@efectis.com

5. Next steps

Task 3 – Data collection methodologies
Birgitte Messerschmidt (NFPA) gave a short overview of Task 3, which has just started. The aim of this task is to propose three methods for collecting the fire data identified under Task 2.

Task 4 – Terminology definition
Ditte R. Frostholm (DBI) gave a few words about Task 4 which aims at proposing a common terminology for all fire data to be collected. This task will depend on the results of Tasks 1 and 2.

All participants are invited to provide comments on the 1st draft project progress report by 5th February 2021.

It was agreed to postpone the publication of the 2nd draft report until task 3 and 4 are finalised. The project schedule was adapted accordingly, which is illustrated in the figure below.

The next meeting will be organised after the summer break. In the meantime the participants are invited to contact the project consortium for any inputs, comments or questions in EU.FireStat@efectis.com, and to follow the progress of the project in **https://eufirestat-efectis.com/**.

6. End of the meeting

The meeting was closed at 16:00.

List of participants:

First name	Last name	Country or organisation
Marty	Ahrens	National Fire Protection Association
Jeromine	Andolfatto	Fire Safe Europe
Tommy	Arvidsson	CFPA Europe
László	Barta-Vámos	Hungary, National Directorate General for Disaster Management
Ib	Bertelsen	DBI
Michael	Binz	Switzerland
Krzysztof	Biskup	European Fire Safety Alliance
Kees	Both	Society of Fire Protection Engineers Europe (SFPE)
Dirk	Breedveld	Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, the Netherlands DG for Governance, Spacing and Housing | Building and Energy Department | Building regulation and quality
Servan	CARRE	Ministry of Interior - France
Natasha	Cnez	ZAG Slovenia
Alan	Cox	ANEC
Jan	de Saedeleer	Belgium
Benoit	Dôme	FEEDS
Jaroslav	Dufek	Czech Republic (CZ), PAVUS
Sven	Eeckhout	BBRI
Mohamad	El Houssami	Efectis
Perrine	Ethuin	Modern Building Alliance
Rita	Fahy	NFPA (USA)
Susan	Fitzgerald	Department of housing, Local Government and Heritage, Ireland
Anders	Frost-Jensen	Insurance Europe
Eric	Guillaume	EFECTIS
Polyvios	Hadjivassiliou	Cyprus
René	Hagen	IFV
Anja	Hofmann-Boellinghaus	BAM
Jorma	Jantunen	Ministry of the Environment, Finland
daniel	joyeux	Efectis
Gabriella	Kemendi	European Furniture Industries Confederation
Esa	Kokki	Finland, Ministry of the Interior
Yannick	Le Tallec	EFECTIS
Anne	Lucet-Dallongeville	La CNL (French Housing and consumer organisation)
Anders	Lundberg	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)
Koen	Maertens	OSCARE - Belgium

Martina	Manes	University of Edinburgh
Colin	McIntyre	Lund University, Sweden
Margaret	McNamee	Sweden, Lund University
Birgitte	Messerschmidt	National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
Esko	Mikkola	Finland; Fire safety consultant
Oscar	Nieto	Construction Products Europe
Tomáš	Pavlík	Ministry of the Interior - General Directorate of the Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic
Martin	Podjukl	Czech republic
Vincenzo	Puccia	Italy
Kirsi	Rajaniemi	Ministry of the Interior, Finland
Kirsi	Rajaniemi	Ministry of the Interior, Finland
Ditte	Rønhøj Frostholm	DBI (Danish Fire and Security Institute)
Vincas	Sasnauskas	Fire and Rescue Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania
Sergio	Schiaroli	Italy
Sergei	Sokolov	CTIF
Vidar	Stenstad	Norwegian Building Authority
Gary	Strong	RICS - Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
Robert	Strugariu	Romania - General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations
Wolfgang	Thoma	Austria
Iveta	Uka	Fire Supervision Board, Fire and Rescue Service of Latvia
Maris	Uuetoa	Estonian Rescue Board
Heikki	Väänänen	European Commission
Patrick	van Hees	Lund University/Head of Department for Building and Environmental Technology
Jóhanna	Veeneklaas	IFV