## ANALYSIS OF WILDFIRE RESPONSE GOVERNANCE IN EUROPE

Snjezana Knezic, K. Harald Drager,

The International Emergency Managament Society<sup>1</sup> snjezana.knezic@gmail.com, khdrager@online.no

> Georgios Eftychidis KE.ME.A. – Center for Security Studies<sup>2</sup> <u>g.eftychidis@gmail.com</u>

> > Brigitte Slot ECORYS<sup>3</sup>

Brigitte.Slot@ecorys.com

## Abstract

The analysis is based on desktop research and interviews with experts experienced in wildfires events during the activation of the UCPM as incoming or hosting organisations. The interviews included persons involved in recent and important wildfire events when UCPM was activated and joint response operations took place. The objective of the research was to identify gaps and challenges during the operations, analyse and systemise them, and finally draw up conclusions on how to improve management during joint or cross-border cooperation. Desktop research provided a current status in UCPM activations and wildfires in Europe. The questionnaires developed for this analysis focused on logistics, organisational and technical interoperability as well as safety issues. Based on the analysis of the interviewees' answers this research tries to give solutions on how to improve not only UCPM but also wildfire response governance in general. The research was part of DG ECHO project "Network of European Hubs for Civil Protection and Crisis Management".

Keywords: wildfires, UCPM, interoperability, logistics

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Rue Des Deux Eglises 39, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> P. Kanellopoulou, 4 – 101 77 Athens, Greece

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Watermanweg 44, 3067 GG Rotterdam, Netherlands