



Communication on integrated wildfire risk management, COM (2026) 330 of 25.03.2026

- 3 Billion Trees Workshop
- Adrian TIŠT'AN, Policy Officer, DG Environment
- Madrid, 23 April 2026

What are the issues?

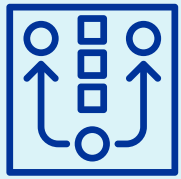
- 2025: **cumulative burnt area** in the EU was bigger than ever (1 million hectares).
- Recorded burned area in 4 of the last 5 years has been above average. Coincides with increased **global warming**: 3 past years were the warmest on record.
- **Size and intensity of wildfires are increasing**. Likelihood of extreme fires ('megafires' is increasing).
- **Wildfire season is getting longer**. Areas that have not been fire-prone in the past face increased fire risk.
- Wildfire cause **damage** to Europe's society, economy, environment, climate, infrastructure and cultural heritage and estimated to be **around EUR 2.5 billion annually**.
- **Main 3 risk factors are climate change, changes in land management and human behaviour**:
 - Climate change increases likelihood of extreme weather conditions: heatwaves, long drought periods, increasing temperatures, dry soils.
 - Degradation of natural ecosystems, socio-economic shifts leading to rural depopulation and land abandonment.
 - Human activity plays a major role in wildfire ignitions and by far exceeds natural causes (96%).



Integrated wildfire risk management

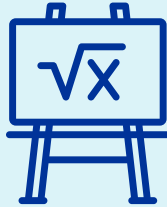
Integrated wildfire risk management addresses wildfire risk **holistically** as a **long-term problem** across its ecological, social, cultural, and economic dimensions, **covering the whole risk management cycle** of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

Thematic blocks of the Communication



1.

PREVENTION
THROUGH
LANDSCAPE
MANAGEMENT &
RESTORATION



2.

PREPAREDNESS
WITH BETTER
DATA AND
RESEARCH



3.

POPULATION
AWARENESS
AND
PREPAREDNESS



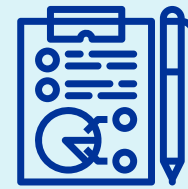
4.

SUPPORT FOR
COORDINATED
RESPONSE



5.

POST-FIRE
RECOVERY



6.

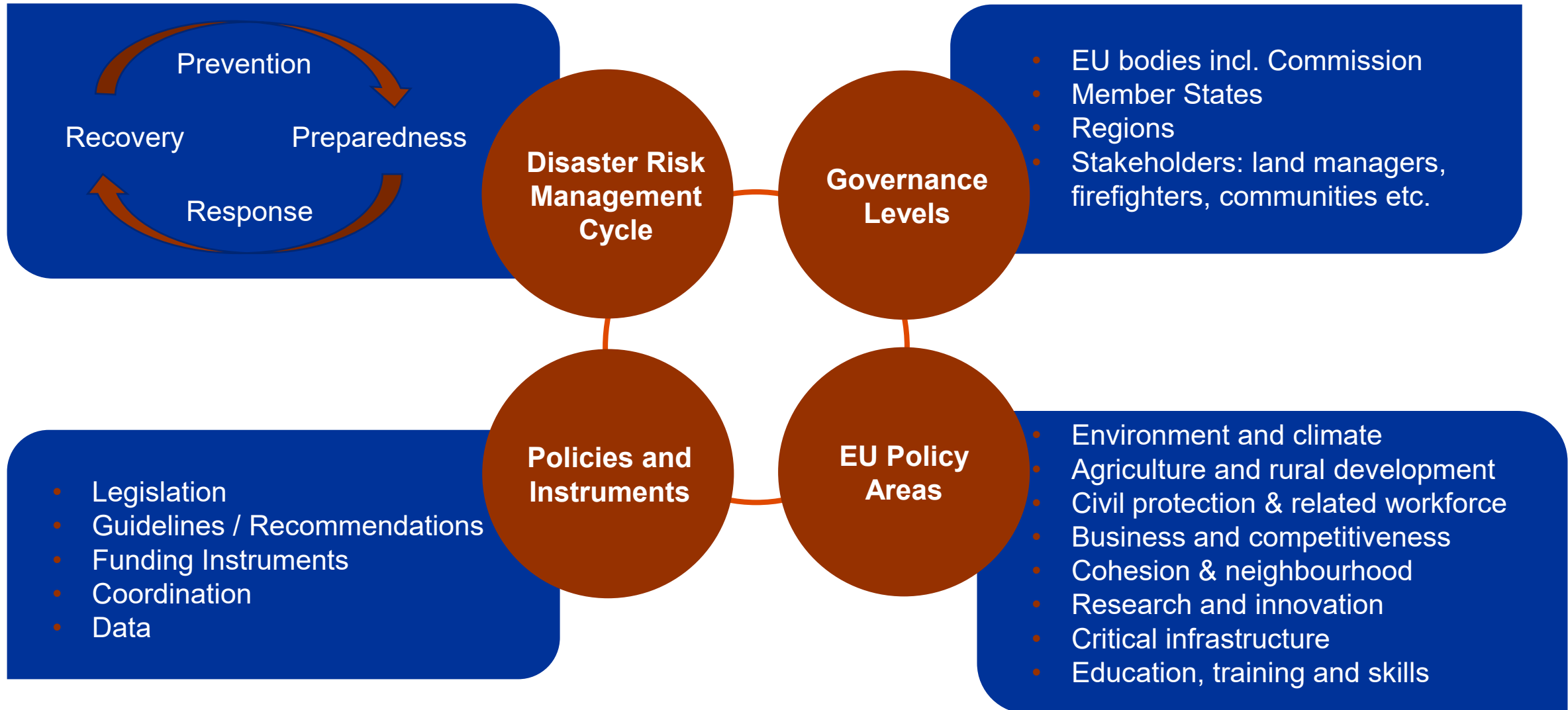
STRENGTHENING
MANAGEMENT
OF WILDFIRE
RISK



7.

INTERNATIONAL
ENGAGEMENT

Integrated Wildfire Risk Management



Next steps

- Present the approach and engage in discussion with Member States, Parliaments, Regions and other stakeholders.
- Prepare a proposal for a Council Recommendation on integrated wildfire risk management.
- Prepare together with Member States' expert groups guidelines for the implementation of integrated wildfire risk management.
- Develop a portal that provides information on EU funding opportunities for integrated wildfire risk management.
- Carry out the proposed actions and report on progress.