

*“We care about the safety
of people all over Europe”*

European Fire Safety Action Plan

10 actions that will improve fire safety in Europe



European Fire Safety Alliance

What

Independent alliance of fire professionals whose **mission is to reduce the risks from fire**, especially in domestic area

Why

We do believe that in Europe, **most of the fire victims in homes are preventable**

Who

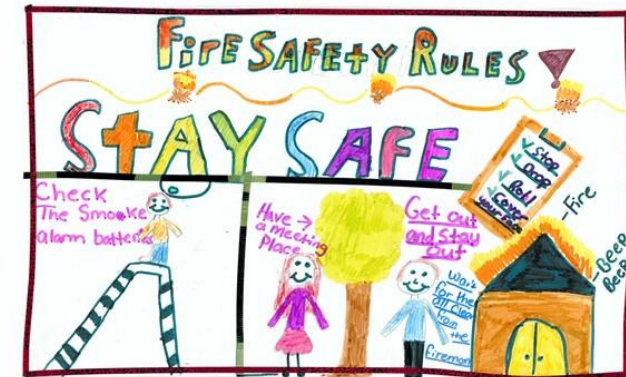
A core group - influencers on fire science and fire safety

How

- creating an **international network of relevant actors** (EU institutions, Fire & Rescue Services, scientists, industry) acting for improvement of fire safety and for putting it on a **higher level in a political agenda**
- representing **evidence and knowledge based approach** to fire safety (delivering reports, organising and supporting initiatives aimed at fire safety improvement)

Why the European Fire Safety Action Plan?

- More than **5.000 deaths in the EU** (15.000 in all Europe) per year and a multitude of burn survivors who have been marked or scarred for the rest of their lives
- **Behind all the figures are people.** People who died, who lost their homes, who lost a loved one or who will carry scars for the rest of their lives
- The added tragedy is that the **majority of these fires and deaths are preventable**



What is the European Fire Safety Action Plan?

- It is the **follow-up of the European Fire Safety Week 2019**
- **Identifies key priorities** to improve fire safety in the EU
- What makes it unique?
 - ✓ was **developed** and is **ready for use**
 - ✓ demonstrates a **holistic approach** to fire safety problems
 - ✓ based on the **opinions of 338 fire safety experts** + **research** and **best practices** across Europe
 - ✓ developed in cooperation with **many partners**
 - ✓ focused on **fire safety in the residential environment**
 - ✓ first **evidence** and **knowledge based** fire safety agenda for Europe



> 200 supporters




EUROPEAN FIRE SAFETY ACTION PLAN



The 6 focus areas indicate where the biggest fire safety problems lie and where the focus should be in order to improve fire safety in Europe in the coming years. This focus has led to an action plan of 10-points. If followed-up correctly, these points will result in a lower number of fires and fewer casualties in the event of such a fire in general, but especially with regards to Europe's most vulnerable citizens.

Naturally, the basis of a fire-safe (residential) environment needs to be established. Fire safety knowledge, appropriate regulations and qualified and competent fire safety engineers must ensure that buildings, newly built or renovated, are fire safe. Moreover, compliance with product and building requirements is essential. However, the fire in Grenfell Tower has shown that one cannot always assume that a building is fire safe. Therefore, more needs to be done to make the EU's citizens more fire safe.

Fire safety is always a co-production, as well as with this action plan. Only through (multidisciplinary) cooperation can the action points be effectively tackled and the fire safety of Europe's citizens be improved.



Increase the fire safety of the growing vulnerable community

It is known that groups of people are most vulnerable to a residential fire. Also, sufficient international research is available to identify the risk factors which can be influenced and those which cannot be influenced and also which type of interventions should be focussed on. Naturally, attention must be paid to the factors and the effective interventions that can be influenced.

Action 1
Establish a European approach of improving the fire safety of the vulnerable community and the most vulnerable groups – elderly people (85+), children and people with a mental or physical disability (and focus on those living independently).

Improve the reduced escape time of people during a fire

to extract the main effect of the increased smoke development and smoke propagation (i.e. people have less time to escape), the most effective action is to avoid (or limit) smoke development in the first place. This is especially true because the effectiveness of any possible measures (such as preventing the fast propagation of smoke or the early warning of people) is highly dependent on the degree of self-reliance of those present. Without help, only very elderly people and people with a physical disability cannot escape quickly enough or cannot escape at all. Children are also often in need of guidance to be able to escape safely and in time.

Action 2
Improve and increase the use of fire-safe upholstered furniture and mattresses through the introduction of an EU-standard for end-use products.

Action 3
Ensure that smoke detectors have a much broader application in European homes. If people are not able to escape quickly enough or cannot escape at all, install domestic sprinklers as they are an indispensable solution in these circumstances.

Action 4
Evaluate and improve the functioning of Lower Ionisation Propensity (LIP) cigarettes.



Fire safety must be an inseparable part of the energy transition

There is insufficient awareness, knowledge and competency regarding the new fire hazards associated with the energy transition. The already established rise of fire associated with this development demands that fire safety is seen as an essential aspect of the energy transition and circular construction. This will prevent an increase in fire casualties in the coming years.

Action 8

Action 5
Develop knowledge and competency to ensure fire safety adequately accompanies the energy transition. Address the fire risks associated with the new forms of energy and ensure regular inspections.



Raise the awareness of fire safety
People being aware of their responsibilities regarding fire safety is of utmost importance. If people act fire safe, the chances of a fire breaking out are reduced. And if people know how to act when a fire does break out, the chance of casualties is decreased. Education in and awareness of fire safety is therefore an essential aspect of a more safe Europe. Because, in the end, people make the difference.

courage and support the activities of the Fire Rescue services regarding Community Fire Safety projects, both national and international level, and change the mentality from 'nice to have' to 'need to have'.

ulate (or foster) scientific research on improving the safe behaviour of people and the effectiveness of interventions in the field of Community Fire Safety.

Realistic
Good, useful
of purpose
is collected

se EU-wide data on residential fires up-to-date and reliable data is an essential part of a good fire prevention policy. In Europe, data is collected on almost everything, but not on residential fires. There is a need to change this.

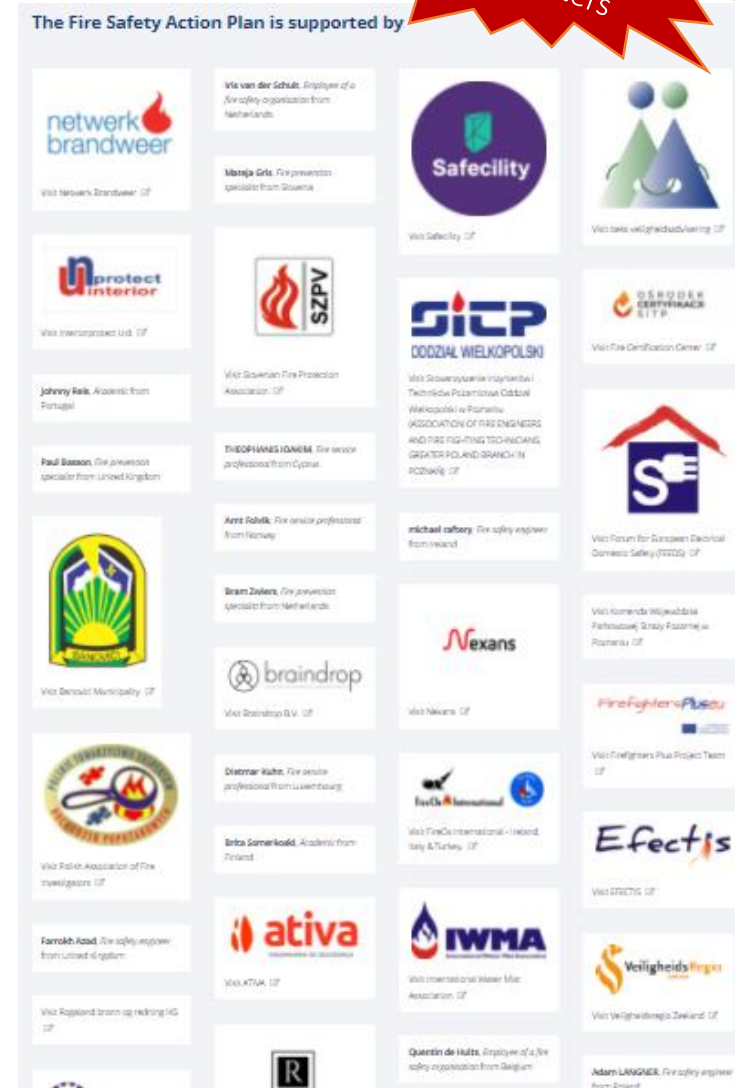
As the results of the EU pilot project on fire stations shown, a start needs to be made with the actual action of (at least) residential fire at a European level. The integration of them within Europe.

Improve
collabora
EU-wide coo
order to sh

EU-wide communication and
communication and collaboration is essential in
are (and connect) successful initiatives and best
th each other and to realise a better
ations. At the

om to other actors within the FIEP (such as
Services and other Directorates-General)
FIEP on the exchange of knowledge and
fire safety, with vulnerable citizens as its
target group.

cooperation between the Member States
in market surveillance.



Structure of the Action Plan – 6 focus areas and 10 actions

The Action Plan is divided into **6 focus areas**

- they indicate where the biggest fire safety problems lie – What should be done?



VULNERABLE



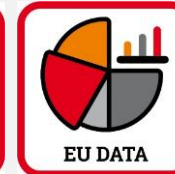
ESCAPE TIME



ENERGY
TRANSITION



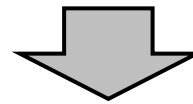
AWARENESS



EU DATA



COLLABORATION



The 6 focus areas lead to **10 actions**

that will improve fire safety in Europe – How to do that?



1



2



3



4


...





10


Focus areas – What should be done?


- 

1 Increase the fire safety of the growing vulnerable community
- 

2 Improve the reduced escape time of people during a fire
- 

3 Fire safety must be an inseparable part of the energy transition
- 

4 Raise the awareness of fire safety
- 

5 Realise EU-wide data on residential fires
- 

6 Improve EU-wide communication and collaboration

Proposed actions – How can we do that?

2



Improve the reduced escape time of people during a fire

Action:

- # 2: Improve and increase the use of fire-safe upholstered furniture and mattresses through the introduction of an EU-standard for end-use products
- # 3: Ensure that smoke detectors (or domestic sprinklers in case people are not able to escape) have a much broader application in European homes
- # 4: Evaluate and improve the functioning of Lower Ignition Propensity (LIP) cigarettes

Proposed actions – How can we do that?

3



Fire safety must be an inseparable part of the energy transition

Action:

#5: Develop knowledge and competency to ensure fire safety adequately accompanies the energy transition. Address the fire risks associated with the new forms of energy and ensure regular inspections.

4



Raise the awareness of fire safety

Action:

#6: Encourage and support the activities of the Fire & Rescue Services regarding Community Fire Safety projects

#7: Stimulate scientific research on improving the fire safety behavior of people

Implementation of the Action Plan - examples

2: Improve and increase the use of fire-safe upholstered furniture and mattresses through the introduction of an EU-standard for end-use products



Fire safety of upholstered furniture and mattresses in the domestic area

European fire services recommendations on test methods



Implementation of the Action Plan - examples

#5: Develop knowledge and competency to ensure fire safety adequately accompanies the energy transition. Address the fire risks associated with the new forms of energy and ensure regular inspections.



European Fire Safety Weeks (EUFSW)

Example of the follow up from the Energy Transition Day of the EUFSW21:

- Policy briefing document - contribution to the political discussion on fire safety
- gathering recommendations from experts and policy makers contributing to the EUFSW 21
- transformed into concrete proposal of amendments to the EU Energy Performance of Building Directive
- embedding fire safety in the energy transition process – energy efficient buildings must be fire safe
- shared with MEPs directly involved in the issue

Implementation of the Action Plan - examples

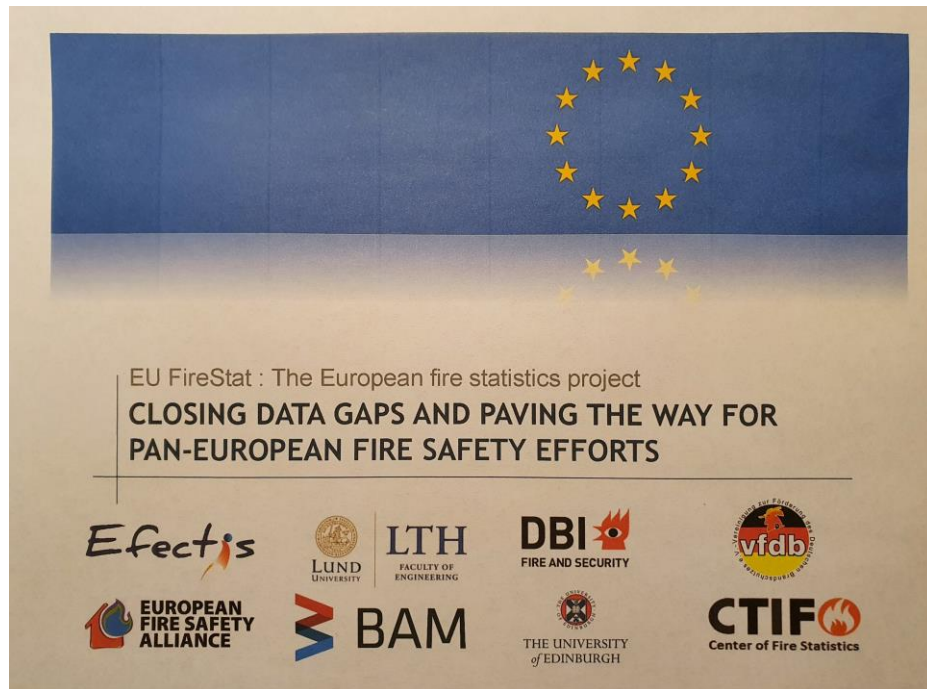
#6: Encourage and support the activities of the Fire & Rescue Services regarding Community Fire Safety projects



The European Fire Safety Alliance
& The Federation of European Fire
Officers have founded
the European Fire Safety Award
and organize this international
competition every 2 years

Implementation of the Action Plan - examples

#8: With the results of the EU pilot project, a start needs to be made with the actual data collection of European residential fires

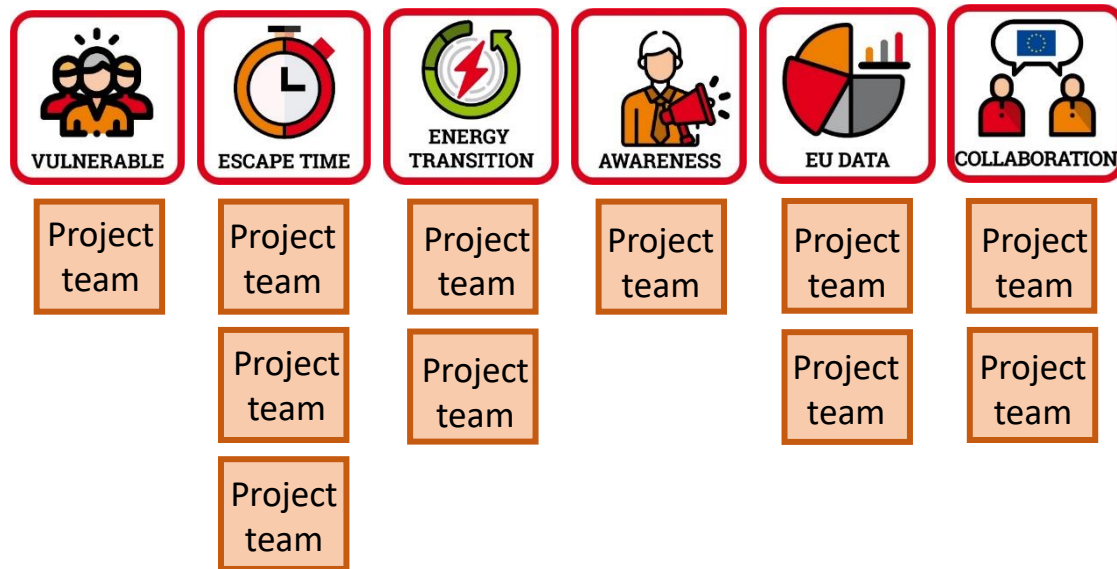


The EU FireStat project has been carried out in 8 tasks:

0. Diagnostic of terminology, data collection and interpretation issues
1. Terminology and data collection survey
2. Identification of data needed for decision making
3. Analysis of data collection methodologies
4. Definition of a common terminology
5. Cost/benefit assessment methodology to support policy decisions
6. Case study using cost/benefit assessment methodology
7. Description of a future data collection method

Implementation the Action Plan – project teams

We have a **policy plan** → we need an **operational approach** to its implementation



You are welcome to join an already existing project team or propose creation of a new one!

Project Teams

- Each Focus area is chaired by a member of the core group of the EuroFSA
- The chair will encourage stakeholders to **form project teams around specific action contributing to the focus area** (can be one of 10 actions or a part of one of the action)
- A project team must **define a specific objective contributing to one of the action or Focus area**, it will be validated and sponsored by the chair of the related focus area
- The project team will be self organise, report progress to their EuroFSA sponsor and seek support when needed
- As part of its working plan, the project team can organise an event during the European Fire Safety Week

Thank you for your attention & for supporting the Action Plan!

