



Acronym	FIRE-RESCUE
Full Title	FIRE-RESCUE: Climate-Smart Post-Fire Forest Restoration Field Trials
Partner(s)	Udruženje za zaštitu okoliša i unapređenje turizma (STEP) – NGO, Bosnia and Herzegovina (<i>coordinator</i>) Šumarstvo Prenj Konjic dd, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Grant Theme	Establishing Climate-Smart Forestry and forest restoration pilots in Europe with citizen and stakeholder engagement
Start Date	April 2026
Duration	12 months
Description	Recent climate change has intensified disturbances in European forests, and wildfire frequency and severity are rising in the Balkans. This project addresses the critical need for field-based evidence on effective postfire restoration. The project will establish replicated field trials in burned forests of Hercegovina (South-East Europe) to test multiple restoration strategies (e.g. natural regeneration vs. planting with/without soil amendments). These trials are explicitly aligned with Climate-Smart Forestry (CSF) principles. Partners will measure key forest recovery indicators – tree growth, species composition, crown condition and soil carbon – using standardized ICP-Forest protocols, thereby quantifying carbon sequestration and resilience outcomes. Local stakeholders (forest owners, managers) and community volunteers will co-design and implement the trials, enhancing relevance and awareness. All measurement data will be published in open access repositories, contributing to EFI's ForestWard observatory. A funded 3-year continuation plan will secure ongoing monitoring beyond the 12-month grant. Coordinated by NGO STEP (BiH) – STEP with forestry partner Šumarstvo Prenj Konjic dd (BiH) – ŠPK, this project generates practical guidance for climate-resilient forest restoration while fully meeting the G-07-2025 call requirements.



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