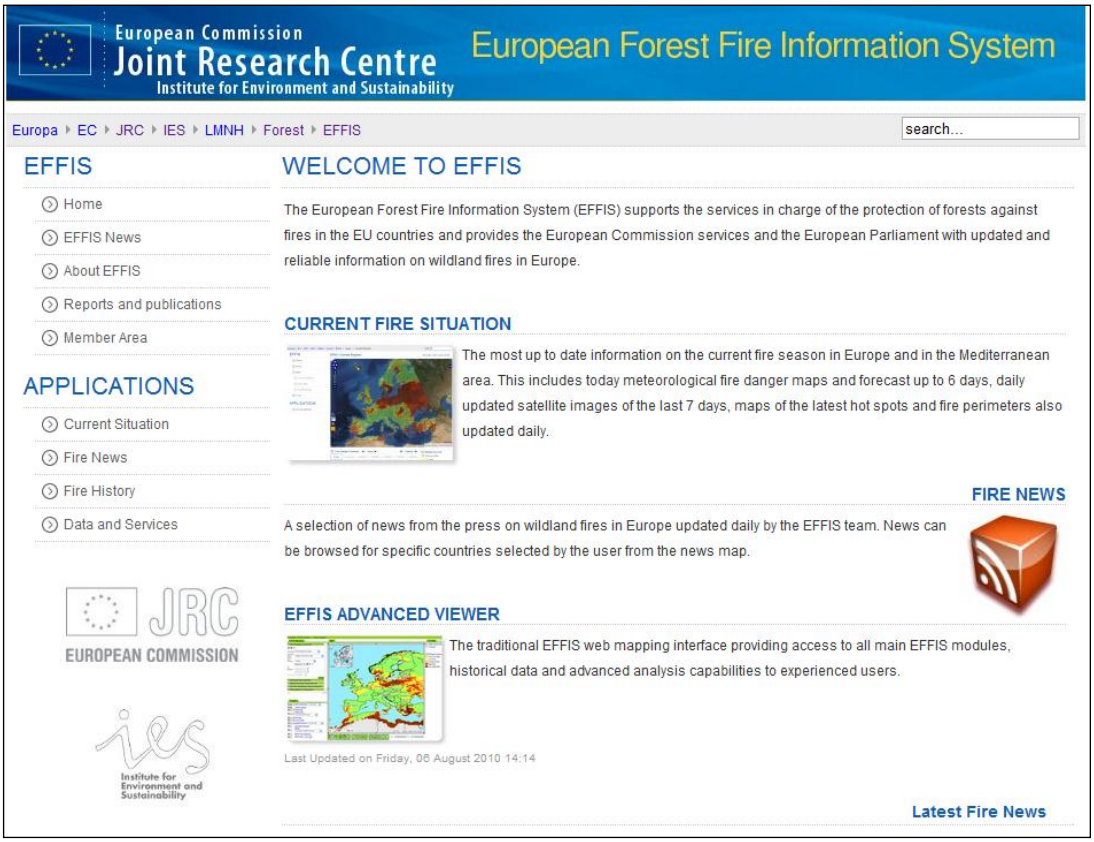
The European Forest Fire Information System

User Guide to
Current Situation and Fire History applications

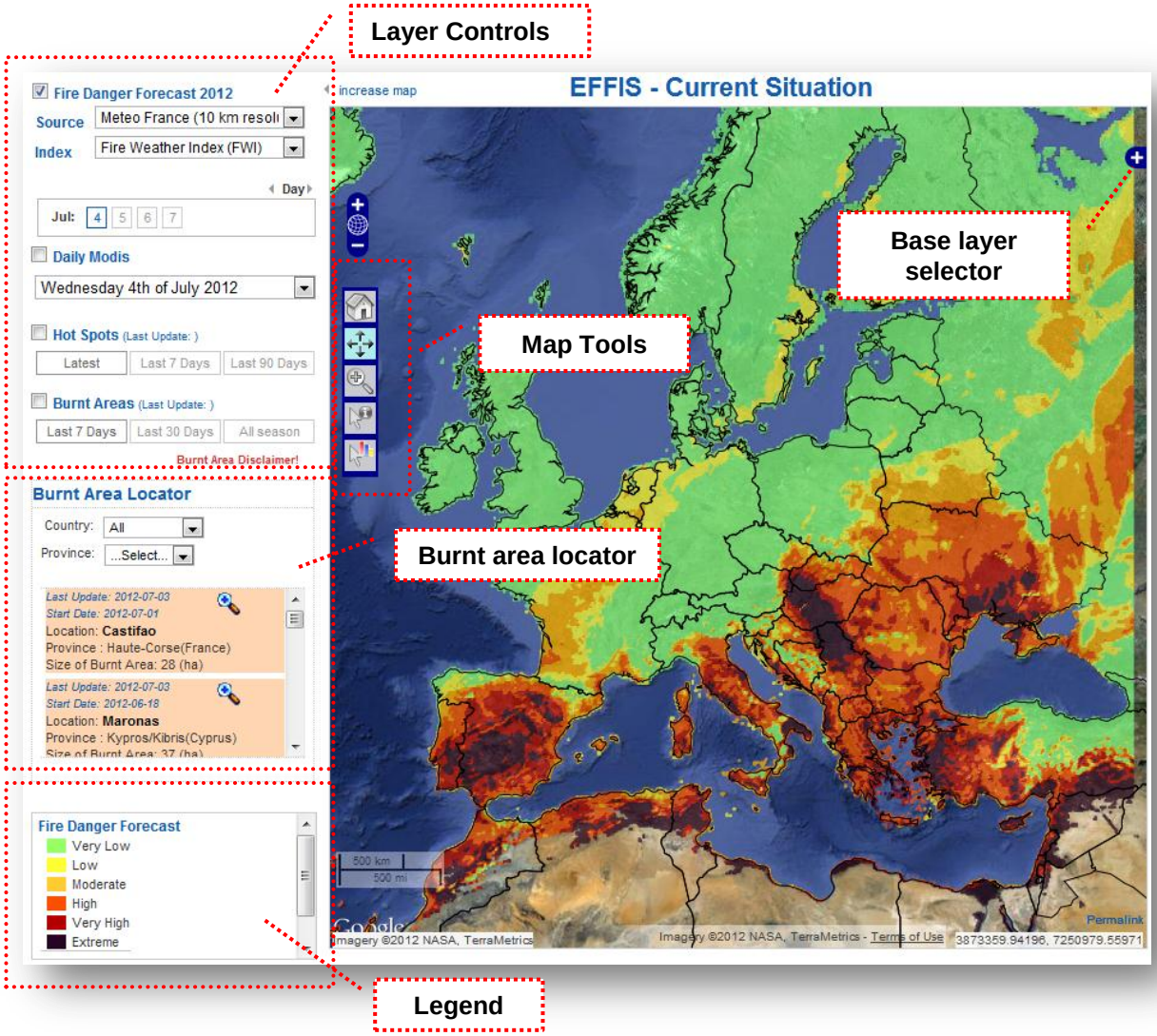
Version 1.0, June 2012



Current Situation Application

The current situation enables the user to view and query map layers, giving an indication of the fire situation across Europe for the current date and surrounding short term time frame.

The Application is normally not updated from November to February.



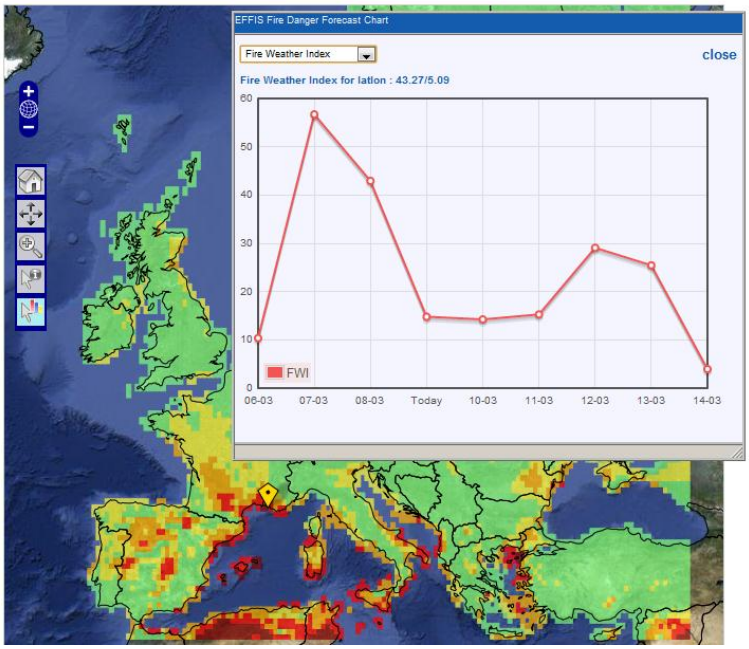
Map Tools

A set of map tool can be picked from the left side of the map image.

The following table explains how the tools work

Tool	Icon	Details
Home		Tool returns the map to the original extent covering Europe.
Pan		Tool enables to pan around the map by holding down the left mouse button and dragging the map image.
Zoom In		Tool enables to zoom in to an area of interest either by a single click, or by holding down the left mouse button and dragging the mouse to create a zoom box area.
Identify		Tool returns information for layers switched on, by clicking on the point of interest on the map.
Fire Danger Chart		Tool displays a chart for the components making up the Fire Danger Value. Select the tool and then click on the map in the area of interest.

Example: by selecting the fire danger chart button and then clicking on a point in the map, the graph below will be shown. Note the point on the map is shown with a yellow icon.
The user can further interact with the graph be selecting the FWI components for which the forecasted values of next 6 days are wanted.



Mouse Controls

Zoom In: You can zoom in on the map by rolling the mouse wheel forward.
Zoom Out: You can zoom out on the map by rolling the mouse wheel backward.

Resize Map

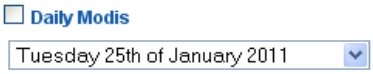
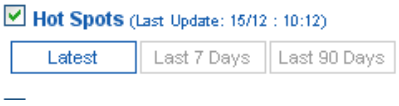
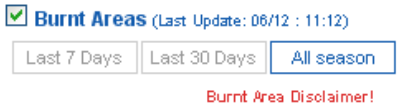
The increase map tool can be found at the top left of the map image. This will increase the map to the full width of the EFFIS page template hiding the layer controls.

The decrease map tool returns the map image to the original size and redisplays the layer controls.

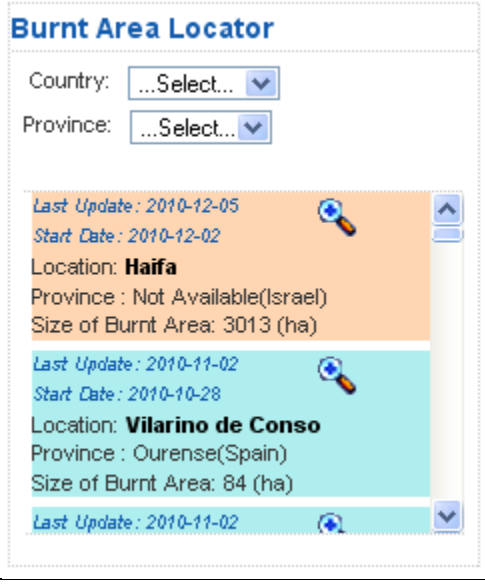
Layer Controls

The layer controls are used to add and remove layers from the map. This can be done by clicking either on the checkbox or on the layer name.

Further explanations on the content of individual layers can be found here: http://effis.jrc.ec.europa.eu/about/technical-background.

	The Fire Danger Forecast Controller enables to display the Fire Danger Forecast for the current date and the following six days. Fire Danger Forecast is calculated from different meteorological forecast sources selectable from the top drop down menu. A second drop down menu allows selecting the fire danger index to map. The selectable fire danger indices are the components of the Fire Weather Index (FWI) System. To change the displayed day, click on the date of interest, or use the arrows aside the <Day> tool to page through the layers.
	The Daily MODIS drop down allows displaying satellite imagery of Europe for the last available day (typically the day before current one) and previous six days.
	The Hot Spots control allows viewing the hot spots layer from three alternative time frames. Hot spots have different colours depending on the time frame they belong to.
	The Burnt Areas control allows viewing the burned area layer from three alternative time frames of the current fire season. Perimeters of the burnt areas are drawn in different colours depending on the time frame they belong to.

Burnt Area Locator



The burnt area locator allows navigating through all fires mapped along the current fire season and displaying a given fire of interest.

Use the drop down boxes on top to filter the list of burned areas based on country/province of interest.
Fires in the list are colour coded to match the time frames of the map (orange for fires of last seven days, yellow for last 30 days fires and cyan for older fires).

To view the fire on the map, click on the icon for that fire in the list. This will zoom the map to the location of the fire and display the fire properties in the identification popup window.

Legend and Layer Information

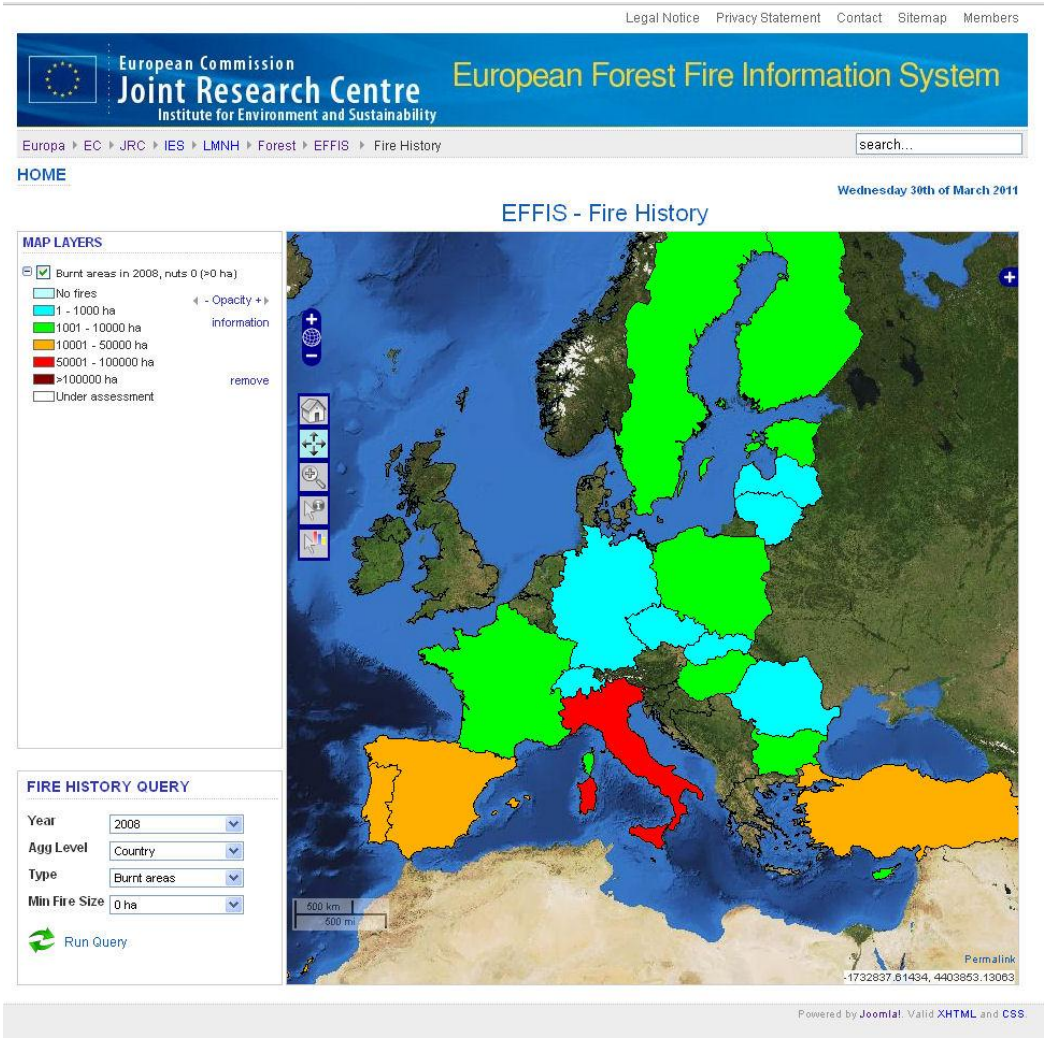
The legend area is updated with the selected layer details when a layer is added to the map. The "layer information" link provides further information describing how the layer was derived.

Fire History Application

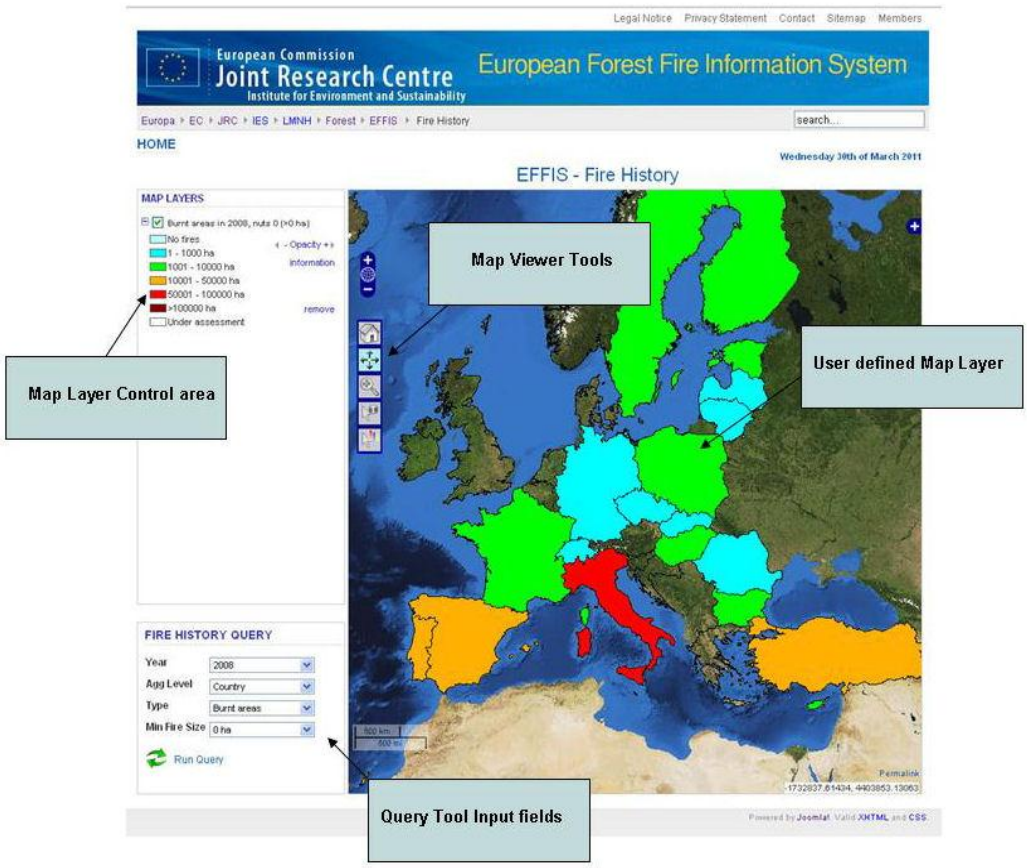
The purpose of the application is to query and map historical information on forest fires extracted from the European Fire Database.
Data are aggregated on administrative districts from NUTS[1] level 3, i.e. provinces (NUTS2 for Germany) to Country levels.

The selectable information comprises total burnt area, number of fires, and average fire size.
The information is displayed as classified maps.

The map layer attributes can be viewed using the identify tool.



[1] The NUTS classification (Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics) was established by Eurostat, to provide a single uniform breakdown of territorial units for the European Union.
See http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/nuts_nomenclature/correspondence_tables/national_structures_eu for the correspondence between NUTS and national structures of EU Member States.



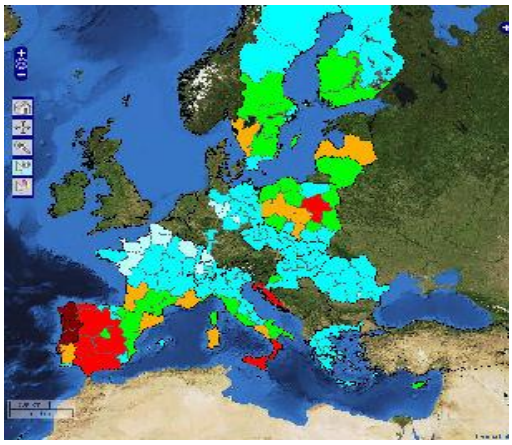
Creating a layer

To create a layer a query to the database must be run using the query tool in the Fire History Panel.

The Fire History Query panel allows the user to add a new layer(s) to the map.
Using the drop down fields the user can select the options of interest.
For example a user may want to display a layer based on the number of fires, aggregated at nuts level 2, in the year 2004 where the minimum fire size was greater than 0.01 ha.
After selected the input parameters the user can add the layer by clicking on the 'Run Query' button.
The user can add up to 5 different layers using this tool.

On clicking the 'Run Query' an entry for the layer will be generated and added to the map layers panel as shown.
From this control, the user can do the following

- Show/hide the layer using the checkbox.
- Show/hide the legend using the +/- sign respectively.
- Increase or decrease the opacity allowing the user to view layers under the current layer.
- Remove the layer completely from the map by clicking on 'remove'.
- Display basic layer information by clicking on 'information'. This information includes a link to the description of the European Fire Database.
  To close this window click 'close' in the window.



After clicking the 'Run Query' button the layer will be generated on the map. This layer can be panned, zoomed, queried using the map tools which will be discussed.

Map Tools

Tool	Icon	Details
Home		Tool returns the map to the original extent covering Europe.
Pan		Tool enables you to pan around the map by holding down the left mouse button and dragging the map image.
Zoom In		Tool enables you to zoom in to an area of interest either by a single click, or by holding down the left mouse button and dragging the mouse to create a zoom box area.
Identify		Tool returns information for layers switched on, by clicking on the point of interest on the map. The information returned includes all 3 query types (Number of fires, Average fire size, burned area total), for every layer.
Chart tool		Tool displays a chart for the components making up the Burned area for all years. Select the tool and then click on the map in the area of interest. Having clicked on the map a graphical window will appear containing the chart.

Chart Tool

Having selected the chart tool and clicked on the map, a chart window will appear as shown.
As default the chart displays the burned area, at country level, with no minimum fire size for all years. The information relates to the NUTS on the map selected by the user by pointing on it. If the map is showing country levels the information will relate to countries, if the map is showing NUTS3, it will relate to NUTS3 statistics and so on.

The user can change the information displayed by the chart by updating the dropdown boxes above the chart.