



PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST - Landscapes Fire Protection through the camera lens!

ABOUT THE CONTEST >>

Across the Western Balkans, landscapes tell powerful stories.

From dense forests and mountain slopes to dry grasslands and rural mosaics, these environments sustain biodiversity, support livelihoods, and shape the identity of entire communities.

Yet, every year, these same landscapes face increasing pressure from landscape fires. Prolonged droughts, rising temperatures, land abandonment, and unsustainable practices are turning once resilient ecosystems into vulnerable territories. The consequences are visible with burnt hillsides, degraded soils, lost habitats, but also deeply felt through disrupted livelihoods and weakened community resilience.

At the same time, across the region, there are people, practices, and knowledge working to protect these landscapes. Firefighters, local communities, land managers, and traditional practices all play a role in reducing risks and restoring balance. These efforts often go unseen, but they are essential for building a more fire-resilient future. This is where your perspective matters.

The Landscape Fire Management in the Western Balkans (LFMWB) Programme invites you to capture these stories through your lens. Through this photography contest, we are looking for powerful visual narratives that highlight both the beauty of our landscapes and the importance of responsible fire management. Your photograph can raise awareness, inspire action, and contribute to protecting what matters most.

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST THEMES >>

Participants are encouraged to submit photographs that capture one or more of the following themes:

- Before & After - Show the contrast between conditions before and after fire events (risk, impact, recovery, and restoration of nature or communities)
- People in Action - Photographs that highlight people actively engaged in prevention and restoration (land managers, volunteers, and people working on landscapes and communities protection).
- Fire Resilient Landscapes - Capture landscapes and practices that contribute to fire resilience prevention measures (mosaic landscapes, grazing, fuel breaks, and sustainable land management).
- Hope & Solutions - Focus on hope and forward looking solutions (resilient communities, education, prevention efforts, and positive stories of recovery and adaptation).

PARTICIPATION CRITERIA >>

- The contest is open to all amateur and professional photographers from Europe and beyond.
- Photos should authentically represent the Western Balkans region.
- All photos must be original and created by the participant.
- No AI-generated photos are allowed.
- Photos must not have been published previously on any platform or publication.
- Format: JPEG, with maximum dimension of 1920 pixels (longer side) 72 dpi with the best compression quality.



* Authors selected for the traveling exhibition will be asked to submit the photographs in high (original) resolution, suitable for printing (150 dpi). Only photographs that meet these technical requirements will be eligible for the exhibition.

- Maximum of 3 photos per participant.
- The photographs should be in the line with a contest theme and convey a message that encourages responsible behavior in landscape fire management.
- Each photo must include a 50–100 word caption (or max 500 characters) answering providing data:
Where was it taken?
What does it show about risk, prevention, or resilience?
What should viewers learn/do?

SELECTION CRITERIA >>

The submitted photographs will be evaluated by a jury of professional and experienced photographers. They will assess each photography based on its alignment with the competition theme, as well as its creativity, technical excellence, expressiveness, originality, and overall aesthetic quality. The authorship of the entries will remain anonymous throughout the selection process.

The jury will select 30 photographs that will be part of the traveling exhibition and the best 3 photographs will be awarded.

AWARDS AND TRAVELING EXHIBITION >>

1. First Prize – 900 CHF equipment voucher
2. Second Prize - 500 CHF equipment voucher
3. Third Prize – 300 CHF equipment voucher

The selected 30 photographs will get symbolic awards and will be part of a traveling exhibition across the Western Balkans. The exhibition will be our visual and educational mission, through which visitors will be able to understand the consequences of fires, as well as the efforts of the people to protect and restore nature. It aims to inspire them to become active contributors in preserving landscapes, promoting sustainable use of resources, and building more resilient communities.

The exhibition schedule will be announced after the selection process.

COPYRIGHT >>

Submitted photographs must not infringe upon the copyright of third parties or violate any laws. Participants guarantee that the submitted photographs are their own work and they have the copyright. Full copyright for all submitted works remains with the author. By submitting their photographs, participants agree to the competition rules and consent to the use of their personal data for communication and publication purposes related to the exhibition. By submitting their entry, authors also agree and confirm that the organizer may use the photographs for the purposes and promotion of the competition (including exhibitions, presentations, video projections, articles, websites, and other print and digital media within the LFMWB programme) without prior permission or compensation.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



**LANDSCAPE FIRE
MANAGEMENT**
IN THE WESTERN BALKANS
www.lfmwb.net

DEADLINE >>

Please submit your photographs no later than **10.05.2026** to the following email address:
rodne@farmahem.com.mk

Subject of the email: FOR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST - Landscapes Fire Protection through the camera lens!

In the message email body, in addition to the description of the photographs (details are provided in the participation criteria above), please include your personal information – full name, city/country, as well as a CODE under which your photographs will be anonymously submitted to the jury.

The results of the competition will be published on the website www.lfmwb.net and social media no later than 25.05.2026.

For any additional questions or clarifications, you may contact:
rodne@farmahem.com.mk

Grab your camera and join the best traveling photography exhibition across the Western Balkans!

Take a Photo, Inspire, Protect!