**IBM PROJECT ABSTRACT;**

**tEAM MEMBERS:**

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**EMERGING METHODS FOR EARLY DETECTION OF FOREST FIRES:**

Forest fires are occurring throughout the year with an increasing intensity in the summer and autumn periods. These events are mainly caused by the actions of humans, but different nature and environmental phenomena, like lightning strikes or spontaneous combustion of dried leafs or sawdust, can also be credited for their occurrence. Regardless of the reasons for the ignition of the forest fires, they usually cause devastating damage to both nature and humans. Forest fires are also considered as a main contributor to the air pollution, due to the fact that during every fire huge amounts of gases and particle mater are released in the atmosphere.

To fight forest fires, different solutions were employed throughout the years. They ware primary aimed at the early detection of the fires. The simplest of these solutions is the establishment of a network of observation posts - both cheap and easy to accomplish, but also time-consuming for the involved people. The constant evolution of the information and communication technologies has led to the introduction of a new generation of solutions for early detection and even prevention of forest fires. ICT-based networks of cameras and sensors and even satellite-based solutions were developed and used in the last decades.