



First announcement

Competence development for forestry

September 26th till October 1st 2011

IUFRO conference in Freiburg, Germany

co-organized by

IUFRO extension and knowledge exchange group
IUFRO education group
IUFRO unit on gender & forestry
European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs – ENFE
and others

On behalf of these groups the Institute for Forest Utilization and Work Science, University of Freiburg, will host a conference on competence development for forestry.

The demands from society on forest management and forest sciences are developing dynamically and rather radically. This is due to climate change, nature protection and biodiversity targets, a growing demand for bio-energy, and generally due to the changing role of forestry, which is part of primary production in a more and more service industry dominated world. As a consequence, requirements for competences for all tasks in forestry are permanently progressing towards higher levels and to advanced knowledge and skills. This applies to all levels of occupation in forestry, from forestry work to forester's work, in forest services of state and communities, private owned forests and forest enterprises.

Forest entrepreneurs play an increasingly important role for the productivity, efficiency, and profitability in the chain from forest to wood industry. Already today they show performances of high standard when working in manifold ways in forest operations, and particularly in forest harvesting and transport. So, development of competences of forest entrepreneurs and their employees is one of the keys to meet the increasing demands from society and professional development and to attract promising young men and women to the sector. Therefore here will be a special focus of the conference.

— Conference themes

The IUFRO conference on competence development for forestry will in particular include the following topics:

- Forest based occupation and contribution to rural development in different parts of the world
 - structure and development of forest based professions, occupation and employment including
 - demographic trends
 - attractiveness of jobs
 - job motivation, careers and income, gender differences
 - fluctuation and early retirement, unemployment
 - role of forest based occupation for rural development
 - institutions working for competence in forest based occupation, scientifically and practically
- Forest entrepreneurs as needed, but undervalued partners
 - structure of contracting sector in different parts of the world
 - profiles and dynamics of enterprises, development of the sector
 - vocational background and competences of entrepreneurs
 - competences of employees of forest enterprises
 - special role of female entrepreneurs and employees
 - recruitment and turnover of personnel
 - relationship between forest owners, wood industry and forest enterprises
- Competence development: formal training and informal learning
 - qualification needs
 - formal training systems, actors and clients
 - learning processes on individual and company level
 - learning cultures in SMEs
 - certification of competences
 - preparing forestry students for entrepreneurship
- Role of extension in competence development for forestry
 - Institutions working for competence development for forestry – how to reach the target groups effectively
- Projects¹ connected: results, tools, recommendations (examples)
 - CONCERT (Certificate of Competences for Forestry Contractors)
 - ECC, EAIOCOC (Evaluation and Implementation of Chainsaw Operators Certification)
 - COMFOR (Collective work science approach to solving the common problems of occupational health and performance in European forest operations SMEs)
 - ErgoWood (Ergoefficient mechanised forest operations)
 - WALD (Integration neuer Akteure in die Arbeitsforschung – Forstwirtschaft als Beispiel für neue Formen der Arbeitsforschung in ländlichen Räumen)

¹information for most projects: www.enfe.net/comforopen/comfor.htm

Call for contributions

We invite you to prepare a presentation in closer or wider connection with the themes of the conference, in particular concerning perspectives of development and corresponding challenges.

Student participation is encouraged.

Programme and important dates

The programme will comprise two to three days of indoor conference and two to three field trips of one day each including cultural aspects.

Dates of conference: September 26 to October 1, 2011

Abstracts due: January 31, 2011

Venue

University of Freiburg, Germany

Side events²

Annual General Assembly of the European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs (ENFE)

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more information soon under:

www.iufrocompetence2011.uni-freiburg.de