



- First Announcement -

SILVA Network Annual Conference

8 - 10 July, 2020

DIGITALIZATION IN HIGHER FOREST EDUCATION - TEACHING AND LEARNING REVISITED

On behalf of the SILVA Network, the University of Sarajevo will host the 2020 Annual Conference on higher forestry education. The event is co-organized by the IUFRO Education Group.

Tentative Schedule

Wednesday: 8th July	
12:00-17:30	Keynote, technical sessions
Thursday: 9th July	
09:00-19:30	Technical sessions, general assembly, conference dinner
Friday: 10th July	
08:30-19:00	Field trip (Olympic Mountains Bjelašnica and Igman near Sarajevo)

Topic and Call for Contributions:

Digitalization in higher forest education – teaching and learning revisited

As one of the megatrends in modern societies, digitalization has influenced all aspects of human life for several decades. With regard to the consequences for teaching and learning in forest sciences and related fields of study, SILVA Network has dedicated two previous conferences to Information and Communication Technologies¹). Many things have changed since that time, both with regard to the technological possibilities and the framework conditions at higher education institutions.

While there are software solutions for all fields of education available today, universities and universities of applied sciences are adopting digitalization (or e-learning-) strategies to an increasing extent that are reaching far beyond the instrumental use of ICT. Rather, these strategies highlight overarching purposes like e.g. individualization of learning; social learning in virtual groups; strengthening the orientation towards competences in addition to knowledge. Of course there are many examples where e-technologies are used in higher forest education, ranging from GIS-courses, marteloscopes, virtual forests to e-portfolios and overarching concepts like mobile learning. However, against the background of digitalization at schools and Forestry 4.0, new challenges are arising. Are we addressing these adequately?

¹ SILVA Network Proceedings 1, Tahvanainen & Pelkonen 2004

Contributions are welcome and should address questions such as:

- Blackboard and chalk vs. tablet and smartboard; paperless education: Which techniques are preferable for students' learning with regard to different competences?
- Should forest universities and –faculties be forerunners or “deliberate laggards” with regard to digitalization?
- In higher forest education, which role should be assigned to physical (lecture hall, forest) and virtual learning environments?
- For which steps of the learning process (preparation for the lessons, repeating/strengthening knowledge; assessment of learning performance) have e-technologies been used successfully? Can e-exams replace traditional exams?
- How do students appreciate communication instruments like chats, fora, blogs or wikis? Are tools like WhatsApp or Twitter useful channels in academia?
- What are the strengths and limitations of multi-purpose learning platforms?
- Is the hype around “MOOCS” over?
- Which kinds of resources are needed to develop and implement digitalization strategies in forest sciences?
- How does digitalization change the role, tasks and workload of lecturers, e.g. in the concept of flipped classrooms?
- How do we balance our syllabi for “digital competences and contents”, such as needed for “forest & timber4.0”, in an ideal way?
- What about digital recognition of modules or diploma between faculties?

Proposals for contributions are welcome from students', lecturers' and administrative personnel.

Participants are welcome to prepare an abstract till **May 30, 2020**. Details for submission will be communicated in the Second Announcement. The SILVA Board will decide on contributions (oral presentations/posters) and all applicants will be informed as soon as possible after the deadline.

Venue

University of Sarajevo (UNSA).

Excursion

Within the field trip, visitors will experience pristine forests and mixed beech, fir and spruce forests at the Olympic Mountains Bjelašnica and Igman near Sarajevo.

Fees

The regular participation fee is 100 € (special rate for students: 50 €) This fee includes coffee breaks, 3 lunches, a conference dinner and the field trip.

Registration

For registration, an online form will be provided with the second announcement that should be filled in not later than **May 1, 2019**

Accommodation

There is a huge number of hotels in Sarajevo, prices are ranging from 20 Euro to 100 Euro per night, including breakfast. Of these, the following Hotels are located near the Faculty of Forestry of the University of Sarajevo and can be recommended: Hotel Holiday, Hotel Maxi and Hotel Grad. We are negotiating about special offers for conference participants.



Travel arrangements

Participants have to make their travel arrangements themselves, at own cost. Sarajevo can be reached by train, bus, car and plane. There are daily flights from Munich and Vienna.

Organization and local organizer contact details

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Information about the SILVA Network

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