

Teaching module in Forestry

The second meeting of the teaching module coordination committee was held in Barcelona 6 February 1998.

The objective of the module was in some extent redefined. The overall objective, to promote the European dimension in curricula, was further specified. The more exact objective is to raise students' awareness of certain aspects of Forestry throughout Europe and to improve the ability of the students to analyse key changes and challenges (i.e. they must learn to ask the right questions). Furthermore the objective is to improve the students' ability to develop a working knowledge with regard to specific problems.

The teaching module will contain material for both students (study material) and for teachers (teaching material; methods and instructions).

Study material will be formed from a text/materialbook and material on Internet. The book will contain information on Europe, European forests, individual countries in form of a country report, theories of societal change and a bibliography.

Teaching material contents is not yet defined. Different teaching approaches will be discussed at the Joensuu workshop. The contents of the book will be defined later on.

The books will be published in DEMETER series and will be available to all SILVA Network member institutions.

The country report contents was defined (Minutes of the Coordination Committee meeting 6.-7.2.1998, see "Events"). The instructions for country reports have been sent to the persons in charge at the SILVA Network universities.

In autumn 1998 the study material will be prepared for publication. The country reports should be ready by the end of September 1998. They will be combined as the core of the study material. The other chapters of the book will be written and the book should be ready to be published in March 1999.

In spring 1999 the preparations of the teaching material (a book for teachers) will be started. The contents of the book will be discussed at the Joensuu workshop in July. The needed chapters will be written by the help of educational experts.

The planned outcome from the second year will be the realisation of a course in "Forestry in Changing Societies in Europe".

Workshop 2-5 July in Joensuu

The purpose of the Joensuu workshop is to continue the discussion on Forestry curricula started at the Wageningen workshop in July-August 1997. The objective of the Joensuu workshop will be the development of the teaching module "Forestry in Changing Societies in Europe". The venue of the workshop will be the Auditorium of the Borealis building of the Faculty of Forestry of the University of Joensuu.

At the committee meeting in Barcelona, the original plans for the workshop were slightly altered. It was decided to start with an evaluation of a few country reports to see whether or not the proposed form suits our purposes.

On the first day of the workshop, the focus will be on the European Dimension in Forestry Education and on study material. Four (4) country reports (Sweden, Belgium, UK and Spain/Italy) will be presented and thoroughly discussed by the participants.

The other important aspect of the module is teaching method. During the second day, the teaching methods will be considered. Three to four teaching approaches for the module will be presented. A discussion based on them will be encouraged. Educational experts will be invited to take part in the discussion and to offer recommendations for teaching methods.

The workshop will last three days, with an excursion scheduled for the third day, Saturday, 4 July. The SILVA Network Annual Conference will be held on Thursday, 2 July 1998.

The workshop will be partly funded by the DEMETER Thematic Network, The University of Joensuu, the city of Joensuu, European Forest Institute and the commun of Ilomantsi.

Once again, we welcome all of you to Joensuu in July 1998.

SILVA Network Annual Conference 2 July 1998

Many important aspects of the SILVA Network will be discussed at the Annual Conference. Matters such as official organisation, membership, statutes/proceeding rules, finances and future activities will be thoroughly considered.

The Deans of the Forestry Faculties of Agricultural Universities of Baltic Countries, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Check Republic, Romania and Slovak Republic have been informed about the SILVA Network and invited to participate in both the workshop and the Annual Conference. Their possible membership will be one of the main concerns of the conference

New URL- address for the SILVA Network

The new SILVA Network www-site is finally alive! From the URL address

<http://gis.joensuu.fi/silva>

you will find general information on the SILVA Network, universities involved in the SILVA Network, contact information of their representatives, information on ongoing activities, different events and always the newest issue of the SILVA News.

All the pages are not finished yet. From the unfinished pages you will find the turtle indicating the step-by-step progress of the project. We are doing our best to make all the pages available soon.

Please, check your contact information properly. In case of errors, contact Ms. Anne Pitkänen in order to insert the correct information. All the comments and proposals for the contents of the site are more than welcome. We would be happy to develop the pages according to your wishes.

ICA/DEMETER info

The co-ordination meeting of the DEMETER Thematic Network was held 13 March in Leuven. The purpose of the meeting was to review the situation of the various ongoing projects, to discuss the finances of the network and to prepare a re-application for the next year (year three). Also the future co-ordination of DEMETER was considered.

There are six ongoing projects in DEMETER, from which our teaching module is one. The other activities are International Relations Officers (IRO) network, Language policy, Teaching material for Agriculture (similar to our teaching module), Sustainability study and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in teaching.

An interesting issue is always finance. At the beginning of the year two (Nov 1997), the DEMETER budget breakdown was made. For the SILVA Network activities (teaching material), 14 000 ECU was allocated (80% in beforehand, 20% after the final report). Due to several reasons the budget was temporarily reduced to 75%, which leaves us with 10 500 ECU (compare to last year's 25 000 ECU). Negotiations for complementary funding (from DG VI) are in process. Depending on these negotiations it may be possible to go up to the original 14 000 ECU.

The activity programme for the year three was discussed. All six activities will be continued and no new activities will be started. Dr. Philippe Ruffio is preparing the

reapplication for the year three (1998-99), which will be the very last one for the DEMETER Thematic Network.

Dr. Philippe Ruffio, who so far has acted as a general co-ordinator of DEMETER, resigned from his ICA and DEMETER activities. The future co-ordination of DEMETER was unanimously entrusted to Dr. Simon Heath from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland.

DEMETER ICT Workshop 18-19 June, Copenhagen

Share your experience with your European colleagues in using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in teaching and learning.

The DEMETER ICT project aims to:

- examine the potential of ICT to provide virtual mobility in open and distance learning
- promote the development and use of ICT in educational programmes, disseminate good practice in the use of ICT to support and enhance student learning
- develop a European network of lecturers for co-operation in the joint development and delivery of ICT based learning materials

For more information on DEMETER ICT project, please see the URL page

<http://www.clues.abdn.ac.uk:8080/demeter> , or contact Dr. Simon Heath, University of Aberdeen, tel. +44 (0)1224 273 755, email. clues@abdn.ac.uk or Dr. Thierry de Waha, NATURA, tel. +32 10 473 721, email. dewaha@sagr.ucl.ac.be

IUFRO Subject group 6.15-00

reported by Dr. P.
Schmidt, WAU, NL

The IUFRO research group 6.15.00 'Improvement of education and further education in forestry' organised its first meeting 'Modern forestry curricula - response to changes in the field of profession' from March 8 to 12 1998 in Freiburg in Breisgau in Germany.

Co-sponsors were the SILVA Network, IUFRO-research groups 6.06.03 (Extension) and 6.06.04 (Education in silviculture), ENARECO and IFSA. About 40 teachers from all over the world and about ten students from Europe participated. As usual, the meeting consisted out of three parts: scientific/ educative presentations and discussions, business meetings and social events. All three are worth to be mentioned here.

Scientific / educative presentations and discussions

It is virtually impossible to summarise - or even to mention - here all presentations, posters and work group reports. It should suffice that very many aspects of forestry curricula and its development were presented and discussed.

Some important issues:

1. We learned that curricula should anticipate on societal developments, should focus on active learning and should be open for evaluation. Depicted recently developed curricula (f.i. towards M.Sc. - B.Sc.; relation with societal demand), recently developed courses (information technology, interactive. Very nice when functioning) and evaluation methods, presented by both teachers and students, gave examples for all three aspects.
2. We learned that differences in cultural background don't influence the learning process that much but can complicate the teaching process.
3. It was made clear to us, that politics can hamper renewal of curricula (see [ENARECO resolution](#)).
4. Forestry students exploring the labour market should be prepared more than now to look outside forestry.
5. Forestry has changed from mono- to multifunctional, from timber producer to natural resource manager, from work in the forest to collaboration in the institutions, from learning for once and for all to life long learning, from focusing on the forest to emphasising the forest users. This should be reflected in the curricula.

As such this workshop was a logical sequel to and enlargement of the Wageningen workshop 'New requirements for university education in forestry'.

Social events

Freiburg is a beautiful and hospitable town in a scenic surrounding. It was successfully used to enhance the atmosphere. A forest walk with view on Freiburg, the Vogues and the Kaiserstuhl brought the

participants to the ice-breaking party in a forest worker hut with an excellent meal. Freiburger wines were tasted and bought in a local wine yard.

A city tour completed the touristic overview. Lunches were taken in the Roten Bären, the oldest restaurant of Germany. Remarkable was that the whole meeting could be done with public traffic, which is in accordance with the town and regional policy.

Business meetings

As this was the first official meeting of this working group, a number of issues had to be and were decided on. The mission statement tried out in earlier discussions (Tampere, Göttingen, Wageningen, Antalya) was formulated and the topics for future activities were fixed.

At the end it was decided to meet again in January 1999 in Pretoria (South Africa) during the general IUFRO-Division 6 meeting. Co-operation with other permanent groups inside IUFRO (other research groups) and outside IUFRO (SILVA Network, IFSA) will be continued.

Conclusion

Generally it can be stated that it was a very good meeting, again emphasising the importance of teaching and education in these rapidly changing societies. Changing demands of the society towards forestry and its workers, changing teaching methods and changing student's expectations towards teachers' demand force continuous improvements both on curriculum and course level. In all it was an inspiring meeting. The proceedings are recommended for reading.

Information

Information regarding proceedings of this workshop and regarding the IUFRO research group 6.15.00 can be obtained from its chairman Prof. Dr S. Lewark, Email Siegfried.Lewark@ruf.uni-freiburg.de.

Resolution

of the participants of the IUFRO conference "Modern forestry Curricula", Freiburg, March 8 - 12 1998

We, the participants of the IUFRO conference "Modern Forestry Curricula" ask the Ukrainian Government at Kiev to formally accredit the new ENARECO (Environment and Natural Resource Economics) master study course at the Ukrainian State University

of Forestry and Wood Technology, in order to start the new study course by Sept. 1 1998. We, the IUFRO-conference's participants are unanimously convinced, that Ukrainian economy, being in a state of transition to a modern market-economy, has a great demand for experts in the field of Environmental Economics, such as ENARECO graduates. Besides, ENARECO should be understood as a model of modern higher education in Ukraine and beyond.

ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY EVERYONE'S CONCERN

You are kindly invited to the conference

"Forest Education and Science in the Context of the Environment and Development Problems - Strategy for the XXI Century" -

*("Forest Education - XXI")
Lviv, Ukraine, 12 - 19 September 1999*

In view of the increasing importance of forests in societal development, declared by the UNCED Conference in Rio 1992 and also reflected in the UN Report "Our common future" (G. Bruntlandt, 1986) and at the 19. Special Session of the UN General Assembly in New York 1997,

and *taking into account* the steady increasing number and scope of problems, related to the rational use and reproduction of forests and the natural environment for contemporary and future generations and that problem's solution depends on the high quality of education in forestry and natural resource management as well,

and also *bearing in mind* that education in forestry in post-socialist and less developed countries may not correspond to the one of highly developed countries of the world.

The **Ukrainian State University of Forestry and Wood Technology** in Lviv, Ukraine is organising an International Conference on 12 - 19 September 1999.

The general objective of this conference is to encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences about the strategy of forest education and science for the coming century.

Until then the results of the Tempus Tacis Joint European Project ENARECO (Environment and Natural Resource Economics) can be presented there.

This conference is planned as a follow-up of the first conference "Forest Education and Science at the dawn of the XXI century: Contemporary state, problems and perspectives", at the Ukrainian State University of Forestry and Wood Technology in 1995 with participants from many European countries.

We expect a positive response to this invitation and are looking forward to your participation and your views. The environmental problems are global problems and do effect our future survival. The organisational committee is kindly asking all interested institutions, international funds and private persons for dissemination and support in order to make this conference a success. The committee will be grateful for any kind of proposals and comments.