

## **Annual conference**

August 13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>, 2014

### **Practice orientation in forestry curricula in Universities and Universities of Applied Sciences**

#### **First announcement**

On behalf of the SILVA Network, the Department of Forestry, Bern University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland, will host a conference on Forestry Education. The conference is co-organized by the IUFRO education group.

#### **Topic**

Practice orientation has been and still is a traditional attribute and strength of forestry curricula, both at universities and at universities of applied sciences. It is an important part of the self-understanding of these institutions, probably not very much changed with the curriculum development under the Bologna Process.

Practice orientation certainly shows in the first place in contents of study programmes, which include problems of practical forestry and in a wider context questions on the relationship between societies and forests. But practice oriented learning and teaching is much more than referring to practical problems. Learning and teaching processes in forestry curricula must lead to knowledge about these issues and competences of the graduates to solve practical problems in their later working life; accordingly education must be outcome oriented.

How to get there? Working on exemplary tasks from real working situations may be the way; in other words problem oriented learning. Cooperation with forestry enterprises or other institutions working on forest related issues including research may help, also involving experts from working life. Excursions as well as internships in these organisations and doing assignments and theses based on practical tasks are other approaches, which have proven their worth.

What does practice orientation in higher forestry education look like today? Is development going towards strengthening or weakening of practice orientation? Does practice orientation change with modifying occupational profiles? Which are the changing demands from society? Are there fundamental differences between universities and universities of applied sciences and between practice orientations at these institutions? Will specialisation occur, grow or diminish?

These questions are resuming some questions of earlier SILVA Network conferences (for inspiration and reminding see [www.silva-network.eu](http://www.silva-network.eu)). Let us look at examples of good practice, which may help to find answers to the questions above.

### **Call for contributions**

The programme will comprise two days of indoor conference and a one day field trip.

We invite you to prepare a presentation in closer or wider connection with the theme of the conference. Student participation is encouraged. Please send by E-mail an abstract of up to 300 words to S. Lewark (siegfried.lewark@fobawi.uni-freiburg.de) till April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The committee will decide on contributions and all applicants will be informed as soon as possible.

### **Venue**

The conference will be held at the Department of Forestry of Bern University of Applied Sciences in Zollikofen. The campus is located in the north of the Swiss capital next to a forest and is embedded in agricultural landscape.

### **Fees**

Regular participation fee is CHF 250 (special fees for students), which will include: 2 lunches, 2 dinners, tea/coffee breaks during the conference, also the field trip. Fees must be paid along with the online registration:

[https://is-a.bfh.ch/imoniteur\\_OPROAD/?formInscrs.connection?ww\\_c\\_formulaire=BEWERBUNG\\_WEITE\\_RBILDUNG\\_VER\\_2014&ww\\_x\\_infos=2201927237](https://is-a.bfh.ch/imoniteur_OPROAD/?formInscrs.connection?ww_c_formulaire=BEWERBUNG_WEITE_RBILDUNG_VER_2014&ww_x_infos=2201927237)

Deadline for registration is July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

### **Accommodation**

Participants have to make their accommodation arrangements themselves, at own cost. More information about hotels will be provided in a second announcement. There will be a limited number of low budget accommodations close to the Forestry department in Zollikofen/Bern.

### **Travel arrangements**

Participants have to make their travel arrangements themselves, at own cost.

HAFL is well accessible by train and urban railway. The main international airports are Geneva, Zurich and Basle. By train it may take you one to one and a half hours to Bern train station in any case.

### **Organisation:**

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