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Annual conference

November 1st till 3rd 2013

**From teaching to learning –
when will we take it seriously in forest sciences education?**

Second announcement

On behalf of the SILVA Network, the Faculty of Forestry, Istanbul University, Turkey, will host a conference on Forestry Education.

The conference is co-organised by the IUFRO Task Force “Education in Forest Science” as an EFS education conference.

Topic

“The shift from teaching to learning”: this formula has been increasingly used in North America as well as in Europe over the last two decades. It is connected with the shift from the *Instruction Paradigm* to the *Learning Paradigm*. According to this new paradigm education institutions have to do all they can to fulfill their ultimate responsibility, which is “to produce learning” (Barr & Tagg 1995/2004¹). In contrast under the traditional, dominant Instruction Paradigm “colleges have created complex structures to provide for the activity of teaching conceived primarily as delivering 50-minute lectures-the mission of a college is to deliver instruction”. Actually this move is going back to articles dealing with the role of the student as active learner as early as in the 1970s. But this more recent shift from an old to a new paradigm is more comprehensive.

Barr and Tagg say: “For many of us, the Learning Paradigm has always lived in our hearts. As teachers, we want above all else for our students to learn and succeed. But the heart's feeling has not lived clearly and powerfully in our heads.” This may be true for teachers in higher forestry education just the same. The shift from teaching to learning was included in the discussions of earlier SILVA Network conferences, but do we really take it seriously?

Let us try in our conference to bring the meaning of the shift of paradigm to a conscious level and find out, how far we already went in forest sciences education, and what we could do to make more progress.

¹ Robert B. Barr and John Tagg: From Teaching to Learning -A New Paradigm for Undergraduate Education, Change: The Magazine of Higher Learning, 27:6, 12-26. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00091383.1995.10544672>

Call for contributions

The programme will comprise two days of indoor conference (November 2 and 3) including workings groups preceded by a field trip day (November 1) together with Conference of Deans and Directors of European Forestry Faculties and Schools (ConDDEFFS), which is planning its annual conference prior to the SILVA Network conference. The field trip will go to Kocaeli province some 2 hours away from Istanbul. It is going to be a full day technical excursion visiting places of research, learning and teaching of Istanbul forestry students. Forest research stations and experimental sites will be visited together with social-economical aspects of the forestry in Turkey.

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 the Organisation Committee till August 31 2013. The organizing committee will decide on contributions; all applicants will be informed as soon as possible.

Venue

The conference will be held at the Faculty of Forestry of Istanbul University. The Faculty of Forestry campus is located on the north side of Istanbul. This region is a quiet and peaceful part of the city, close to the Bosphorus channel and mostly forested. The organizers will run buses from Istanbul University main campus in Beyazit (where most hotels and sightseeing are located) to the Forestry Faculty campus. around one hour driving time).

Fees

Regular participation fee is 140 € (special fees for students), which will include: 2 lunches (Faculty Restaurant), 2 dinners, tea/coffee breaks during the conference, also the field trip. Fees must be paid in cash upon arrival.

Accommodation

Participants have to make their accommodation arrangements themselves. More information about hotels in Istanbul will be given on the SILVA Network homepage (Hotels around Beyazit, district of Istanbul University main campus, are suggested by the organizers). There will be a limited number of low budget accomodations close to the faculty.

Travel arrangements

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

Istanbul has two airports. The participants should use Ataturk Airport which is on the European side of the city. The other airport (Sabiha Gokcen) is on the Asian side and far from the city center and venue.

Contact

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