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1. A strong, dynamic and proactive participation

70 participants from 23 countries attended the conference. The participants were mainly representatives of forestry training centres.

It is very important to underline the participation of the essential partners :

- The European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs (ENFE).
- The European Commission (Leonardo Da Vinci programme).
- The MPFCE (PR & Socio-Cultural Aspects of SFM)
- The European Commission (DG environment).
- A representative of the European Parliament (European Forestry Strategy)
- A research centre.

It is important to note the strong desire of the participants to work together. This was shown by the large number of participants. The high level of energy which animated the conference made it convincing (as if this was necessary).

2. An initiative of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Experts Network

The 1st International Forestry Training Centres Conference was organised by the initiative and under the auspices of the Joint Experts Network which is interested in the social aspects of SFM.

The conference was organised by the Centre Forestier de la région Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur at La Bastide des Jourdans (France).

3. Thank yous

Christian SALVIGNOL, director of the Centre Forestier and Chairman of the Joint Experts Network, and the participants would like to thank the following groups for their financial contributions :

- The European Commission (Leonardo da Vinci Programme).
- Le Ministère de l'Agriculture, de la Pêche et de la Ruralité, le Conseil Régional de Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, la Fédération Nationale du Bois, l'UNREP, le Crédit Coopératif.

Thank yous as well to the representatives of the European Organisations, of the French Agriculture Ministry, and of the Conseil Régional who attended the conference.

4. Ambitious objectives and commitments for the future

In 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ days of very intensive and participative work, this 1st conference focused on the following objectives :

- Knowing more about partnerships and networking.
- Getting to know training centres and their expertise in order to make cooperation easier.
- Understanding the expectations of the Leonardo programme particularly in terms of valorisation¹.
- Deciding the best methods to assure a durable link between the training centres and their preferred partners such as professional associations, research centres, national, international and Europeans organisations.
- Elaborating work programmes projects to be solved in transnational partnerships.
- Proposing concrete solutions which will improve the valorisation of program results from existing and future partnerships.
- Evaluating whether or not forestry training occupies a sufficiently important place in the European Forestry Strategy if we consider the importance of social aspects in SFM.
- Registering forestry training centres which were not yet registered on www.eduforest.org
- Giving the opportunity to the various partners to know each other better.
- Presenting the activities of the Joint Experts Network and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE).

5. The 1st conference : new methods of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Experts Network

The 1st meeting organised by the Joint Experts Network used new methods including :

- Getting funding from institutions interested in the idea of the conference (eg. The European Commission, ...)
- Holding a short meeting : 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ days.
- Working intensively, and following the rules of networking.
- Everyone participating in the entire conference.
- Producing conclusions and recommendations, and concrete commitments as well.
- Evaluating the quality of the conference.
- Creating a report written in the participant's own language in order to facilitate its diffusion.
- The following-up of the commitments by the Joint Experts Network.

¹ "Valorization" :In Leonardo da Vinci context, we can say valorization is an approach for enhancing impact of LdV products by exploiting the results of projects by further development in a different context

6. A context in favour of partnerships

At a European level, as well as an international level, many organisations are concerned with SFM (eg. The MCPFE, the European Parliament). When talking about SFM, the social dimension has become more and more important. Particularly, training and education for all actors in SFM are so high in priority, that their importance can not be underestimated.

Forestry training centres must adapt to a political, social, technological, demographic, pedagogic and economic climate which is changing and which will lead to more and more constraints.

Consequently, training providers must change from working in isolation or in bi-polar cooperation, to working in partnerships and networks.

7. Introduction to partnerships and to networking

Christian SALVIGNOL presented an introduction to the work of the conference. The objective was to specify the concepts of partnership and networking to which one would constantly refer during the conference : what definition should be given, how should they be used, what are the advantages, the disadvantages and the limits, what difficulties do we still have to overcome in order to use partnerships and networking more effectively ?

The presentation also explained the working methods which would be used during the conference.

8. Better acquaintance among the conference attendants, at the bottom of networking and future partnerships

Each participant presented himself, his organisation and his project proposals in order to facilitate future partnerships.

This presentation was done succinctly at the beginning of the work session, and afterward more completely at the end of the first day, during an exhibition where each centre presented its current activities, best practices, projects and programmes.

9. Leonardo programmes as examples

The 4 Leonardo programmes presented were good examples of what we are striving to achieve :

Enquafor : Sharing information at a European level and the certification of this information

The programme led by Mr Edgar KASTENHOLTZ, representative of the ENFE (European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs), improves information exchange on qualifications provided to the entrepreneurs at a European Level. ENQuaFor aims to become a major European forum for exchange of information on occupational training and education, and dissemination of available knowledge.

Optic : The possibility of adapting to another professional sector

Entirely oriented to distance learning in forestry, Mr Pascal MARCHAISON of Centre de Formation Forestière de Chateauneuf du Rhône (France) indicated that the results of this programme are contained in "Optic kit". This kit is a curriculum for training forestry teachers in distance learning) and the methods guide for creating teaching resources. The results of the programme are interesting because they can be adapted to other professional sectors.

Learn For Work : An example of a database which can have several uses in other programmes

Mr Tom EMBO of the training centre Inverde UZW (Belgium) presented a programme which identifies knowledge and know-how of the European forestry operators while using a common evaluation method which was elaborated within the programme.

The interest is the possibility to reuse the collected information in another forestry programme.

Eduforest : A programme which still exists after the funding of Leonardo is finished and which presents new developments.

Mr Christian SALVIGNOL of the Centre Forestier de La Bastide des Jourdans (France) presented the forestry training network Eduforest which was created on the internet in 2000 with a Leonardo funding, following an international decision of 1998.

Eduforest is an example of a programme which continues to develop after the Leonardo funding is finished. Currently, 83 training centres from 20 countries are registered. The Network provides information on transnational forestry programmes and on the Joint Experts Network. It will have new developments which were suggested during the conference.

www.eduforest.org

10. Funding and valorisation of transnational programmes

Mr Marc FUSSHOELLER , representative of the Leonardo Da Vinci programme, gave some indications on the potential funding sources and methods of obtaining them. Afterward, he strongly stressed the issue of the valorisation, judged completely insufficient at this time. He gave advice and he recommended that new proposals of programmes include specific strategies for valorisation.

The next day, the work group N°3 made concrete proposals for valorisation strategy.

11. Work groups and proposals

The following proposals of the work groups were adopted :

Groupe N° 1 : What are the best ways to maintain a durable and permanent link between training centres once the conference is finished, including the training centres which did not attend the conference ?

Mr. Tom EMBO, reporteur : Networking offers a lot of advantages which will make forestry training stronger. This networking has to be clear and open in respecting the cultural and social differences of the partners. For the moment, the networking between the different partners must begin without delay while using existing support. The partners agree that it's essential to realise a formal network in the future. It's too early to establish this now and for the moment, the informal networking between the different partners must continue while using existing support. Eduforest website will be used for this.

Groupe N° 2 : Projects of programmes which can be solved in transnational partnerships

The process is interesting because it allows members to develop partnerships while being certain that the partners are well informed about the objectives before engaging in the project.

11 proposals for programmes in transnational partnerships have been presented.

The main focus is on the following topics : New training tools, information systems, evaluation and certification of training centres.

In order to create an integral package of projects in the frame of an integrated forestry programme, a systematic approach to identify the needs and the projects is suggested.

Groupe N° 3 : How can we best enhance the dissemination and the impact of the past and present LdV programmes outputs ?

Mr. Philippe RUCH, reporter : Valorisation is a required phase and is necessary for all projects involving promoters and partners. Valorisation is not limited to one solution but a strategy must be put in place from the beginning of the project which is planned and budgeted and then adapted to each situation.

- Clear identification of the different users while adapting from the beginning of the project a marketing approach. One must sell his project.
- Provide all the documents in the own languages of partners and in the languages of the potential users. Each partner is responsible for translating in their first language.
- Clearly define using a contract the role of each partner in the valorisation process.
- Use a simple and comprehensible language for the target groups.
- From the beginning, imagine both the products and their funding as a phase of the project itself.
- As users may not be connected to the internet, produce different support materials such as posters, brochures, DVD, articles.
- Use the intermediary groups to diffuse the products such as professional associations, trade unions, etc.
- To promote products in fairs, seminars, conferences, shows, etc.
- Specify in the project the creation of a steering committee composed of future users who will make up the first disseminators and will be an important help for promoters.
- Use existing and reliable websites in order to insure a durable dissemination.
- Once the project is finished, consider updating and maintenance for a specific period of time.
- Produce a brochure of key words which are translated in all the languages of the European union.
- Provide a Leonardo forestry project database on a website such as Eduforest.

12. The MCPFE most directly interested

With reference to Lisbon resolution L1 (Enhancement of Socio-Economic Aspects of Sustainable Forest Management), to Vienna resolution 2 (Enhancing Economic Viability of Sustainable Forest Management in Europe), and to resolution 3 (Preserving and Enhancing the Social and Cultural Dimensions of Sustainable Forest Management in Europe), Ms Marta GAWORSKA, on behalf of the MCPFE, stressed that the cooperation with the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Experts Network is very important.

She stressed that the cooperation with the training centres within the Experts Network and with the ENFE is essential, as well.

13. Training is lacking in European Forestry Strategy

Mr. Angel ANGELIDIS, representative of the European Parliament, indicated that with more than 15 million active foresters in Europe (compared to 7 million farmers) and 3 million workers for primary and secondary wood conversion, the lack of a forestry policy is unexplainable.

In the European Forestry Strategy which dates back to December 1998, one cannot explain the huge deficit of statistics. In the same way, one cannot explain the lack of a policy on forestry training.

14. Conclusions, recommendations and decisions

A forestry training system and a high level of expertise in forestry exist in Europe.

The participants are very satisfied to participate in this type of conference which encourages transnational partnerships and networking.

83 forestry training centres from 20 different countries are as of now registered on the database of www.eduforest.org, progress due to the new registrations during the conference.

Key messages

- If we want sustainable forest management, we need a sustainable workforce.
- Networking can help training, and training can help networking (Learning how to network).
- Forestry networks need to be linked. Information is available but not coordinated because there is no common database.
- Local experiences are not valorised enough.
- Information sources are fragmented.
- Qualification standards are missing or incomplete at a European level.
- The certification of the training centres and/or providers is a significant advantage.

Recommendations to the member countries and to the European organisations

The European Commission (Leonardo da Vinci programme) is invited to provide the database of the forestry Leonardo programmes (products, programmes currently in use and new requests). This database could be consulted from the Eduforest website. Disseminating this information can only encourage the valorisation of existing products, new partnerships and will insure that the new products will be innovative. This will also allow the Leonardo Commission to choose only relevant projects.

The member countries and European Institutions are invited to do everything possible to make the concrete decisions of the 1st conference a reality, and so that ongoing activities will followed up and realized in months and years to come.

They are asked to support training centres in their effort in favour of SFM to satisfy the expectations.

They are invited to provide the necessary funding in order to hold such conferences as well as initiatives designed to promote forestry training. In the immediate future, it will be useful to provide the necessary funding to consolidate the partnerships that the forestry centres have taken the initiative to create with their partners.

Training is a driving force which is indispensable for the development of the competencies for SFM. The European forestry sector has everything to gain from a harmonious development of training among the member countries. Actions which move us in this direction should be encouraged.

The Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Experts Network is invited to raise the awareness of the members of the European Parliament about the necessity of a forestry policy which gives to forestry training the high priority that it merits, in the framework of social and cultural aspects of SFM. In each country, training centres should lobby the representative of the European Parliament to obtain this result.

Recommendations to the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Experts Network

The Experts Network is invited to officially disseminate the outcomes of the conference to the national and international authorities, and to follow up the taking into account of the conclusions, the recommendations and the decisions.

The Joint Experts Network is invited to pursue its efforts in favour of forestry training, especially promoting partnerships and networking. A coordinating structure is actually necessary to promote the implementation of the outcomes. Networking will enhance exchanges, information and best practices sharing while respecting each partner's culture, language, and social aspects.

The Experts Network is invited to organise such a conference every two years. Switzerland proposes holding the next meeting.

Decisions

It has been decided to valorise the work up of the conference in a maximum of countries so that the maximum of training centres will join in this process.

To get this result :

Each participating country, using its participant, will translate the conclusions into their own language.

The outcomes of the conference will be published on internet website www.eduforest.org in the different languages.

The list of the participants with photos, email and their location in Europe will be fitted on the Eduforest website, very useful for networking.

The participants will indicate the addresses of competent national authorities to the Joint Experts Network so that they can receive the official results of the conference from the experts Network.

Each participant is responsible for diffusing the conclusions and the recommendations of the conference in their own country through the other forestry training centres and the interested partners. Each participant is asked to indicate the addresses of the beneficiaries to the Experts Network.

To facilitate the exchanges among the different partners (training centres, professional associations, research centres and institutions), the Eduforest network will make its website available for easy communication.

Networking and European partnership will be enlarged to the surrounding regions (such as Mediterranean countries) as it has been requested.

15. Evaluation

At the end of their work, participants could give their opinion on the realisation of goals and the organisation in general. The results of the evaluation, as well as the opinions received after the conference will be taken into account for the future activities of the Joint Experts Network.

The results can be summarized as follows :

Conference work

94% of the participants are satisfied overall, totally or in part, with the outcomes of the 1st International Forestry Training Centres conference.

98% of the participants feel the conference allowed them to discover new potential participants.

One should note that 1 person in 3 would have liked to go further into the different issues of the conference. The same people realised that these different subjects while interesting and worthwhile need more time to be studied in greater depth. This is the case with the question of funding the cooperative programmes.

On the other hand, several participants expressed regrets that the group reports given at the final session were presented too quickly.

General organisation

89% of the participants are satisfied with the organisation of the conference.

About lodging, if the hotel SEVAN received positive comments, by comparison the welcome at the reception of the ETAP'HOTEL received negative opinions which is normal considering the lack of professionalism in the person in charge of the welcome.

The restaurant of the Centre Forestier and the registration process received a unanimous positive response with 98% of the people satisfied.

16. General conclusion

Overall, we can say today that the 1st International Forestry Centres Conference has been a huge success thanks to the outcomes and the concrete projects for all the participants.

The proactive and positive participation of each participant about shared work themes and the exciting atmosphere (people were very enthusiastic about sharing experiences and working together) explain the good achievements.

The attendance by professional and institutional organisations enhanced and justified the process of the training centres at a European level.

The outcomes are concrete and promising for the future. The job has just started.

Annexes

Annexe 2

Presentation of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Experts Network

Mandate

The Experts Network contributes effectively and efficiently to the achievement of the integrated work programme of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission, notably work area 4 : Social, cultural and environmental aspects of forestry, as well as to the MCPFE programme of work. It also identifies new priority issues within its scope of work, and draw them to the attention to its parent bodies.

Scope and objectives

The focus of the Experts Network's activities is the implementation of sustainable forest management in Europe and North America, in particular relating to social, cultural and environmental aspects, on the basis of the broad policy objectives established by the parent bodies and the MCPFE. It concentrates on a limited range of topics, for instance training, workforce, private forestry, contractors, occupational safety and health, social dimension of forestry (SFM), i.e. on human resources.

While all countries benefit from international cooperation, the Experts Network recognises the special needs of some countries of the CIS and south east Europe, as identified in the integrated programme of work of work.

Outputs

These objectives will be achieved by the regular exchange of information and advice on best forest practice and technology transfer, allied with the use of innovative information technology and communication systems. International seminars and workshops are convened which are primarily intended for forest specialists and practitioners. Teams of specialists will be established to study and report on specific topics identified by the Network as being of interest

and to initiate and promote collaborative studies. The Network will also produce codes of practice, guidelines and analyses, and may participate in EU programmes where appropriate.

Structure

The Network reports to the ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission, through their bureaux, and to the ILO. **All member countries may nominate experts to the Network.** As appropriate, it will liaise and cooperate with other countries and organisations.

The steering committee / Le comité de pilotage

The Network is directed by a **Steering Committee** which includes a chairman, two vice-chairmen and the Chief, ECE/FAO Timber Branch. Leaders of teams of specialists and organisers of seminars and workshops may also participate. The Chairman of the Network participates in meetings of the Bureaux of the TC and EFC and represents the Network at sessions of the parent bodies. The Network meets regularly. Election of the chairman and the vice-chairmen takes place every two years.

Annex 3

Useful internet addresses :

Eduforest : www.eduforest.org

ENFE : www.enfe.org

MCPFE : www.mcpfe.org

Leonardo : http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/leonardo/new/leonardo2_en.html

The Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Experts Network:

<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/website%20JEN/welcome.htm>