FOPER
Forest Policy and Economics
Education and Research

www.efd.fi
FOPER is a project supporting capacity development in Western Balkans region

- Funded by the Finnish Government (grant 3,3 M €)
- Duration 2004 - 2008
- Geographical focus:
  - Croatia
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina
  - Serbia and Montenegro
  - Macedonia (FYROM)
  - Albania
Objective of FOPER

To strengthen the capacity of modern forest policy and economics education, training and research in the Western Balkans region.
Expected results of FOPER 1/2

1. Needs and current capacities of forest policy and economics education/training /research in Western Balkan region analysed

2. Implementation plan and facilities available for starting forest policy and economics education / training for Western Balkan region, consisting of international M.Sc. course and continuous education courses

3. Forest policy and economics experts trained to respond to the needs of on-going forest policy processes
Expected results of FOPER 2/2

4. Forest science – policy interface strengthened in Western Balkan region
5. Support given to improvement of B.Sc. level forest policy and economics education in Western Balkan forest faculties
6. Continuity/sustainability of the training programme secured
In practice FOPER will aim to:

1) Establish a long-term training programme for Western Balkans on forest policy science and forest economics consisting of:
   - an international MSc. course
   - short professional training courses

2) Strengthen the policy-science interphase in the region
MSc. course on Forest Policy and Economics

- Starting in 2006, duration 2 years
- Location of the training not defined yet
- 25-30 students from Western Balkans
- Internationally and nationally recognised degree
- Teachers both from the region and internationally recognised experts
- Contents – modern forest policy and economics, international forest policy (+ supportive courses)
Who can apply for the MSc. course?

• Selection criteria and procedure still to be decided
• Expected that the criteria will include:
  • BSc. degree in forestry
  • demonstrated interest in forest policy and economics
  • some working experience
  • working knowledge of English
  • exposure to forestry in foreign countries
• Admission exam very likely
Science – policy interphase

- Forest research should provide usefull information for ongoing forest policy processes.
- Forest policy makers should promote research which is usefull for policy formulation.

- Promotion of the interphase is a difficult task – such things do not work optimally in Western Europe either
Why focus only on forest policy and economics?

- Western Balkans has a respectable tradition in technical forestry sciences
- However, there is a significant lack of academic and professional capacity on modern forest policy science and modern forest economics
  - previous political regime
- The societies are in transition: market economy, integration into Europe and EU
FOPER partners

• EFI - coordination
• Faculties of forestry
  • University of Belgrade
  • Agricultural University of Tirana
  • University of ”Sv. Kiril i Metodij”, Skopje
  • University of Sarajevo
  • University of Banja Luka
  • University of Zagreb
• Forest research institutes
  • Institute of Forestry, Belgrade, SCG
  • Forest Research Institute, Jastrebarsko, HR
  • Forest and Pasture Research Institute, Tirana, ALB
• International partners: United Nations University and University of Joensuu/Silva Network
Strategic approach of FOPER

- Strong involvement of Western Balkan partners in the implementation
- Work through partnerships:
  - Established: IFSA
  - Potential: IUCN, FAO, REC, World Bank, EAR, others
- Sustainability of training – search for a stable host and external funding beyond 2008
  - Commitment of local organisations
Calendar of next activities (updated in May 2005)

- Training needs assessment
  - Starting on Monday in Macedonia, then Bih, Alb, HRV, SCG
  - Invitational stakeholder workshop for analysis: Ohrid July 6-8
  - Report available: September 2005
- Design of the training programme starts in September
- Training starts in September 2006
For more information on FOPER

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