



4th Euroforester Graduate Conference: Future Forester and IT Solutions in Forestry



An international meeting, the 4th Euroforester Graduate Conference “Future forester and IT solutions in forestry”, was held between June 7-10, 2018 in Järvselja, Estonia. The purpose of the conference was to bring together Euroforester Master’s programme graduates. Euroforester focuses on sustainable forestry in the Baltic Sea region and the Master programme has been developed in cooperation among 14 forest faculties in Europe. The programme is coordinated by Southern Swedish Forest Research Centre (SSFRC), which is part of the

Forestry Faculty, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), and is located in Alnarp, in southwestern Sweden.

Altogether 136 participants from 16 countries attended the conference. The most distant guest came from Uruguay. The conference was mainly attended by experts and specialists working in different fields of forestry. All of them have passed at least the 1-year international Euroforester Master’s programme at SLU at the Alnarp Campus in Southern Sweden. SLU is one of the world’s leading universities in the field of agriculture and forestry. The alumni conference is organised triennially, this time the main organiser was Estonian University of Life Sciences and the event took place in Järvselja Training and Experimental Forestry District.

The main focus of the presentations, seminars and workshops, and forest excursions was to introduce Estonia’s innovative and sustainable forest resource management, which begins with the choice of forest regeneration method, continues with site- and species-specific stand management, and ends with internationally recognized forest industry sector. The entire chain of forest management activities is well organised and digitized in Estonia. Today the forest management software allows the use of drones to assess the forest stands from



Author of photos – Pär Fornling

above, the work assignments (e.g. site preparation, planting, pre-commercial thinnings and fellings) from the employer to the contractor is done electronically, the timber transportation in the vast majority is paperless, the timber measurements and reports in sawmills are digitalized.

Sustainable forest management is highly research-intensive area and, according to the forest sector needs, its development is very important for the long-term sustainability of the profession. Consequently, together with international experts it was discussed the future challenges for people working in the forestry sector, what should be their preparation to enter the labour market, and which options for further training and retraining should be offered to them.

The conference emphasized the importance of implementing best practices and repeatedly recognized that a caring attitude to forest resources, its responsible and efficient management and continuous adaptation to changes, increasing public attention to forestry, and large-scale natural disturbances such as windstorms, forest fires, forest pests and pathogens are everyday issues for all forestry professionals.

On behalf of the Organising Team,
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