



Conference "Forest Education towards Pan-European Space"
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An overview of the Bologna process in Europe: implications for forestry education

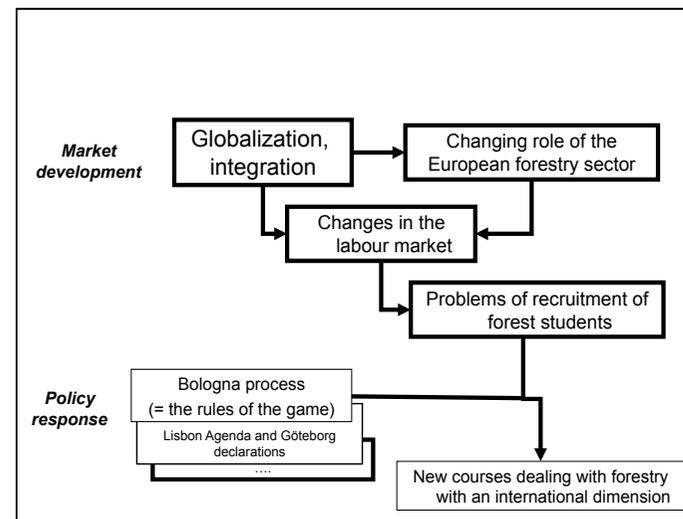


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Outline

1. The general framework of the Bologna process
2. International Master Courses related to forest resources
3. A case study: problems of governance in the SUTROFOR and SUFONAMA MSc
4. Future challenges

1. The general framework of the Bologna process



Towards an European Higher Education Area

“Higher education has been undergoing major changes in the past few years.

Comparability, compatibility of studies, cooperational activities and wide access to education have been the key ideas of educational strategies and discussions.

The focus is on an open and dynamic European educational area and finally better competence in global educational markets” (e.g. COM(1999)750)

Liisa Tahvanainen, 2003

Main Bologna action lines

- Qualifications Frameworks: **Three-Cycle System** (3+2+3)
- Double degree → **Joint Degrees**
- **Mobility Recognition** (Council of Europe/UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region - Lisbon Recognition Convention)
 - European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)
 - Diploma Supplement (DS)
- **Quality Assurance:**
 - European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) set up on March 2008
 - European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education
- **Employability and Lifelong Learning**
 - European Universities’ Charter on Lifelong Learning (2008)
 - European Association for University Lifelong Learning

2. International Master Courses related to forest resources



High Education Initiatives (HEIs) in Europe

- a. Multi-HEIs international programmes
- b. Bi-lateral international programmes
e.g.: Master course on Urban Forestry and Urban Greening of the Swedish University by Agricultural Sciences (Alnarp) with the University of Copenhagen
- c. International programmes run by single institution
e.g. MSc Mountain Forestry by BOKU
- d. Short international courses
e.g. Summer School "Modeling forest community organization, functions and dynamics for improving forest management" (FORMOD) by NFZForest.net

International specialized MSc in Europe

Erasmus Mundus programme:

- MSc of European Forestry (2nd edition)
- MSc SUTROFOR
- MSc SUFONAMA

Tempus programme:

- MSc FORPEC
- MSc ENARECO
- MSc courses at Mary El State University
- (MEDFORMAN - MSc on MEDiterranean FOrest ecosystems MANagement")

European Union

Other initiatives:

- MSc Forestry and Environmental Engineering
- MSc FOPER → MSc FOPER (2nd phase)
- MSc EUROFORESTER → FORPEC
- ...

A summary view

- Remarkable progress towards a common European educational area (Bologna process)
- A leading role of Scandinavian forest schools (DK, FIN, S)
- Focus on forest economics and policies
- Many initiatives related to the assistance to CIT

A summary view

- Problems of financial sustainability: common entrance fees policy and scholarship availability in the long term?

MSc programmes	Problems and achievements
EM European Forestry http://www.eef.europa.eu/mascat	Scholarships for 5 cycles, few EU normally enrolled students
EM SUTROFOR http://www.sutrofor.net	Scholarships for 5 cycles, few EU normally enrolled students
EM SUFONAMA http://www.sufonama.net	Scholarships for 5 cycles, some EU normally enrolled students
Tempus ENARECO http://www.enareco.norod.ru/temposet.htm	Started with a international audience, at the end of Tempus funding, only Ukrainian
Tempus FORPEC http://www.forpec.fuademy.ru	Not yet started
CBU Forestry and Environmental Engineering http://www.cbuniv.ru/mbus/koopetel/cbu_fee.htm	Special financial support through the Cross-Border University
FOPER http://www.ell.international/naachtop	Only students with scholarship for 2 cycles. Uncertain development of the programme after the 2 nd circle
EUROFORESTER http://www.euroforester.org/index.html	More than 20 scholarships from industry (IKEA, Storaenso)

A summary view

- Still very dynamic, unstable and not consolidated experiences
- With a continuous process of integration, new challenging problems to be considered:
 - training need assessment,
 - employability evaluation,
 - quality control of teaching contents and students services (*see tomorrow presentation*)

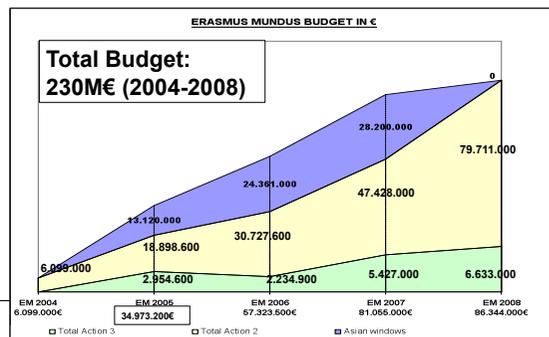
3. A case study: problems of governance in the SUTROFOR and SUFONAMA MSc



The objectives of the Erasmus Mundus programme (in brief)

- **Action 1:** Supporting the creation of **consortia** of high level education institutions in EU
- **Action 2:** Providing **scholarships** to high-qualified graduate students and scholars from third countries to facilitate their participation in the courses
- **Action 3:** Facilitating the creation of **high-quality partnerships** between EU and third-country higher education institutions
- **Action 4:** **Improving accessibility** and enhance the profile and visibility of higher education in the European Union.

Erasmus Mundus + EM Windows



Erasmus Mundus MSc in agricultural and forestry sciences: 7 courses

- AGRIS MUNDUS – Sustainable Development in Agriculture Masters Course
- European Master in Animal Breeding and Genetics (EM-ABG)
- IMRD – International Master of Science in Rural Development
- International Master “Vintage” – Vine, Wine and Terroir Management
- MSc EF – Master of Science of European Forestry
- SUFONAMA – Sustainable Forest and Nature Management
- SUTROFOR – Sustainable Tropical Forestry

The 2 EM MSc courses: SUTROFOR and SUFONAMA



Sustainable Tropical Forestry (SUTROFOR)
www.sutrofor.net



Sustainable Forest and Nature Management (SUFONAMA)
www.sufonama.net

Structure of SUFONAMA

FIRST YEAR (60 ECTS)	SECOND YEAR (60 ECTS)	SPECIALISATION	JOINT DEGREES	
Bangor Max. 25 students	Bangor Max. 15 students <i>Joint Summer Module</i>	Conservation and land management	MSc in Environmental Forestry/ MSc in Conservation and Land Management	
Copenhagen Max. 25 students		Economic management of forests and nature	MSc in Forestry	
Göttingen Max. 25 students		Timber and non-timber forest product use and processing	MSc in Forestry	
		Ahnarp Max. 15 students	Scandinavian and East European forestry	MSc in Forestry
		Padova Max. 15 students	Mountain forestry and watershed management	MSc in Forestry and Environmental Sciences



Structure of SUTROFOR

FIRST YEAR (60 ECTS)	SECOND YEAR (60 ECTS)	SPECIALISATION	JOINT DEGREES	
Bangor Max. 25 students	Bangor Max. 15 students <i>Joint Summer Module</i>	Agroforestry systems	MSc in Environmental Forestry (Tropical), MSc in Agroforestry	
Copenhagen Max. 25 students		Socio-economics of tropical forestry	MSc in Agricultural Development	
Dresden Max. 25 students		Tropical forest management	MSc in Tropical Forestry	
		Montpellier Max. 15 students	Environmental management and policies for tropical forests	MSc in Agricultural Sciences, specialisation Tropical and Rural Forestry
		Padova Max. 15 students	Ethics in forestry and responsible trade in tropical forest products and services	MSc in Forestry and Environmental Sciences



- Pros & Cons**
- a. Benefits for students and scholars
 - b. Benefits for the university institutions
 - c. Problems in governance

a. Benefits for students and scholars
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU students included in groups of 20 highly qualified international students selected out of more than 900 students world-wide. Scholarships for non-EU students (21,000 € per year) • Excellent students → their skills and enthusiasm is carried on to “local” students – motivations to improve programmes • Action 3 scholarships for financing thesis work abroad • Scholarships for third-country scholars and for short-term missions (1-3 months) for EU universities staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compulsory Joint Summer Module • International network, alumni association of all EM students/universities

b. Internal governance-related benefits for partner universities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An important and strong international network • Excellent students and ambassadors : positive image for the institution (and for the forestry sector) • Industrial partnerships for sponsoring scholarships (academic-private sector collaboration) • Spin-off for further EU applications

c. Internal governance-related problems for partner universities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Heavy administrative burden: selection procedure, financial agreements, administrative manuals, etc. – Erasmus Mundus Secretariat is costly and EU grant for administration is only EURO 15,000 – How to avoid 5 partners dancing 5 different dances – overcoming national administrative barriers – You need strong institutional commitment • “One for all, and all for one”: keeping all partners satisfied • Students are excellent but high demanding

4. Future challenges



New developments

- From international MSc courses to joint PhD programmes
 - SUTROFOR + SUFONAMA → FONASO PhD programme
 - FOPER PhD programme
 - ...
- From teaching to research networks: some examples
 - Newforex research programme (7th EC FP)
 - MASIFF ← EFIMED (see also the other new EFI Regional Centres)
 - FOPER (2^o edition) research programmes
- Enlargement of the mobility programmes: Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Windows

Governance: future challenges

- Mobility → transparency (international accreditation) → increased competition; in this open market for HEIs is still there a room in Europe for so many universities teaching forestry?
- From the teaching focused on wood value chain to a vision of forests as multifunctional resources: are forest HEIs losing their identity? (not mentioning e-learning and the risk to lose a traditional role of teaching institution)
- A possible solution for MSc and PhD programmes: a network of top quality universities offering high specialized compact courses? (e.g.: watershed management, forest monitoring, CSR, landscape planning, bio-energy, ...)

New challenges, new needs for reform and investments,
in a general condition of budget cuts.

Will we be able to find the right balance?



СПАСИБО!