

Recent Challenges of Forest Engineering Academic Education

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Abstract:

The paper presents history and tradition of forestry academic education in Europe. But during last few decades a lot of changes have been done and forestry academic education has lost a high-level position in European society and economy.

In many European countries the higher education programs from the field of forestry is just a part of educational systems of universities of applied sciences, life sciences, agricultural or technical sciences.

Important changes of high education systems have been made with establishment of new educational programs according to the Bologna principles. On the Croatian example, where reform of teaching programs according to the Bologna process was made before 7 years, some problems and disadvantages will be discussed.

The most important problems occur in employment of bachelors of forestry, decreasing number of students, evaluation of forestry educational programs in forestry practice.

Also the field of forest engineering which still have a quite strong position in forestry practice are not in the extant way covered with teaching programs in many countries.

In order to provide in future the place that the university forestry education in the Republic of Croatia and Europe obviously deserves, the existing programs of studies should be revised and updated with development of new teaching methods, promotion of new and update teaching materials and handbooks, encouragement of students for scientific and individual work.

In the aim of presereving and recognition of importance of education from the field of forest engineering some existing principles of Bologna process could be accepted. Primarily it should be pointed out needs for establishment of joint master studies in the framework of Erasmus Mundus program which would strengthen the extant cooperation and serve as the basis for later more fruitful joint scientific-research and educational work.

It needs to be pointed out that the establishment of new graduate studies from the field of forest engineering would contribute to the development of higher education in the European environment, with an aim of student and academic staff mobility.

Keywords: educational programs, forestry, forest engineering, Bologna principles