

Tempus FORPEC Workshop
Tharandt, 6 April 2009

**MASTER COURSES
IN THE FORESTRY SECTOR:
recent experiences in international
cooperation in Europe**



Davide Pettenella
Dept of Land and Agro-Forestry Systems
University of Padova - Italy

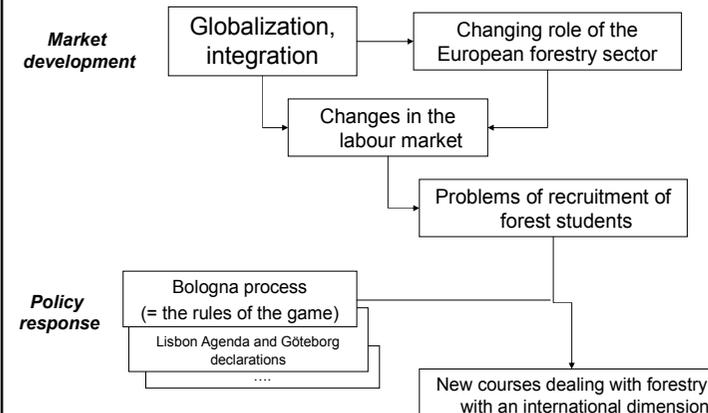
Outline

- A. Introduction: the driving forces
- B. Recent experiences in internationalization of forest teaching
- C. Problems of governance
- D. Conclusions

A. Introduction: the driving forces



Introduction: the driving forces of teaching internationalization



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

<http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/bologna/ActionLines/index.htm>

What is the Diploma Supplement?

- The **Diploma Supplement (DS)** is a **document** attached to a higher education diploma aiming at improving international 'transparency' and at facilitating the academic and professional recognition of qualifications (diplomas, degrees, certificates etc.). It is designed to provide a description of the nature, level, context, content and status of the studies that were successfully completed.
- It should be free from any value-judgements, equivalence statements or suggestions about recognition. It is a flexible non-prescriptive tool which is designed to save time, money and workload.
- The DS is produced by national institutions according to a template that has been developed by a Joint European Commission - Council of Europe - UNESCO working party that tested and refined it.
- The DS is composed of **eight sections** (information identifying the holder of the qualification, information identifying the qualification, information on the level of the qualification, information on the contents and results gained, information on the function of the qualification, additional information, certification of the Supplement, information on the national higher education system).
- A description of the national higher education system within which the individual named on the original qualification graduated has to be attached to the DS. This description is provided by the National Academic Recognition Information Centres (NARICs) www.enic-naric.net

B. Recent experiences in internationalization of forest teaching



High Education Initiatives (HEIs) in Europe

- a. Multi-HEIs international programmes
- b. Bi-lateral international programmes
- c. International programmes run by single institution
- d. Short international courses

No experiences of HEI delivering MSc at its institutions located in different countries or MSc programme developed by an international board that is delivered by 2 or more HEIs in different European countries

a. Multi-HEIs international programmes

- i. Erasmus Mundus (5 editions):
 - MSc in European Forestry
 - MSc SUTROFOR
 - MSc SUFONAMA
- ii. Tempus programme
 - MSc ENARECO
 - MSc FORPEC
 - (MEDFORMAN - MSc on MEDiterranean FOREst ecosystems MANAGEMENT“)
- iii. Other initiatives:
 - MSc Forestry and Environmental Engineering
 - MSc FOPER (2 editions)
 - MSc EUROFORESTER
 -

i. Erasmus Mundus Programme

About 100 selected International MSc
230 M€ budget (2004-8)



7 MSc in agricultural and forestry sciences

- 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 in European Forestry
- SUFONAMA – Sustainable Forest and Nature Management
- SUTROFOR – Sustainable Tropical Forestry Erasmus Mundus Masters Course

MSc in European Forestry

• A 2-year (120 ECTS) **double-degree** Masters Course co-organized by the following 6 European universities:

- ✓ University of Freiburg, Germany
- ✓ University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), Austria
- ✓ University of Lleida, Spain
- ✓ University of Joensuu, Finland (Co-ordination)
- ✓ Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden
- ✓ Wageningen University, The Netherlands



• In partnership with 5 non-European universities:

- ✓ University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
- ✓ Federal University of Paraná, Brazil
- ✓ Northwest A&F University, China

Javier Arevalo, Silva Conference, 2008



ii. TEMPUS Programme

MSc Environmental and Nature Resources Economics - ENARECO



- ENARECO (Environment and NATural Resource ECONomics): a post-graduated study program at Ukrainian State University of Forestry & Wood-Technology in Lviv.
- Launched on 1 September 1998 with the assistance of Universities of Freiburg, Gent and Padova

<http://www.enareco.narod.ru/frameset.htm>

MSc FOREst Policy and EConomics - FORPEC

- Start up in Dec 2007
- Objective: to launch in Sept 2009 a MSc programme on modern forest policy and economics at the State Forest Technical Academy in St.Petersburg

<http://www.forpec.ftacademy.ru/>



iii. Other initiatives

MSc Forestry and Environmental Engineering



- A two-year MSc programme in Forestry and Environmental Engineering
- Starting in autumn 2007

Five partner universities:

- University of Joensuu
- University of Helsinki
- Lappeenranta University of Technology
- Petrozavodsk State University
- St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University

Lauri Valsta, Outi Orenius, Silva Conference, 2007

http://www.joensuu.fi/metsatdk/opiskelu/CBU_FEE.html



CBU Studies Structure

- Courses in home university (48 – 62 ECTS)
- Joint, compulsory CBU courses (23 ECTS)
- Elective courses (6 – 28 ECTS)
- Applied period (12 ECTS)
 - Project work or internship
 - Home or visit university, company, public sector, NGO
 - Preference for foreign work
- Thesis (30/40 ECTS)
 - Joint supervision from two universities recommended
 - Topic should be relevant in both countries
- A minimum of 60 ECTS with a CBU element

Lauri Valsta, Outi Orenius, Silva Conference, 2007



CBU Studies Characteristics

- CBU element characteristics
 - Courses in another country
 - Virtual mobility through distance learning
 - Visiting instructors
 - Joint intensive courses
 - Supervision from another country
 - Project work or internship in another country
- Instruction in English or Russian
- More info: <http://www.joensuu.fi/cbu/forestry.htm>

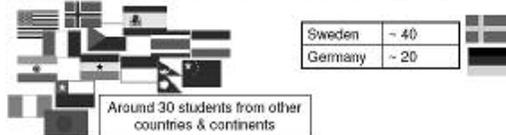
Lauri Valsta, Outi Orenius, Silva Conference, 2007

MSc Forest Policies and Economics - FOPER

- The Forest Policy and Economics Education and Research (FOPER) **started in 2004**; now in the **second phase**
- Funded by Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.
- Implementing agency: **European Forestry Institute**
- Aims: strengthening the capacity of modern forest policy and economics education, training and research in the **Western Balkans region**.
- Actions: an **international MSc course** (now in the 2nd edition) and a continuous professional development programme for professionals.
- In addition, **policy-relevant forest research** has been supported and promoted, and mechanisms for linking science and policy will be established

Programme for international students

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total
Poznan	4	3	3	3	4	4	3	24
Warsaw	2	3	3	3	3	4	4	22
Estonia	5	4	5	5	2	5	4	30
Latvia	5	4	4	5	4	3	3	28
Lithuania	4	6	5	3	4	2	4	28
Petrozavodsk			1	1	1	2	3	8
St. Petersburg			1	2	3	2	2	10
Moscow			1	4	3	4	2	14
Ukraine			3	3	3	5	14	
total	20	20	25	29	27	29	30	178



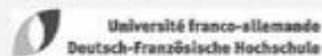
Vilis Brukas & Malgorzata Blicharska, Silva Conference, 2008

b. Bilateral international programmes

- The ENGREF (Nancy) and University of Freiburg study course (double degree)
- MSc on Forest Information Technology by Univ. of Applied Sciences of Eberswalde and Univ. of Warsaw

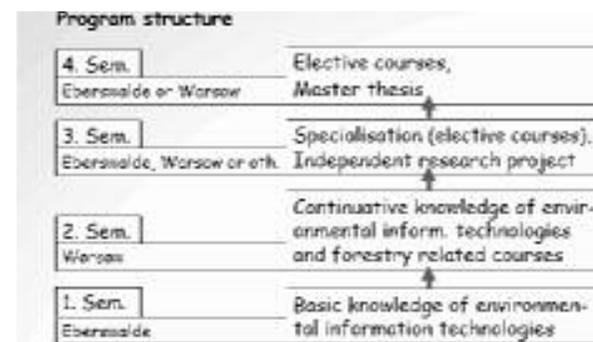
ENGREF (Nancy) and University of Freiburg study course

- a bi-national study course
- begin of the studies in the home country - end at the partner university - with the two diplomas
- Studies in the country's language
- patronage of the German-French University of Saarbrücken



Marion Jay, Silva conference, 2007

Univ. of Applied Sciences of Eberswalde and Univ. of Warsaw MSc on Forest Information Technology



Michael Mussong, Silva Conference, 2007

c. International programmes (run by a single HEI, with teaching to an international audience)

- Univ. of Wales - MSc Agroforestry and MSc Forest Ecology and Management
- Wageningen University - MSc Forest and Nature Management
- BOKU (Vienna) – MSc Mountain Forestry
- University of Freiburg – MSc Forest Ecology and management
- TUM Munchen - MSc in Sustainable Resource Management
- Univ. of Applied Sciences of Eberswalde - MSc in Global Change Management
- University of Helsinki – MSc Forest Science and Business
- Joensuu University - International Study Programme in Environmental Science and Forestry (1 yr)
- ...



<http://www.mfn.wur.nl/UK/>



<http://www.boku.ac.at>



<http://www.studium.uni-freiburg.de>

TUM

Indian Summer School

Purpose:
Further education offer for our students with special interest in the US

Main contents:
Forest management, silviculture and forest politics in the US.

Location, organiser:
New Haven, Yale University, Yale Myers Forest, Connecticut, USA
Organized by chair of "Forest and Environmental Policy", TUM and Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies

Martin Ziesak, Peter Biber, Michael Weber, Silva conference, 2007

Univ. Padova, EFI, Transilvania University of Brasov

Winter School on "Voluntary tools for the implementation of environmental and social responsibilities in forestry"



The poster features logos for the University of Padova, EFI, and Transilvania University of Brasov. The title is "WINTER SCHOOL ON VOLUNTARY TOOLS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN FORESTRY". It includes a list of topics: "Forest Management", "Environmental Impact Assessment", "Forest Certification", "Forest Policy", "Forest Economics", and "Forest Law". There are also several small images showing forest landscapes and people working in a forest.

C. Problems of governance



The collage consists of four black and white photographs. The top-left photo shows a person pointing at a large map or document. The top-right photo shows a dense forest with tall trees. The bottom-left photo shows a person wearing a hat and a light-colored shirt, possibly in a field or forest. The bottom-right photo shows a group of people sitting around a table in a meeting or workshop setting.

Among the other, some main problems of governance:

- Financial sustainability: how to survive after the start-up phase?

Financial sustainability

<i>MSc programmes</i>	<i>Problems</i>
EM European Forestry	Scholarships for 5 cycles; very few EU "normal" students
EM SUTROFOR	Scholarships for 5 cycles; few EU "normal" students
EM SUFONAMA	Scholarships for 5 cycles; some EU "normal" students
Tempus ENARECO	Started with a international audience; end of Tempus funding; only Ukrainian
Tempus FORPEC	Not yet started
CBU Forestry and Environmental Engeneering	Support through the Cross-Border University
FOPER	Only students with scholarship for 2 cycles
EUROFORESTER	> 20 scholarships from industry (IKEA, Storaenso);

Financial sustainability

No one course stabilized as an international multi-parties MSc long lasting programme without external extraordinary funding.

Many positive impacts in terms of strengthening international relations ...
... but very high administrative and organizational costs

Financial sustainability

No much use of the potentials of Erasmus Socrates programme:

- well coordinated groups of subjects for regular students exchange programmes,
- teachers mobility

Few bi-lateral stable agreements to provide joint degree

Among the other, some main problems of governance

- Financial sustainability: how to survive after the start-up phase
- Students' entrance fees: no easy common teaching policy without a common fee policy
- Training need assessment
- Job placement monitoring
- ITC and distance learning: the grave of the old university or the cradle of a new one?
- Quality Assurance (QA): competition based on contents and services

Key role of the services to the students



The need for a transparent information on contents and teachers

Towards a system of European accreditation of MSc programmes.

Components:

- QA programme
- Peer Review Committee
- Accreditation Agency
- EU or other institutions controlling the systems and the awarding of a label of "European Quality MSc"

Procedure for external evaluation of the MSc programme

- Self evaluation report preparation by the Consortium of HEIs ← [Guidelines](#)
- Site visit of a [Peer Review Committee](#) (2 days)
 - Separate meetings with: Director and Secretariat, teachers, administrative staff, students
- Preparation of a report by the Review Committee
- The report is confidentially sent to the Consortium members for comments
- Final report writing and delivery → awarding the European Quality Label (by ICA?)

Guidelines contents

- Internationalization strategy
- Needs, aims, objectives and learning outcomes
- Educational process (teaching structure)
- Student support (non educational)
- Educational resources and partnership
- Student progression
- QA management and enhancement



Peer Review Committee

- President (with experience in QA certification)
- 2 or more experts (at least one with background experience in the same field of the MSc programme)
- Student with international experience



D. Conclusions



Some conclusions (1/2)

- 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 of CIT

Some conclusions (2/2)

- 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

Only if we cope with these challenges we can have people staying at our universities that, describing their past experience, can state - like Galileo Galilei after his staying at University of Padova - *"I spent there the most productive and nice years of my life"*



This presentation can be downloaded from: <http://www.tesaf.unipd.it/pettenella/>