Higher forestry education under the auspices of the Bologna Process

Prof. Dr. Siegfried Lewark

7th Biennial Conference on University Education in Natural Resources
What to present and discuss ...

- Bologna process – some background
- The state of the Bologna transformations
- The example of Freiburg
- Selected observations
The oldest European universities till 15th century

Bologna
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Development of Higher Education

Didactical development
- e-learning
- networking

Europe
- Erasmus programme
- Joint degree programmes
- Bologna process

Worldwide
- FAO
- IPFE
- IUFRO (3 units)
- IFSA
- SILVA Network
- Master of European Forestry
- Freiburg - Nancy joint programme

General
- Forestry & related sciences
Objectives:
1. Raise the profile of forestry education nationally and globally
2. Enhance communication among forestry educators
3. Improve services to forestry education
4. Improve generation and dissemination of knowledge on forestry education
5. Support the activities of the International Forestry Students Association (IFSA).

Activities:
1. Curricula development and initiation of courses
2. Initiation and promotion of networking
3. Promotion of partnership and fundraising
4. Conducting workshops, networking
5. Offer courses in different regions of the world (including online)
Government of IPFE:

1. The Executive Office:
   • Provides leadership for the partnership
   • Chairperson and three Vice-Chairs

2. The Steering Committee:
   • Advise the Executive Office and membership at large on strategic issues pertaining to the partnership.
   • Composed of prominent persons from education institutions, industry, NGO’s, research institutions and Networks
   • It is composed of 11 to 13 members with due consideration to geographic distribution, discipline, and affiliation
   • The International Forestry Students Association (IFSA) has a permanent seat on the Steering Committee.
SILVA Network
- European Forest Science Academic Network

Stands for

"stimulating and facilitating interuniversity co-operation in the field of Forestry education in Europe"
Introduction

The Master of Science in European Forestry Erasmus Mundus (MSc EF) is a 2-year double-degree programme co-organized by the following 6 European Universities:

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

1997  Paris, Sorbonne
1999  Bologna
2001  Prague
2003  Berlin
2005  Bergen
2007  London
2009  Benelux
• **Bologna process**
  The Bologna conference in 1999 initiated far-reaching changes of the complete system of higher education in Europe and started a process of a dimension not known hitherto.

• “Ministers take into due consideration the conclusions of the European Councils in Lisbon (2000) and Barcelona (2002) aimed at making Europe ‘the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion’ and calling for further action and closer co-operation in the context of the Bologna Process.”
European Higher Education Area (EHEA)

- Attractiveness of EHEA
- Linking EHEA & ERA
- Lifelong learning
- European dimension
- Quality assurance
- System of degrees
- ECTS
- Three cycles
- Institutions & students
- Mobility
• Objectives and reality

• A main objective of the Bologna process is shortening the study time for the majority of students, who would be ready for the labour market with a BSc, whereas the others would go on with a master’s programme or come back for a master’s programme after some years of occupational experience. In reality it seems that the labour markets are not well prepared for BSc graduates in many European countries.
Stocktaking on the Degree System

2 cycles
- good progress and
- good potential for completion

Access
- Fewer legal obstacles
- Bridging courses
- 2 levels of bachelors
The example of forestry & related curricula at the University of Freiburg

University from 1457
Faculty of Forest Sciences 1921
Faculty of Forest and Environmental Sciences 2002
by merging with Geo Sciences Faculty
Diploma curriculum (old)  |  Bachelor / Master (new)

**5. year**
- Diploma thesis

**Diploma examination**

**4. year**
- 7. sem.
- 8. sem.
- practical training

**3. year**
- 5. sem.
- 6. sem.
- preliminary examination

**2. year**
- 3. sem
- 4. sem.
- practical training

**1. year**
- 1. sem.
- 2. sem.

**Bachelor degree**

**Master degree**
- Master thesis
- 3. sem.
- 1. sem.
- 2. sem.
- Practical training

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after Fink 2005
Master
4 semesters
(new in 2008)
120 ETCS credits

Bachelor
6 semesters
(start in 2005)
120 ETCS credits

Geography

Hydrology

Forest Sciences

Renewable Energy Management

Forest Ecology and Management

European Master of Forestry

Environmental Governance

Minor fields of study (within faculty of forestry and environmental sciences) (40 ETCS credits):
- Nature protection and landscape management
- Wood and bioenergy
- International forestry
- Meteorology and climatology
- or minor fields outside faculty
plus transferable skills courses (20 ETCS credits)
The Bologna process
- some observations

- Structural changes versus learning processes
- ECTS, workload, mobility
- Third cycle: PhD
- And the labour market?
The Bologna process
- still a long way to go …

Big steps: Quality assurance, accreditation

Will the universities find the support and conditions they need?

Networks: SILVA, IUFRO, IPFE

Summing up – the optimist
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