DISCUSSION ON THE SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPEAN FOREST RESEARCH PLAN

Moderator: Mersudin Avdibegović

Defining priority research agenda in SEE countries

Key words are: sustainability, competitiveness and EU integration.

All the topics need to be harmonized with the EU research agenda. Proposed topics are interdisciplinary and cross-sectorally integrated.

Recurring themes are:

* Managing forests in an era of change and globalisation
* Science-policy interface
* Usage of segregation and aggregation approaches to nature protection in forestry
* Competiveness and innovations in forestry sector
* Management of private and coppice forests

Priority areas for regional research topics:

Dean Milan Medarević:

• sustainability and competitiveness within EU

• sustainable forest management

• multifunctional forest management

• role of forests in nature conservation – usage of segregation and aggregation approaches to nature protection in forestry

• networking in the region within protected areas and protective forests

• private forest management their inventory and characteristics

• bioenergy related to state, private forests and from coppice forests

• conversion from coppice to high forests

• sustainability in rural areas, support to rural development and return of people to rural areas in conversion with forestry

Director Ljubinko Rakonjac:

• not enough implementation of scientific research to practice and policy

• implementation of research into forest policy in practice, for now there are no strategic plans how to channel the regional knowledge

• politics has no interest in the existing scientific research

• science policy interface

Dean Aleksandar Trendafilov:

• we need to learn how to influence decision makers

• multifunctional forest ecosystems by offering them possible effects and outcomes

• there are no prices on damages from forest fires on other forest elements in the ecosystem

• investigating climate change influence on forest species, forest systems, monitoring systems

• payment of ecosystem services of forests

• high forests are more and more under protection (where is the economic benefit)

• there is a need for integrated spatial management

• there is no implementation of strategic documents

• To which limit the biomass can be used without disturbance?

Vice Dean Dalibor Ballian:

• implemented and fundamental research are lacking

• active conservation of high quality forests is needed

• recognise the importance of tree physiology, genetics and breeding

• there is a need for change in the forest ownership in BH

Professor Leonidha Peri:

• fundamental research are decreasing

• there is no budget or it is too small for Ecosystem services

• there is a need for the politicians to recognise the monetary value of ecosystem

• resources raised from forests are different from the ones raised from wood

• there is a need for changes in forest ownership in Albania

• there are not enough capacities for forest management

• researcher should finding new market instruments

• governance and socio-economics in forest management

• innovations based on SME’s

Director Saša Orlović:

• “Managing forests in Europe in an era of change and globalisation” as an overarching topic

Director Dijana Vuletić:

• now we have realised the importance of policy and we prefer it over economics

• forest policy reach is a good platform trough which we can reach many other forestry issues

• there are now increased capacities in the forest policy in the region that we need to take advantage off

• we have to accept the European trends in research that is our future too

• adjust the forestry sector to the forthcoming changes

• forestry involved within Climate change and economic development since it is an interdisciplinary subject

Director Risto Päivinen:

• you should have your own field of interest as priorities, but ask the policy makers, industry, private forest owners to use your research results to improve their policies

• you should change your priorities towards the final users and stakeholders

• there should be an active role of the advisory group in defining the topics

• funding – domestic first and then EU funds as basis for research projects

• use of small national budgets – all regional countries to contribute to projects on regional level and have joint big research projects valid for all the region

• make use of already built and existing human and financial resources in the region