

## **Best Practice cases in VET - Poland (Partners: SGGW)**

### **TRAINING CHAINSAW OPERATORS IN POLAND**

Duration: 144h (18 days)

After a long period of fourteen years, the new training course, named "The Framework Programme for Training Chainsaw Operator's Range of Occupational Knowledge and Required Skills" come to life in July 1998.

The main aim of such course is to achieve a worker with a high level of knowledge and competence warranting high productivity and safety consciousness. The certificate of completion of this course is the only way to undertake forestry work in Poland.

The training course objectives:

#### **Knowledge:**

- Main construction characteristics of a chainsaw,
- Using of chainsaw and other typical logging equipment,
- Basic knowledge of organisation and functioning of logging operations, risks and threats of forestry work,
- Proper usage of any logging equipment according to safety and protection rules.

#### **Skills:**

- Use of the chainsaw, routine maintenance and servicing of chainsaw and other equipment
- Handling a chainsaw in a safe and secure way,
- Proper technique of all logging operations done with chainsaw and accurate implementation of all auxiliary equipment.

#### **Selection of trainees (candidates):**

- Obligatory is possession of elementary education, and medical certificate prescribed by entitled medical centre, as permission for work with chainsaw.

#### **Selection of trainers:**

- In accordance to general rules, the teaching staff must be recruited from those Professional Chainsaw Operator Instructors who were verified in 1995, and simultaneously, possess special training in tree and branch cutting.

#### **Learner/Employer motivation Course promotion**

The course offers effective and educational forms of training. According to the initial knowledge level and the assessment of trainees, there is also space to either condense or to prolong a training course (only the duration of a single item, not the whole subject), but not more than 10% of the outlined duration. Only the prescribed pedagogical knowledge of teaching adult persons is used, with the appropriate intelligibility, simplicity, accessibility and regulatory rules. Starting with practical activities is only possible after accomplishing a suitable level of theoretical knowledge.

The theoretical part of this training course has to be executed in a specially prepared training centre well equipped with didactic supporting devices and also appropriately fitted out with all chainsaw regulation and repairing facilities. Before the practical part of the course can be accomplished, exercises on specially prepared training ground should be completed through the utilisation of training simulators. It helps the instructor to recognise individual strengths and weaknesses, attitudes, and safety habits, and treat every trainee individually,

The practical part of the training must be done in natural habitats, in groups not greater than 5-7 with one instructor. During the exercises all participants and instructors have to use the necessary personal protective equipment intended for chainsaw operators (PPE).

### Why this is an example of Good Practice

The course gives knowledge on some very important issues for a modern worker such as: understanding of natural resources, basic ergonomic knowledge (physiology of work, fatigue and recovery, etc.), working practice including efficient machine use and correct ergonomic working technique, working in a team, reading forest plans, implementation of new techniques and the use of machines in harvesting wood.

The modern forestry worker can no longer be treated as a simple cutter. There is a necessity to achieve a worker who is better educated, better trained, well equipped, better managed and supervised.

**Course Evaluation** The standard evaluation methods is applied to this course