

Best Practice cases in VET - Lithuania (Partners: LFRI)

Forestry Information Centre in Kaunas College of Forestry and Environmental Engineering

Since 2003 the **Forestry Information Centre** is operating in the college. Its objectives are to propagate the novelties of forest science, apply new technologies in production, raise the qualification of forestry specialists and private forest owners, raise public awareness on forestry and environmental issues.

The Forestry Information Centre comprises three sectors:

- In-service courses for forestry specialists
- Training of private forest owners
- Raising of public awareness



Fig. Forestry Information Center in Kaunas College

In-service courses for forestry specialists. In co-operation with the Lithuanian Agricultural University, Lithuanian Forest Research Institute, State Forest Management Institute, State Forest Inventory Service, Sanitary Forest Protection Service and other institutions, the Centre organizes in-service courses for the specialists of forest enterprises. Such courses are attended by forest rangers, district foresters, specialists of forest nurseries, forest control divisions and other specialist. It is foreseen, that until 2007 the majority of state forest specialists (about 2000) will have had possibility to participate in the courses organized by Forestry Information Centre.

Training of private forest owners. In the first year the Centre organized courses on silviculture and computing fundamentals for four groups of private forest owners and worked out 8 new training programs:

1. Fundamentals of private forest economy, law, economics and business;
2. Forest growing and protection;
3. Use of wood;
4. Game management;
5. Growing of Christmas trees and willow plantations;
6. Production of medicinal herbs, berries and mushrooms;
7. Agro-tourism and arrangement of farm-stead;
8. Use of computers and information technologies in private forestry.

Graduates of the courses will acquire:

- the right to possess personal tools to mark trees for felling

- the qualification of a forest feller
- the qualification of a hunter-selectionist.

The Forestry Information Centre constantly provides advice on various questions of interest to forest owners.

Raising of public awareness. Most attention is focused on educating schoolchildren from secondary schools on forestry and environmental topics, developing ties with the Young Forest Fellows. Activities organized by the Centre every year were attended by 250-300 schoolchildren from 50 schools of the country.