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Cooperation for innovative approach in sustainable forest management training

## GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES IN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES IN SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT



Case studies:  
**AUSTRIA, CROATIA AND SLOVENIA**

# Educational programmes in sustainable forest management (SFM)

# Current state of educational programmes in SFM in Austria, Croatia and Slovenia

The goal of this brochure is to show current state, **good practice examples** and main challenges related to **educational programmes** in **sustainable forest management (SFM)** in Austria, Croatia and Slovenia.

It examines the results of the “Study on good practice in vocational education and training (VET) and long life learning (LLL) in SFM in Austria, Croatia and Slovenia”, which is one of the output of the CIA2SFM project. The study will be basis for development of new innovative training curriculum and e-learning materials.

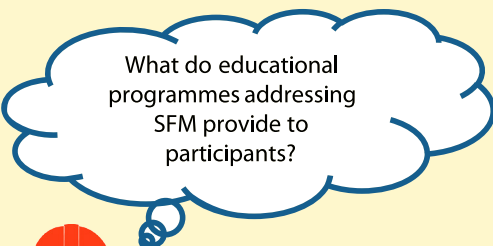
## Educational programmes

### VET

Usually non-academic education related to a specific occupation or vocation with a basis in manual or practical activities which are preparing learners for jobs

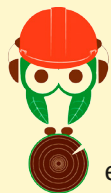
### LLL

The process of gaining knowledge and skills, which includes formal and non-formal learning throughout a life



### SFM

Management of forests that ensures environmental, social and economical benefits of forests for present and future generations



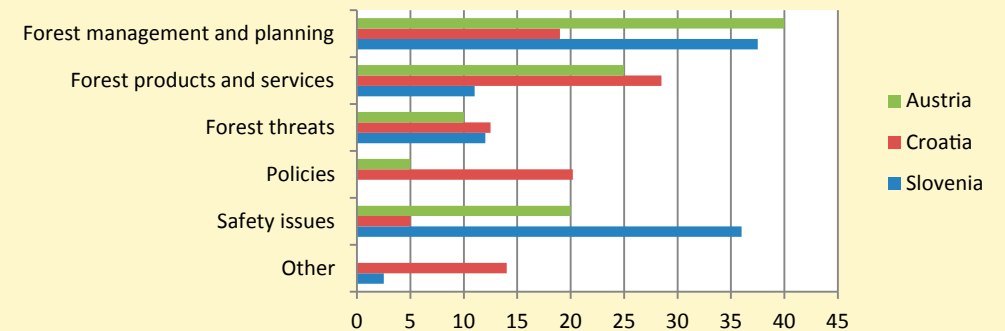
- 1. new knowledge** and latest information about relevant public policies in the sectors of forestry, environmental and nature protection;
- 2. entrepreneurial skills** to increase competitiveness on the job market, employability, self-employment, and new business creation especially of young forestry engineers and private forest owners (PFOs);
- 3. practical skills** in SFM targeting especially PFOs and entrepreneurs in forestry, as well as forestry engineers, employees of forestry extension service and institutions in charge of management of protected areas.

Analysis showed heterogeneity of educational programs in SFM in Austria, Croatia and Slovenia - mostly in topics covered and methods used.

## TOPICS

Most attention related to topics of educational programmes is given to **Forest management and planning** and least to topics concerning **Policies**.

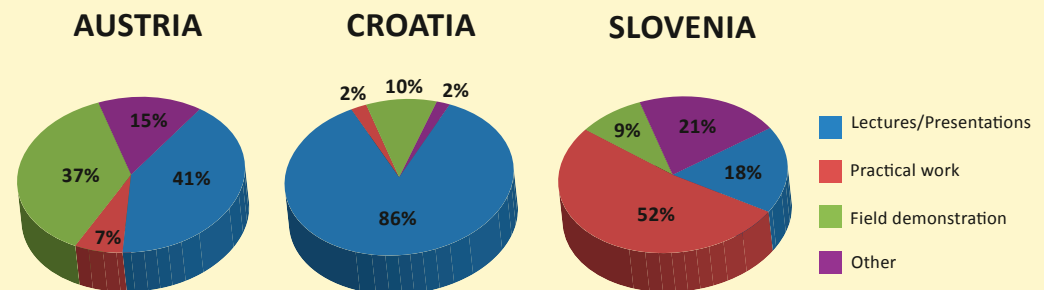
### Share of topics covered in SFM trainings in Austria, Croatia and Slovenia



## METHODS

All these countries use the same methods (lectures/presentations, practical work, field demonstrations) but their share varies a lot between countries.

### Share of methods applied in SFM trainings in Austria, Croatia and Slovenia



Note: Methodology does not provide direct comparison but an interesting insight into VET and LLL in SFM in a period of 10 years (2005-2015). Data were collected with the help of national providers of VET in SFM. For more information visit <http://www.cia2sfm.org/?s=study+on+good+practice>

## What makes a VET programme an example of good practice?

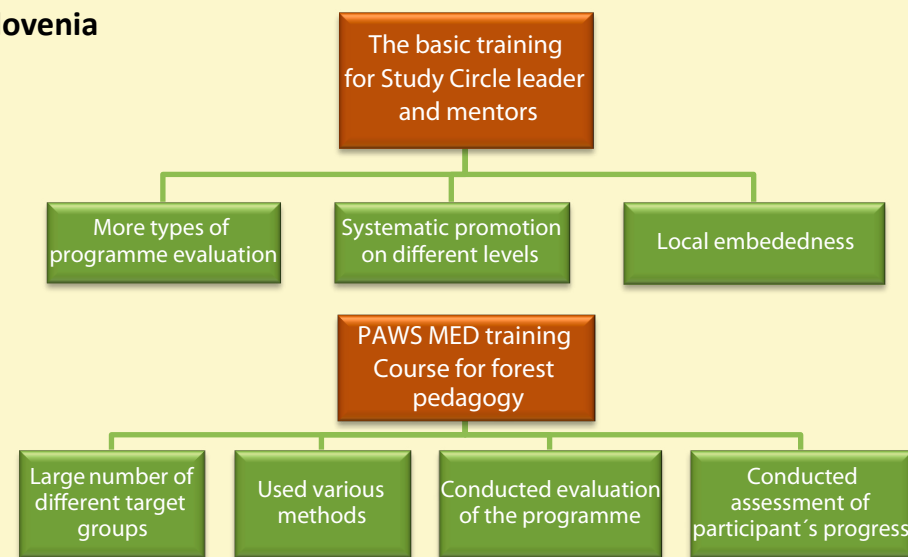
In order to identify best practice examples of SFM trainings in each country a set of criteria was defined and used for the analysis.

### Criteria for the identification of best practice examples of SFM trainings in the study area

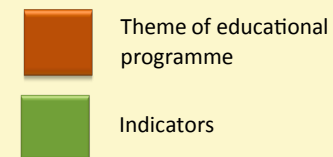
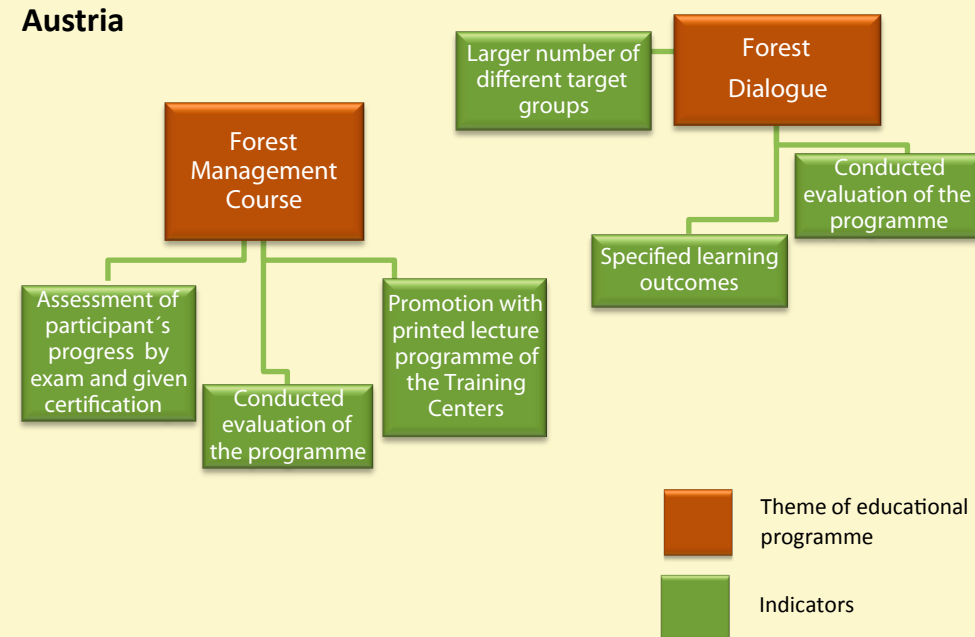
Criterion	Rationale
Target groups	A multi-stakeholder approach, addressing several target groups at the same time, is valued high
Topics covered	Addressing cutting-edge SFM related content (e.g. emerging issues) is preferable
Specified learning outcomes	Mandatory (i.e. learning outcomes must be specified)
Methods applied	A multi-method approach is preferable, particularly relevant are practical applications (e.g. training in the field)
Programme evaluation	Mandatory (although of minor relevance)
Programme marketing	Multiple marketing channels are preferable
Assessment of participants' progress	Mandatory (although of minor relevance)

## How the good practice examples look like?

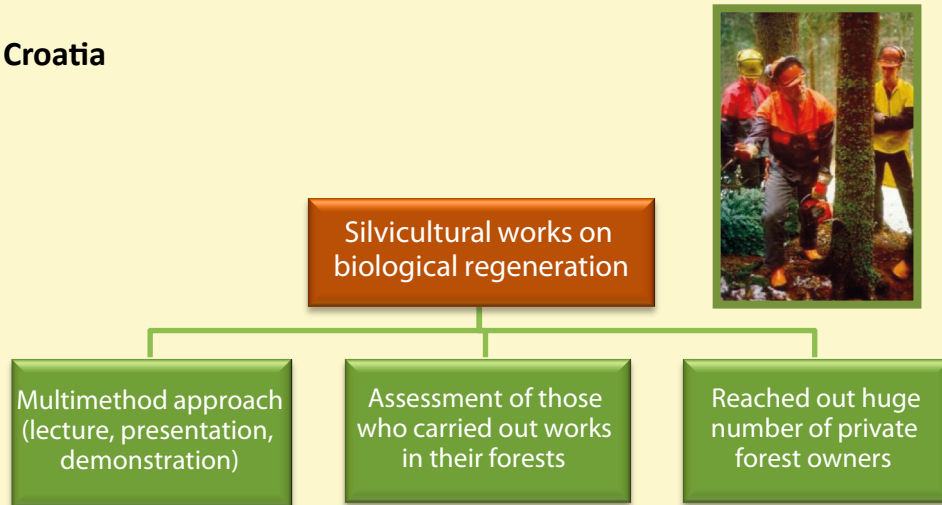
### Slovenia



### Austria

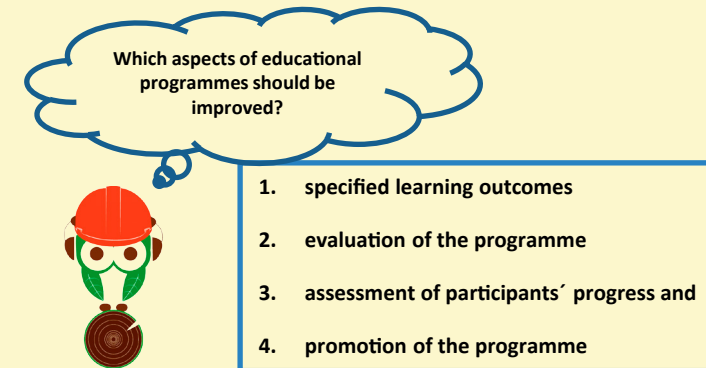
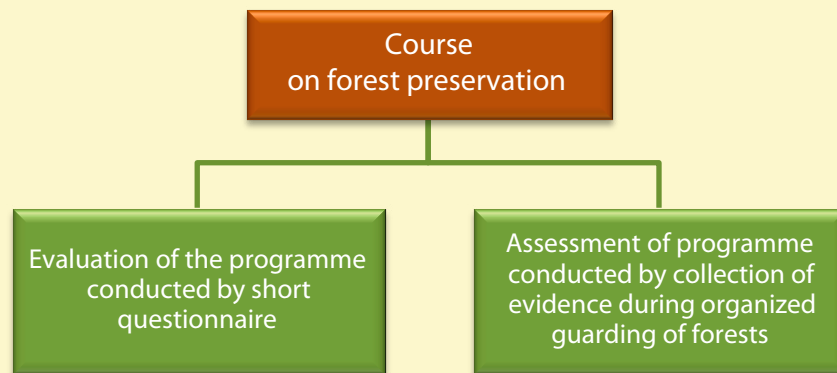


## Croatia



## Lessons learnt

- Survey results indicate that there is a broad interest in the study area to foster education in the forest-based sector within national VET and LLL programmes.
- Even if focal points relate to individual needs within national forestry sectors, SFM related VET and LLL programmes should be **regularly screened and updated according to international agendas and emerging issues**.
- In most countries a strong interest to facilitate the practical understanding is recognized by fostering demonstrations in the field, field trips or practical work, for the topic and content where such approaches are better suited.



## Main challenges

1. **Evaluation** is supposed be beneficial in order to receive feedback from the learners on the respective training as this may be taken up for the further development of the courses.
2. **Assessment of participants' progress** (e.g. via an exam, a short report, a practical work, certification) in order to secure the successful transfer of knowledge could be further developed in all countries.
3. **Promotion of individual courses/programmes has also a gap**, as some of them are announced to a limited number of potential participants.

