



Andragoški center Republike Slovenije  
Slovenian Institute for Adult Education



GOZDARSKI INŠTITUT SLOVENIJE  
SLOVENIAN FORESTRY INSTITUTE



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Cooperation for innovative  
approach in sustainable forest  
management training

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES IN SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES



Case studies:  
AUSTRIA, CROATIA AND SLOVENIA

# Educational programmes in sustainable forest management (SFM)

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

What do educational programmes addressing SFM provide to participants?

### 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 forestry engineers, PFOs and entrepreneurs in forestry, employees of forestry extension service and institutions in charge of management of protected areas.

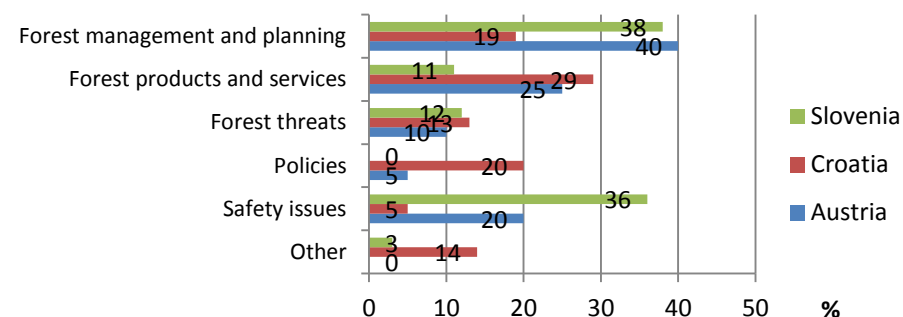
# Current state of educational programmes in SFM in Austria, Croatia and Slovenia

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 **Forest policies**.

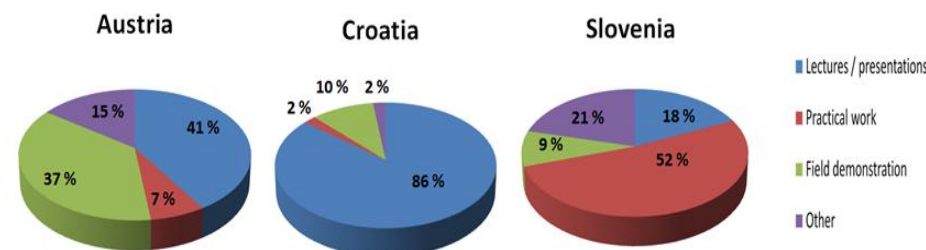
### Share of topics covered in SFM trainings in Austria, Croatia and Slovenia



## METHODS

All three countries use the same learning and teaching 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 from 2004-2015. 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?

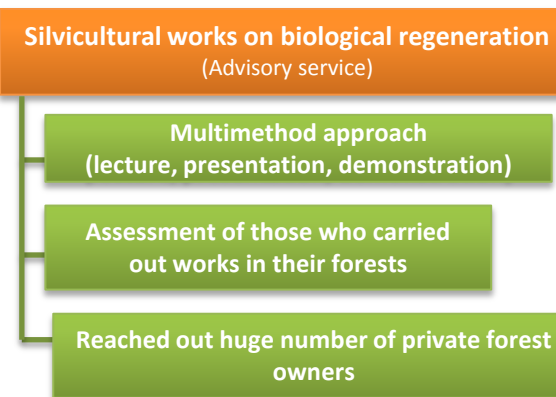
In order to identify best practice examples of SFM trainings in each country a set of criteria was defined and used for the analysis.

## 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
Topic's covered	Addressing cutting-edge SFM related content (e.g. emerging issues) is preferable
Specified learning outcomes	Mandatory (i.e. learning outcomes must be specified)
Method's 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?

## Croatia



- Theme of educational programme
- Indicator

## Slovenia

### The basic training for Study Circle leader and mentors (Slovenian Institute for Adult Education)

More types of programme evaluation

Systematic promotion on different levels

Local embeddedness

### PAWS MED training Course for forest pedagogy (Slovenian Forest Service)

Large number of different target groups

Used various methods

Conducted evaluation of the programme

Conducted assessment of participant's progress

## Austria

### Forest Management Course (Austrian Research Centre for Forests)

Assessment of participant's progress by exam and given certification

Conducted evaluation of the programme

Promotion with printed lecture programme of the Training Centers

### Forest Dialogue (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management )

Larger number of different target groups

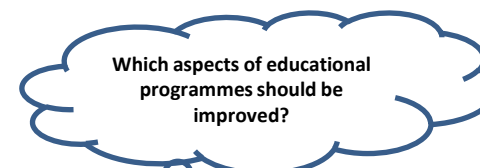
Specified learning outcomes

Conducted evaluation of the programme

Theme of educational programme  
Indicator

## Lessons learnt

- Survey results indicate that there is a big offer of educational programmes in Austria, Croatia and Slovenia for different target groups in the forestry sector.
- 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.
- Although the examples of good practice exist, there is a need for improvement in some aspects.



1. specified learning outcomes
2. evaluation of the programme
3. assessment of participants' progress and
4. promotion of the programme

## Main challenges:

1. **To define specific learning outcomes** in order to assess the participant progress.
2. **To evaluate educational programmes** to receive feedback from the participants in order to improve the programme.
3. **To assess the participants' progress** (e.g. via an exam, a short report, a practical work, certification).
4. **To improve the promotion** of individual programmes to reach bigger number of potential participants.