

E-learning in forestry – pros and cons

Professional training in sustainable forest management in Austria, Slovenia and Croatia: Experiences, lessons learnt and looking ahead

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Head



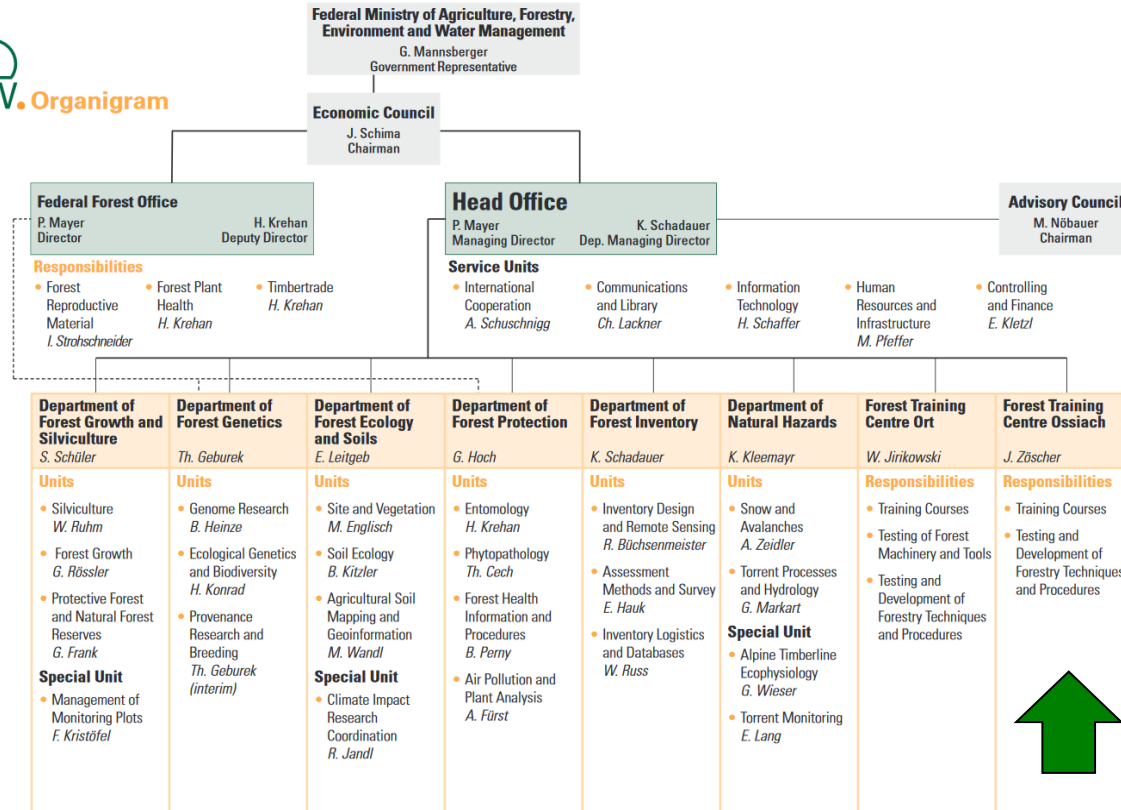
Forestry Training Centre Ossiach of BFW



Organisation of BFW...



Organigram



Austrian Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape

Stand: 01.01.2017



Forstliche Ausbildungsstätte Ossiach des BFW

Tätigkeit und Bildungsangebot

Forstfacharbeiterkurs

Dauer: 5 Wochen

Voraussetzung:
lt. Ausbildungsverordnung



Seilbringungskurse

Dauer: 1 bzw. 2 Wochen

Zertifizierter Forstmaschinenführerkurs



Forsttechnikurse

für Forststudenten, Forstwarde, Försterschüler,
Schüler landwirtschaftlicher Fachschulen



Forstschutzorgan und Forstwirtschaftsmeisterkurs

Dauer: 13 Wochen

Voraussetzung: lt. Ausbildungsverordnung bzw. Forstgesetz 1975 id g.F.



Motorsägenkurse

Dauer: 1 bzw. 2 Wochen

Zertifizierter Motorsägenkurs



Forstschiepperkurse

Dauer: 1 bzw. 2 Wochen

Zertifizierter Schleppekurs



Kurse auf Kundenwunsch

z.B. Trainingskurse für Forstunternehmer oder Forstbetriebe, Einschulungen auf Forstlichen Seilanlagen, Feuerwehr, Wildbach- und Lawinenverbauung




Holzmesskurse

Dauer: 1 bzw. 2 Wochen

Zertifizierter Holzmesskurs

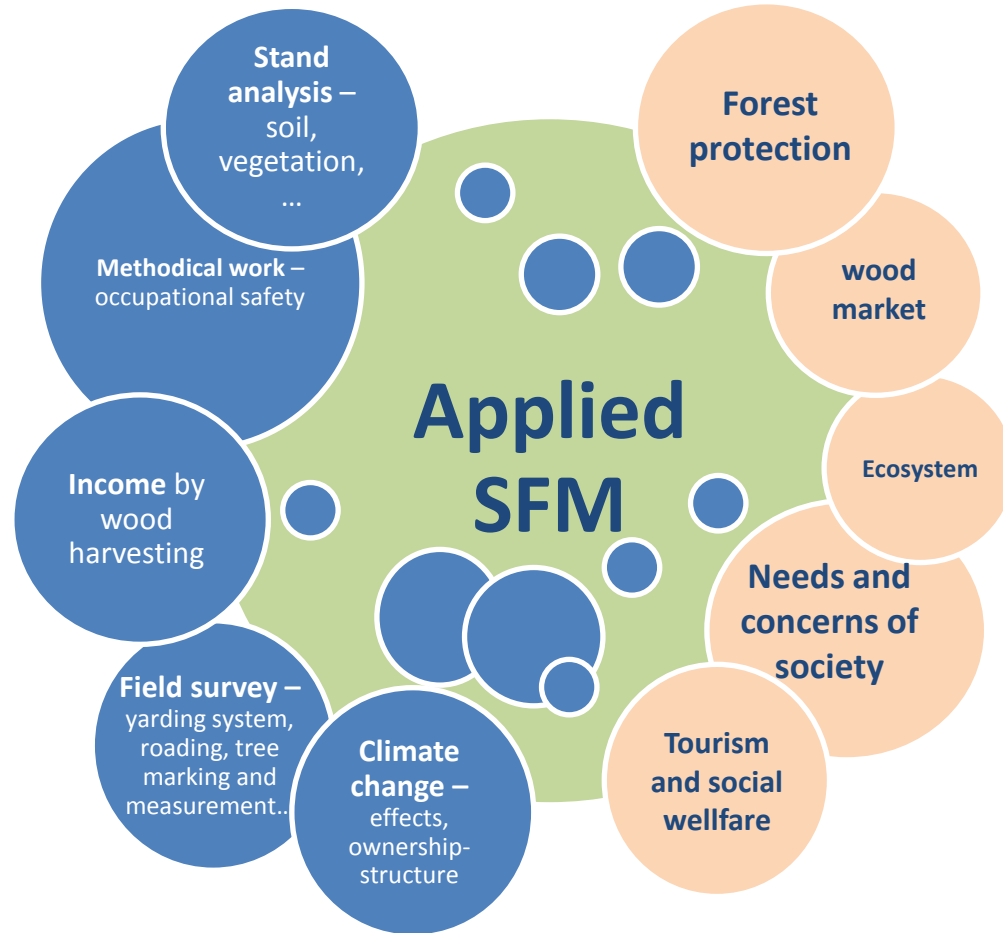


Today's strategy of BFW...

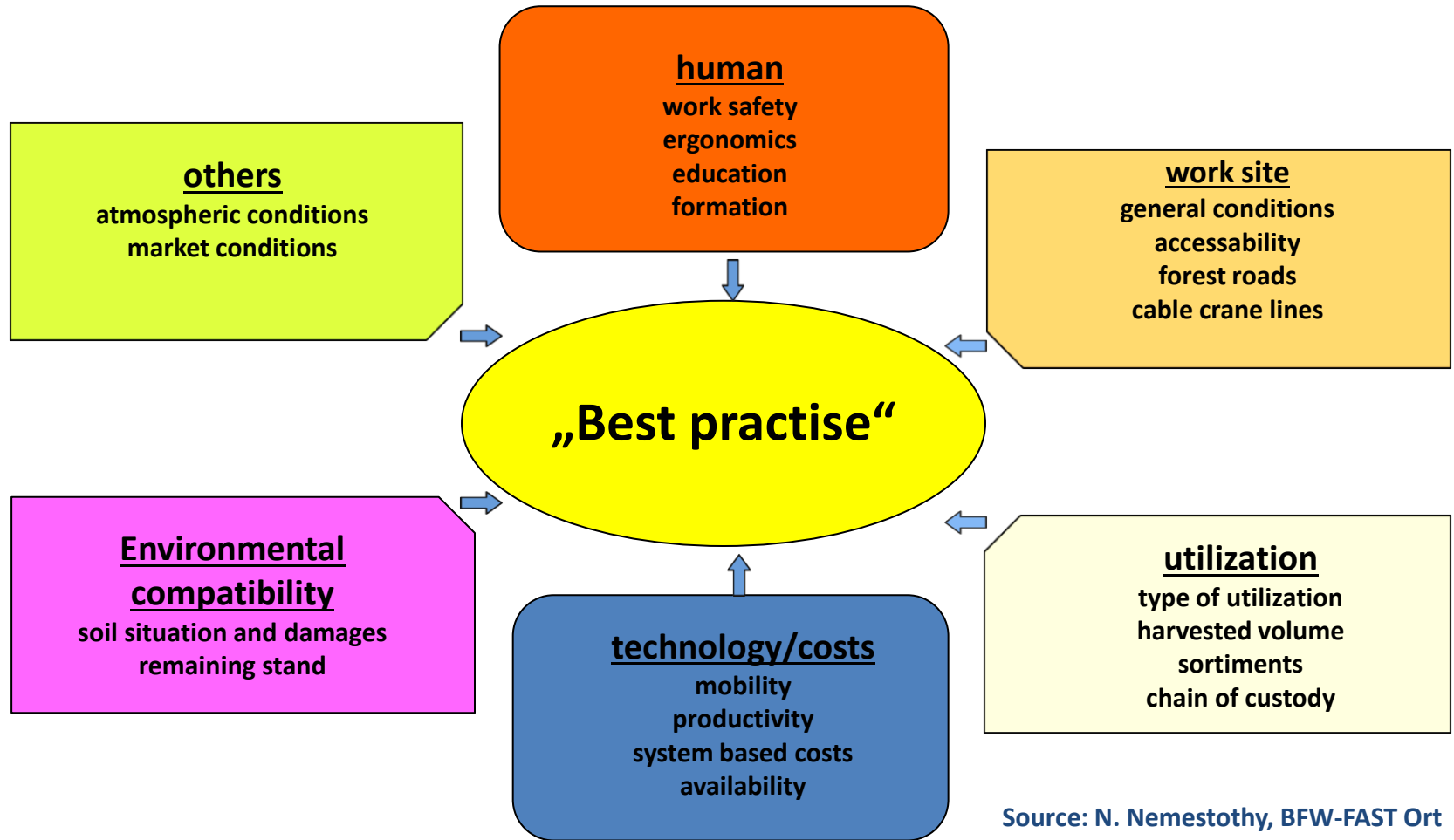
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- Forest and Sustainable Forest Management
 - Forest and Biodiversity
 - Forest and Climate Change
 - Forest and Water
 - Forest and Natural Hazards

...Research and Formation within these topics!

Challenge Multifunctionality...



Lots of factors are influencing SFM...
Need of
knowledge
and **skills!**



Source: N. Nemestothy, BFW-FAST Ort

the higher the level of formation the higher is the possibility of application of e-learning





1. VARIATIONS OF LEARNING

LLL...Formal, non-formal and informal – three terms and definition

- **formal learning:** specific, defined curricula, mostly in accredited institutions, official accredited certificate
- **non-formal learning:** specific, mainly in courses, seminar etc., often non officially accredited certificate
- **informal learning:** can be non-intentional, out of everyday-life (spare-time, workplace,...), no certificate

Distance learning methods...

- **E-Learning...**

is electronic learning, typically delivered via computers to enable courses to be more accessible. This allows **theoretical subjects** to be delivered to learners who can't attend classroom based teaching and thus reduce barriers to learning that may exist for some.

- **Written material, e-journals**

Distance learning via written material is home-based learning, typically delivered via learning packs that are sent to your home. This allows the **theory content of any qualification** to be delivered to learners who wish to study at home at a place more suited to them.

- **Television programming**

Involves a series of television programmes which are designed to convey the **techniques and theory**. These could be broadcast via cable or terrestrial channels or provided on video tape or DVD. (Webinar = web-based seminar)

E-learning and universities - Germany



Universität für Bodenkultur Wien

Einsatz digitaler Technologien in der Weiterbildung – Stand 2016 in Deutschland

Abbildung 3: Digitalisierungsniveaus akademischer Weiterbildungsangebote:
Anteile der vier Strategietypen, in Prozent



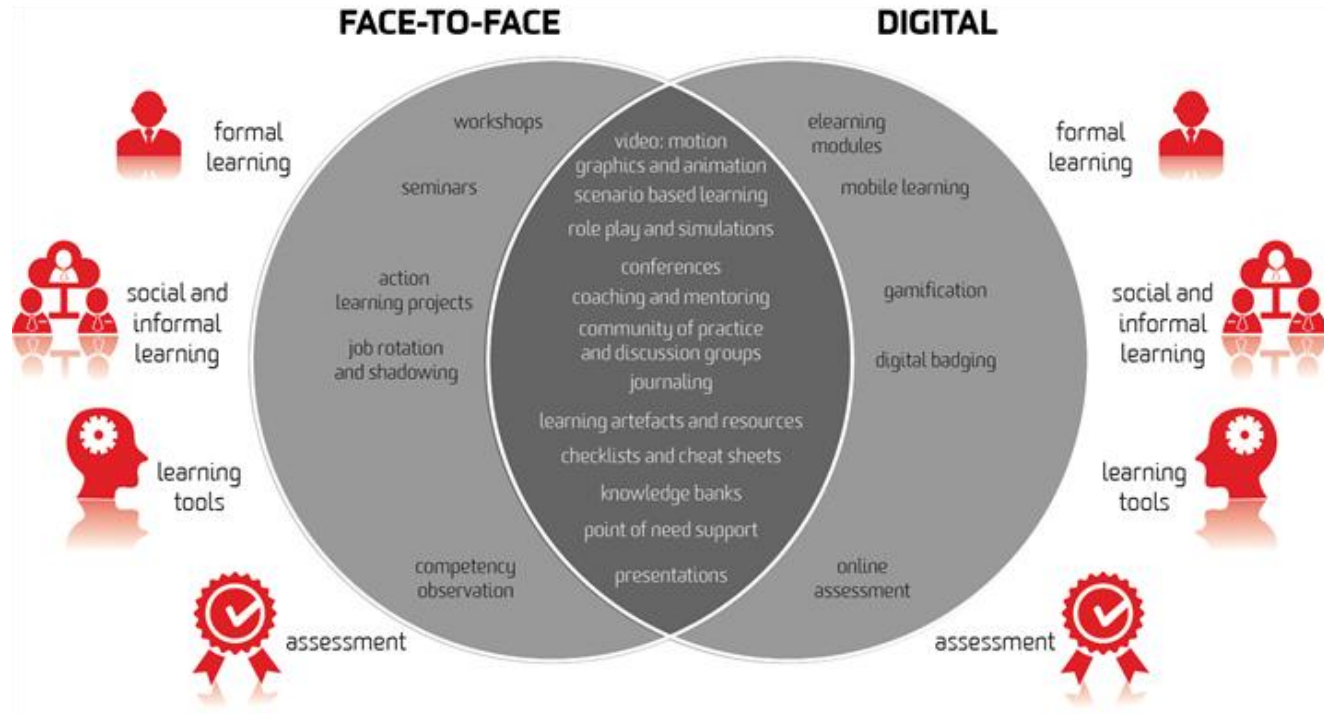
Anzahl der untersuchten Hochschulen/Weiterbildungsanbieter: N = 402

Quelle: Schmid, U., Thom, S., Görtz, L. (2016): Ein Leben lang digital lernen – neue Weiterbildungsmodelle aus Hochschulen. Arbeitspapier 20. Berlin: Hochschulforum Digitalisierung, S. 49.



2. BLENDED LEARNING

Blended learning methods...



Source: <http://deakinprime.com>

Blended learning methods...

The new way to learn (?) - integrated and holistic process.

It's now acknowledged that when it comes to learning, around:

70% comes from **on-the-job experience**

20% is **social** (peers and mentors)

10% comes from **formal learning** (classroom, e-learning modules,...)

3. E-learning and examples...

A. ...Occupational safety

B. ...Modern technology

C. ...Ecosystem management

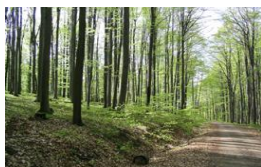


A. OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY

Occupational safety

- Accidents **don't happen**, accidents **are caused**!
- **90 – 95% of all accidents would be avoidable**, if
 - ...safety standards would be respected
 - ...the organisation of work-site would be adequat
 - ...misbehaviour could be excluded!

Occupational safety – actions 2015 (2017)



Forest-accidents: 1.563 (1.437)
Fatal: 28 (14)

SVB

AUVA

	number	fatal	number	fatal
Total	822 (764)	21 (13)	741 (673)	7 (1)
Work with chainsaw	192	5	81	0
Felling	140	3	230	5
Processing	202	2	226	0
Movement	74	6	109	0
Logging and transport	188	4	43	0
Handling of engine	20	1	25	0
Other	6	0	27	2

Utilization of wood in Austria

- 45 % chainsaw, tractor, skidder
- 25 % cable yarders, chainsaw
- 25 % Forwarders (partly chainsaw)
- 5 % other
- 15-20 % *Harvester (fully mechanized)*

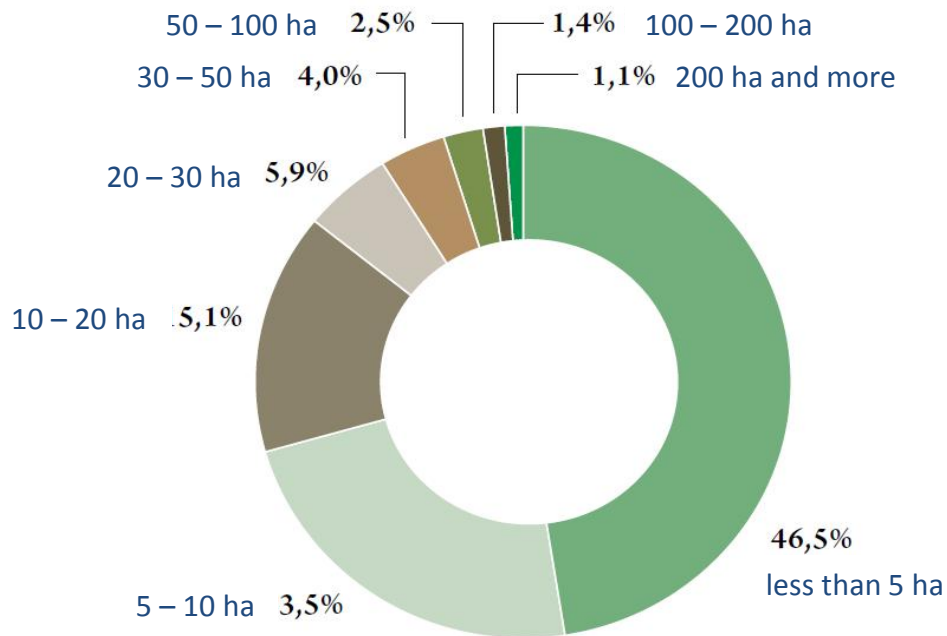
Only in **15-20 %** of the total amount of harvested wood the chainsaw is more or less **NOT** needed!

(OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY!)

Structure of ownership...

Size-categorie concerning forest-area per property

Betriebe in %



95 % of all properties have a forest-area beyond 50 hectares!

What would fit e-learning?

- Risk awareness (basics...)
- Risk zone definition (depending on technology)
- Basics of planning-processes
- Safety clothing and equipment
- ...
- *Method: film-sequences, web-seminar, e-journals, ...*



B. MODERN TECHNOLOGY

Fully mechanised harvesting operation...



What would fit e-learning-modules?

- Risk zone definition and awareness (depending on technology)
- Basics of planning-processes (extraction lines...)
- Liability and legal regulations
- Standards
- ...
- *Method: simulators, film-sequences, web-seminar, e-journals, presentations,...*

Fully mechanised harvesting operation...





C. ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Influence on ecosystem...



Extraction lines can increase the danger of surface run-off and erosion.

One has to experience this!



Images: Lüscher et al., 2010

What would fit e-learning-modules?

- Basic knowledge transmission
- Legislatives and regulations
- Definitions and standards
- ...
- *Method: film-sequences, web-seminar, e-journals, presentations,...*



4. PROS AND CONS OF E-LEARNING

Inquiry at other FTC's in Austria:

E-learning applied?

- Intense thinking-process on going, but no findings so far...
- E-learning unit developed within an European project, not used anymore.
- Ongoing discussion at the moment
- **Blended learning as a good alternative** (combination of presence and direct contact with trainer and some e-learning moduls)
- **Difference:** information, knowledge, skills (!!!)

Conclusion – (1): e-learning pros

- **E-learning** can be helpful in acquisition of **knowledge** (forest legislation modules, basic instructions in occupational safety, cost-calculation,...)
- **E-learning** can (partly) support/substitute frontal lectures
- **Blended learning** as a **combination of e-learning modules, simulators, film-sequences and presence of trainers** could bring enhancement of usage of modern technology
- **Short sequences of films** could bring awareness for risk-analysis and occupational safety.
- **Independency** of location and time of lesson
- New target-groups?

Conclusions – (2): e-learning cons

- E-learning can NOT substitute a trainer-trainee relation
- E-learning can NOT properly support the process of gaining skills
- E-learning can NOT be done by the trainees alone, there must be an intense companionship
- E-learning can NOT transmit social competences
- E-learning needs infrastructure
- E-learning needs competence in IT

Conclusions – (3): e-learning...

- **We are dealing with nature and human beings**
- **Nature doesn't have standardised circumstances**
(like mechanical workshops have...)
- **We are dealing with very dangerous work-sites**
(in videos/simulations you can only get an idea of what tension in stems means...)
- **It's a privilege for trainees to have a skilled person and trainer on their side!**
- **We are dealing with human-resources**



We **bring**
knowledge
into the forest

Picture | Filmstyle from „See Aural Woods“ (Luma.Launisch & Takamovsky)

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