

# Slovenia Forest Service study circles – „Pragozdovi“ case study

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*CIA2SFM Final conference  
8 June 2018, Zagreb, Croatia*















# Study circles in Slovenia

- **Study circles are small learning groups which learn regularly and systematically.** They join forces and share benefits.
- Their work is **documented. Mentors lead** the process of learning, but all participants take their role and responsibility for it.
- Study circles are therefore **the form of searching, improving and exchanging knowledge, skills and values as well.**



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# Study circles in Slovenia

- The outcome is **individual strengthening** on the one hand and **empowerment of communities** on the other hand. The “added value” are not only **new knowledge or its new interpretations**, but also **interpersonal relations**.
- Study circles in Slovenia are characterized by **accessibility, diversity and creativity**, as well as by the satisfaction provided by voluntary work.
- The **network of excellent mentors** is crucial.



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# Slovenia Forest Service and Study circles

- **Taking place since 1999** (20 years tradition!)
- **In most Slovenian regions** (some very active, some less, depending on mentors)
- In the beginning **10 – 15 study circles** per year, recently around **5 per year** (2016, 2017)
- **Wide range of forest-related topics** (forest management for forest owners, forest ecology, cultural heritage, forest tourism, etc.)



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# Slovenia Forest Service and Study circles

- Cca 5-12 participants
- Cca 5 meetings, 25 hrs learning in total
- **The participants dictate the content**, ways of learning and rhythm themselves
- Principles: **freedom, cooperation, active participation, volunteering**
- **Learning through experience** of participants



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# Slovenia Forest Service and Study circles (advantages)

- Study circles **encourage personal and professional growth** and raise **self-confidence** of participants
- Founding and strengthening **connections between participants** (and basis for other connections! Societies, etc.)
- **Actively changing environment** (events, media publications)



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# Slovenia Forest Service and Study circles (advantages)

- Involving different interested **stakeholders from the local environment** -> relations can benefit professional tasks
- Facilitating communication, teamwork, and **forestry education of forest owners**
- **Supplementing and enchancing formal SFS knowledge transfer activities.**



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# Study circle: „Pragozdovi“

## Aims:

- To **get to know the secrets of old-growth forests in Slovenia**, visit them and try to understand the natural processes that take place in there.
- To **experience old-growth forests** by visiting them and spending time there.



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# Study circle: „Pragozdovi“



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## Outputs:

- Visited and studied **5 Old-growth forests** (forest reserves)
- **Made reports about each forest** (includes history, stand characteristics, list of relevant research, etc...)
- Prepared a **popular science e-book about their activities.**



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Ašič Jasmina, Ašič Marta, Bogataj Nevenka, Bogataj Blaž, Breznik Anton, Brilej Bogdan, Gabrovšek Marko, Grah Marjan, Imperl Marija, Kranjec Jovanka, Kreft Ana, Kresović Knap Ljubica, Lesnik Anton, Lipnik Alojz, Mikulič Mirjam, Namestnik Borut, Okrošek Katjuša, Pintarič Rafaela, Prah Ema, Škerbina Marjan, Šmigoc Marjana, Šeško

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# Other interesting SFS study circles

- Mountain wood
- From seedling to income (€)
- Sawmills and mills
- Wooden house at Kozjak
- Wood carriers and wood rafters from Pohorje
- Lumberjacks (living with forests)
- Shingles
- De-limbing forest trees
- Women and forests
- ... (and many more)



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# Thank you!



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