

- First Announcement -

SILVA Network Annual Conference

28 – 30 June, 2022

Higher Forestry education in times of multiple crises: crises as framework conditions, topics, challenge and as a trigger for improvements

Host: School of Agriculture & Food Science, UCD (on behalf of the SILVA Network)
co-organized by the IUFRO Education Group

Draft Programme

Tuesday: 28th June 2022	
12.00 – 12.30	Registration & Welcome
12.30 – 14.00	<i>Lunch – Pi Restaurant, UCD Science Centre</i>
14.00 – 14.30	Welcome Address: Prof. Frank Monahan, Head of School, School of Agriculture and Food Science Conference Opening: Prof. Dr. Norbert Weber, President SILVA Network
14.30 – 17.30	Keynote Speech 1 Keynote Speech 2 Technical Session 1
Wednesday: 29th June 2022	
9.00 – 12.30	Technical Session 2 <i>Coffee</i> Technical Session 2
12.30 – 14.00	<i>Lunch – Pi Restaurant, UCD Science Centre</i>
14.00 – 17.30	Technical Session 3 <i>Coffee</i> Technical Session 3
17.30 – 18.30	General Assembly - new members - SILVA proceedings - meeting 2023: (theme, venue) - general secretary - AOB
19.30	<i>Conference Dinner – Dublin City Centre</i>
Thursday: 30th June 2022	
8.30 – 18.00	<i>Field visit to the forests of County Wicklow</i>

TOPIC AND CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Higher Forestry education in times of multiple crises: crises as framework conditions, topics, challenge and as a trigger for improvements

Resilience is the ability to emerge stronger from crisis situations. But how resilient is higher education in forestry? How does teaching and learning about forests address or respond to crises?

It could be said that higher education in forestry only really developed as a result of a crisis; in response to the devastation of forests and the great demand for wood for mining and smelting, Hans Carl von Carlowitz had already described a way out of the crisis in 1713. His idea of sustainable forestry had to be taught in order to become accepted in forestry practice. Since the foundation of the first forest universities in the 19th century, forestry education has faced many crises that had left their impact on learning and teaching in forest sciences and related fields of study. Even today we are confronted with multiple crises like climate change, the Corona pandemic and the war in Ukraine. These crises set new frameworks, (re)define teaching topics, and influence society, forests, forestry, and the universities themselves. However, crises often also open up new perspectives for us, allow better alternatives to come into focus, and thus become a window for new opportunities. Crises often are the origin of improved practices and products.

Crises can occur at various timeframes (short-, medium-, long-term) or scale (local, regional, global). At the global level, climate change and the Corona pandemic in particular have influenced forestry teaching for several years. Transnationally, we are experiencing environmental hazards as well as economic, demographic and armed crises. Locally, we are dealing with criticism of forest management and timber production practices. At the micro level, we are repeatedly facing new problems and challenges in teaching. These crises affect us as individuals and as a society and can require changes in issues, organization, infrastructure, and resources. Are we addressing these adequately?

Join us in sharing experiences! We look forward to contributions from students, lecturers and administrative staff with regard to ...

... types of crises:

- What kinds of resources are needed to develop and implement an effective crisis management in forest sciences education?
- Should forest universities and faculties be forerunners or “deliberate laggards” with regard to crisis adaptation?

... effects of crises:

- What lessons can we learn from crisis?
- Beyond the Corona pandemic: Which is the right path to the future: digital, blended or classroom teaching? Do students learn as much (or more) with digital methods as they do in classroom teaching?
- Changing educational conditions: What are the implications for forestry universities and universities of applied sciences in terms of organisational structures (e.g. cooperation, merger), infrastructures (e.g. buildings, digital), resources (e.g. financial) and staff?
- Armed conflicts and civil unrest: How to proceed with forestry education in affected regions?

... management of crises:

- Crises as a topic in teaching: How should crises be addressed in forestry education? Do we have to shift topics? Does forestry education already provide the right solutions?
- Crisis management skills: What skills are needed to manage crises in the lecture hall? How can we obtain teaching competencies in crisis management? How do we prepare our students to best avoid, mitigate and solve crises?
- Crisis communication: How to communicate during and about crises? How to reach all needed target groups? How can teachers and foresters tell the “right” story?
- Teaching Concepts: What can be achieved with adaptive or triple-loop-learning?

... framework conditions, job markets, further education and lifelong learning:

- Do we have enough forestry students against the background of increasing crises of forests?
- How do we balance global crises and national needs in forestry education?
- Does forestry education need to adapt to the value change towards rising demands for more nature conservation and wilderness?

Participants are invited to submit an abstract by May 16th, 2022

Please e-mail your abstract, of up to 300 words, to (details to follow in coming days).

The SILVA Board will decide on contributions (oral presentations / posters) and all applicants will be informed as soon as possible after the deadline. Confirmed and peer-reviewed papers will be published in the Conference proceedings (SILVA Network Publications).

VENUE

The conference will be hosted by the School of Agriculture & Food Science, University College Dublin.

Address: Agriculture & Food Science Centre, UCD, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland



During the field trip, participants will experience some of the highlights of forest history in Ireland and visit the private forests that welcome UCD Forestry students for parts of their practical learning.

REGISTRATION & FEES

The early bird registration fee is €150; this applies up until May 20th after which, a fee of €180 applies. There is a student rate of €95. (Registration includes coffee, lunches, the conference dinner and the field trip. Participants will also be provided with a printed copy of the proceedings following publication).

Registration for online only attendance is costed at €30.

Registration must be paid in advance via an online booking centre (details to follow in coming days).

In the event that there is not sufficient interest in the in-person conference, a decision will be made by June 3rd to move the event fully online.

ACCOMMODATION

Participants have to make their own accommodation arrangements, at their cost. As UCD is situated to the south of Dublin city, the following are examples of accommodation that can easily be reached by bus: Waterloo Lodge, Pembroke Townhouse, Harrington Hall, Clayton Hotel Burlington Road, The Leeson Lodge, Talbot Hotel (suburbs).

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Participants make their own travel arrangements, at their own cost.

Belfield, the main UCD campus is located on a 132 hectare site, 4km south of Dublin city and is relatively easily accessed by a number of bus lines from the city centre.

Dublin airport is located to the north of Dublin city. There is no rail link to the city so bus and taxi are the only options. The most efficient bus service (which passes close to UCD) is the Aircoach (aircoach.ie) or the bus number 700.

ORGANIZATION AND LOCAL ORGANIZER CONTACT DETAILS

Marie Doyle (Local organizer): mdoyle@ucd.ie

Prof. Dr. Norbert Weber (SILVA president): norbert.weber@tu-dresden.de

Sandra Liebal (SILVA secretary general): sandra.liebal@tu-dresden.de