



**Economic Commission for Europe
Organization**

Timber Committee

**Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party
on Forest Economics and Statistics**

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Food and Agriculture

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**UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section's Activities on
Social and Cultural Issues**

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document provides information on the main activities in Work Area 4, **Social and Cultural Issues**. It highlights the topics and issues to be addressed by Working Party, in particular on the activities of the Joint UNECE/FAO/ILO Expert Network to implement Sustainable Forest Management. At the request of the Bureaux, the Working Party is invited for the first time to offer guidance on how current and future activities in Work Area 4 (WA4) might be developed.

The programme of work for WA4 comprises the following activities:

Programme elements

- 4.1 Implementing sustainable forest management through promoting occupational safety and health
- 4.2 Implementing sustainable forest management through promoting best practice in forest education and training

I. Activities of the Joint UNECE/FAO/ILO Expert Network on Implementing Sustainable Forest Management

1. The outputs in WA4 depend largely on the activities of this Joint Expert Network. For a list of the activities carried out since the last Working Party in 2010, please refer to the report of the Joint Experts Network available at <http://timber.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/meetings/20110321/report-tos-jn-2011-02.doc>. The members are working to find practical answers to current challenges for forestry work, with a particular emphasis on forestry training.
2. These activities can be classified in 3 categories:
 - Supporting certification schemes such as ConCert (certification of competences for forestry entrepreneurs) and ECC (European Chainsaw users' Certification) of to enhance quality of forestry work at a pan European level (project of European Forestry and Environmental Skills Council, EFESC);
 - Facilitating exchanges and synergies by organizing conferences, seminars and other activities in order to share knowledge and enhance understanding of forests and forestry work matters (see below);
 - Fostering cooperation between training centers through trainers' and trainees' mobility.

II. Events

3. Working Party participants should be informed of the 3 following events to be held in 2011.
 - ◆ **Third International Conference of Forestry Training Centres in Ossiach (Austria), 6-8 June 2011**
4. This Conference is organized by the Joint Expert Network and will gather European training centers and training partners (entrepreneurs, industry, forest owners etc.). The meeting will develop and discuss the outlook for forestry training in Europe in the next 5 to 10 years as well as practical means to address the future challenges such as certification and partnerships with forestry equipment manufacturers. A "pan European network" of forestry training centers committed to common work is expected to be launched during the conference.
 - ◆ **IUFRO Conference "Competence development for forestry" in Freiburg (Germany), 26 September - 1 October 2011**
5. IUFRO and European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs (ENFE) requested that the University of Freiburg host a conference on competence development with the following main themes: the contribution forest based occupations to rural development; the valuable role of forest entrepreneurs; and the reinforcement of competence development in the forestry sector.
 - ◆ **Seminar on Impact of Climate Change on Forest Work in Geneva, 24-25 October 2011**
6. The Joint Experts Network decided to explore and discuss the practical impacts of climate change on forestry work with a focus on solutions for practical problems experienced in the field.

III. Priority areas for further work

7. In its report, the Joint Expert Network proposes addressing the following subjects:

3d.1, Review and Plans – Social and Cultural Activities

- Developing a “European dimension” to the forestry training sector by supporting mobility and networking
- Raising awareness of emerging challenges such as the impacts of climate change on forest work
- Improving health and safety in forestry operations by developing harmonized system of certification
- Developing cooperation with international forestry organisations: ENFE - European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs, USSE - Private forest owners of Southern Europe, Forest Europe (ex-Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe).

The Working Party is requested to:

- *take note of the seminar on Impact of Climate Change on Forest Work and of the 3rd International Conference of Forestry Training Centres,*
- *provide advice on the proposed priority areas.*