



Threats to Sustainability of the Forest Sector Workforce



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Workshop 17 March 2015

- Pillar C of the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy: Decent Green Jobs in the Forest Sector
- Overview of the situation:
European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs,
European Organization of the Sawmill Industry, ILO
- National perspectives: USA, Russian Federation, Germany, Switzerland/ToS on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector, Turkey
- Global and regional perspectives, role of NGOs: FAO, Global Objectives on Forests (UNECE-FAO study for UNFF), Union of European Foresters





Workshop Summary

- Drop in the forest sector workforce in North America and Europe 30-40 % since 2008
- Most challenges and threats well known: aging workforce, low attractiveness for young people, low wages and high health and safety risks (forestry)
- Some countries have weak data; data should be analysed more
- Low profitability of the woodworking industry key issue: harmonization of the markets (building codes etc) necessary like in the US or Japan; possibility to increase employment in the ECE region with sustainable wood supply
- Socio-economic impacts behind the statistics should not be forgotten





Workshop Summary

- Do we know what we already know?
- List of Green Jobs in forestry with variables such as salary level, health and safety should be collected
- Health and safety in forest industry excellent, in forestry poor and should be improved
- Emphasis on positive communication necessary to improve the image of the sector: looking for new possibilities and understanding that increasing profitability is necessary although it means decreasing the number of employed people per production unit
- Role of informal sector can be significant in forestry operations (illegal logging)





Workshop Summary

- Education and training play a key role: link from education to a job has to be clear;
- Map of forest green jobs – skills – TOEFL of forestry (or development of a standard or similar)
- ILO/UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector will continue the work 24-25 March 2015 in Geneva





Working Party is invited to:

- Comment and ask questions on the workshop summary
- Advise and provide recommendations for the next steps related to the work on forest sector workforce, especially by the Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector
- Advise on the need of a study related to the forest sector workforce including review of existing information and mapping possible needs and gaps, and development of a questionnaire for data collection (if data collection is needed)
- Advise on how to improve the quality of data on forest sector workforce, with capacity building activities or something else





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