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Future of forestry work - opportunities and threats for the most traditional green job

Edgar Kastenholz (ENFE - European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs)



Forestry work – *THE* green job

- a **green** workplace
- produces a **green** product
- contributes to sustainable management and nature protection
- a real profession with good future prospects



Forest workers in Germany around 1900 (Photo: www.meisburg.de)





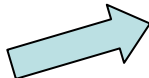

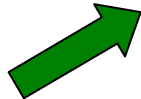
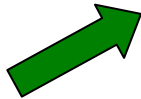






Captured from a new video to advertise the vocational education for professional forest workers in Germany (Photo: KWF)

Increasing tasks and rising work volume

- Forecast for the next decades: Increased utilisation of timber and woody biomass for industry and energy by round 50 % (?)
- There is a **demand** for **more and higher skilled workers** and **contractors!**

Potential to grow

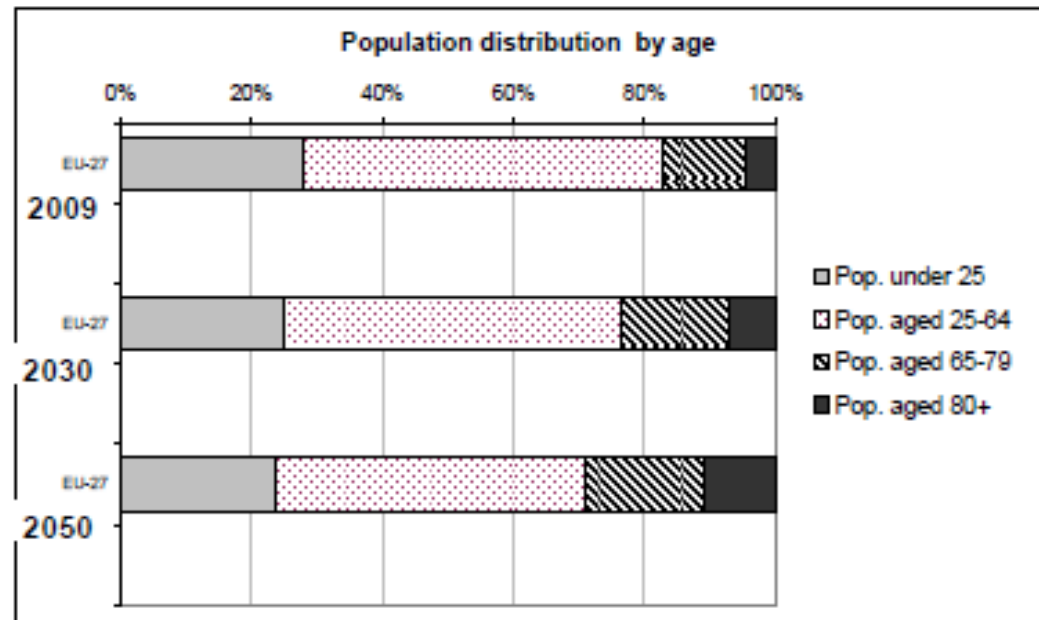
	North Europe	Central West	East Europe
Motor-manual work			
Mechanised harvesting			
Management Services			
Bio-energy related services			

Threat of demographic change

- Europe's society is ageing - **and the forestry work force too.**
- 25% of the totally employed people in forestry in the FOREST EUROPE countries are 50 years and older.
- In the Nordic countries 37% of forest machine operators are 50 years and older.
- The forest sector will more and more compete with other sectors for competent new entrants!

EUROPE: An ageing society

Source: European Commission: Demographic change in Europe. Demography Report. Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, March 2011

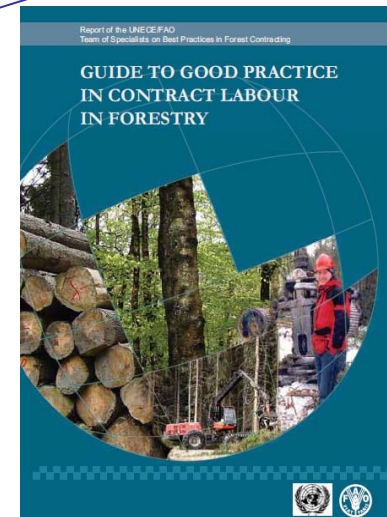


Orman 2011: Forests in a Green Economy, 10-14 October, Antalya Turkey



How to make forestry work „greener“: Challenges to increase health and productivity

- Reduction of accidents is a continuing challenge, particularly in manual and motor-manual work.
- Mechanization can reduce accident risks and increase productivity, **but** non-accident injuries and diseases need higher attention (machine operators disease!)
- Knowledge about health and safety and work organization needs to be applied (COMFOR!). Advanced work organization will reduce stress and strain.
- Train and educate!
- Apply Good Practice!



Future of Forestry Work

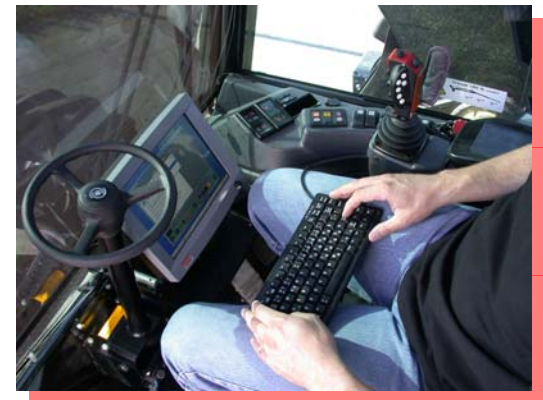
- Forest sectors will need highly competent workers and contractors in sufficient numbers!

From “loggers” to high tech operators.

- Many workers will become independent entrepreneurs and need competences in:
 - general management
 - business calculation, bookkeeping
 - personnel management and leadership
 - labour legislation
 - health and safety
 - technology, process management, work planning and work organisation
 - forest ecosystem management, incl. forest certification requirements



Photo: John Deere



Order of the day: Increase attractiveness of forestry work

- Forestry competes with many sectors for motivated and talented workers!
- Forestry work needs to improve its image.
- Working conditions, health and safety and career opportunities need to be improved to make forestry work more attractive.
- Profitability of forest operations must be improved.

Forestry Work must be somehow attractive!?



Capacity building in forest operations- a mutual task for the forest sector!

Mutual initiatives are needed to

- motivate and support private enterprises to train young entrants;
- increase public investment in vocational training;
- encourage public-private or industry-private partnerships for training and education;
- ensure application of good practice, e.g. by skills certificates (ECC, Concert) and contractor certificates;
- enhance a fair and transparent market environment (good prices for good services!);
- support research on
 - forest operations and working conditions,
 - socio-economic frame conditions for securing future labour force in the forest sector,
 - business models and co-operation in forest operations.

