



**Second Announcement**

**SILVA Network Annual Conference**

**21 May – 23 May 2025**

# DRAFT PROGRAM

Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2025	
11:00 – 12:30	Registration & Welcome
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch at the Dormitory of TUZVO</i>
14:00 – 14:15	Conference Opening: Dr. h. c. prof. Ing. Rudolf Kropil, PhD., rector
14:15 – 14:30	Conference Opening: Univ.-Prof. Dr. rer. silv. habil. Norbert Weber
14:30 – 16:15	<b>First session:</b> presentation 25 min. and discussion 5 min. Moderation: Jaroslav Šálka
14.30 – 15:00	Keynote Speech - RNDr. Soňa Ftáčniková, PhD. (SLOVAK CENTRE OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION) <i>Ethical aspects of the use of AI in academia</i>
15:00 – 15:15	<b>Discussion</b>
15:15 – 15:45	Ing. et Ing. Markéta Kalábová, Ph.D. (CZECH UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES PRAGUE) <i>Artificial Intelligence as a Tool for Strengthening Social License in Social Forestry: Towards Transparent and Participatory Forest Governance</i>
15:45 – 16:15	<i>Coffee</i>
16:15 – 18:15	<b>Second session:</b> presentation 25 min. and discussion 5 min. Moderation: Norbert Weber
16:15 - 16:45	Dr. Kornél Czimber (UNIVERSITY OF SOPRON) <i>Application of Artificial Intelligence in Education and Research at the Faculty of Forestry, University of Sopron</i>
16:45 – 17:15	<u>Prof. Dr. Bálint Heil</u> , Dr. Gábor Kovács, László Papp, Ildikó Bodor, Dr. István Luko (UNIVERSITY OF SOPRON) <i>Vertical Harmonization of Forestry Education in Hungary</i>
17:15 – 17:45	Dr. Mika Rekola (UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI) <i>Green Business dual degree programme</i>
17:45 – 18:15	Muhammed Rizvan Akram (UNIVERSITY OF LISBON) <i>Mediterranean Forestry and Natural Resources Management (MEDfor)</i>
18:30	<i>Dinner at the Dormitory of TUZVO</i>
Thursday: 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2025	
9:00 – 12:15	<b>Third session:</b> presentation 25 min. and discussion 5 min. Moderation: Bálint Heil
9.00 – 9:30	Keynote Speech - Dr. Tatiane Micheletti (TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY DRESDEN) <i>The use of AI in study and science (online)</i>
9:30 – 9:45	<b>Discussion</b>
9:45 – 10:15	Dr. Mika Rekola (UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI) <i>Open Educational Resources (OER) and AI – the essence of quality</i>
10:15 – 10:45	Prof. Dr. Bálint Heil (UNIVERSITY OF SOPRON) <i>Proposals for European Higher Education Cooperation within the Silva Network</i>

10:45 – 11:15	<i>Coffee</i>
11:15 – 12:15	Prof. Dr. Achim Dohrenbusch (UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN) <i><b>The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Academic Education Experiences at the University of Göttingen, Germany</b></i>
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch at the Dormitory of TUZVO</i>
14:00 – 14:45	<i><b>Discussion about the future of SilvaNetwork – Recommendations for integrating the AI in the curricula (On-site participants only)</b></i> <i>Moderation: Sandra Liebal</i>
14:45 – 16:15	<i><b>General Assembly of the SILVA Network</b></i>
18:30	<i>Conference Dinner – town of Zvolen</i>
<b>Friday: 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025</b>	
8:00 – 15:00	<i>Field trip: UNESCO city and municipal forests of Banská Štiavnica</i>



# TOPIC AND CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

## *Forestry Education Reimagined: Reform and Best Practices for the Future*

Forestry education stands at a crossroads. The classical model—rooted in centuries-old traditions—faces growing scrutiny amidst rapidly evolving societal, environmental, and economic demands. Today, technological advancements, especially in artificial intelligence (AI), add another layer of opportunity and challenge. Is classical forestry education reformable to meet these modern demands? Can we harness AI alongside proven best practices to ensure its relevance in a data-driven world?

Forests play a critical role in addressing global challenges, including climate change, biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and the bioeconomy. At the same time, the rise of AI and digital tools is reshaping educational paradigms and offering innovative ways to analyse, simulate, and manage natural resources. Forestry education must adapt—not only to equip future foresters with traditional skills but also to empower them with competencies in AI, data analytics, and machine learning. This integration is essential for navigating complex environmental challenges and restoring trust and relevance within society.

This conference invites students, educators, and practitioners to explore and share perspectives on:

**Reforming Traditional Models:** How can established forestry education frameworks be updated to incorporate AI and other technological innovations?

**Exemplary Practices:** What are the best practices in curricula, teaching methods, and stakeholder collaboration that effectively blend traditional knowledge with AI-driven insights?

**Societal Alignment:** How can forestry education align with contemporary societal expectations and policy demands using AI-powered analytics and predictive modelling?

**Interdisciplinary Competencies:** What new skills—including AI, data science, and environmental informatics—are essential for addressing modern forestry challenges?

**Reclaiming Social License:** In what ways can education, bolstered by transparent, data-driven AI tools, help reclaim forestry's social license to operate?

By integrating AI into the conversation, this conference aims to chart a course for a future where forestry education not only preserves its rich heritage but also leverages cutting-edge technology to tackle global challenges more effectively.

## Participants are invited to submit an abstract ASAP

Please e-mail your abstract, of up to 300 words, to Lenka Marcineková  
[lenka.marcinekova@tuzvo.sk](mailto:lenka.marcinekova@tuzvo.sk)

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 Faculty of Forestry of the Technical University in Zvolen.

Room number: B309

Address: T.G. Masaryka 24, 960 01 Zvolen, Slovakia

GPS coordinates: 48.572024,19.118499



The field trip will take place in Banska Stiavnica, a historic town recognized as a UNESCO



World Heritage site, along with the municipal forests of the Banska Stiavnica. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the rich history, natural beauty, and forestry heritage of Slovakia.

## REGISTRATION & FEES

The registration fee for in person attendance is 220€. There is also a student rate of 120€. **For online only attendance the registration fee is 50€.** Registration includes coffee, lunches, the conference dinner, and the field trip.

Registration must be paid in advance. **Please, register using this link: <https://forms.gle/jzhiUXjkND7EJ1Wn8>**

## PAYMENT DETAILS

**Account name:** DREVÁRSKY KONGRES  
T. G. Masaryka 2117/24  
960 01 Zvolen

**ID:** 00623806

**VAT:** 2021495685

**IBAN:** SK36 0900 0000 0000 7164 3070

**BIC/SWIFT:** GIBASKBX

**Bank:** Slovenská sporiteľňa, a. s. Zvolen

**Variable symbol:** 8

## ACCOMMODATION

Participants have to make their own accommodation arrangements, at their cost.

The following are examples of accommodation:

Hotel Tennis - Neresnícka cesta 13, 960 01 Zvolen, Slovakia <https://www.hoteltenis.sk/en/>

Hotel Poľana - Nám. SNP 64/2, 960 01, Zvolen, Slovakia <https://www.hotelpolana.sk/>

Franko hotel - L. Štúra 11, 960 01 Zvolen, Slovakia, <https://www.frankohotel.sk/>

## TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

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

Possible ways for arrival to the Technical University in Zvolen:

- Flight to Bratislava Airport, then taking a bus or a train to Zvolen Central Station. For more information <https://www.bts.aero/en/>
- Flight to Vienna International Airport, taking bus to Bratislava, then taking a bus or a train to Zvolen Central Station. Another option is renting a car at the Vienna International Airport. For more information <https://www.viennaairport.com/en/passengers>
- Flight to Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport, then taking a bus or renting a car to Zvolen. For more information <https://www.bud.hu/en>
- Taking a train to Bratislava Central Station, then taking a bus or a train to Zvolen. For more information <https://www.zssk.sk/en/>

## ORGANIZATION AND LOCAL ORGANIZER CONTACTS

Prof. Dr. Ing. Jaroslav Šálka (Local organizer): [salka@tuzvo.sk](mailto:salka@tuzvo.sk)

Ing. Lenka Marcinekova, PhD. (organizational team): [lenka.marcinekova@tuzvo.sk](mailto:lenka.marcinekova@tuzvo.sk)

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

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

In cooperation with the WOOD CONGRESS, a member of the Union of Slovak Scientific and Technical Societies