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Development of forest sciences curricula in Europe

Topical structure and first results of the Forest Sciences Curricula
at the Technische Universität Dresden

Werner Grosse, Sven Wagner & Stephan Bonn

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Abstract: After several years' preparation with the academic year 2006 at the department of Forest sciences / Technische Universität Dresden the Bachelor study programme for forestry students began. This was the prelude for the complete reorganisation of the academic education in forest sciences. The single education modules are developed and taught predominantly by several professors generally over different scientific disciplines. The challenge of this curriculum was to develop the Bachelor study programme up to a full occupation-qualifying degree. The high level of the Bachelor curriculum documents in forest sciences was appreciated within the Technische Universität Dresden by the assignment of a "teaching award 2007". With the summer semester 2009 the first Bachelor's programme ended and offers the opportunity to analyse and to evaluate the first results.

For the next step of education a total of four master programmes were developed. These master programmes are:

- Forest sciences
- Spatial Development and Natural Resource Management
- Tropical Forestry and Management and
- Wood Science and Technology.

The paper will present the structure of the new curricula and also first results of implementation. By means of well-chosen examples advantages and problems of the new curricula are discussed and introduced in the international exchange of experiences.

Address: Technische Universität Dresden
Faculty of Forestry, Geo and Hydro sciences
Institute of International Forestry and Forest products
Piener Strasse 19, 01737 - Tharandt, Germany
Email of corresponding author: grosse@forst.tu-dresden.de