

SILVA Network Annual Conference

- 3rd announcement -

27-29 June, 2018

QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND ACCREDITATION for study programmes in forest sciences and related disciplines

On behalf of the SILVA Network, the University of Padova, Department of Land, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry (TESAF) will host the 2018 conference on Forestry and Forest Science Education. The event is co-organized by the IUFRO Education Group.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Wednesday: 27th June	
12:00 – 14:00	Registration + light lunch
14:00 – 14:30	Welcome address and opening of Silva Network Annual Conference
14:30 – 17:30	Technical session I
Thursday: 28th June	
9:00 – 12:30	Technical session 2
12:30 – 14:00	Light lunch organized by University
14:00 – 17:00	Technical session 3
17:00 – 18:30	General Assembly
19:30	Dinner
Friday: 29th June	
8:30 – 19:00	Field trip to Altopiano dei Sette Comuni (lunch included)

Topic

Following its success in enterprises and public services, quality management and assurance has also become in recent years a major concern in academic education in many countries in Europe and the World. In many cases, the ambitious goal of improvement of learning and teaching by implementation of quality management structures and processes and by accreditation has only been fixed on paper and is not yet implemented in daily teaching and learning activities. On the other hand, there are examples of Universities and Universities of Applied Sciences where a 'culture of quality' has been established which is working pretty well. The efforts on university level are embedded in national and international initiatives to improve higher education, e.g. within national accreditation systems and the Bologna Process. Study programmes in forestry and related sciences have been included in these endeavors from the beginning.

Members of the SILVA network often have been working at the forefront in their universities to modify and innovate teaching and learning in study programmes on forestry. A first overview about "quality assurance and curriculum development" was given already within the SILVA conference in Valencia, Spain, in 2006. Since that time, the institutional landscape in

higher education underwent many changes. Hence, it is time for revisiting quality management and assurance from today's point of view. Amongst others, the following questions should be addressed:

- Which challenges are we facing now for quality assurance in higher education on university level, on subnational and national level?
- Are accreditation approaches really improving teaching and learning, or do they only increase bureaucracy?
- How to monitor, evaluate and accredit international study programmes, joint and/or double Master Degrees?
- What are the relations between higher education in forestry and overarching quality assurance approaches, e.g. the European Qualification Framework (EQF)?
- What are the regional differences between European and Non-European Universities in the perception and awareness of quality in teaching and learning?
- What can we learn for study programmes in forestry from examples of best practice quality assurance systems outside and inside universities?
- How informative are graduate surveys for the adaptation of study programmes to the needs of future students?
- More generally, which roles and functions in quality assurance processes should be assigned to student representatives, to alumni or to employers?

Please send by E-mail an abstract of up to 300 words to Norbert Weber (norbert.weber@tu-dresden.de) till **May 31st, 2018**. The SILVA Board will decide on contributions and all applicants will be informed as soon as possible.

Venue

The conference will be held inside Villa Revedin Bolasco. Address: Borgo Treviso 73, 31033, Castelfranco Veneto, Italy.



The field trip will be to the "Altopiano dei Sette Comuni" - one of the most interesting forest area of north-eastern Italy.

Fees

The regular participation fee is 180 € for early bird, until **30 May 2018**, 200 € after that date. Special fees for students: 60 € for early bird and 100 € after that date. Fee **must be paid via wire transfer or credit card – payment via credit card at registration desk is also possible** (NO cash payment, as stated in previous calls, can be accepted).

This fee includes coffee breaks, 3 lunches, the conference dinner and the field trip.

Registration

To register and proceed to payment, please fill in the online form [HERE](#), not later than **May 30**, 2018 for early bird fare.

Accommodation

Participants have to make their accommodation arrangements themselves, at own cost. Please check online booking websites that provide information on the numerous excellent hotels at walking distance from conference location. If you need more information please email Mrs. Monica Barzon – monica.barzon@unipd.it

Travel arrangements

Participants have to make their travel arrangements themselves, at own cost. Castelfranco Veneto's train station is 500 m from the conference location. It can be easily reached from Venice Airport and from Treviso Airport with bus and train. It is possible to take a taxi or private transport can be arranged. Castelfranco Veneto is connected via train to all mail cities in Italy, please check <http://www.trenitalia.com/> for schedule, connections and fees.

Organization and local organizer contact details:

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Prof. Dr. Stefano Grigolato – stefano.grigolato@unipd.it

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Information about the SILVA Network

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