FURTHER EDUCATION IN FORESTRY SECTOR IN SLOVAKIA
Further Education of Foresters

- System of Forest Enterprise Schools implemented in organizations of forest industry in the 1950’s

- Forest enterprise schools were transformed into Enterprise Educational Centres (4) in the 1970’s

- Institute for Training and Education of Forestry and Water Management Staff of the Slovak Republic was established in 1978

- Merged with Forest Research Institute and Forest Management Institute to create National Forest Centre (2006)
National Forest Centre (NFC)

- State contributory directly managed organization with countrywide occupation
- Consists of:
  - NFC - Forest Research Institute Zvolen
  - NFC - Institute for Forest Consulting and Education Zvolen
  - NFC - Forest Management Planning Institute Zvolen
  - NFC - Institute for Forest Resources and Information Zvolen
- Number of employees: 245
- Budget: 9,6 million €
How does National Forest Centre work

Forest Research Institute
Institute for Forest Consulting and Education
Institute for Forest Resources and Information
Forest Management Planning Institute
Zvolen = Town of Foresters

- National Forest Centre
- Faculty of Forestry, Technical University in Zvolen
- Institute of Forestry Ecology Slovak Academy of Sciences
- Military Forests and Estates Pliesovce
- Forests of Slovak Republic
NFC - Institute for Forest Consulting and Education Zvolen

- Consultancy
- Further education (lifelong learning)
- Public relations activities
Examination of professional competences in forestry

- Certified forest manager
- Certified forest management planner
- Certified expert in forest reproduction material

Examination for Certified forest manager composes of 5 parts:
  - Silviculture
  - Harvesting and Forwarding technologies
  - Forest Management Planning
  - Forestry Legislation
  - Forest Protection

- Retraining of certified forest managers
Optional educational activities of NFC – IFCE Zvolen

- Broad offer of fee-based short-term courses (11)
- The most desired courses are:
  - Education in use of plant protection products
  - New methods in forest protection
  - Wood quality grading
  - Age-dating methods of hunting game
Optional educational activities of NFC – IFCE Zvolen

- Quality evaluation of courses
- Education of lectors
  - Classroom methods
  - Blended learning (http://www.e-learning.nlcsk.sk/)
Project activities of NFC – IFCE Zvolen

- 34 implemented projects on national level (Rural Development Program of SR)
- 9 implemented projects on international level:
  - VET-SAFETY (Erasmus + Programme)
  - GET GREEN (Lifelong Learning Programme)
  - DRYMOS (Lifelong Learning Programme)
  - ToolsForSkills (Erasmus + Programme)
  - TRACOPI (Lifelong Learning Programme)
  - TrainForEducation (Lifelong Learning Programme)
  - Hunting and Forestry cluster (HUSK Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007 - 2013)
  - Foresters towards life long learning for better forest management (HUSKROUA ENPI Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007 – 2013)
  - Forest for society – Forest without barriers (Norway Grants)

Advisory services of NFC – IFCE Zvolen

- Certification and education of advisors for forestry sector

- Preparation and distribution of forestry publications for forest users and owners:
  - Guide for management of forest operation records
  - Forest manager’s guidebook for proceedings with state administration
Private educational facilities

- Organizing of re-qualification courses and trainings for labour in forestry
- Certification of forest machine operators
- Authorization for training and education of certain forest machines and equipment
- Low quality of provided education by private facilities
- Cooperation between customers of forest work services and relevant educational institutions
Conclusion

- Any kind of education is useful!
- We foresters with the quick changes of the environment caused by climatic change must be especially aware that informed and educated forestry professionals and forest managers are urgently needed.
- Further education of foresters is vital for sustainable development of forest properties and forestry as well.
- It is important to ensure continual support of the Government and effective use of available financial instruments of the EU.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Peter Balogh, National Forest Centre, Slovakia
balogh@nlcask.org