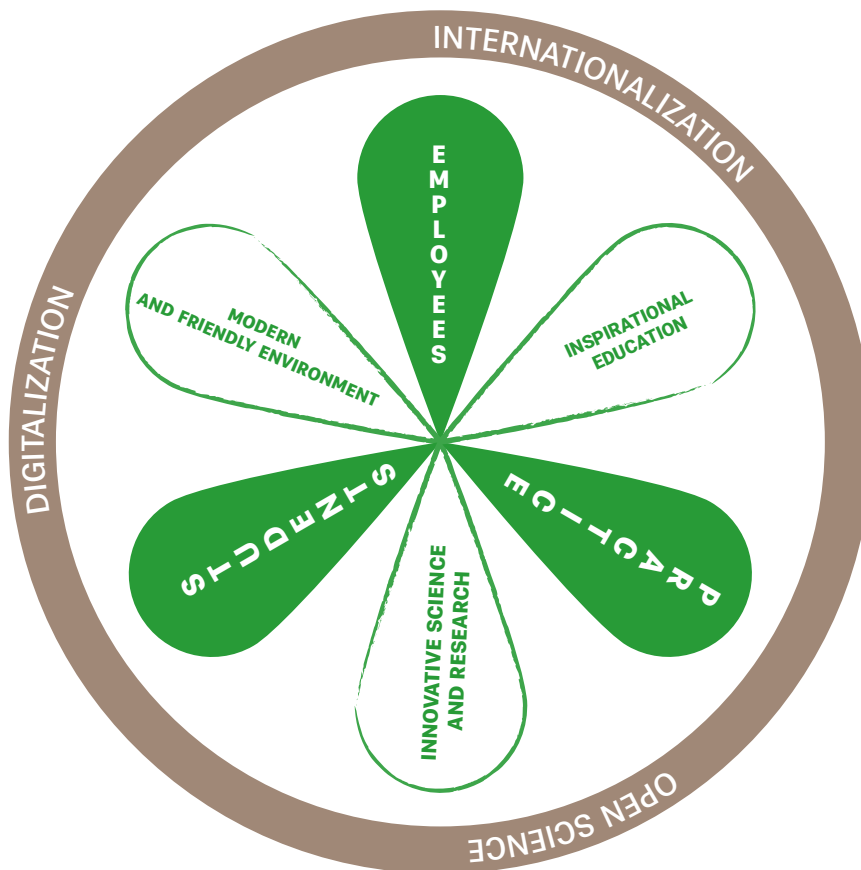


2024 – Annual Implementation Plan of the Strategic Plan for Educational, Creative and Other Activities

Faculty of Forestry and Wood Science

Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague

(Strategic Plan FLD 2021+, SZ FLD 2021+)



Discussed by the Scientific Board of the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences of the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague xxxxxx.

Approved by the Academic Senate of the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences of the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague xxxxx.

Approved by the Dean's Board of the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences of the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague xxxxx.



Faculty of Forestry
and Wood Sciences

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Introduction

The plans for fulfilling and strengthening the pillars of the Strategic Plan for educational, creative, and other activities of the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences (FLD), which are (i) Inspiring education, (ii) Innovative science and research, and (iii) Friendly and modern environment, will not differ significantly in 2024 from previous years and will build on the activities already implemented in 2023.

Increasing motivation to study, teaching in English, lectures and seminars by experts from practice and abroad are selected priority areas with the aim of continuous modernization of educational activities at the Faculty. We have been emphasizing the quality of theses for several years. Despite their constantly increasing level, we will continue to focus on this area of education in 2024. An important area that we must strengthen every year and look for new motivational elements is student and employee mobility and innovation in pedagogical activities, with an emphasis on internationalization. We want to continue to develop the tradition of summer schools, both for our students abroad and for foreign students at our Faculty. Unlike the period up to 2022, we currently have to seek financial security for this type of activity from sources other than project sources.

In 2024, we will face a year of continued motivation in the field of science and research, as well as a more detailed evaluation of the publication activities of individual employees. Support for the creation of publications and so-called non-bibliographic outputs implemented at the Faculty in recent years should bring results. In the field of science and research, we face a difficult task, similar to the previous year, which is to maintain the achieved quantitative level and increase the qualitative level of publications and excellent outputs for practice. In recent years, this has also included support for excellent teams and publication outputs with a focus on categories D1 and Q1, which will continue in 2024. The task that we will have to address and find the optimal path for is publishing in Open Access journals, in which the costs of publishing articles increase every year.

We still have large gaps in the area of cooperation with practice. We will have to intensify and improve our activities towards practice, not only through seminars and courses for representatives from practice who will want to apply our knowledge in their everyday operations, but also through a number of other activities.

In terms of a modern environment, last year we completed investment projects in the form of the reconstruction of the original FLD building and extension of the new building. However, for the Timber Constructions and Structures Based on Wood study programme, we still lack a modern teaching and research facility that could also serve as a base for student association activities. We will be looking for possible solutions in 2024.

prof. Ing. Róbert Marušák, PhD.
Dean

Quality strategic management of the Faculty

Internationalized FLD

- Create a video promoting Erasmus+ activities.
- Start preparing a new study programme “Sustainable Forest Ecosystems Management”, taught in English.
- Support teaching in English within Czech study programmes (a mandatory subject in English, optional subjects, intensive courses by foreign professors, etc.).
- Implement at least two summer schools for FLD students or for students of foreign partners.
- Participate in preparation of the Erasmus+ credit mobility project with the aim of implementing mobility with workplaces outside the EU.
- Continue to expand cooperating universities in the USA and Canada.
- Support the preparation of various international projects (not only research).
- Intensify cooperation with international partners by organizing an event related to the anniversary of the founding of higher forestry education in the Czech Republic.
- Actively represent the Faculty at IUFRO 2024.
- Organize the annual INNOVAWOOD conference at FLD.

Open Science at FLD

- Create a new call to support the publication of outputs in the „Open Access” mode and further support PhD students in these activities from specific research funds.
- Significantly update the list of journals in which it is appropriate to publish for employees, both in terms of their focus and fees.
- Promote the CZU Library activities, specifically the Department of Information Support and Education, which deals with this issue, provides support to employees and PhD students, and organizes many seminars and training sessions on this topic.

Digitalized FLD

- Create and launch a new electronic application that will address the issue of determining the authorship share of employees and PhD students affiliated with the FLD on a publication, determining rewards for these outputs for individual employees and PhD students, and, last but not least, serving as an information system for awarding remuneration. This application will also serve as an information system for employees and managers regarding publication activities and performance of employees or workplaces.
- Connect FLD activities to the ongoing Data Management project under the direction of the CZU Rectorate and the Faculty of Economics and Management.
- Launch a contact centre for submitting applications in the study department.

1. Inspiring Education

1.1 Promising Candidates

- a) Promote FLD studies at secondary schools and organize open days.
- b) Present FLD at a minimum of five events (e.g. fairs, awareness-raising events) with the aim of promoting study to potential applicants.
- c) Organize local, regional, and national rounds of the YPEF competition and promote studies at FLD there.
- d) Continue to build closer relationships with secondary schools (e.g. through Faculty events).
- e) Intensively promote FLD English study programmes and clarify the offer of scholarship opportunities.
- f) Open applications for studies in English study programmes in October 2024.

1.2 Intrinsically motivated students

- a) Start a review of all study programmes and make any necessary changes; in 2024, especially focusing on the Game Management and Wildlife Conservation study programme.
- b) Support at least four FLD student association events.
- c) Organize at least five lectures/workshops for students focused on increasing motivation to study, overcoming study obstacles, and helping with studies.
- d) Organize lectures by the safety department for students as part of the Introduction to Studies.
- e) Specify the requirements for teaching subject-specific mathematics and define new syllabi.
- f) Actively offer students the opportunity to study subjects in English in Czech study programmes.
- g) Continue to improve the quality of collective and individual practice of study programmes.
- h) Prepare a flowchart of internal communication between SP guarantors and other interested parties.
- i) Organize at least two meetings with the guarantors of bachelor's and master's degree programmes with the aim of intensifying communication and information transfer as well as the responsibility of the SP guarantors.
- j) Organize a workshop for academic staff to supervise final theses.
- k) Support the publication of study materials within the FLD editorial activity plan.

1.3 FLD graduates in practice

- a) Involve graduates in lectures for students.
- b) Organize FLD graduates reunion after 25 years and establish contact with them.
- c) Invite FLD graduates to some Faculty events to build closer ties with forestry and wood science practice.
- d) Organize FLD Alumni Day event with the aim of introducing current students to employment opportunities.

1.4 FLD – a partner respected by practice

- a) Analyze FLD activities in the area of cooperation with practice and create a concept of functional cooperation with practice.
- b) Continue to prepare and create lifelong learning courses focused on forestry and wood science issues.
- c) Hold a meeting of the Council for Cooperation with Practice.
- d) Organize a Forestry and Wood Sciences Day at FLD.
- e) Sign at least three memorandums of cooperation with external partners.
- f) Prepare a Newsletter for practice, where FLD application outputs will be presented.
- g) Continue cooperation with Prague International Business School on the MBA programme and promote it among the professional public.
- h) Analyze the possibilities of expanding the involvement of FLD's scientific outputs in practice (in the form of a spin-off company, cooperation with CZU Forests, etc.).
- i) Maintain a database of external experts (with an emphasis on graduates) of FLD involved in teaching.

1.5 FLD as part of the public space in forestry and wood science

- a) Issue at least five press releases on forestry and wood science topics.
- b) Publish at least five professional or popular science articles in periodicals and on selected internet portals.
- c) Financially support employees in media appearances in the form of remuneration.
- d) Continue publishing the Leaves from the Forest magazine, a material comprehensively promoting the activities of the Faculty to the general public.
- e) Organize or co-organize at least five public awareness events with the aim of cooperating with partners and informing the public about forestry and wood science issues.

2. Innovative science and research

2.1 Support for professional scientific outputs of FLD employees

- a) Create press materials to promote important scientific areas and selected FLD outputs.
- b) Intensively support the preparation of international projects for FLD in the role of coordinator and project partner. Submit at least six international research projects for evaluation in 2024.
- c) Participate in OP JAK research calls.
- d) Address the issue of the use of artificial intelligence in science (examples of good and bad practice, use of appropriate tools, issues of ethics, a seminar on this topic for employees and PhD students, etc.)
- e) Implement a functional system of planning and checking the publication activities of all employees.
- f) Announce the Dean's Awards for the best publications in 2023.
- g) Intensively focus on finding employees (new and existing) who have the potential to receive an ERC grant.
- h) Maintain high financial support for employees and PhD students for articles published in TOP scientific journals.
- i) Create a new call to support the creation of outputs that will have an extraordinary benefit for society or practice.
- j) Continue to support results suitable for commercialization in the form of a new call.
- k) Continue to motivate FLD employees and PhD students to promote scientific outputs to practice and the public in the form of a new call.
- l) Create a call to support cooperation with external institutions at FLD in 2024.

2.2 Quality doctoral studies

- a) Present doctoral study options to students as part of the Introduction to Studies in Master's degree programmes.
- b) Actively participate at the university level in the preparation for the implementation of doctoral study reform 2024–2025.
- c) Maintain the payment of above-standard scholarships to active and talented PhD students for extraordinary work activities while consistently fulfilling study obligations.
- d) Issue new calls for PhD students to solve their own projects from the Internal Grant Agency and thus motivate them to independent creative activity.

- e) Launch new calls for support of PhD student trips (i) for long-term internships abroad, (ii) conferences, and (iii) courses, seminars, and workshops.
- f) Intensively support the PhD Kamos programme, which focuses on the integration of new foreign PhD students.

3. Friendly and modern environment

3.1 FLD as a progressive employer – intrinsically motivated employees

- a) Organize at least one meeting of lecturers with the Dean or Vice-dean for Education with the aim of conveying current requirements for providing teaching, news in the educational system, upcoming changes, etc.
- b) Organize training courses (at least two) for teachers focusing on the development of teaching skills, AI and introducing innovations in teaching, operation of FLD technical equipment, personal development, etc.
- c) Organize training for academic staff from the IEC Counselling Centre with the aim of focusing on the identification of mental disorders from the perspective of preventing socio-pathological phenomena.
- d) Continue with socializing projects and meetings of employees in an informal environment.
- e) Continue publishing the FLD internal Newsletter to increase the awareness of employees and PhD students.

3.2 High-quality technical facilities at FLD

- a) Within the newly prepared OP JAK projects, include the renovation and acquisition of new educational infrastructure for the FLD.
- b) Create a project to convert greenhouses to foil shelters in the area of the CZU Forests ornamental nursery.
- c) Create a project for changes to the FLD Pavilion of Wood Sciences and the FLD High-tech Pavilion for the needs of equipment from the ERDF quality project.
- d) Create a project for a research and educational wooden building on the CZU campus.

3.3 FLD as a good manager

- a) Ensure funds for the motivational components of employee salaries.
- b) Ensure co-financing of all projects.
- c) Continue to create reserves for the permanent Faculty development and to cover co-financing of large investment and scientific projects.
- d) Create reserves to cover extraordinary and unforeseen costs related to changes in macroeconomic indicators and changes in the external environment.

3.4 Sustainable and socially responsible FLD

- a) Limit non-recyclable waste at FLD events.
- b) Create promotional materials from sustainable and ecological materials. Focus on wood products.
- c) Continue with CSR activities at FLD supporting societies and organizations helping people with disabilities, organizations helping animals, etc.
- d) Offer FLD as a meeting place for forestry and wood technology stakeholders (e.g. a conference to support Ukrainian forestry).

