

## Session Announcement

### **Innovative Close-to-Nature Silviculture and Forest Management Planning**

**Slovakia, 10 to 19 May 2026**

**Host: Technical University in Zvolen (TUZVO)**

The session will focus on innovative approaches to close-to-nature forestry and forest management planning. Participants will visit selected forest sites in Slovakia that serve as benchmarks for:

- close-to-nature silviculture;
- management of uneven-aged, natural and old-growth forests;
- spatially integrated planning approaches; and
- multi-criteria optimisation of ecosystem services, including biodiversity assessment, as a basis for innovative forest management planning.

The session will be highly interactive and field-oriented. Its programme will combine:

- field-based learning,
- expert input,
- meetings and discussions with stakeholders,
- small-group academic activities in internationally mixed student groups (seminars, workshops, discussion panels, projects),
- visits to sites important for understanding the historical or socio-economic context in the visited country and region.

The session will be conducted in an international group of students and academic staff from Slovakia, Czechia, Germany, and Poland. The total group size will be up to 60 participants.

**Working language:** English (communicative proficiency required)

**Who should apply?**

- Bachelor's or Master's students (excluding students in their 5th year of study-final year) in forestry or related fields, interested in the session topic and/or whose specialisation aligns with it.