

Session Announcement

Forest organisations in the future

How should forest organizations be structured in order to meet upcoming challenges?

Germany (Baden-Württemberg), 14 to 21 June 2026

The start and end dates may vary by one day, depending on accommodation availability.

Host: Rottenburg University of Applied Forest Sciences (HFR)

Session background:

Forest management never takes place in a “vacuum” or behind closed doors; rather, it always exists within society and is always subject to public scrutiny. It is therefore exposed to countless influences whose changes cannot be controlled by the actors in forest management, but which must nevertheless be perceived and taken into account.

The resulting difficulties for forest management have been further intensified by the increasing use of forests by the general public, as well as by the high dynamics of climate change and structural changes in global timber and energy markets.

At the same time, the structures of forest management appear largely unaffected by these developments and in some cases are even evolving in an apparently opposite direction: while problems and challenges seem to be growing ever greater, private forest ownership in southern Germany, for example, continues to become smaller due to the inheritance laws in force there, and income from one’s own forest is becoming increasingly marginal for municipal forest owners.

Session objectives:

The one-week excursion seminar aims to raise awareness of the respective advantages and disadvantages of the three types of forest ownership private, municipal, and state — through visits to and discussions with forestry professionals from each sector, and to systematically analyse these strengths and weaknesses.

In seminar-accompanying group work, suitable strategies will be developed based on “best practice examples” visited on site and known to participants from their home regions —

showing how forest ownership can better address the major challenges ahead. A particular focus will be placed on models of joint organizational forms for forest management.

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.