

SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE "FORESTS IN WOMEN'S HANDS"

Last Thursday, October 29, 2020, we organized an international web conference entitled "Forests in Women's Hands" at the Forestry Institute of Slovenia (GIS). GIS is the leading partner of the Fem4Forest: Forests in Women's Hands project, within which the conference was also organized.

The purpose of the conference was to present the new Fem4Forest initiative in the Danube Region, present examples of good practice of women in forestry in the EU and beyond, promote further integration of women in forestry and start talks and establish a new stakeholder network in the forestry sector.

We invited forestry experts, decision-makers and other stakeholders in the forestry sector from all partner countries of the Fem4Forest project to the conference.

The conference was very successful, we had as many as 136 participants (88% women, 12% men) from 17 countries (Figure 1). Most representatives were from Slovenia, Ukraine and Austria. But we also had a few representatives from other continents, not just from Europe (we had 4 listeners from North America and one from Africa).

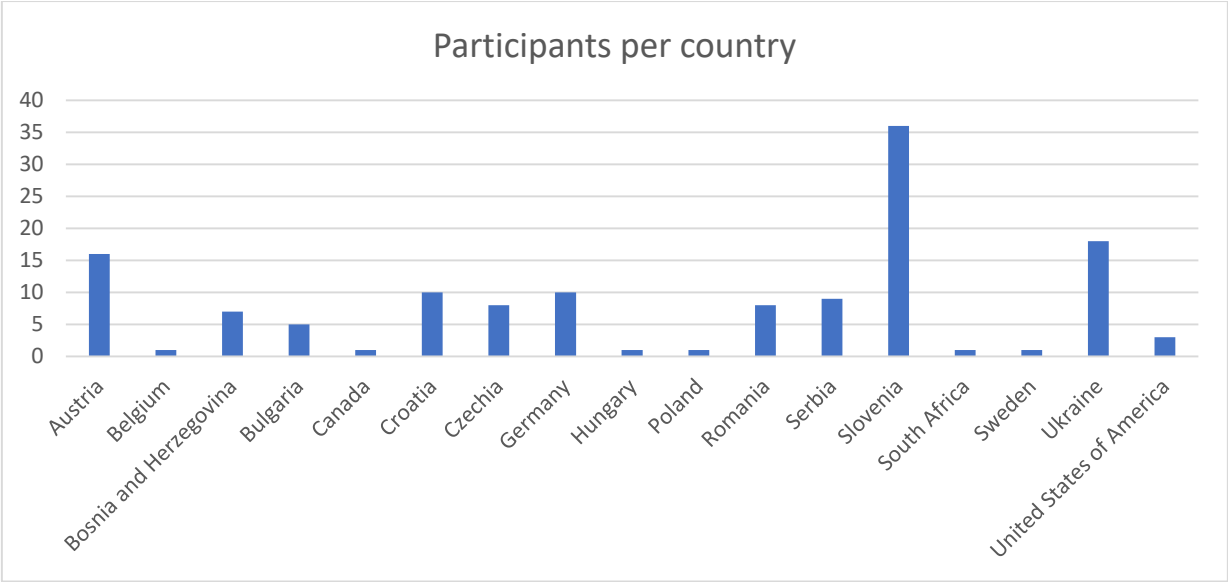


Figure 1 Countries from which the conference participants came

Most of the conference was attended by representatives of educational and research institutions, various interest groups and non-governmental organizations, as well as many representatives of forestry institutes from different countries (Figure 2).

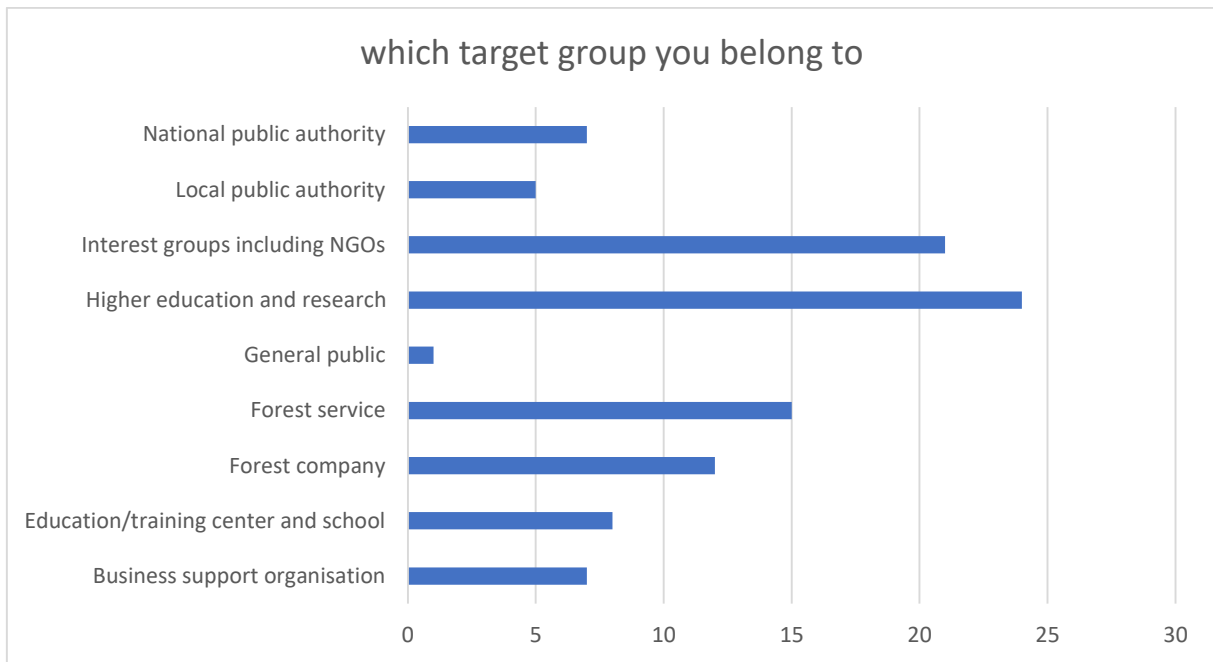


Figure 2 Target groups from which the conference participants were

We are pleased that we achieved the desired effect with the conference, as the participants were very satisfied with the content itself, as well as the implementation of the event (Figure 3). Most of them were of the opinion that we need such an association in this part of Europe as well, so everyone warmly welcomes it.

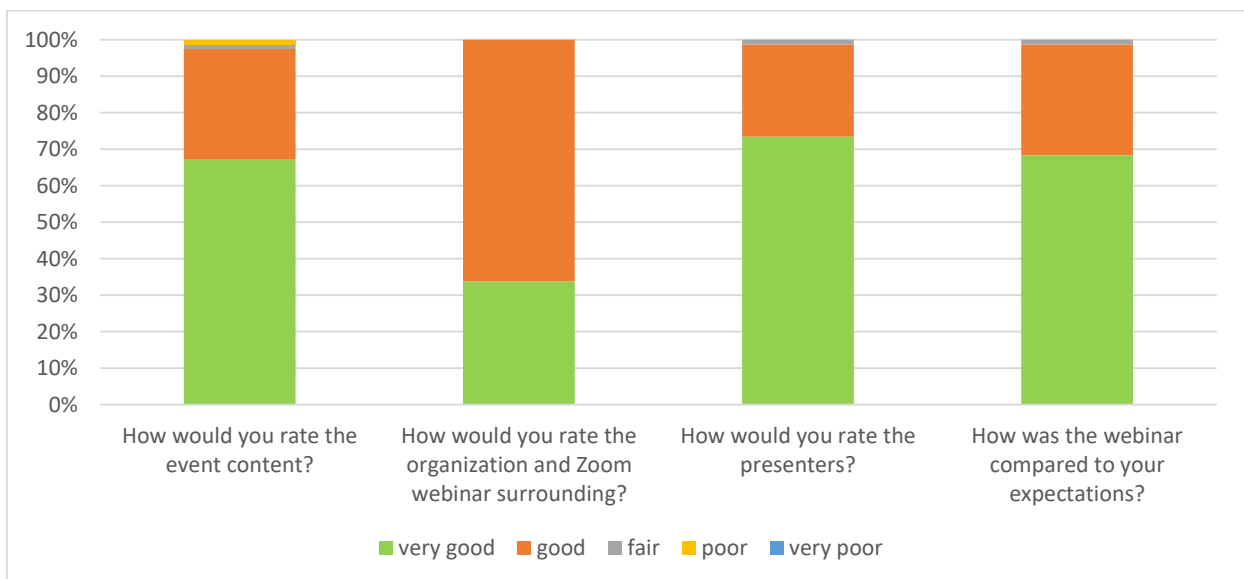


Figure 3 Opinions of conference participants

We believe that gender equality is important. A more active role for women can increase the capacity of the local and regional forestry sector.

The conference was also broadcast live on the Facebook page of the Department of Forestry Technology and Economics of the Forestry Institute of Slovenia. Our post has been shared 23 times, and we have reached over 4,000 people with live streaming.

You can still watch a recording of the conference at this link or on our FB page www.facebook.com/gisgte. Presentations will be available on the project website: <http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/fem4forest>

At the end of the lecture we did a short survey with the participants. Here are some answers to each presentation.

Lecture 1: What does the Fem4Forest project bring? (Nike Krajnc, Fem4Forest project manager, GIS, Slovenia)



When asked whether more attention should be paid to better involving women in forestry policy-making, as many as 97% of participants answered in the affirmative.

Lecture 2:

Women in forestry in Austria: Facts and examples of good practice (Dagmar Karisch-Gierer, FAST Pichl, Austria)



The answers of the participants regarding the existing education and training for women in forestry are interesting, as 34% of them stated that they have such education and the same share that they do not have such education.

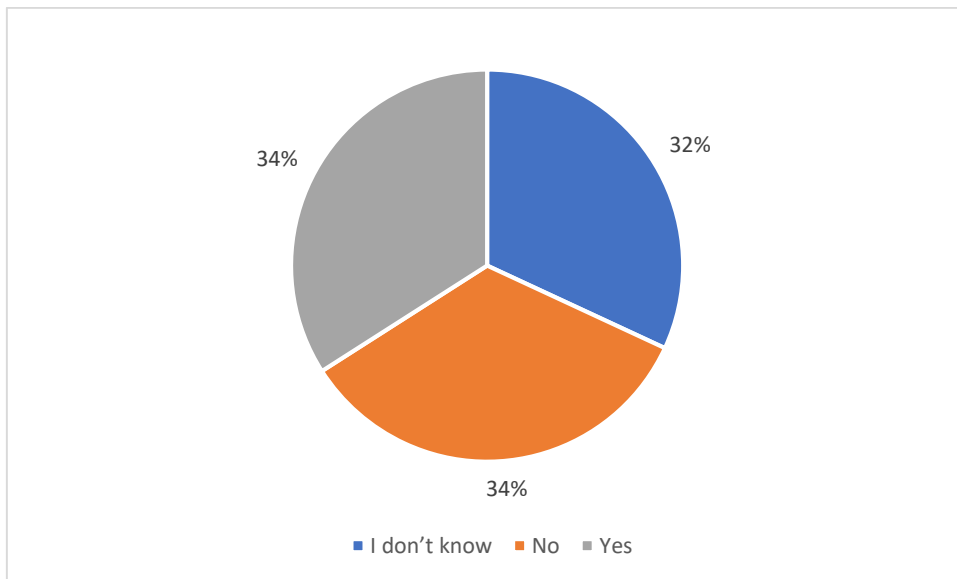


Figure 4: Are trainings and apprenticeship programmes for women in the forestry sector available in your country?

Lecture 3:

Women for forestry in Bavaria (Kathrin Böhling, Beatrix Enzenbach, LWF, Germany)



When asked whether women in the forestry sector should be taught specific leadership skills, a large majority of participants (85%) answered that they agreed.

Lecture 4:

Does the forest require a man or is it enough of a woman? Reflections based on 25 years of research experience in this field (Gun Lidestav, SLU, Sweden).

Also interesting is the question posed to the participants by the Swedish lecturer Gun Lidestav, who asked all those gathered whether gender affects their interest in the forest and forestry. Half of the participants say that gender has a moderate impact on their interest in the forest and forestry.

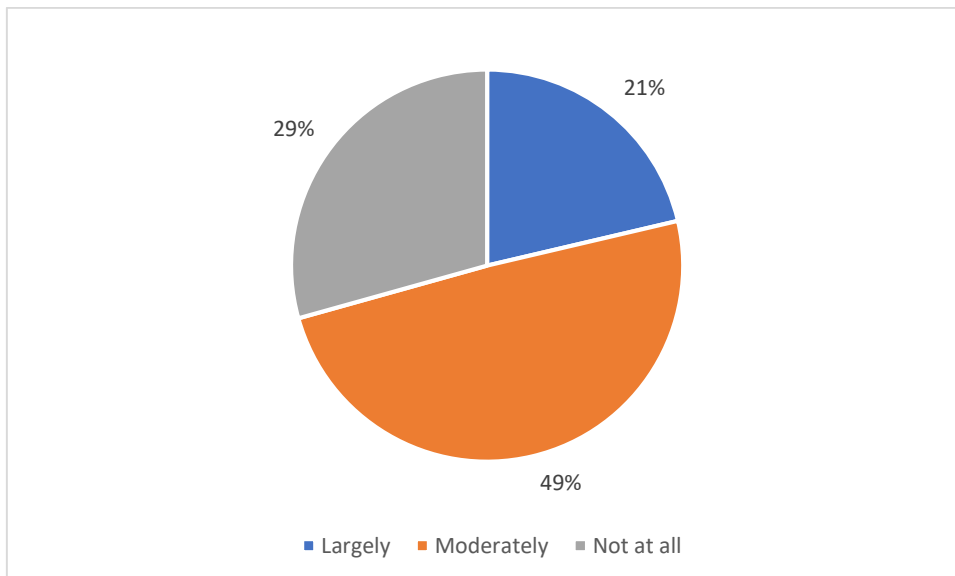


Figure 5: Does gender impact on your interest in forest and forestry?

Lecture 5:

Women in Bosnia and Herzegovina from college to forestry service - a reality (Ajla Dorfer, FEA, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Interreg
Danube Transnational Programme
FEM4FOREST

Women in BiH: from faculty to forestry sector reality

Situation from different angles

29/10/2020

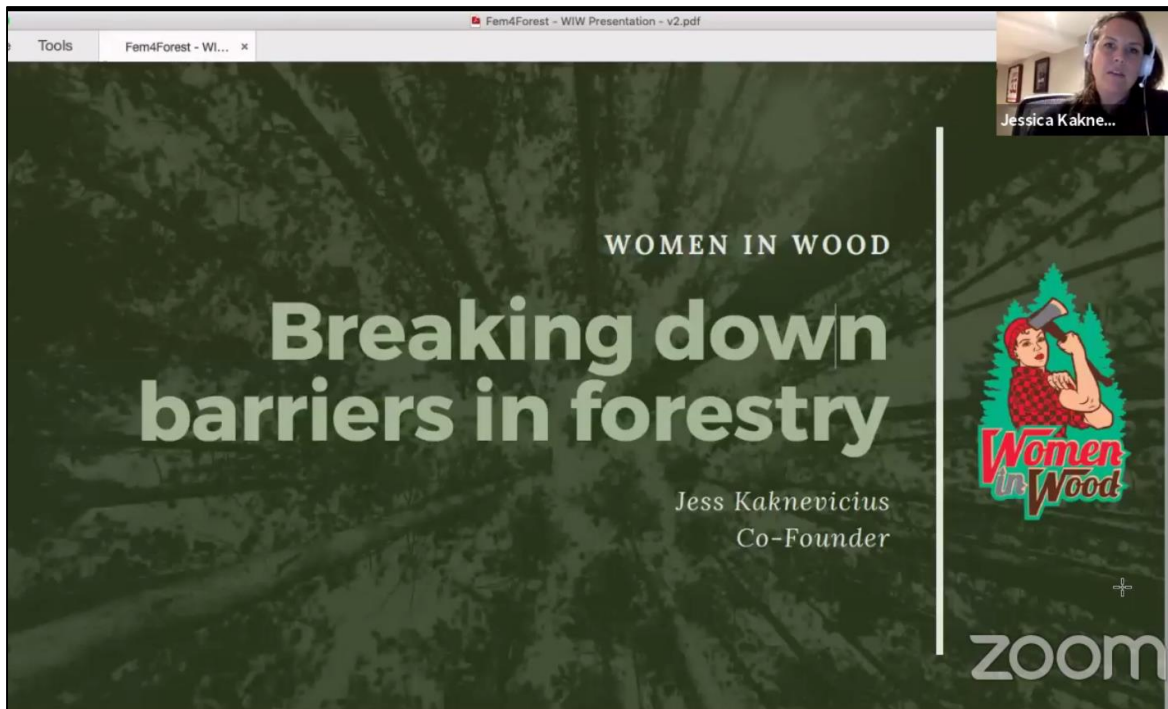
Project co-funded by European Union (ERDF, IPA II, ENI)

Ajla Dorfer

Lecturer Ajla Dorfer asked the participants if they think that women in their country have less chances of success in the forestry sector. As many as 66% answered that this was the case, 11% were not convinced, and 23% thought it was not true.

Lecture no. 6:

Women in Wood: Breaking Down Barriers in Forestry (Jessica Kaknevičius, Co-Founder of Women in Wood, Canada)



The last lecturer, Jessica Kaknevicus, who presented the work of their association "Women in Wood" and the main reasons for their successful work, asked the question "Do you think that social networks play an important role in connecting, educating and advancing women in forestry?" 90% of participants agreed with this, which means that social networks are the right way to reach the target audience.