



EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE

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International Masters Programs in Europe: a model for the US?

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Common challenge in all natural resources, forestry and environmental faculties – scientifically complex field of practice

Multi- or Inter- or now Trans- disciplinary field of practice and research



International Masters Degrees in Europe as a Response

- Several universities work in partnership to develop and offer the masters program.
- Students often are moving parts as they progress through different faculties during their program.
- All international programs are integrated and transdisciplinary.
- Programs are thematic and foster interdisciplinary cooperation among faculty during the teaching process.
- Students engage in field trips, generally have at least one internship, and write a thesis.



Option for the US?

- US Faculties are also limited in staff across the wide range of disciplines necessary for excellence in research and practice today.
- Masters programs are an opportunity from a financial perspective – full tuition from students for high quality focused, practice based professional degree. – e.g., MBA and M Public Administration
- Excellence as professionals requires breadth and depth in various social-ecological systems.
- Focused practice-based graduate program have long been identified as necessary for high quality professionals.



Erasmus Mundus

Erasmus Mundus is an international cooperation and mobility programme in the field of higher education that aims to enhance the quality of European higher education and to promote dialogue and understanding between people and cultures through cooperation with Third-Countries.



1456-1536
Dutch Renaissance Humanist
who lived in Rotterdam



Bologna Process criteria

- ETCS – European Credit Transfer System
- Professional quality of graduates
- Strengthening relations of confidence between educational institutions
- Meeting demands of European labor market
- Mobility of students and professionals
- Qualification consistency across universities
- Increasing competitiveness of European education system



European Higher Education Initiatives - HEIs

- **Multi-university international programs**

Erasmus Mundus – 100 International MSc programs approved and financed by European Commission – €230,000.000 for 2004-2008 of these 7 are in agricultural and forest sciences

- MSc EF – Masters of Science in European Forestry
- SUFONAMA – Sustainable Forest and Nature Management
- SUTROFOR – Sustainable Tropical Forestry



European Higher Education Initiatives - HEIs

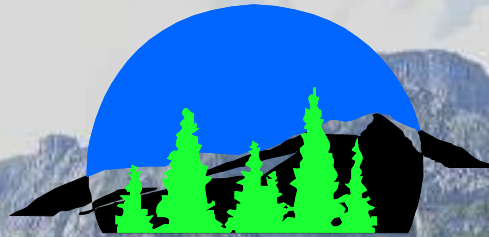
Multi-university international MSc programs

- **FOPER** – Southeast Europe – ‘western Balkans’
 - TEMPUS funding from EU to support Eastern Europe
 - **ENARECO** – Ukraine
 - **FORPEC** – St. Petersburg, Russia
- **EUROFORESTER** – Baltics plus – 13 universities



European Higher Education Initiatives - HEIs

- **Bi-lateral international programs**
- **International programs within a single university**
 - Masters in Environmental Governance - Freiburg
- **Short international courses**



Mountain Forestry

Mountain Forestry

**a sustainable, science-based management
of forests and woodlands in mountain areas,
taking specific ecological, ethical, technical, social, economical
and political conditions of complex mountain systems into consideration**



The development goal

Improved management of mountain forests through increased human capacity of land users with a focus on developing countries.

Alumnis contribute to an increased socio-economic development in mountain regions

© G. Grätzer

Objectives

To provide a **focussed and specialised education** in managing mountain forest resources with a **global perspective**.

To teach students to **recognise and solve problems** occurring in forest management and conservation in mountain regions.

To strengthen **interdisciplinary approaches** in mountain forestry, integrating aspects of engineering, socio-economics, natural sciences and other subject-specific fields in mountain forest management.

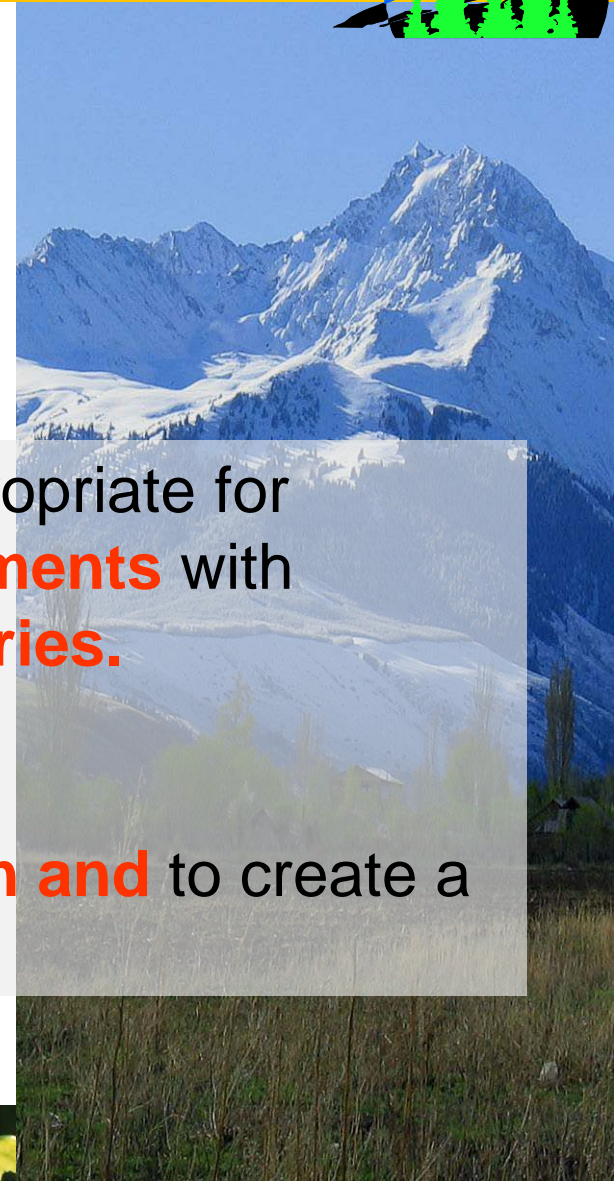




Objectives

To provide methods and approaches appropriate for **complex social and economic environments** with **special emphasis on developing countries.**

To **strengthen international cooperation and** to create a **global network of mountain foresters.**



The mountain forestry master programme

The mountain forestry master programme

Tools

Natural
sciences:

Ecology

Socio-
economics:

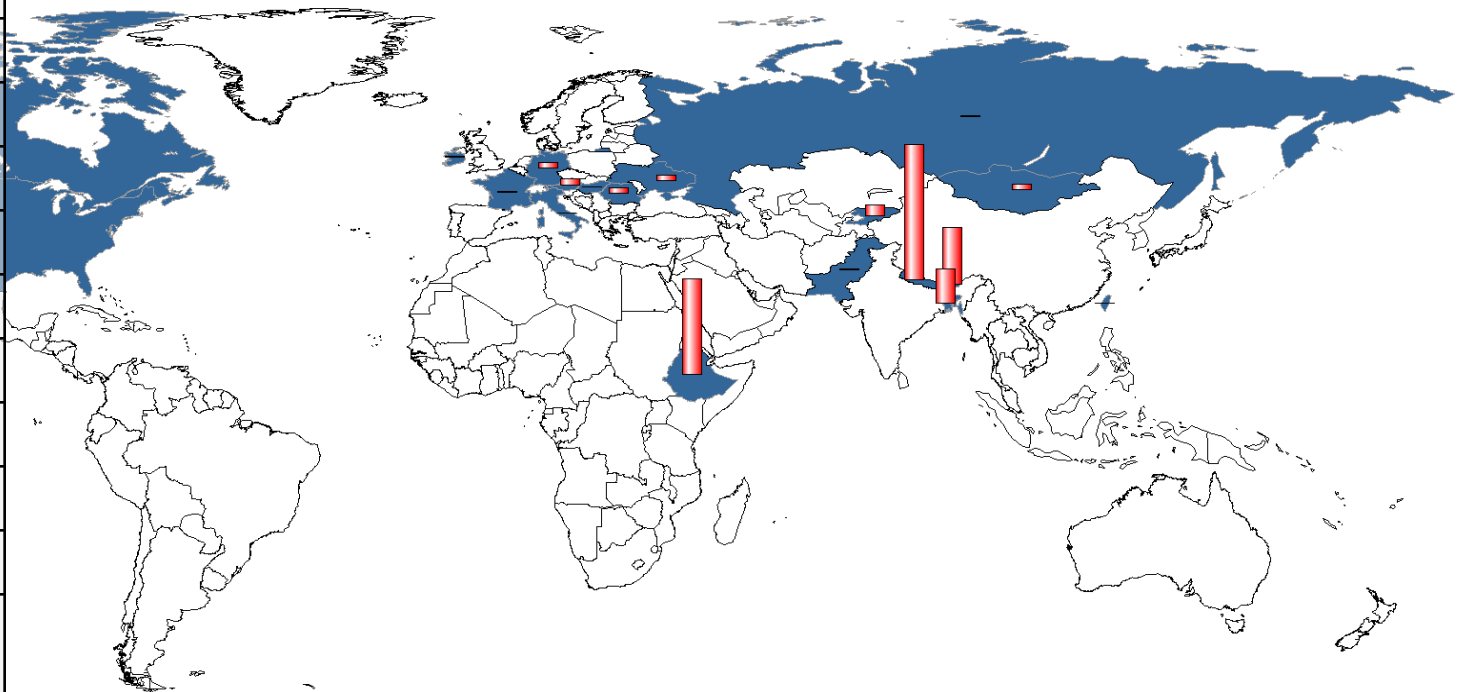
Economics

Technical
sciences:

Engineering

| Country | % |
|------------------|-----|
| Nepal | 30 |
| Ethiopia | 21 |
| Bhutan | 13 |
| Bangladesh | 8 |
| Kyrgystan | 4 |
| Austria | 2 |
| Canada | 2 |
| Germany | 2 |
| Mongolia | 2 |
| Romania | 2 |
| Ukraine | 2 |
| France | 1 |
| Hungary | 1 |
| Italy | 1 |
| Northern Ireland | 1 |
| Pakistan | 1 |
| Russia | 1 |
| Taiwan | 1 |
| USA | 1 |
| | 100 |

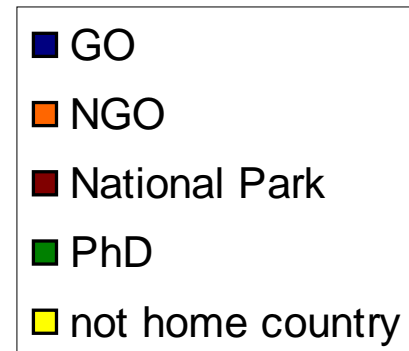
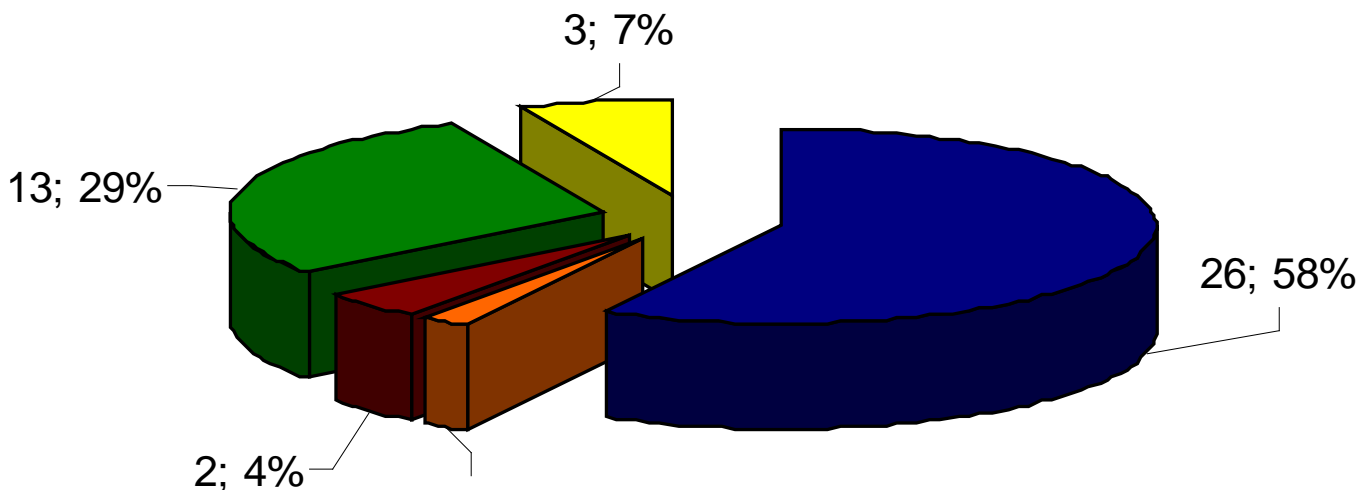
From 2002 to May 2009: 84 graduates



The mountain forestry master programme



The students: where they go to





Building institutions? – Example Bhutan

11 Alumnis:

9 in the Ministry of Agriculture:

6 in the Department of Forests, 1 head of forestry section in policy and planning division, 1 in reasearch, 1 in Nature conservation Division

1 Deputy Governor in a highly forested province

1 Forest officer in Royal Project

At least 90% employed in their field, partly in leading positions, 100% return rate





Building institutions? – Example Ethiopia

12 Alumni:

2 Section heads Forestry in Bureau of Agriculture

1 Section head Forestry Environmental protection Authority

1 Section head, forestry research section, Agriculture Research Institute

2 researchers in Research institutions

4 PhD students at BOKU

1 NGO consultant

1 left Ethiopia (USA)

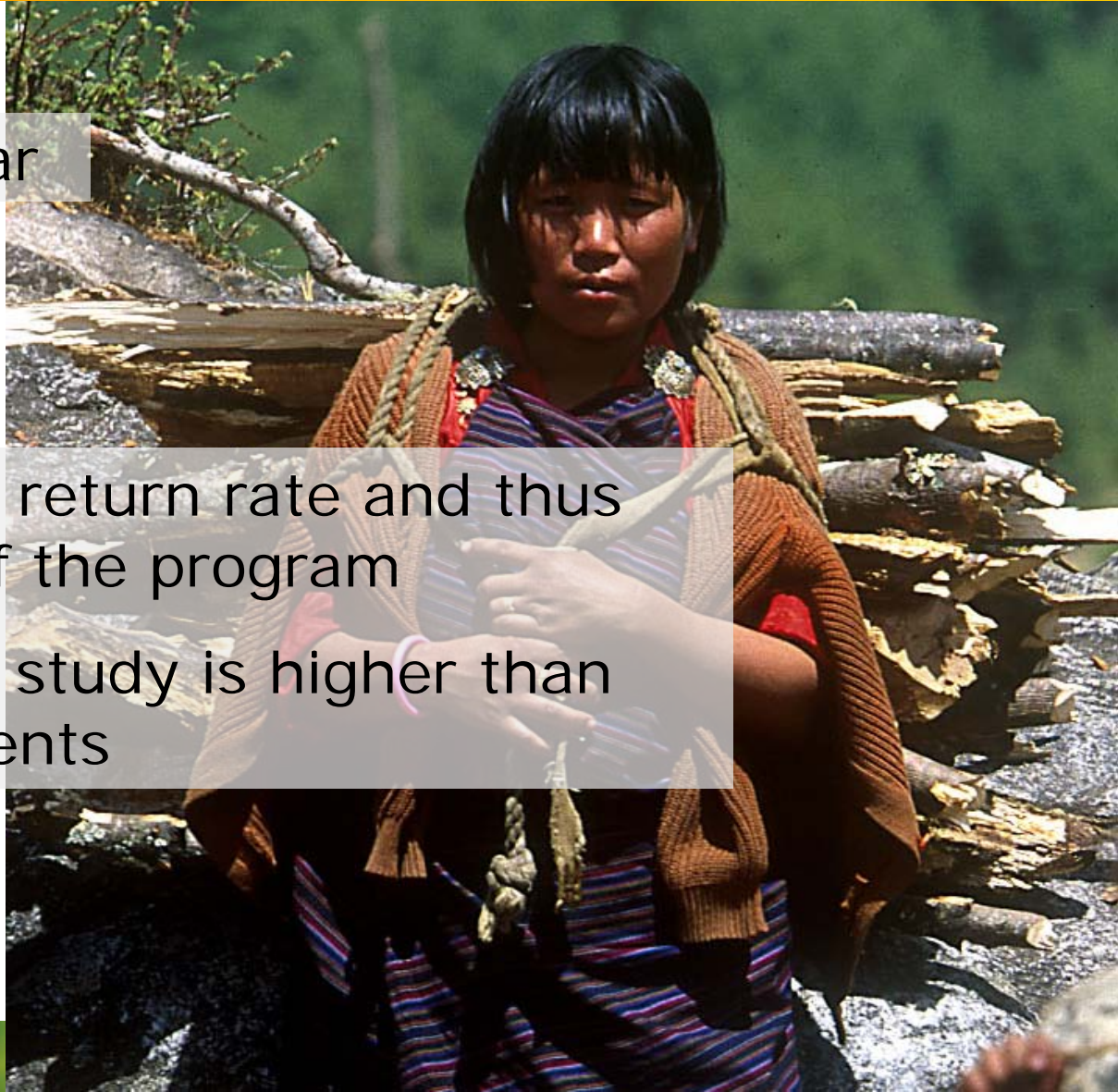




Our conclusion so far

MF has an excellent return rate and thus reaches the goals of the program

The potential of the study is higher than the number of students





IMPLICATIONS FOR US?

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ - Masters Programs are financially self-supporting when prepare students for high quality professional positions (MBA, MPA, LAW)

Market share in higher education – lack of public support for higher education is reducing competitiveness of education sector and students

Quality of education for US students – loss of international students changes the experience for US students



OPPORTUNITIES

- **MULTI-UNIVERSITY MASTERS PROGRAMS!**
- **INTEGRATED CURRICULUM**
- **PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS (see ECO CANADA listing of qualifications)**
- **PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE – requirement for internships and professional level experience**
- **RESEARCH – students capable of independently defining and analyzing a problem**



THANK YOU

**IT IS TIME FOR US TO WORK
TOGETHER!**







