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Advances and Challenges in Managerial Economics and Accounting

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<http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-4/40000/40500/>

<http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-4/40000/40500/40501/>

Meeting website: <https://www.wiso.boku.ac.at/afo/tagungen-forst/iufro-symposium-2016/>

Forests contribute to modern societies through cultural, economic, environmental, institutional and social dimensions. Forest management decisions and practices, therefore, must incorporate information concerning all of these dimensions. In addition, global issues such as changes in society, climate and forest values influence and transform the ways in which forest ecosystems are perceived, managed and used.

The role of managerial economics and accounting in forest ecosystems management and policy development in response to these evolving conditions and needs of society were central to this symposium which addressed and aimed to contribute to theme 3 of the IUFRO-strategy: 'Forests and forest products for a greener future'.

At the symposium held on 9-11 May 2016 at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU), Austria, a broad range of topics was addressed by the 41 participants in 29 oral presentations and 2 poster presentations. Seven further papers had been accepted and are documented in the proceedings.

Non-wood products, forest services, urban forestry, bio-energy, financial reporting, national accounting, value chain analysis, payments for ecosystem services, forest planning, forecasting, perceptions and performance are just a few of the keywords illustrating the rich pool of contributions, related issues and approaches.

The number of papers and the diversity of topics addressed underline both the productivity and heterogeneity of research in managerial economics and accounting. Numerous contributions were located at the interface to the subject fields of other research units (in Division 4 but also in Divisions 3 and 9), thus highlighting the significance of problem-oriented, interdisciplinary scientific investigations.

The symposium was a sequel to the jointly organized, annual meetings of IUFRO RG 4.05.00 - Managerial economics and accounting and its WPs 4.05.01 - Managerial, social and environmental accounting, 4.05.02 - Managerial economics and 4.05.03 - Managerial economics and accounting in Latin America. The meeting was generously hosted by the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU), Forstamt und Landwirtschaftsbetrieb der Stadt Wien (MA 49), Österreichische Bundesforste AG (ÖBf) and Biosphärenpark Wienerwald.

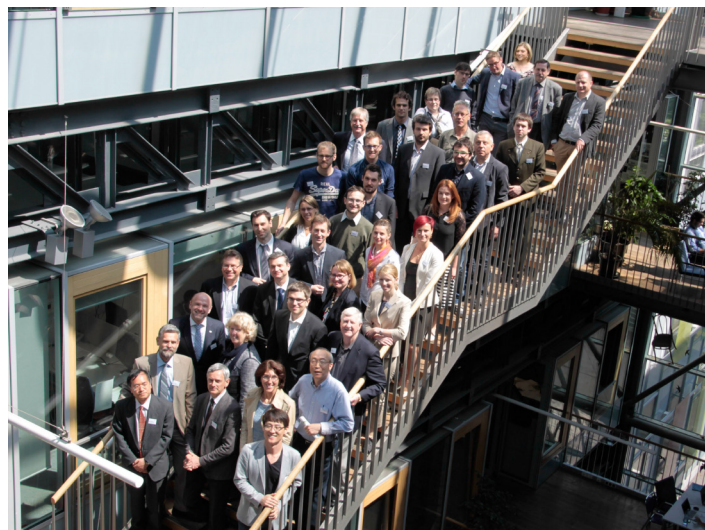


Photo of meeting participants by Philipp Toscani/BOKU

Conclusions

Physical and monetary assessments in regard to timber production as well as the provision of non-wood goods and forest services are of great importance at company, regional, national but also global levels. The establishment of sound valuations is confronted with deficits in regard to data and knowledge as well as methodological challenges, in the financial and in the social sphere alike. The management of forests has to deal with a great diversity of frame conditions, objectives, attitudes and perceptions. Future research in managerial economics and accounting seems especially promising in regard to the multi-functionality of forests and required adaptations in view of changing framework conditions. According to the heterogeneity of research issues, a broad range of methods - quantitative as well as qualitative ones - have to be applied and refined.

Outlook

Proceedings have already been published and are available for download. Presentations are available on the conference website depending on the specific permission on behalf of authors. A special issue of the SCI-rated Austrian Journal of Forest Science is dedicated to the conference and will comprise selected and peer-reviewed scientific papers based on oral presentations.

Research Group 4.05.00 and its Working Parties will organize scientific sessions at the IUFRO 125th Anniversary Congress in Freiburg, Germany, September 19 - 22, 2017. In 2018 the annual meeting of the RG will take place at the Faculty of Forestry, Zagreb, Croatia.