2nd CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

FORSYS Training School on Decision Support Systems for Sustainable Forest Management

16.09-21.09.2012 - Vienna, Austria

Mission and Scope:
Forests serve a multitude of purposes and address many different, often conflicting, goals to satisfy the needs of forest owners and society at large. Forest Management is considerably challenged by the demands for sustainability and future trends. The need for enhanced forest decision support systems (DSSs) is becoming more and more important related to the future role of European forests. Forest DSSs allow the forest manager to use advanced decision support tools, such as expert and knowledge based systems, multi-criteria techniques as well as communication and visualization tools. The FORSYS Training School on Decision Support Systems for Sustainable Forest Management intends to focus on several aspects on the development and application of forest management DSS. The general aim of the course is to make applicants familiar with the challenges of DSS development, give insight to existing DSS cases and allow them to contribute to projects focusing on decision support.

Topics:
The training school will concentrate on the theory of decision sciences, case studies and practical training examples. Thematic issues to be addressed in the Training School will include the wide range of topics covered in sustainable forest management in particular focusing on challenges related to spatial planning, predicting forest dynamics under climate change and modelling trade offs of different ecosystem services. The general structure of the Training School will be organized in a way, that participants will be able to follow the whole process of DSS development and get to know the most important aspects focusing on

- Forest planning and decision making processes
- Data, data model and data management
- Models and methods for decision support
- Knowledge management and ontology development
- System design, user interface and technological architecture

The theory will be presented in the first part and the examples and applications will be included in the second part of each lecture. Through interactive discussions, practical design workshops and modelling the students will be exposed to the interdisciplinary nature of developing DSS for forest management. Furthermore, the applicants will be able to recall the requirements for DSS implementation and refer to a European-wide reference for development of decision systems enhancing sustainable forest management. The participants should be able to draw some general guidelines for the development of decision support systems for Sustainable Forest Management from their experiences.

ADMISSION AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The Training School is targeted to postgraduate students. It is expected that the participants present their ongoing research activity in the training school. Admission is conditional on the presentation of every student's doctoral work; therefore PhD students who want to apply normally need to be advanced in their PhD to have produced at least some substantive work, but not to have completely finished their thesis. For your application we expect:

- Curriculum Vitae including the topic of your dissertation and your publications
- a motivation letter (1 page) including also a brief statement in which particular subject within the scope of the summer school you are interested so that we can adopt the programme to the student´s interests

Applications should be sent by email to the chair of the organizing committee:

Harald Vacik
email: **harald.vacik@boku.ac.at**
Phone: 0043-1-47654 4052

Deadline for application is 10th of June 2012.

The Organizing Committee will select the candidates based on the application.

Given the highly interactive activities planned at the Training School, the number of participants is limited to 20.

Costs & Expenses

The training school will be held at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (for details about the venu please refer to http://www.boku.ac.at/). There is no participation fee. Additionally the expenses for infrastructure on site and coffee during the workshop are covered for all participants that have been selected as eligible candidate from the Organizing Committee of the Training School. Expenses for accommodation, meals and travel have to be paid individually, but financial support from the COST Office is available on request and all applicants can apply for a scholarship. For further information on application and funding as well as the work program of the COST action please access the Website of the FORSYS webpage http://fp0804.emu.ee/ .

Programme (provisional)

Sunday: Arrival, ice breaker/dinner

Monday: Opening, lectures, poster presentation, group assignments

Tuesday: lectures, group work, training (methods)

Wednesday: lectures, group work, training (methods)

Thursday: group work

Friday: lectures, group work presentations, discussion, conclusions, wrap-up & closing

Tentative lecture Topics and Trainers

The European experience with in the network of the COST Action FP0804 - Forest Management Decision Support Systems (FORSYS) provides a solid foundation for developing and applying forest DSSs. Several researchers actively involved in the development and application of DSS will give the lectures and moderate the discussion. The final program of the lectures and the trainers will be available soon.

Luc Boerboom - University of Twente, Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC), Department of Urban and Regional Planning and Geo-information Management – Collaborative web-based spatial evaluation tools and decision rooms; Considering uncertainty in decision making

Ljusk Ola Eriksson - Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Forest Resource Management – Considering optimization and uncertainty in long term forest planning

Manfred J. Lexer - University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Department of Forest and Soil Sciences, Institute of Silviculture - Considering Adaption for Climate Change in developing DSS

Christian Rosset - University of Applied Sciences, Bern, School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences - The architecture and design of Decision Support Systems

Johannes Scholz - Research Studio iSPACE, Research Studios Austria – Combining WebGIS and optimization techniques in supporting logistic processes

Harald Vacik - University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Department of Forest and Soil Sciences, Institute of Silviculture – Methods, Tools and Instruments supporting Sustainable Forest Management

Bernhard Wolfslehner – European Forest Institute Central-East European Regional Office (EFICEEC) – The potential of SFM indicators and MCA in supporting decision making

Organizing Committee:
Luc Boerboom
Ljusk Ola Eriksson
Manfred J. Lexer
Christian Rosset
Harald Vacik

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Bern University of Applied Sciences

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