

# Report of preparatory meeting

## for the 19<sup>th</sup> European Championship in Forestry Skills for Students

**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2022  
**Location:** Kongsberg VGS, Kongsberg/Saggrenda, Norway  
**Countries present:** 15: Austria, Estonia, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Norway, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, The Netherlands.

### Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2022

The Norwegian colleagues Halvor and Ola welcome us to the school in Kongsberg. At the evening we start with welcoming words at the hotel and a free evening to meet and talk after three years without meeting or championship.

### Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2022

We start with an early breakfast at the hotel and join a visit to:

#### Sawmill Moelven

This sawmill is owned by two companies that are owned by thousands of (local/regional) forest owners. It produces timber for both national as for the European market. During the last decades lots of new machines such as a quality check system were installed. After the company presentation we visit the several steps involved in the production process.

#### Meeting with the mayor of Kongsberg, lunch and visit of the area for the competition

At the townhall of Kongsberg, the mayor of the city welcomes us and we also meet the principal of VGS Kongsberg. The mayor and principal are looking forward to host the championship next year. For the mayor it is common ground: she was a student of the school (long time ago) and she competed in competitions in Norway.

After the offered lunch at the townhall we visit the competition area, next to the new school building in the city centre.

Halvor gives a short impression of the program:

- Arrival on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> of May
- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> of June: forestry course near Saggrenda and excursion
- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> of June: technical disciplines, Kongsberg
- Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> of June, morning technical disciplines, afternoon limbing final, Kongsberg. Evening: award ceremony in Kongsberg.

Near the competition site will be place for the competitors to prepare the equipment and also some rooms for the head jury and the calculation team.

For the international evening and the chain saw check, the program is not set yet.

#### Forestry nursery Hokkesund

After some free time in Kongsberg we visit the forestry nursery Hokkesund where one and two year plants are grown from Spruce. The seeds are collected by a governmental organisation and can be bought by nurseries. Hokkesund nursery provides only the domestic market and more particularly the south of Norway. The seedlings are grown in plug trays and after growing they are packed and frozen until spring. The nursery uses renewable energy to heat the greenhouses and the cold warehouse, both solar (cooling) and timber (heating).

#### Excursion to the Silver mines of Kongsberg

Final stop for the day is the Norsk Bergverksmuseum: the Norwegian Silver mine Museum. The tour guide shows us the original equipment and special techniques used for the mining operations started in 1623 and the massive use of timber which still influences the forest around Kongsberg.

## Presentations

After the dinner a former student of the VGS Kongsberg presents us the Norwegian educational system and the basics of the mining near Kongsberg. Especially both presentations focus on forestry-education and the use of timber in the mining.

## Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2022

Saturday started with a visit to a similar forest as the forestry course. Halvor an Ola showed us the variety of forests near Kongsberg, depending on the altitude. Next we visit a deer farm nearby and get some explanations about forestry in Norway. After the lunch we discuss the rules and get an overview of the event. A special welcome to our colleague from Slovakia, this nation joins for the first time.

### Program concept

Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> of May:	Arrival
at 17.00	Chain saw check
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> of June:	forestry course, excursion, International Evening
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> of June:	technical events excluding limbing
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> of June:	morning technical disciplines
Afternoon:	limbing final by ranking
Evening:	award ceremony

The teams will start as team after each other, so the technical leader can accompany the students to the disciplines.

Chain saw check will be carried out by: Armands, Julian, Gregor (Jochen). Stickers will be used to mark the checked equipment.

### Rules, head jury and head of the tasks

The school and the event are held to Norwegian law which excluded consumption of alcohol at public buildings such as schools and dormitory buildings. The international evening and the event will be alcohol free.

Proposal for the head jury:

- Armands Lapins, (Latvia, organizing country 2025)
- Markus Wilfinger (Austria)
- Peter Tretter (Germany)
- Gerard van Looijengoed (The Netherlands)
- Alina Cuciurean (Romania, organizing country 2024)
- Simone Götsch (Italy)
- Halvor Garaas (Norway, organizing country 2023)

The proposal is voted: 15 pro; 0 con.

Head of the tasks proposal:

Task	head of the task	international jury member
Felling:	Franz Wigoschnig	Claudio Popescu
Limbing:	Erik Pander	Stefan Gijsberts
Precision:	Julian Bruhn	Othmar Thelfser
Combined:	Wim Bries	Sandra Schwender
Fitting:	Gregor Cesarek	-
Forestry course	Franz Wigoschnig	-

The proposal is voted: 15 pro; 0 con.

### **Forestry course**

The forestry course will be held near Saggrenda. The international referees will be assigned the evening before.

A yield table will be sent before the competition by Ola.

Factor will be 4. So 1m stick, 4 cm plate.

Adventure will be announced the day of arrival.

Franz and Peter will check the track the day before. All determination tasks will be organised in double, so two teams can be at the task the same time.

For determining tree species: the leaves can be very young because of the late Norwegian spring.

### **Fitting a new chain**

Discipline starts with two competitors on stage.

The check for the gap between chain and bar: if a piece of paper fits between, it is incorrect.

### **Combined bucking**

There will be 4 lanes: two to prepare, two to compete.

Two competitors start at the same time.

The logs will be corrected after every competitor.

### **Precision bucking**

There will be 4 lanes: two to prepare, two to compete.

Two competitors start at the same time.

The saw dust will be prepared by helpers, the competitor can be shown the height of the saw dust. (The proposal is voted: 15 pro; 0 con.)

### **Limbing**

Five or six competitors will start together. Each competitor will use a new stem. Pattern will be IALC most recent: Estonia 2023. Limbing will be the final discipline and if possible (time) based on ranking.

The points will not be announced, only the place.

Kind of timber will be announced later, not sure yet: spruce or pine, both branches as stems.

### **Felling**

Felling will be carried out as simulation. The spruce stems/logs of app. 120 cm will be attached to plates. There is no need to use wedges/hammer.

Time limit is 90 seconds.

The logs will be attached at 15cm, felling line will also be 15 cm higher.

We will use the measurement tools with the double plates. Franz will carry out the measurements for distance.

Extra referees will be assigned: Anders, Erik, Stefan.

### **Teams, referees and basic house rules**

The organisation sets the maximum number of teams at 25. It is possible to have a male, female or mixed team at the competition. All nations can participate at least with a mixed or male team. If there are female teams and the number of teams has not reached 25, they can participate. It is also possible to take part with an international female team. This must be announced before the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2023. This is also the deadline for applying the number of competitors.

International referees that join the competition are free of costs, same as for the committee, head jury and the normal 4 students plus two teachers per nation and regular teams.

If there will be more than 25 teams on the application: complete teams come first, before international teams. Each nation has the right to take part with one team, a second different gender team is extra.

Halvor will send information in the spring for nations that need extra housing, so they can arrange it by them selves.

### **Organisation 2024 and 2025**

Both Bucovina Forestry College, Romania and Olgre Technical School, Latvia are willing to organise the ESCFS in 2024. After a presentation of both candidates Armands makes the proposal to keep the order of organising as it should be before COVID: Romania and then Latvia.

This generous proposal is voted: 15 pro, 0 con.

As decided: the championship in 2024 will be in Romania, Bucovina Forestry College.

Second decision: the championship in 2025 will be in Latvia, Olgre technical School

Candidates for 2026 are welcome to make a proposal at the preparatory meeting in Romania, autumn 2023.

### **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2022**

We would like to thank the organizing school for the warm welcome, a well-organized preparatory meeting and the generous programme. We are looking forward to join the competition in May 2023 and are convinced it will be a very good championship.

*Special thanks for Ola and Halvor, since they are both retired now but still willing to organise the ESCFS 2023 in their free time.*