

Report of preparatory meeting

for the 20th European Championship in Forestry Skills for Students

Date: 11nd - 14th of October 2023
Location: Bucovina Forestry College, Câmpalung-Moldovenesc, Romania
Countries present: 12: Austria, Estonia, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Norway, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, The Netherlands.

Wednesday 11th of October 2023

The team of Bucovina Forestry Colleges welcomes us to the hotel. During the evening all participants of the preparatory meeting arrive. We enjoy the free evening to meet and talk.

Thursday 12th of October 2023

We start with an early breakfast at the hotel and visit the Bucovina Forestry College. Warm words of welcome are spoken and a introduction of the Romanian forest and Forest management is given. Representatives of the government, guests from supporting companies and from other schools were present.

Afterwards we visit a forest nearby, quite similar to the forest where the forestry course will be during the championship. In preparation, a complete set of 12 tasks was well prepared by the team.

We've got a very good impression of the preparations for the forestry course and the Romanian forest.

In the afternoon there is a planned discussion about the rules and the 2024 championship.

Points discussed:

General rules:

Number of times a student can take part: a student can only take part two times. Joining the 2022 online competition does not count as taking part.

Age level: lower the age limit down to 14: as long as the competitor is in the forestry education system, and the national law (of the organizing country) allows it.

This proposal is voted for: pro: 10; con: 2. The proposal is accepted.

For the head jury, there will be no changes for 2024. Decision without vote.

- 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)

Value of the (international) referees: please bring experienced referees and make them as important as they are. The experience is also important to give in to the team: so if possible bring yearly the same people for judging. Considerations is needed to make them feel appreciated.

Preparations for the tasks/disciplines: the time schedule should give at the forestry course minimum 30 min preparation time for the referees and at the technical disciplines about 2 hours to prepare. The advice is to use a b-team to make sure all measurements will be carried out properly and equal.

The number of medals is the same for the male and female competitors. So also the three best female will receive individual medals.

Head of the tasks

| Task | Head of the task | International jury member Later fixed |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Felling: | Franz Wigoschnig | |
| Limbing: | Erik Pander | Stefan Gijsberts |
| Precision: | Sandra Schwender | Otmar Telfser |
| Combined: | Wim Bries | Julian Bruhn |
| Fitting: | Gregor Cesarek | - |
| Forestry course | Franz Wigoschnig | Julian Bruhn |

Forestry course:

The forestry course will use the relascope stick, factor is 4 cm. Both stick and plate are metal.

The yield table will be sent before the competition.

The protocols will be handed out and collected at each task. Any marking for carrying out the tasks (e.g. letter A for the kind of wood) must be attached to the correct log during and after the forestry course. Tasks number between number 11 and 14 (page 46) will be prepared on 2 or 3 tables each. For the sample plot: proposal to change hardwood-softwood into conifers and broad leaved trees. Proposal was accepted.

Proposals to add species to the list of animals:

- Nyctereutes procyonides (common raccoon dog) pro 10, con 2, will be added.
- Canis aureus (gold Jackal) 11 pro, 1 con, will be added.
- Acciper gentilis (goshawk) 5 pro, 7 con, will not be added.

Proposals to add species to the list of tree species:

- Salix sp: more specific: pro: 1, con 11; stays the same.

Proposals to add species to the list of pests:

- Armillaria mellea is added to the list of pests, 12 pro, 0 con.

Other change (because of spelling): Pheasianus colchicus (ring-necked pheasant) will be correctly written: Phasianus colchicus

Franz and Peter visit and check the location for the real forestry course: it is about 1 hour only walk and 3-4 km long. It is in the mountains and not flat, so please make sure the competitors have good shoes.

At the forestry course only living (green) trees are counted, the teams must determine which trees are alive and should be counted. Dead trees are not cut out or marked separately.

Changes on page 45:

There will be clear signs on the track to find the tasks:

- The track may be marked with red/white ribbon
- Numbering of the tasks:
 - Pay attention to the black numbers ~~yellow background~~
 - The order of the tasks is accidental.
- One tree of the task is marked with blue ribbon (task 1, 2, 5, 8, 9)
- Sample plots are marked with yellow ribbon (task 3, 4, 6, 7, 10)

After the discussion we visit the city museum of wood. This museum gives a nice impression of the use of timber in the region. The day ends with a festive evening near the hotel with typical Romanian dancing.

Friday 13th of October 2023

In the morning we visit the sportive area where the technical disciplines will be carried out. During the championship, the hotel, the school and the technical disciplines are all in the city of Câmpalung-Moldovenesc. The Romanian colleagues have prepared the disciplines and give a good impression

how they will be carried out. Afterwards we visit a trout nursery and taste smoked trout. A visit to the viewing platform of the mountain Rarau completes the morning. In the afternoon we visit the forestry research center near the school. There is a presentation about the research subject and the wildlife in Bucovina.

After the lunch we continue the program with a discussion about the rules and the technical disciplines.

Measuring tools

Romania will ask, if the teams can bring their own measurement tools, because it is not possible to organize the measurement tools for all lanes.

Proposal: an European measurement equipment borrow 'pool'. This proposal is not voted for, may be in later years. For now a second proposal: borrow it from the IALC. Peter will ask Sandra Schwender.

If measurement instruments are borrowed or brought by the teams: a proper administration must be kept who borrows which instrument and returns it.

It is strongly advised to organize an insurance for the tools, event, volunteers and all people involved when organizing the ESCFS.

Chain saw check

The chain saw check will take place at the discipline: 15 minutes before starting time the student attends the area. The chain saw check will be carried out by international referees. The competitor than can start (on time) the discipline. This must be planned in the time table. Armands and a national referee will check all chain saws.

All chains (also the not used at fitting) must be more than 3mm long at the shortest point.

The rubber is not necessary, all parts must have a serial number, then it is allowed.

At the check of the chain saw at the start of the discipline: the chain saw must meet the rules. The competitor has 15 minutes time to solve the problem, if not: there is no permission to start and the competitor will receive 0 points for the technical disciplines.

Limbing

The limbing will be a final discipline, carried out at ranking order. The pattern for limbing will be used is IALC 2023 Estonia (same as ESCFS 2023 Norway).

Felling

Felling will be carried out as simulation. The stems will be prepared without bark.

Explanation of the swinging cut: the last cut must be from outside to inside. At simulation felling the felling cut (and last cut) must completely clear the cut: there may not be any timber left. It will be judged as incomplete felling and awarded 0 points for this discipline.

If there is a fiber: if it can be pushed easily by one finger it is not a mistake.

The laser result at felling will be measured at 50cm above the ground at all times. The aiming line will be 2 cm wide, with in the middle a small line to mark the real center points.

Extra discipline with the electric chain saw

Proposal: introduce an extra competition: speed limbing with a battery chain saw. Romania will consider the opportunity and let us know if this will be organized and if an electric chain saw should be needed or is organized by the sponsors in Romania. Speed limbing means 10mm high branches or 10 mm deep cuts are not a mistake.

Teams, application and basic house rules

The school has also students who are under aged, so during the international evening no alcohol is allowed.

In total there is place to join for 25 teams + 5 female teams. 30 teams in total.

At the 26th of April all application must be send to Romania. Both team application and names.

Romania will send a confirmation afterwards.

Overview of the 2023 championship in Norway

Halvor gives a brief overview of the results, highlights and lessons learned for the competition last May in Kongsberg. The school and the town look back on a successful competition and wish all the best for Romania next year.

Excluded nations

For the 2023 championship in Norway, Russia was excluded. In the explanation letter Peter sent to Russia on behalf of the committee, the explanation is given: until the war ends. All nations agree that we keep it in this way.

For Belarus the situation is different: there are no contacts to send the invitation to, so no invitation will be sent to Belarus.

Saturday 14th of October 2023

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 2024 and are convinced it will be a very good championship.