

ANDREA PIRKER

ROLE MODEL IN FORESTRY SECTOR

HER CAREER

It all started when Andrea was three or four years old. Even back then, her grandfather encouraged her that as a girl she had all the skills which a career in forestry required.

As a young woman she became a forestry worker and master of forestry, annoyed that people would smile at her as a woman...

And then she went on!

She has been running her parents' farm and forest since 1995, and finally took over the property in 2002. In addition she is a qualified mental trainer and active member of the hunting community.

PERCEPTIVE ABOUT THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN FORESTRY

Women have a different, more holistic approach to certain things, a more emotional, not just a technical one.

It is still very much in the minds and in the behavioral patterns that forestry is dominated by men. Sometimes, especially in practice, it does not suit men and women when women do and can do everything

EXPERIENCES WITH WOMEN WORKING IN FORESTRY SECTOR

Andrea always goes into the matter carefully until she knows what makes the other person tick. Then she reacts to these behavior patterns, which is maybe irritating, but helpful. First feel it and then go into the conversation.

A critical factor: You may work in forestry, but you are not taken as seriously as when you hold e.g. an office, that is very noticeable.

ABOUT ANDREA

Andrea is 54 years old and has been working in and around the forest since she was a child.

She manages her own forest, works as a bio-controller and in the real estate business.

She is also an active hunter and a member of the board of the Austrian forest women association.



WHAT SHOULD BE DONE FOR BETTER INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN FORESTRY SECTOR?

For Andrea two main factors are most important:

Mentors who help women in forestry

To be accepted on an equal footing



INTERESTING INITIATIVES WHICH HELPED WOMEN WITH THEIR CAREER

"The Forstfrauen (forest women) are a successful initiative, I don't know of anything else that would have set the whole thing in motion.

There is a strengthening that is uncomplicated, but still there is great strength behind it due to the networking and contacts from the entire forestry sector.

There are so many fields in this network that brings a lot of breadth and openness."

KEY MESSAGES FOR YOUNG FEMALE IN EARLY CAREER

First of all: Women shouldn't let themselves be belittled.

They should go their own way if they want to, even if there are setbacks.

Don't let yourself be influenced, but bring out the positive.

And last but not least: Step forward and don't be discouraged!



Disclaimer

The information and views set out in this project document are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the European Union/Danube Transnational Programme. Neither the European Union/Danube Transnational Programme institutions and bodies nor any person acting on their behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein.