

INCLUSION OF WOMEN V FORESTRY SECTOR



"The presence of women in the traditionally male forestry sector introduces new ways of thinking and acting that are vital in today's rapidly changing world."



CHALLENGES Although almost half of forest owners are women, this share is not reflected in their representation in decision-making bodies and interest groups.

Women employed in the forest sector are rarely in leadership positions.

There are still strong stereotypes in society regarding professions in forestry, which thus remain in the domain of men. Stereotypes strongly influence decisions regarding educational path and further career.

Both educators and employers in the field of forestry pay too little attention to understanding and accepting gender differences and ensuring equal opportunities.

WHAT SHOULD WE CHANGE TO INCREASE THE PRESENCE OF WOMEN IN THE FORESTRY SECTOR:

- Integrating the aspect of gender equality in the implementation of the curriculum of vocational schools and study programs and ensuring equal treatment according to gender in enrollment, implementation of programs and completion of educational programs.
- Informing the public about the importance of the forestry profession through various communication channels and promotional campaigns.
- Raising awareness of employees in educational organizations regarding the inclusion of gender equality.
- Establishing a group of mentors in the forestry sector with the aim of providing mentoring for female foresters at the beginning of their career path.



- Ensuring equal opportunities in the recruitment process and for further formal and informal education to all employees, regardless of their gender.

- Providing employees with a friendly form of flexible working hours in a suitable environment, with the possibility of working at home.
- Organizing education and training for employees in a time- and location-adjusted way.

KEY POINTS

- The importance of the forestry sector is increasing.
- Forestry and related industries are essential for rural development.
- The results of the Fem4Forest survey show that this sector is dominated by men.
- The forestry sector is changing and women are part of this transformation.

The forestry sector is still recognized as a "male domain", which is also confirmed by the results of a survey conducted within the framework of the Fem4Forest project. The vast majority of respondents believe that the representation of women is unsatisfactory. Nevertheless, women are active in the forestry sector and are increasingly employed in it. As much as 35% of private forests in our country are owned by women who are interested in current issues related to adaptation to climate change, nature conservation, forest management, planning and timber harvesting. This is precisely why encouraging greater involvement of women in the forestry sector is an important factor that can contribute to improving sustainable forest management.

Slovenia is proud of women, role models in forestry! It is they who prove with their actions that women bring fresh wind to the sector, as they contribute to new, effective solutions with their solutions and different views!

