



**FOREST IN WOMEN'S HANDS (FEM4FOREST)**

**REPORT FROM KICK-OFF EVENT:**

**"Forests in Women's Hands –  
Yes, We Can!"**

29<sup>th</sup> of October 2020

Zoom conference

Project number: DTP3-500-1.2 Fem4Forest  
Project Coordinator: Slovenian forestry institute

## SUMMARY

On the 29th of October 2020, the kick-off event entitled "Forests in Women's Hands - Yes, We Can" gathered more than 130 participants from 17 countries. The purpose of the conference was to present the new Fem4Forest initiative in the Danube Region, present examples of good practice of women in forestry in the EU and beyond, promote further integration of women in forestry and start talks and establish a new stakeholder network in the forestry sector. The participants were forestry experts, decision-makers, and other stakeholders in the forestry sector from all partner countries. The majority of participants were women (88%), but also there was a significant number of men (12%) which shows their interest and understanding of the importance of the topic as well.

The conference was opened by the **lead partner, Dr. Nike Krajnc from Slovenian Forestry Institute (GIS)**, by welcoming all projects and associated partners. Nike shortly **presented an overview of the project structure naming all relevant project data such as the number of project partners (14), project objectives, methodology, and main outputs**. At the end of her presentation, she asked all participants two questions:

Do you agree that the more active role of woman unlocks the door of better practices and increased capacities of the forest sector?

Do you agree that more efforts should be given for better integration of women into decision-making processes?

The response to these questions was incredible: 97% of the answers were affirmative!

After Nike's introductory words, it was time for the **second lecture entitled: "Women in forestry in Austria: Facts and examples of good practice" and the presenter was Dagmar Karisch-Gierer from FAST Pichl, Austria**.

Dagmar shared her experience working in the Forest Training Center Pichl and her look at the forestry sector regarding women in Austria. Forest Training Center Pichl works hard to build an image for women in forestry and make women in forestry visible, by offering training for personal and professional skills. Currently, the total share of female participants in training and education in Austria is 27%, and at the Federal College for Forestry, there are only 17% of female students enrolled for the year 2020/21. However, this is much more than before (2008-2018), where there were only 6% of female participants. Dagmar underlined that now is a good time to develop new offers with gender-sensitive access and raising awareness in the context of gender equality together with professional and experienced partners. Dagmar ended her presentations with a question for all participants regarding education and training for women in the forestry sector. The answers were interesting, as 34% of them stated that they have such education and the same share that they do not have such an education. The participants did not know does this type of education exists in their country.

**Lecture number three was "Women for forestry in Bavaria", presented by Kathrin Böhling and Beatrix Enzenbach, from LWF, Germany.**

Kathrin gave a brief introduction with background info on forests and forestry in Bavaria. In Bavaria, from the total number, 30% of forest owners are women and 30% of graduates from forest study programs are female. However, in Bavarian forest administration works only 14.8% female workers and in Bavarian state forest companies, 16.7%. Kathrin presented a set of activities for awareness-raising, career development, and sustained networking to build a more active role of women in the forestry sector in Bavaria. Some of the activities were: collaboration with local state offices to facilitate female ownership in ongoing activities, creating more training opportunities for women, organizing annual female foresters' meeting, etc. Beatrix explained why female forest owners in Bavaria started to network and what are the benefits from it. Beatrix also

introduced participants to The Community of Interest of Female Forest Owners that is a great example of a network that wants to give a voice to women in forestry. Kathrin and Beatrix asked participants of the conference whether women in the forestry sector should be taught specific leadership skills, a large majority of participants (85%) answered that they agree.

The next lecture, fourth in a row, was entitled: **"Does the forest require a man or is it enough of a woman? Reflections based on 25 years of research experience in the field", presented by Gun Lidestav, from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden.**

Gun gave a personal view on a list of very interesting and frequently asked questions, such as:

How does women's forest ownership differ from men's forest ownership?

Does women's management practice differs from men's management practice?

Do women forest owners think and act "greener"?

How does the process of socialization into forest ownership (forestry professions) look like for girls/women and boys/men?

Is gender equality a goal or a means?

After the presentation, Gun asked all gathered whether gender affects their interest in the forest and forestry. Half of the participants said that gender has a moderate impact on their interest in the forest and forestry.

Lecture number 5 was presented by **Ajla Dorfer from Forestry and Environmental Action, Bosnia, and Herzegovina. The lecture was entitled: "Women in Bosnia and Herzegovina from college to forestry service - a reality"**. Ajla gave a brief overview of education institutions for forest professionals in BiH and introduced participants to the organization of the public forestry sector in BiH.

The forestry sector in BiH is an extremely traditional industry (economy branch). Public perception is that forestry is considered as primarily a physical work intended for men. Approximately every third person who enrolls in forestry-related high school or faculty is a woman. The employment of women in the sector varies from about 10% in the FBiH to 20% in the RS. Women's political participation is very limited – women in decision-making positions are few. Also, there is a small number of female PFOs due to the traditional patriarchal lifestyle where women rarely share the land with husbands and/or they give up their inheritance rights. There is a lack of initiatives or budgetary support which would encourage women to work in private forest sector or a rural area as well as lack of programs for women's empowerment in forestry and rural area in general. Because there is much to be improved regarding women in the forestry sector in BiH, Ajla underlined the importance of initiatives such as Fem4Forest.

Lecturer Ajla Dorfer asked the participants if they think that women in their country have fewer chances of success in the forestry sector. As many as 66% answered that this was the case, 11% were not convinced, and 23% thought it was not true.

The final and fifth lecturer was **Jess Kaknevičius, Co-Founder of Women in Wood, Canada. The lecture was entitled: "Women in Wood: Breaking Down Barriers in Forestry"**.

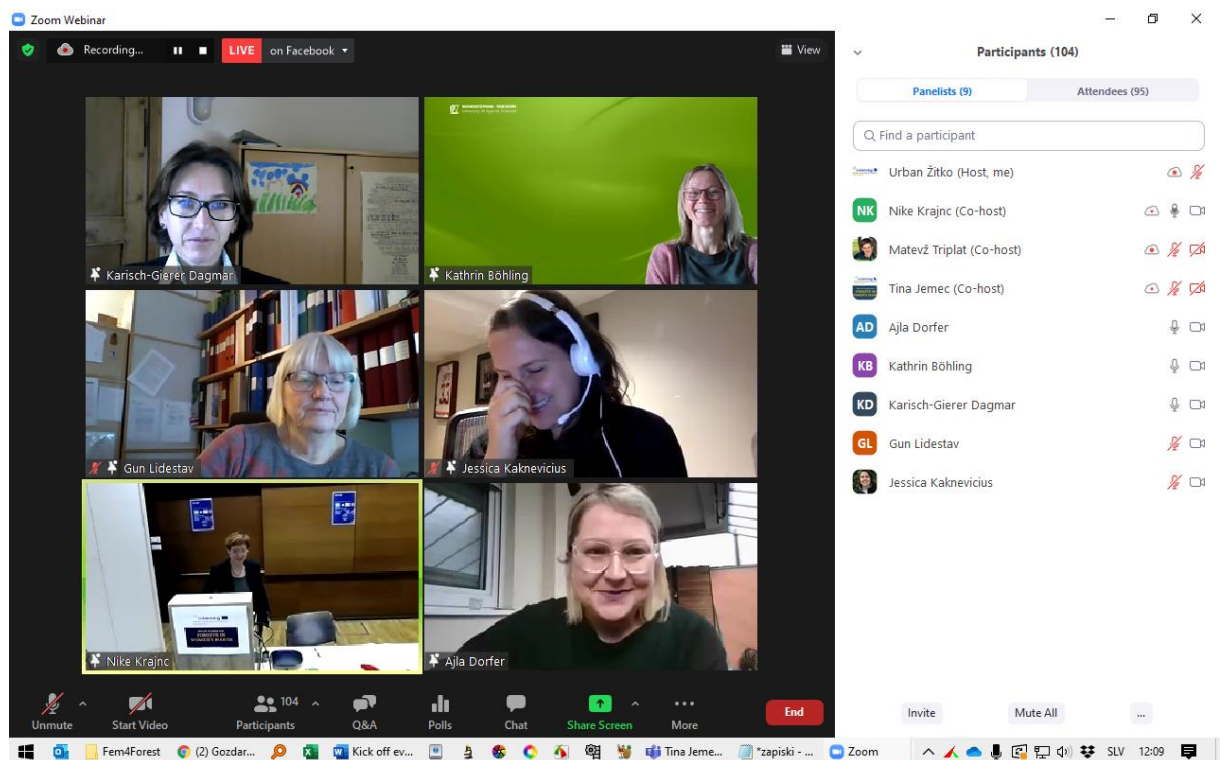
Jess shared her experience on how it is to be a founder of "Women in Wood" and emphasize the importance of building a community of women who work in, with, and for the woods, encouraging women to pursue careers in the forest, wood, and related sectors and how much is important that successful professionals in their career help others, by collaborating for success, sharing information, improving skills, and navigating the workplace.

Jess asked the question: "Do you think that social networks play an important role in connecting, educating, and advancing women in forestry?" 90% of participants agreed with this, which means that social networks are the right way to reach the target audience.

We are pleased that we achieved the desired effect with the conference, as the participants stated that they are very satisfied with the content itself. Most participants believed that we need an initiative such as Fem4Forest in this part of Europe, so everyone warmly welcomes it.

All presentations from the kick-off event can be found at the following link: <http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/fem4forest/documents>.

## PHOTOS



Zoom Webinar

Recording... LIVE on Facebook

Participants (121)

Panelists (9) Attendees (112)

Sharing Poll Results

Attendees are now viewing the poll results

1. Does gender impact on your interest in forest and forestry?

Not at all	(22) 29%
Moderately	(38) 50%
Largely	(16) 21%

2. Which issue or lack of knowledge do you think is most urgent to research?

Gender and land ownership	(13) 17%
Gender and forest management	(41) 54%
Gender and forest training/education	(22) 29%

Stop Share Results Re-launch Polling

To: All panelists and attendees

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Unmute Start Video Participants 121 Q&A Polls Chat Share Screen More End

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Zoom Webinar

Zoom Webinar

Recording... LIVE on Facebook

Participants (116)

Panelists (9) Attendees (107)

Sharing Poll Results

Attendees are now viewing the poll results

1. Is there a need for a network such as "Women in Wood" within your region to bring women together to share, network and learn from each other?

Yes	(65) 81%
No	(6) 8%
I don't know	(9) 11%

2. Do you think social media plays an important role in connecting, educating, and elevating women in forestry?

Yes	(71) 89%
No	(3) 4%
I don't know	(6) 8%

Stop Share Results Re-launch Polling

Invite Mute All

Unmute Start Video Participants 116 Q&A Polls Chat Share Screen More End

Fem4Forest Gozdarski... Kick off ev... Tina Jeme... \*zapiski - ... Zoom

Zoom Webinar

# INVITATION



## INVITATION

### FORESTS IN WOMEN'S HANDS – YES, WE CAN!

**Zoom Webinar, 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2020, 9.00 – 12.00**

Fem4Forest partnership has a pleasure of inviting forest professionals, policy makers and other experts in the forest sector to a joint virtual conference on 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2020.

The conference aims to:

- present new initiative Fem4Forest (Forests in women's hands) in Danube Region
- present good practice examples of women in the forest sector in EU and beyond
- promote further integration of women in forest sector
- to start a discussion and create a new network of stakeholders in forest sector

#### Agenda of the event

9.00 – 9.20	<i>Introduction to the event What does Fem4Forest stand for? Nike Krajnc, leader of the Fem4Forest project, GIS, Slovenia</i>
9.20 – 9.40	<i>Women in Forestry in Austria: Facts and best practices Dagmar Karisch-Gierer, FAST Pichl, Austria</i>
9.40 – 10.00	<i>Women 4 Forests in Bavaria Kathrin Böhling, Beatrix Enzenbach, LWF, Germany</i>
10:00 – 10.15	»Virtual coffee break«
10.15 – 10.40	<i>Does the forest require a man or is a woman good enough? Reflections based on 25 years of R&amp;D experience Gun Lidestav, SLU, Sweden</i>
10.40 – 11.10	<i>Women in Bosnia and Hercegovina from faculty to forestry sector - the reality Ajla Dorfer, FEA, Bosnia and Hercegovina</i>
11:10 – 11:30	<i>Women in Wood: Breaking Down Barriers in Forestry Jessica Kaknevicus, Co-Founder of Women in Wood, Canada</i>
11:30 – 12:00	<i>Conclusions and discussion</i>

If you are interested and would like to join the conference, you are kindly asked to fill in the [registration form](#). Deadline for registration is **23. 10. 2020**.

Further instructions to all registered participants will follow.

We look forward to share and hear your opinion!

Nike Krajnc  
Coordinator of Fem4Forest project

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

List of participants, exported from ZOOM

No.	User Name (Original Name)	Country	Gender
1	Kamellia Penkova	Bulgaria	f
2	Špela Planinšek	Slovenia	f
3	Veronika Valentar	Slovenia	f
4	Elisabeth Johann	Austria	f
5	Stepanka Jouzova	Czechia	f
6	Polona Račič	Slovenia	f
7	Jutta Lauf	Germany	f
8	Kyrylo Loiko	Ukraine	f
9	Natalija Biletska	Ukraine	f
10	Renate Spaeth	Germany	f
11	Olesya Petrovych	United States of America	f
12	Christoph Hartleitner	Austria	m
13	Eva Ritter	Germany	f
14	Darja Stare	Slovenia	f
15	Ольга Таранова	Ukraine	f
16	Bohdana Dubrovets	Ukraine	f
17	Yuriy Derbal	Ukraine	m
18	primoz simoncic	Slovenia	f
19	Mitrea Claudiu	Romania	f
20	Marta Kovač	Croatia	f
21	trip1	Austria	f
22	FAST PICHL Kathrin van Zeist + Helga Pretterhofer	Austria	f
23	Havryliuk Liudmyla	Ukraine	f
24	Pipiet Larasatie	United States of America	f
25	ŽELJKA ŠIKIĆ	Croatia	f
26	Ivna Gantenbrink	Croatia	f
27	Marija Černe	Slovenia	f
28	Jožica Gričar	Slovenia	f
29	Natalya Voloshyna	Ukraine	f
30	Miljenko Županić	Croatia	m
31	Polona Vukovic	Slovenia	f
32	Ines Drame	Slovenia	f
33	Edo		
34	Maximilian Handlos	Austria	m
35	Petra Muhič	Slovenia	f
36	Danijela Kostic	Serbia	f
37	Polona Hafner	Slovenia	f
38	Amina Trle	Bosnia and Herzegovina	f
39	Ramona Scriban	Romania	f
40	Marie-Charlotte Hoffmann	Germany	f
41	Breda		

42	Rosmarie Pirker	Austria	f
43	Catalina Barbu	Romania	f
44	Лідія Зейкан	Ukraine	f
45	Olga Kostyukova	Ukraine	f
46	Michaela Osti	Germany	f
47	Predrag Sumarac	Serbia	m
48	Jitka Meňházová	Czechia	f
49	Brigita Oblak	Slovenia	f
50	Chitu Denisa	Romania	f
51	Andreas Steinegger	Austria	m
52	Amila Brajic	Bosnia and Herzegovina	f
53	Helga Pretterhofer	Austria	f
54	Agatha Filimon	Romania	f
55	MIROSLAVA SIMEONOVA	Bulgaria	f
56	Olha		
57	Radmila Ustych	Ukraine	f
58	Maja Merc Kiš	Croatia	f
59	Marius Niculae	Hungary	m
60	Samira Smailbegović	Bosnia and Herzegovina	f
61	Nina Peleksić	Bosnia and Herzegovina	f
62	Katja Mervar	Slovenia	f
63	Slobodan Milošević	Serbia	m
64	Ljudmila Medved	Slovenia	f
65	Mateja Karničnik	Slovenia	f
66	Alex Pinter	Austria	m
67	Nevenka BOGATAJ	Slovenia	f
68	Christiane Hohenberg	Austria	f
69	Galaxy S20+ 5G	Poland	f
70	Zoran Poduška	Serbia	m
71	Urša Vilhar	Slovenia	f
72	Lenka Lehnerová	Czechia	f
73	Jelena Nedeljkovic	Serbia	f
74	Slaviša Čavara	Bosnia and Herzegovina	f
75	Doris Kramm	Germany	f
76	Marjan Dolenšek	Slovenia	m
77	Lidija Turk	Slovenia	f
78	Kaja Plevnik	Slovenia	f
79	Ana Dijan	Croatia	f
80	Lucija odar	United States of America	f
81	Darija Cvikl	Slovenia	f
82	simona oto	Slovenia	f
83	Mirjana Sijacic-Nikolic	Serbia	f
84	Ivanna Vasylyshyn	Ukraine	f
85	Karmen Vaupotič	Slovenia	f
86	MARIJA KOLSEK	Slovenia	f
87	Itumeleng Monei	South Africa	f



88	Radostina Popova-Terziyska	Bulgaria	f
89	Iryna Yonash	Ukraine	f
90	Marina Popijač	Croatia	f
91	Oksana Fentsyk	Ukraine	f
92	Ljiljana Sovilj	Serbia	f
93	Irina Suša	Croatia	f
94	Lesya Loyko	Ukraine	f
95	Silvija Zec	Croatia	f
96	Špela Pezdevšek Malovrh	Slovenia	f
97	Amila Meskin	Belgium	f
98	Valerie Kantelberg	Germany	f
99	Markéta Penzešová	Czechia	f
100	Janja Viher	Slovenia	f
101	Tereza Červená	Czechia	f
102	Cosmin Cosofret	Romania	m
103	Petra Palátová	Czechia	f
104	Elena Stefanova	Bulgaria	f
105	Ivana Vasić	Serbia	f
106	Andrea Pondělíčková	Czechia	f
107	Roland Oberwimmer	Austria	m
108	Alžběta		
109	Simona		
110	Marina Nonic	Serbia	f
111	Petra Drame	Slovenia	f
112	Azra Muharemovic	Bosnia and Herzegovina	f
113	Ana Simčič	Slovenia	f
114	Natalia Vysotska	Ukraine	f
115	Laura Bouriaud	Romania	f
116	Michal Cechner PEFC Czech Republic	Czechia	m
117	Nina Škrk	Slovenia	f
118	Yana Bobrova	Ukraine	f
119	Špela Ramšak	Slovenia	f
120	Špela Ramšak	Slovenia	f
121	Marianna Kolodii	Ukraine	f
122	Barbara Slabanja	Slovenia	f
123	Heidi Gaube	Austria	f
124	Eva Janusch	Austria	f
125	Marijana Andabaka	Croatia	f
126	m.tippelreither	Austria	f
127	Oksana Ivanenko	Ukraine	f
128	Martin		
129	Anna Fuchsbichler	Austria	f
130	Antoanela Costea	Romania	f
131	Ludmila Schäfer-Griffel	Germany	f
132	ROSSITSA CHOBANOVA	Bulgaria	f
133	Jessica Kaknevicus	Canada	f

134	Ajla Dorfer	Bosnia and Herzegovina	f
135	Nike Krajnc	Slovenia	f
136	Gun Lidestav	Sweden	f
137	Dagmar Karisch-Gierer	Austria	f
138	Enzenbach, Beatrix	Germany	f
139	Böhling, Kathrin	Germany	f
140	Tina Jemec	Slovenia	f
141	Urban Žitko	Slovenia	m
142	Matevž Triplat	Slovenia	m