

A photograph of a forest path in autumn. The path is covered in fallen brown leaves and leads into the distance between tall, thin trees. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating a warm, golden glow. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

FOREST OWNERS AND FOREST ENTERPRISES COMMUNICATE ABOUT MANAGING THEIR FORESTS THROUGH FOREST PEDAGOGICS

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MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE SVOL COOPERATIVE

- ✖ SVOL – is a voluntary, non-profit making organization, associating forest owners from the whole Czech Republic
- ✖ 613 members who own 400 thous. ha (15% of forest area in the country)
- ✖ SVOL takes part in making laws and strategic documents
- ✖ SVOL collaborates with international organizations CEPF, FECOF and ELO
- ✖ SVOL organizes joint trading and forest pedagogics

MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE SVOL COOPERATIVE

- ✘ Increase respect to property rights
- ✘ Reduce the impact of state dirigism and bureaucracy
- ✘ Strengthen the balance of biological, social and wood-producing functions of the forest
- ✘ Enhance the competitiveness of forest properties
- ✘ Improve professional level of asset management

BEGINNINGS OF FOREST PEDAGOGICS AT SVOL

- ✖ Already in 2009, FP was in the scope of activities of 11 municipal forest administrations
- ✖ One of the first ones were Ostrava Municipal Forests, which organize ca 100 programmes for kindergartens and primary schools
- ✖ In June 2009, SVOL held a workshop on forest pedagogics in Hradec Králové
- ✖ In 2010, SVOL joined the document “Uniform procedure for the implementation of forest pedagogics in forest entities in the Czech Republic“
- ✖ SVOL is one of the signatories of a so-called „Ransko declaration“ from 2013, which links up with the National Forest Plan and fulfils the action plan for forests.

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- ✘ In 2012, SVOL signed up for the „ Action plan of forest pedagogics“ and among other things committed to:
 - ✘ Collaborate in the field of forest pedagogics across sectors
 - ✘ Create conditions for its members performing forest pedagogics
 - ✘ Collaborate in joint FP activities
 - ✘ Promote education of forest pedagogues
 - ✘ Emphasize significance of all forest functions and sustainable management in FP programmes

REASONS FOR PROVIDING FOREST PEDAGOGICS

- ✘ To support positive perception of forest management and put right the distorted view of green activists
- ✘ To show to the public forest as ecosystem but also as economic space
- ✘ To bring the work of foresters closer to the public
- ✘ To increase awareness about benefits provided by managed forests
- ✘ To inform the public about duties of forest owners and duties of forest visitors
- ✘ To show that caring about renewable resources we protect non-renewable resources

FOREST PEDAGOGICS IN THE OWNERS OF PRIVATE AND MUNICIPAL FORESTS

- ✗ Functioning of forest pedagogics in non-state forests is based on the decision of the management of the organization or the owner as well as on the enthusiasm of staff
- ✗ The current interest of schools exceeds the capacity of forest entities
- ✗ Business entities cannot draw subsidies for environmental education (only non-profit organizations)
- ✗ SVOL draws a part of subsidies and to a certain extent helps its members with the additional payment of forest pedagogics activities

PROJECTS OF SVOL AND ITS PARTNERS

- ✗ Projects are focused on the following target groups:
 - ✗ - children and young people up to 18 years
 - seniors
 - lay public (Week of Forest, Day of Earth, day of children, Flora Olomouc, harvest festival etc.)
- ✗ First project in 2011 on the occasion of International Day of Forests in the Pilsner region
- ✗ In 2013, a pilot SVOL project was implemented on national scale – 15 entities were involved. The project is conceived as annual. Now, 21 entities are involved.

LIST OF FP PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2011-2017

Name of the project	Number of FP events	Number of participants	Total costs (CZK)	Subsidies (Min.Agr., Region) (CZK)
Year of Forests 2011	6	1 000	83 680	30 000
Green Year of Forests 2012	4	1 595	48 337	10 000
Learning Forest 2013	482	17 500	671 875	450 000
Learning forest with all senses I. 2014	538	26 922	723 906	493 530
Learning forest with all senses II. 2015	695	27 376	692 514	481 895
Learning forest with all senses III. 2016 – part of the project focused on FP	643	29 674	686 978	438 500
Learning forest with all senses IV. 2017 – still running	plan 494	plan 19 130	plan 807 460	plan 645 000
	2862	123 197	2 907 290	2 548 925

USE OF SUBSIDIES

- ✖ Equipment of forest pedagogues with didactic aids
- ✖ Purchase of transplants and planting tools
- ✖ Transport of children to the forest
- ✖ Payment of demonstrated forest operations
- ✖ Advertisement of forest pedagogics events

USE OF FOREST PEDAGOGICS BY NON-STATE FOREST OWNERS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

- ✗ Forest pedagogics is an alternative to the „Green propaganda”
- ✗ Non-state forest owners feel greater need to explain management of their forests to the public
- ✗ Forest owners have grasped the need of becoming committed to forest pedagogics
- ✗ Sustainable forest management does not promote itself and forest pedagogics is one of tools
- ✗ Non-state forest owners exchange experience and collaborate within SVOL

USE OF FOREST PEDAGOGICS FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE ADULT PUBLIC

- ✘ In order to meet the objectives, activities of forest pedagogics ought to involve the adult public, too.
- ✘ Working with the adult public is less common and rather neglected by most entities.
- ✘ The only ones working with the adult public are usually only the forest holdings of statutory towns (Prague, Brno and Ostrava).

THEMES FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

- ✗ Meaning of forest management, defence of commercial forests against wilderness
- ✗ Sustainable forest management – explanation of forest owners' attitudes in the management of their forests
- ✗ Forest as environment for flora and fauna
- ✗ Correct behaviour of visitors to forests
- ✗ Wood as renewable raw material and reservoir of CO₂
- ✗ Other functions of the forest that can be in line with the management system
- ✗ Forest is a source of jobs for rural population

FOREST PEDAGOGICS IN CONDITIONS OF THE FOREST COOPERATIVE OF MUNICIPALITIES IN PŘIBYSLAV

- ✖ First events of forest pedagogics in 2012 – since then, 180-200 children every year in the period from May to June
- ✖ 3 persons were trained and are certified forest pedagogues now
- ✖ We collaborate with directors of schools in our participatory municipalities (44 municipalities, 19 schools)
- ✖ We also collaborate with the Vysočina Regional authority
- ✖ We collaborate with contractors in demonstrations of timber harvesting and skidding

Thank you for your
attention

