

15th European Forestpedagogics Congress

Closing speech by Serge HERMES

(Organizer 15th European Forestpedagogics Congress)

Dear Participants, Ladies & Gentleman's,

First of all, on behalf of the organizing team, it is a great pleasure for us to see that you have accepted our invitation so successfully. It is the first time in the history of our network, that our annual congress took place in a virtual manner.

We would like to have received you here in Luxembourg as presented as part of the fourteens Congress in Riga. Everything was well prepared to ensure a physical meeting, which evidently should have been, due to the topic. Amid plains and woods, strewn with lakes and rivers, Luxembourg's landscapes are enchanting as well as fascinating.

But nevertheless, aware the actuality of the convention subject, we decided not to report this congress once more but to let it take place today. However, it is never too late to visit our beautiful country, according to the motto "*I only understand what I experienced*".

I do not want to repeat the previous speakers again, but I will underline once more the unsurpassed role of the forest for the benefit of society as a whole. We have become particularly aware of this importance in today's world.

We don't know what else to expect in the future. However, it is up to us to help shape our future especially with regard to a careful handling of our natural environment. I am sure that today's congress theme enables us all to see new opportunities in environmental education and especially in the forest area, experience with all your senses.

In this spirit, I would like to close today's meeting by wishing us all courage to be engaged within the scope of experiencing nature with all our senses in order to deliver our contribution to consolidate a sustainable society which takes care about the natural wealth surrounding it.

But last but not least, I want to express my warmly gratitude to the keynote speakers, the members of the European Forestpedagogics Network and finally the close team for their patience and contribution during the last month / days / hours of the preparations. Without your active support, the congress would not have been crowned with success he now knew. As mentioned by our ministry, this congress is an outstanding example of a perfect cross-border cooperation.

As a small thank to the speakers, moderator and IT support of today's congress, you will receive during the next days a little souvenir in the form of a pleasure TOGO thermo mug offered by the Luxembourgian Forester association

I want to close with the following thoughts:

Stay connected with the society, stay connected with nature, enable the society to reconnect with nature in a physical manner.

Thank you for your interest & patience; and looking forward to next year's congress in Switzerland