



SOPRONI
EGYETEM |

The pedagogical and psychological benefits of forest

The importance of connection and communication

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What is Forest Pedagogy?

“LEARNING ABOUT THE FOREST IN THE FOREST”

- ✦ Part of environmental education
- ✦ Brings together interdisciplinary pedagogical and forestry knowledge
- ✦ Informs the community about the tasks and objectives of forestry
- ✦ Brings the general public nearer to the forest environment
- ✦ Provided by certified forest pedagogues - foresters with pedagogic knowledge and skills



Objectives of forest pedagogy

- Giving information about the forest ecosystem
- Supporting the meaningful treatment of nature
- Raising awareness for the benefits of sustainable forestry
- Communicating values

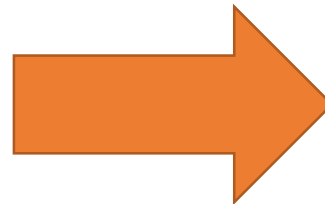
- Improving **relationships** with environment at local level
- Improving **understanding** of forest management and forests multifunctional benefits
- Promoting the continuing use of wood as renewable material to gain **social acceptance** for timber harvesting and forest management

Methods of Forest Pedagogy

Activating methods

Learning by doing

Project learning



Improving:

- 🌰 Creativity and imagination
- 🌰 Cooperative - and action - competences
- 🌰 Communication skills
- 🌰 Interdisciplinary thinking
- 🌰 Curiosity and concentration
- 🌰 Social behavior

Certified Forest Schools in Hungary

- ✦ Educational institutions
- ✦ Provides the infrastructural and organizational background for forest pedagogy
- ✦ More than 30 forest schools in Hungary (200 hectares forest area)
- ✦ Purpose: formation and development of forest-friendly and environmentally conscious behavior
- ✦ Target group: kindergarteners, school-aged children
- ✦ Programs:
 - 🍎 Forest pedagogy + Other activities
 - 🍎 Duration: 2 hours – several days
 - 🍎 Lectures, presentations; tours, class tips; camps and day-care activities



MUCK ENDRE
Erdészeti Erdei Iskola



Certified Forest Schools in Hungary



General Criteria of Certified Forest Schools

MATERIAL CONDITIONS

- 🍁 Forest area reaches 200 hectares
- 🍁 Demonstration and teaching tools and equipment
- 🍁 Safe and accident-free conduction of the programs, prepared to deal with emergency situations

PERSONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL CONDITIONS

- 🍁 Programs are conducted by a forester or a forest pedagogue
- 🍁 Leaders of forest pedagogy classes must regularly participate in the departmental meeting



Certified Forest Schools in Hungary



General criteria of Certified Forest Schools

EXPECTATIONS OF THE FOREST SCHOOL PROGRAM

- 🍁 Providing programs throughout the year
- 🍁 Adapting the programs to the seasons and the weather
- 🍁 Programs corresponding to the age characteristics of the target groups
- 🍁 The location of programs is the forest
- 🍁 Min. 8 participants/session
- 🍁 **Min. 60% of programs are forestry pedagogy sessions**

Main topics of the forest pedagogy sessions:

- 🍁 Forest as a living community (knowledge of species, ecology)
- 🍁 Forest as a renewable natural resource
- 🍁 Forest and human
- 🍁 Relationship between forest and climate
- 🍁 Sustainable forest management
- 🍁 The work of the forester

Forest Pedagogy at the University of Sopron

Subjects in MSc, Bsc and BA Training Programs

Faculty of Forestry

Engineer training programs

Forest Pedagogy and Communication

Topics:

- 🌿 Basic pedagogical concepts and methods
- 🌿 Age-appropriate pedagogies
- 🌿 Methods of forest pedagogy

Field practice (TAEG Ltd.)

Requirements of the semester:

Project work, story writing, game collection

Benedek Elek Faculty of Pedagogy

Kindergarten Educator BA

Forest Pedagogy

Topics:

- 🌿 Forest and human
- 🌿 Basics of forest management
- 🌿 Methods of forest pedagogy
- 🌿 Forest schools

Field practice (TAEG Ltd.)

Requirements of the semester:

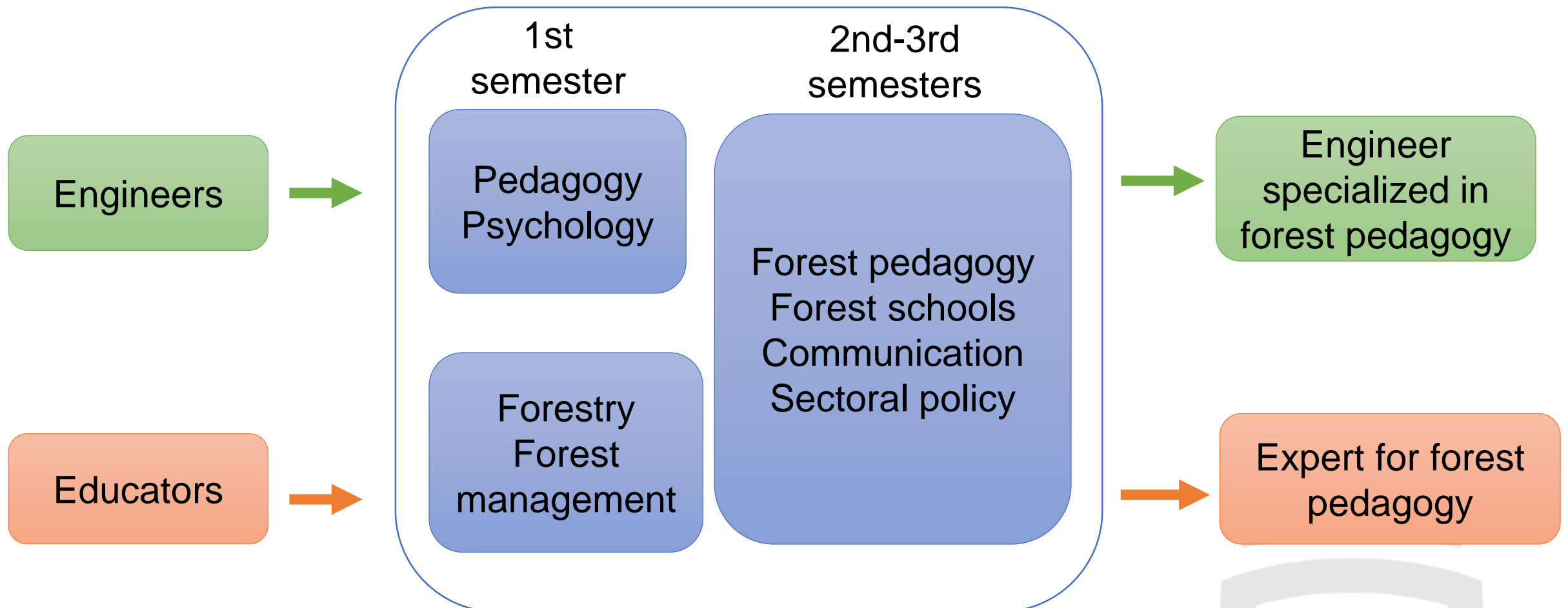
Activity plan with 6 tasks



Attitude
formation

Forest Pedagogy at the University of Sopron

Forest pedagogy postgraduate training program



Summary

Forest Pedagogy = Connection & communication:

- Between faculties
- Between forestry and pedagogy
- Between forestry and society
- Between people and nature



Why is it important?

- Develops environmental commitment and environment-protective behaviors
- Promotes a deeper insight and interest of general public in forestry
- Improves attitude of people to forests and forest management
- Improves psychological well-being



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Thank you for your attention!

