

**Memorandum of Understanding
among the Forestry Faculties of the Visegrád countries
on the cooperation in university level forestry education
and scientific research**

I. PREAMBULA

Considering similar site conditions and land use histories, as well as outstanding importance, intrinsic natural value, and socio-economic role of fully-functional forest ecosystems in Central Europe;

Being aware of the unique position of the Visegrád countries within the most preserved and resourceful parts of natural environment in Europe;

Acknowledging common paths and contributions of forestry towards society in the four countries, including conservation of biodiversity, mitigating effects of climate change, as well as;

Noting that co-operation is a far more effective way to success than competition for limited resources;

Recalling to-date success in numerous co-operations in fields of forestry higher education and scientific research, and

Taking note of the challenges effected by changing natural and socio-economic conditions that include changing perception of forestry and an ongoing re-evaluation of traditional paradigms concerning the role of forestry in the society,

The signed faculties declare their willingness to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as a basis for the multilateral cooperation on finding new ways for strengthening their position within knowledge-based society of Europe, educational and scientific markets, as well as towards national and international policy- and decision-makers;

II. AIM OF THE COOPERATION

The faculties express their mutual support and cooperation concerning forestry higher education and scientific research with the aim to increase their outlook for success in the EU, wider European, and global contexts.

III. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The participants share the view that a permanent quadrilateral working group "Co-operation among forestry faculties of the Visegrád countries" should be established, with vice-deans for international relations as permanent representatives. Tasks of the permanent WG will include elaboration of strategies, establishment of joint work programme, decisions on joint projects, steering the implementation of the projects, as well as preparation of joint meetings (more to be added). Specific working groups, e.g. on the different areas of cooperation may be installed.

IV. AREAS OF COOPERATION

The partners share the view that they should cooperate *inter alia* on the following topics:

- Carrying out an inventory of the ongoing co-operation on departmental level
- Harmonisation and interconnection of international study programs and their curricula in order to increase attractiveness/efficiency
- Joint efforts to tap emerging educational markets in various parts of Europe/world with the potential to extend faculties range and boost financial resources
- Teacher exchanges to fill the gaps in the international study programs/courses
- Involving preferably the signatory partners in international project consortia, especially concerning EU FP 7, INTRREG, LIFE+, and other similar schemes
- Organisation of conferences resulting in the publication of peer reviewed proceedings or special issues of impacted journals
- Mutual support concerning efforts to include selected national forestry periodicals among impacted/CC journals
- Dissemination of common views and policy/issues position towards politicians, policy- & decision-makers, media, society

- Establishing Central-European forestry policy think-tank that would use all means typical of similar entities, with the ambition to influence forestry and related sectoral and cross-sectoral policies

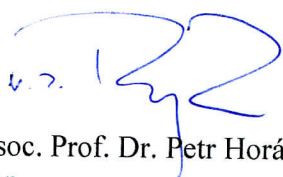
V. IMPLEMENTATION AND DURATION OF THE MOU

This MOU will remain in effect for a period of ten years from the date of signing. This MOU has been prepared in seven copies distributed among signatories.

In Ustroń – Jaszowiec (Poland), March 11, 2013

Signatories

For the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology of Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry in Brno (Czech Republic)



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Petr Horáček
dean

For the Faculty of Forestry, University of Agriculture in Kraków (Poland)



Prof. Dr. Stanisław Orzeł
dean

For the Faculty of Forestry, Poznań University of Life Sciences (Poland)



Prof. Dr. Roman Gornowicz
dean

For the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences of the Czech University of Life Sciences (CULS) in Prague (Czech Republic)



Prof. Dr. Vilém Podrázský
dean

For the Faculty of Forestry University of West Hungary, Sopron (Hungary)



Prof. Dr. András Náhlik
dean

For the Faculty of Forestry, Warsaw University of Life Sciences (Poland)



Prof. Dr. Michał Zasada
dean

For the Faculty of Forestry, Technical University in Zvolen (Slovak republic)



Prof. Dr. Rudolf Kropil
dean