

## Exchange of Experts

Czech and German foresters (1/CZ-DE/Apr2016)



*An exchange of experts facilitated by EFICENT team took place in the second week of April 2016 as a part of project In-Tree ([www.in-tree.org](http://www.in-tree.org)). Foresters from the Czech Republic came to discuss various aspects of management of introduced as well as native tree species with their German colleagues.*

The major aims of this EoE were to:

- Facilitate the transfer of skills and experience between Czech and German foresters;
- Enable adoption of appropriate and effective forest management practices;
- Discuss the relationship between forest management approaches applied in order to enhance diversity in forests in terms of species as well as structure;
- Enhance and extend the network of contacts.

This Exchange of Experts (EoE) included several site visits to community and state forests. The exchange started with a visit to **Ebrach Forest** in Upper Bavaria where an integrative approach to forest management is effectively applied. The aim of this management is to maintain high level of biodiversity in forests that are actively managed for various commercial purposes (i.e. timber and fuel wood production). The wide range of microhabitats and dead wood retention in the local forest stands were also discussed as they play a key role in this integrative approach. *Marteloscope* exercise (part of *Integrate+* project) was carried out in Steinkreutz, which is a part of Ebrach Forest, to give the exchange participants the possibility to try implementing some of the management concepts applied in Ebrach.



In the following days, the visits were located in the forests around Freiburg in Baden-Württemberg with the first visit in the south-west leading the group to *Kirchzarten*. This part of the exchange focused on the forest management of silver fir that is an important component of the native tree species composition. However, its management is rather challenging due a combination of various factors such as its drought related dieback (local effect), diverse forest management needs and trends, high deer browsing pressures, etc.



The whole Wednesday was dedicated to various aspects of the management of introduced tree species. *Freiburg City Forest* was visited where the forest management of Douglas fir, a tree species of north American origin, was discussed. Although Douglas fir is a major component of species composition on 19% of the forest area, it yields 34% from City Forest's total timber income. Given the heavy use of this municipal forest by local communities (estimated number of visitors each year is 4 – 5 million/year), the management of Freiburg City Forest also facilitates for various recreational and educational activities (e.g. mountain bike trials, jogging paths, barbeque sites, etc.). The exchange participants were again given the opportunity to do an exercise in Rosskopf Marteloscope where Douglas fir forms an important part of the species composition. Bearing in mind the importance of tree microhabitats and the current forest management plan, the exchange participants marked the stand for cutting as a part of this exercise.



The Forest District of Bad Krozingen was visited on Thursday; although the major topic was oak management, the southern-facing slopes of the local forests dominated by young Douglas firs stirred an interesting discussion regarding this non-native species. The conditions in the south-facing aspect are well suited for natural regeneration of Douglas fir that is rather prolific in many places. The system of eco-points that is currently used in this municipal Forest was also discussed as it is an interesting system used to compensate for urban development.



## Programme

Date	Location / Host	Activity
<b>11.4.2016</b> <b>Monday</b>	-	Travel (Czech Republic to Germany)
	<i>Ebrach Forest</i> Uli Mergner (BaySF)	Integrative forest management concept of Ebrach Forest
	<i>Steinkreuz Marteloscope - Ebrach Forest</i> EFICIENT Team	Microhabitat management and biodiversity conservation
<b>12.4.2016</b> <b>Tuesday</b>	-	Travel from Ebrach to Freiburg
	<i>Kirchzaten</i> Hans-Ulrich Hayn (ForstBW)	Management of silver fir Baden-Württemberg
<b>13.4.2016</b> <b>Wednesday</b>	<i>Freiburg City Forest</i> EFICIENT Team & Hubertus Nimsch (retired forester)	Management of Douglas fir in Freiburg City Forest
	<i>Freiburg City Forest</i> EFICIENT Team	Roskopf Marteloscope training (Integrate <sup>+</sup> ): management of Douglas fir dominated stands
<b>14.4.2016</b> <b>Thursday</b>	<i>Staufen Forest - Bad Krozingen Forest District</i> Johannes Wiesler (ForstBW)	Oak and Douglas fir management in lowland forests on south-facing slopes
	<i>Schönberg</i>	Silvo-pastoral systems and oak management
	-	Travel (Germany to Czech Republic)

## Participants:

Pavel Bednář (Czech Academy of Sciences – Czech Globe)  
 Jakub Černý (Mendel University Brno)  
 Ladislav Šimerda (Municipal Forests Opočno)  
 Petr Bednář (Municipal Forests Pelhřimov)  
 Pavel Čacký (Training Forest Enterprise Masaryk Forest Křtiny)  
 Ondřej Budík (Training Forest Enterprise Masaryk Forest Křtiny)  
 Jaroslav Mrázek (Church Forests Enterprise)  
 Petr Hromádka (Church Forests Enterprise)  
 Jiří Souček (VÚLHM, Opočno)  
 Renata Smolíková (VÚLHM, Opočno)

## Translation:

Lucie Vítková (EFICIENT)  
 Pavel Bednář (Czech Academy of Sciences – Czech Globe)



## **Conclusion**

Four days of interesting programme provided all participating parties with plentiful opportunities to exchange information, knowledge and expertise. This successful EoE inspired new ways of thinking and approaching specific tasks. It also provided foundation for a variety of options on future decision making for all involved in this EoE. Given the range of topics covered, the clear link between various topics was demonstrated and showed that all relevant stakeholders need to be involved in order to adopt a successful forest management method or approach.

Although the shared expertise and knowledge provide more options for forest management and widens perspectives, it does not necessarily find ultimate solutions for specific problems. However, the expert exchange offers tools and options that can be used to support decision making, policy, practice, teaching and research. EoE's are therefore considered as showcases for cost effective tools for necessary knowledge transfer.

This EoE helped to substantially broaden contacts network and established the basis for further cooperation and mutual support. Importantly, the Czech foresters came as guests and left as friends.

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