



FORWARDS project

5-day event with a focus on climate-smart forestry

7-11th of October, 2024, Latvia

Climate-Smart Forestry (CSF) embodies a comprehensive forest management approach that seeks to integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, thereby enhancing forest resilience and yielding a broad array of ecosystem services (Nabuurs et al. 2017, Jandl et al. 2018, Yousefpour et al. 2018; Bowditch et al. 2020, Verkerk et al. 2020). In relation to carbon sequestration, forest management should aim to conserve high carbon-stock density forests which are not at high risk of disturbances, while focusing on biomass production on areas with high disturbance risk and high-quality wood production in areas with low disturbance risk (Nabuurs et al. 2013).

The aims of the FORWARDS project are to develop, test and implement a European observatory that will provide important information on the vulnerability of European forests to climate change and guidance for climate-smart forests (CSF) and restoration management. Societal involvement is essential to ensure that recommended approaches are feasible and acceptable. Thus, FORWARDS intend to engage with all relevant stakeholders in co-developing CSF outcomes.

The project FORWARDS as well aims to gather information on forest trials that are of relevance for climate-smart forestry, contributing to closing knowledge gaps for forest adaptation, mitigation as well as socio-economic functions.

**The project FORWARDS with a collaboration to
Latvian State Forest Research Institute Silava invites you to learn
more about climate-smart forestry**



Dates: October 7- 11, 2024

Place: Latvia (Mežmāja, Šķēde) and partly hybrid

Fees: free of charge

Working language: English

The event offers you a possibility to attend:

- ✓ **PhD Autumn School 2024** “Climate-smart forestry – Northern European perspective” October 7-9, 2024.
- ✓ **International conference Old-growth forests: policy and practice**” October 10, 2024 (in-person and online).
- ✓ **Forest site visit to FORWARDS project Demo site (Latvia)** October 11, 2024.

PhD Autumn School 2024

“Climate-smart forestry – Northern European perspective”

Participants will take part in lectures given by prominent forestry experts - FORWARDS project partners, and will have a possibility to exchange knowledge on climate smart forestry (CSF) aspects across the Europe and different forest growing conditions. The participants are expected to present their research thesis on climate-smart forestry or related forestry topic. This will provide an opportunity for networking, exchanging knowledge and building on FORWARDS project cutting edge knowledge on forestry methods, considering the expected climate change impacts.

As a part of activities, the young researchers will develop a climate-smart-forestry-related visuals with an aim to attract and inform general society about the importance of forestry methods that are considering climate change.

The outcome will serve as a part of FORWARDS project event in 2025 (Forest days in Latvia), spreading information on CSF to broad civil society.

In each of these 3 days, we will have indoor part with lectures from invited speakers and participants, and site visit part to research plots, where the effects are measured, with on-site discussions about measurement techniques used to answer particular research questions and some of the results obtained and how these results can be/ are applied in practice as part of climate-smart forestry.

Application and registration

To register, fill the form accessible until September 22, 2024: <https://forms.gle/KAz7TUdPiqcgQeCV6>

Location and accommodation

The Autumn school will take place in a comfortable guest house Mežmāja, Škēde. Mežmāja is situated close to town Talsi (8 km), and is a hour and a half drive from Rīga (120 km), the capital of Latvia. We will provide transfer to the venue - the transfer is planned on October 6, 2024 (late evening) and/or on October 10, early morning (tbc). Transfer is free of charge.

Dining and accommodation in shared rooms with other participants will be provided.



Audience

This Autumn school primarily targets PhD students in forestry, focusing on climate-smart forestry or related forestry topics. Attendance is limited to 15 participants.

Tentative program

Sunday, 6.10.2024	Arrival to Rīga, transfer to Mežmāja in the evening
Monday, 7.10.2024	Lectures and site visit in Tukums forest, students' presentations
Tuesday, 8.10.2024	Lectures and site visit in Šķēde forest, students' presentations
Wednesday, 9.10.2024	Lectures and work on own projects, project presentations
Thursday, 10.10.2024	International conference "Old-growth forests: policy and practice"
Friday, 11.10.2024	FORWARDS project Demo site visit, field trip to old-growth forests, departure

For PhD Autumn School 2024 possible application by ERASMUS programme.

Forest site visit to Forwards project Demo site (Latvia), October 11, 2024

PhD Autumn School participants are kindly invited to join the Conference (October 10, 2024) and forest site visit (October 11, 2024) to learn more about hemiboreal forests and climate smart forestry on site.

The focus of the FORWARDS demo site is to test wind resistance and resilience in peat restoration areas. This state-owned research forest is home to several scientific research experiments and environmental monitoring facilities which are established in support to providing forestry education and training to university students and forest managers.

See you in Latvia!



For further questions related to the Autumn school and conference, please contact Laura Ķēniņa by email: laura.kenina@silava.lv