

Green Forest Jobs: Exploring opportunities and increasing the capacity of UNECE member States

Introduction by the Session Facilitator
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Health, well-being and forest recreation



Quality of background information and evidence

- Cost Action 39 for example: „ There is increasing evidence for a positive relationship between the amount of green space and self-reported indicators of physical and mental health“
(source: COSTaction www.39.eu)
- But still there is no substantial progress to a better understanding how forests, its products or green environments improve human health!
- Nevertheless the positive impact of forests on human health and well being is known and increasingly acknowledged.
- There is substantial progress to a better understanding how forests, its products or green environments improve human health, but there is a still big lack of realization of this big potential from forest owners!

Multifunctional services/measurable benefits of urban forest and green areas for human health

- Increased physical activity and reduced obesity
- Reduced stress levels and improvements in mental health
- Reductions in noise levels – which can improve mental and physical health
- Lower levels of violence and crime – which can reduce the risk of many health outcomes
- Improvements in hospital recovery times
- Increased social interactions which can help to improve overall well-being
- Saving costs in the health sector

(source: Faculty of Public Health London 2010)

Major Drivers of Global megatrends

- Urbanisation, ageing societies in Europe, migration

The ageing societies will demand more services provided by forests and green areas ?

- Climate change, environmental degradation
- Global pressure on resources
- Digitalisation
- Societies in socio-economic transition

and

- How do megatrends impact on Green Forest Jobs development in the thematic area of health and recreation?