SUFAREL meeting in Helsinki 21 September 2012

The University of Eastern Finland

School of Forest Sciences - Quality assurance of master degree programmes

Pauliina Karvinen (MSc Agr. & For.), international planning officer

UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN FINLAND

Contents

1. UEF – a new university
2. School of Forest Sciences
3. What is quality?
4. Quality management in UEF School of Forest Sciences
5. CASE: MSc European Forestry

University of Eastern Finland – university of the future

- Born 1 January 2010

- Created due to a merger of University of Kuopio and University of Joensuu

- Three special areas of expertise:

1. Forests and environment;

2. Health and well-being;

3. New technologies and materials

KUOPIO ●

JOENSUU ●

SAVONLINNA ●

UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND
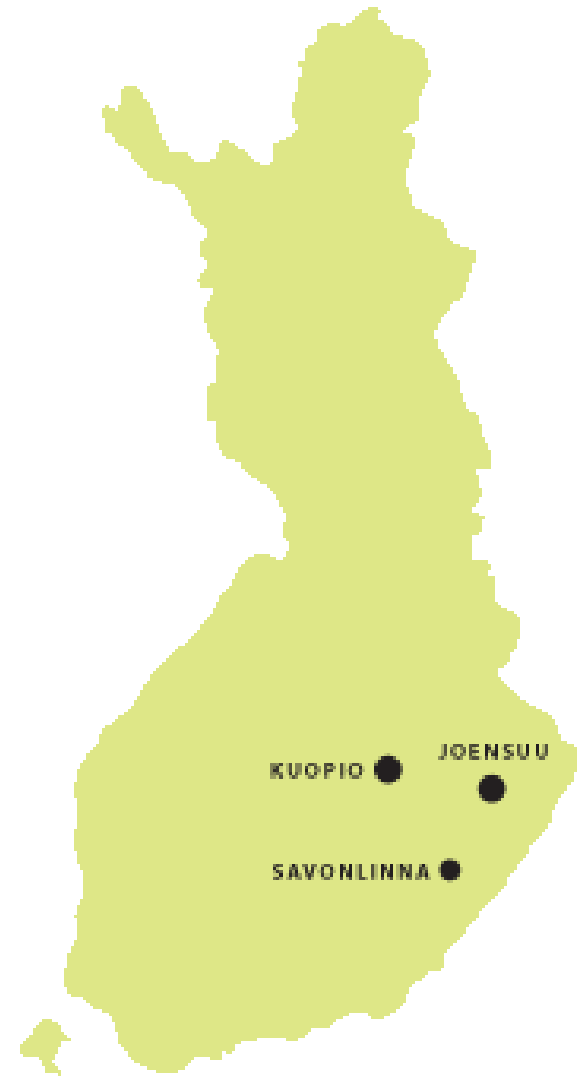
UEF School of Forest Sciences – international, interdisciplinary and interactive

- 15 professors, 6 university researchers, 54 researchers

- 200 BSc/MSc students

- Key areas of research:

1. Silviculture and forest management

2. Forest inventory and planning

3. Forest technology and logistics

UEF School of Forest Sciences **– international,** interdisciplinary and interactive

- 23% of research and teaching staff are non-Finns
- 100 publications in international refereed journals annually
- 22% of BSc/MSc students and 40% of DSc students are non-Finns
- 100 exchange students annually
- Extensive participation in research and education networks: SILVA, IPFE, Erasmus Mundus, NOVA, CBU, EU-Canada, Marie Curie

UEF School of Forest Sciences **–** international, **interdisciplinary** and interactive

- Forest economy – business studies
- Forest inventory – remote sensing
- Forest technology – engineering
- Wood material science – chemistry, physics, biology
- Forest biomass – energy and biofuels
- Silviculture and forest protection – biology, environmental studies

UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND

UEF School of Forest Sciences – international, interdisciplinary and **interactive**

- 3 joint professorships with Metla, EFI and SYKE (Finnish Environment Institute)

- Joint projects with regional actors in North Karelia e.g. University of Applied Sciences, Regional Council, Centre for Economic Development and Chamber of Commerce

- Close cooperation with enterprises e.g. Stora Enso, Arbonaut Ltd., UPM that offer students internships and thesis placements

- 4 joint MSc and 1 DSc programme with universities worldwide

UEF School of Forest Sciences **–** international, interdisciplinary and **interactive**

- Joint professorships with Metla, EFI and SYKE (Finnish Environment Institute)
- Joint projects with regional actors in North Karelia e.g. University of Applied Sciences, Regional Council, Centre for Economic Development and Chamber of Commerce
- Close cooperation with enterprises e.g. Stora Enso, Arbonaut Ltd., UPM that offer students internships and thesis placements
- 4 joint MSc and 1 DSc programme with universities worldwide

MSc European Forestry with BOKU, Freiburg, SLU, Lleida, AgroParisTech and Wageningen (Brazil, China)

MSc Forestry and Environmental Engineering (CBU) with Petrozavodsk, St.Petersburg, Moscow and Helsinki

Transatlantic Forestry Master with New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, Friburg, SLU and Bangor

MSc in Bio-Economy and Natural Resources Management in Ghana

GSForest Graduate School with Helsinki and Oulu

This is to say that UEF School of Forest Sciences is in dialogue with its customers and interest groups

UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND

This is to say that UEF School of Forest Sciences is in dialogue with its customers and interest groups

What has that got to do with quality?

UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND

What is quality?

- "Quality is the totality of features and characteristics of a product or service that bears its ability to satisfy stated or implied needs."

UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND

What is quality?

- "Quality is the totality of features and characteristics of a product or service that bears its ability to satisfy stated or implied needs."

- "Quality means the product or service does what it is intended to do."

UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND

What is quality?

- "Quality is the totality of features and characteristics of a product or service that bears its ability to satisfy stated or implied needs."

- "Quality means the product or service does what it is intended to do."

- "Quality is about meeting the needs and expectations of customers."

UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND

Quality management at the
UEF School of Forest Sciences

From dialogue to recognising the needs of customers and interest groups

- Students – employment opportunities
- Employers – up-to date substance knowledge, communication skills, international experience
- Local actors – regional development
- International research community – ethically sustainable and relevant input
- International partnership universities – relevant research-based education
- Sponsors – high quality research and education

UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN FINLAND

From dialogue to recognising the needs of customers and interest groups

- **Students – employment opportunities**
- **Employers – up-to date substance knowledge, communication skills, international experience**
- Local actors – regional development
- International research community – ethically sustainable and relevant input
- **International partnership universities – relevant research-based education**
- Sponsors – high quality research and education

From dialogue to goal setting towards quality in education

1. Tuition has solid foundations on research

2. Students grow to think critically, internationally and ethically

3. Graduate students have both the knowledge and skills to meet the challenges of working life as well as have the ability to life-long learning and self development

4. Researcher-teachers are motivated and pedagogically able

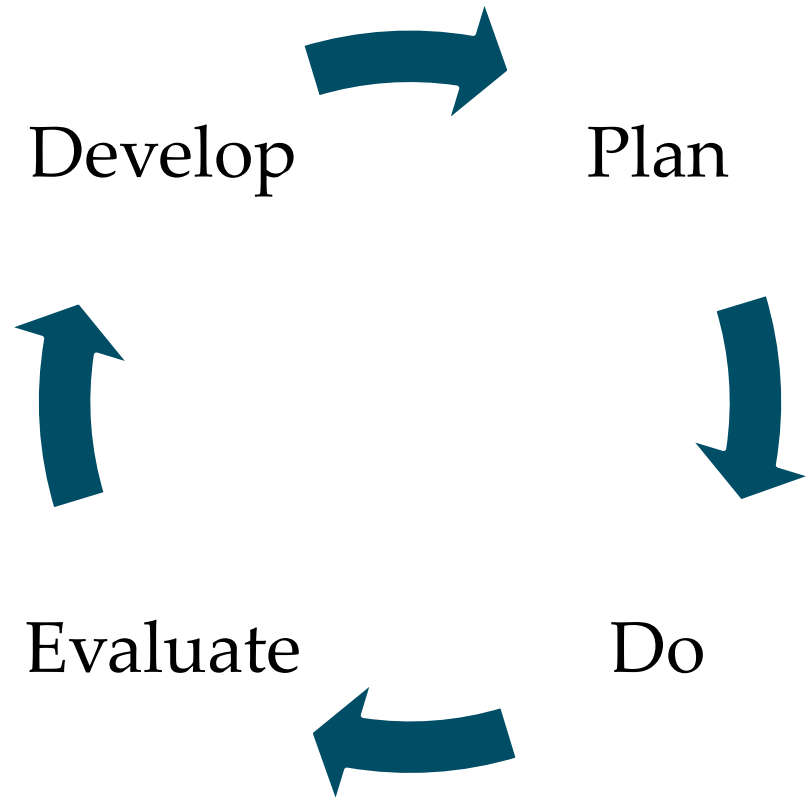5. Teaching methods are innovative and student counseling is well-organised

Quality management
– an on-going development process

Develop   Plan

Evaluate   Do

UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND
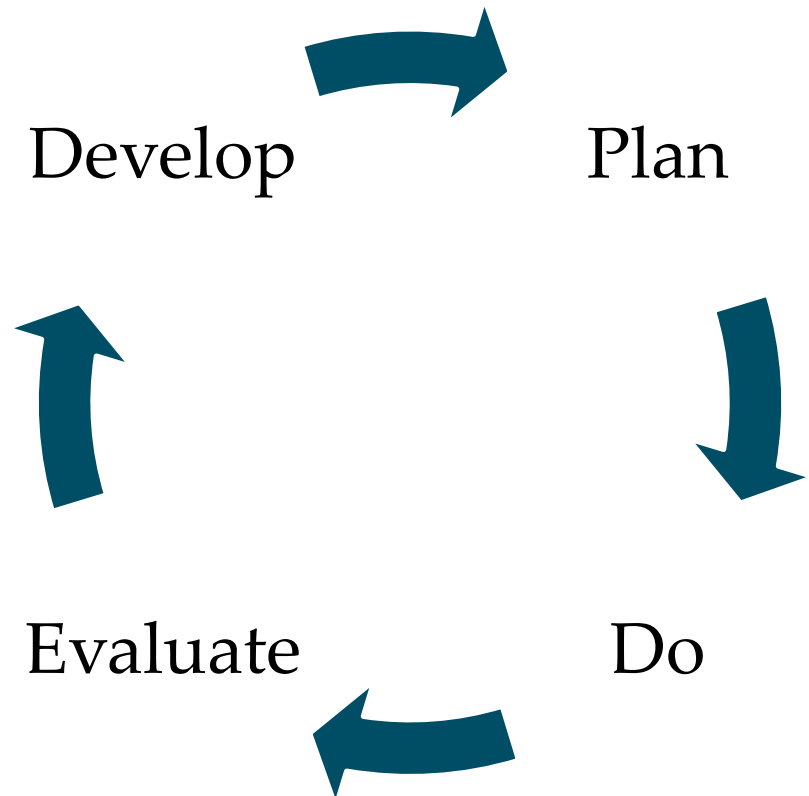
Quality management
– an on-going development process

- Self evaluation
- Benchmarking
- Feedback
- Employer surveys
- Internal and external audits

Develop

Plan

Evaluate

Do

Quality assurance of MSc programmes – Case: MSc European Forestry

MSc European Forestry – a joint programme of seven universities

- Strong element of benchmarking – take the best practice and implement it

- Structured student and teacher feedback collection and analysis

- Broad connections with employers – structured internships

- Curriculum is renewed every five years – employer survey

- External audit every five years

- Self evaluation indicators

UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND

MSc European Forestry – a joint programme of seven universities

- Strong element of benchmarking – take the best practice and implement it

- Structured student and teacher feedback collection and analysis

- Broad connections with employers – structured internships

- Curriculum is renewed every five years – employer survey

- External audit every five years

- Self evaluation indicators

1. N:o of applicants
2. N:o of admissions
3. Succession rate
4. Graduation time
5. Employment rate after 0, 6 and 12 months after graduation

UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN FINLAND

MSc European Forestry – quality assurance tools

1. **Self evaluation**: Erasmus Mundus Quality Assurance for International Higher Education Courses www.emqa.eu

UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND

		1	2	3	4	5
6	How do teaching and learning activities progress coherently?	○	○	○	○	●
7	How are students provided with core competences required to take the course?	○	○	○	○	●
8	What form of academic induction process is in place for students?	○	○	○	○	●
9	Before students arrive what academic advice is provided about required knowledge and competences?	○	●	○	○	○
10	How are all the consortium staff (academic, administrative, technical etc.) prepared for intercultural working?	○	○	●	○	○

UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND

MSc European Forestry – quality assurance tools

1. **Self evaluation**: Erasmus Mundus Quality Assurance for International Higher Education Courses www.emqa.eu

2. **External accreditation**: EAALS – European Accreditation Agency for the Life Sciences: *Handbook for the quality assurance and accreditation of international master degree programmes in the life sciences* www.eaals.eu

UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND

CATEGORIES	BENCHMARKS	GENERAL INDICATORS	SPECIFIC INDICATORS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME
		• Are the learning outcomes consistent with the needs of stakeholders?	
2. Educational Process (Teaching, Learning, Assessment, Guidance)	2.1 Curriculum planning	• Does the curriculum ensure the achievement of the learning outcomes? • Are the contents of the various parts of the curriculum well matched? • Does the curriculum ensure that students continue to build upon acquired knowledge and skills and • How is unnecessary overlap or repetition avoided? • How does the teaching and learning interact with the development of the discipline's science and knowledge ?	• How does the curriculum address the expectations of the international students • What is the added value of delivering the curriculum internationally through the contribution by the partner institutions? • How do you ensure that students maximise the benefit of the international dimension of the degree programme brought about by the involvement of the partner institutions in the delivery of the degree programme?
	2.2 Teaching and learning process	• How does the strategy of teaching and learning achieve the learning outcomes? • How does the HEI ensure that students enrolled on the programme have the prerequisite knowledge and attitude to achieve the learning outcomes in the expected time?	• How does the teaching and learning strategy consider the cultural background of international students? (e.g. language skills, independent learning) • What are the teaching and learning strategies you use to generate added value from delivering the programme to an international mix of students? • What are the teaching and learning strategies you use to generate added value from delivering the degree programme by two or more institutions (delivering the programme internationally)?
	2.3 Assessment of learning outcomes	• How has the assessment process been designed to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes? • How are students informed of and given guidance in the assessment and grading procedures?	• How do you manage the different assessment and grading procedures and rules used by the different participating institutions to ensure equivalence? • Do the students benefit from this diversity in the assessment and grading procedures?

MSc European Forestry – quality assurance tools

1. **Self evaluation**: Erasmus Mundus Quality Assurance for International Higher Education Courses www.emqa.eu

2. **External accreditation**: EAALS – European Accreditation Agency for the Life Sciences: *Handbook for the quality assurance and accreditation of international master degree programmes in the life sciences* www.eaals.eu

3. **Structured feedback collection**: written feedback from students and teachers – feedback analysis and action plan once a year

MSc European Forestry – quality assurance tools

1. **Self evaluation**: Erasmus Mundus Quality Assurance for International Higher Education Courses www.emqa.eu

2. **External accreditation**: EAALS – European Accreditation Agency for the Life Sciences: *Handbook for the quality assurance and accreditation of international master degree programmes in the life sciences* www.eaals.eu

3. **Structured feedback collection**: written feedback from students and teachers – feedback analysis and action plan once a year

4. **Benchmarking projects**: best practice work shops, arranged when needed

MSc European Forestry – quality assurance tools

1. **Self evaluation**: Erasmus Mundus Quality Assurance for International Higher Education Courses www.emqa.eu

2. **External accreditation**: EAALS – European Accreditation Agency for the Life Sciences: *Handbook for the quality assurance and accreditation of international master degree programmes in the life sciences* www.eaals.eu

3. **Structured feedback collection**: written feedback from students and teachers – feedback analysis and action plan once a year

4. **Benchmarking projects**: best practice work shops, arranged when needed

5. **Alumni and employer surveys**: every five years to support curriculum development

UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN FINLAND

Thank you for your attention!

Pauliina Karvinen

UEF, School of Forest Sciences

pauliina.karvinen@uef.fi

+358 504 4422 572

UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND