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Session Chair	Session 7.2	Gender and inclusivity in forest sciences: theoretical and empirical insights.
Presentations	Session 7.2	<i>Gender and inclusivity in forest sciences: theoretical and empirical insights.</i>

*Abstract Session 7.2 – Women in the forest sector: present but not decisive? Evidence from the Danube region.*

Over the last two to three decades, the forest sector attracted a rising interest among women with ambitions for professional careers. Despite their significant shares in higher education programs of up to 40%, women are largely absent in top leadership positions however. The present contribution addresses this gap with evidence from a comparative cross-country report on the status of women in the so-called Danube region including Austria, Bavaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Ukraine. The status report is a deliverable of the Interreg project Fem4Forest. The Fem4Forest project aims at highlighting different roles for women in forestry and in forest supply chains. It explores possibilities for more active participation of women in the forest sector and in decision-making. The status report serves as an important evidence source for further actions. The representational data made available in the report allows to specify the general claim that the presence of women in the forest workforce does not necessarily translate into decisionmaking positions, and to sketch a nuanced picture. Two sources of literature are tapped to identify additional factors that help explaining why representational gaps exist: research on female leaders in male-dominated industries as well as the growing body of literature on enablers and constraints of innovation in the forest sector. The cross-country analysis reveals the potential impact of sectoral logics and path dependencies on female careers in the forest sector, and thus complements accounts, which emphasize the salience of attitudes and norms.