



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

2018

Call for Proposals

Forestry Skills Training 2018 -2020

CALL SPECIFICATION

DEADLINE FOR COMPLETED APPLICATION SUBMISSION:

Friday 25th May 2018

IN PDF AND BUDGET IN SPREAD SHEETS VIA EMAIL TO: christine.smith@agriculture.gov.ie

All responses to this Call for Submission of Proposals will be treated in confidence and no information contained therein will be communicated to any third party without the written permission of the applicant except insofar as is specifically required for the consideration and evaluation of the proposal or where co-funded, for the monitoring and evaluation of project and programme outcomes, or as may be required under law, including the Freedom of Information Act 2014, and in accordance with the conditions of that Act.

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1 Introduction

The forest industry, comprising the growing, harvesting and processing of forest products makes a significant and increasing contribution to the Irish economy, currently estimated at €2.3 billion when both indirect and induced effects are taken into account. The sector employs some 12,000 individuals in the economy. Ireland's forests support a vibrant, export-oriented forest products sector with over 75% of the output of Ireland's sawmilling, and 80% of wood based panel production being exported. In 2016, 3.35 million cubic metres of roundwood was available for processing in the Republic of Ireland, a 3.2% increase on 2015. The latest all Ireland roundwood forecast shows that output is expected to increase to almost 8 million cubic metres by 2035, most of this increase coming from private forest owners.

It is vital that the potential for continued growth in overseas markets for Irish timber products, particularly in the UK and the BENELUX countries, is fully exploited. An essential component of a healthy forest industry rooted in the rural economy is a guaranteed steady supply of timber. The Forestry Programme 2014 – 2020 is the EU approved instrument for State funding for the further development of the forestry sector. Measures to ensure a sustainable supply of timber are supported through measures that address the following needs;

- Need number 1: Increase the level of forest cover
- Need number 2: Increase supply of forest-based biomass to bridge expected supply gap by 2020 and beyond
- Need number 3: To support private forest holders in actively managing their forests
- Need number 4: Enhance the environmental and social benefits of new and existing forests

Appropriate training of forestry professionals will address the needs above by ensuring a high standard of forest management throughout the forest life cycle. Most importantly training at this level will contribute towards minimising the risk of injury to individuals working in what can sometimes be a dangerous working environment.

2 Need for skills training.

Due to the high level of risk involved in forestry operations, both from a personal injury and environmental damage perspective, skills training is critical to ensure that all operators including future forestry professionals are fully competent to carry out their tasks. The ongoing availability of the appropriate skills training in the forestry sector is absolutely vital to ensure a safe and productive industry that manages the environment in a responsible manner.

Training in forestry skills contributes to the goals of sustainable forest management and helps to ensure that everyone working in the forest industry is trained to a high standard. Forest operations require specialised skills and without training many operators would be non-compliant with health and safety legislation. Funding for forest skills training forges the opportunity to invest in a sustainable and diverse industry which can build confidence and enhance prospects for development in the future.

Higher education students, by choosing to study a course in forestry, have made a commitment to a career in the forestry sector. These students are important stakeholders in Irish forestry, as disseminators of forest policy to the wider community and future leaders of the sector. In addition certificates of competency are a pre-requisite in many cases for employment due to insurance concerns. Many jobs in forestry, for which students and recent graduates are highly suitable, require these certificates of competency.

3 Objectives

The purpose of this call for proposals is to invite training institutions to submit training proposals which build forestry knowledge and capacity amongst future and existing forestry professionals in the area of forest establishment and wood mobilisation with a special focus on health and safety. Proposals should have a strong emphasis on practical experience where appropriate and should aim to provide relevant and up-to-date training to meet new developments or priorities in the forestry sector.

4 Policy framework

Targeted training is a measure under the Forestry Programme 2014 – 2020 whose aims include the provision of sufficient numbers of adequately trained harvesting (including chainsaw) and forwarding operatives thereby removing a potential barrier to timber mobilisation. It is vital these operatives are trained to the highest standard with regard to health and safety. Training proposals for professional users of Plant Protection Products (PPPs) must be in line with the Departments' 'National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides'.

5 Replies

Replies should include confirmation of the following;

- a) The course is relevant in terms of contributing to forest sector needs, describe;
- b) The training institution would not be in a position to fund the course without the support of the Department (DAFM);
- c) The course is relevant to the students who will be trained and that they have not already received this training;

Where adequate confirmation of the above is not provided the reply will not be evaluated further and the proposal will be turned down.

Replies should also include the following;

- a) Quality and experience of individuals proposed to deliver course content;
- b) Track record in delivering similar courses;
- c) Qualification received, formally recognised by the wider industry,
- d) Health and safety content

Further information on each course proposed should be presented as follows;

Skills course title	Course students attending (description and level)	Expected dates for holding the course	Duration of course	Estimated cost per student	No. of students participating	Total cost
Total Funding Sought						

VAT Rate =

This table should be completed for the remaining period of 2018, and for the two remaining years of the Forestry Programme, 2019 and 2020. These costs must be fixed and therefore must remain valid for the reference period ie. up to 2020.

This call for proposals is aimed at training students registered on full-time forestry programmes at QQI Level 5 and above. Examples would be the Level 5 Certificate in Forestry, Level 7 Bachelor of Science in Forestry or Level 8 Bachelor of Agricultural Science in Forestry. The Department may seek confirmation that students participating in the course are registered as full time students as stated in the table above.

All replies should be e mailed to christine.smith@agriculture.gov.ie by 4pm on Friday the 25th May 2018.

6 Evaluation criteria

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria;

Criteria	Marks to be awarded
Quality and experience of individuals proposed to deliver course content	20
Track record in delivering similar courses	10
Qualification received, formally recognised by the wider industry, (Y- 100% of marks awarded, N – 0 marks awarded)	10
Health and safety content (course content should be included where appropriate highlight Health and safety aspects)	10
Total	50

Depending on budgetary provision not all proposals evaluated will be funded. Where the budget may be exceeded, proposals will be shortlisted based on the points received. The Department may also decide to offer funding which is less than the amount sought or turn down one course in the proposal but fund another.

For successful candidates funding will be approved on an annual basis for the coming year. Therefore approval in one year does not guarantee funding for the other remaining year(s).

7 Further information

Further information on this call for Proposals can be sought from

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