

# RADKA STOLARIKOVÁ

ROLE MODEL  
IN FORESTRY SECTOR

## HER CAREER

Her career began after graduation from the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences in Prague. She worked there as a researcher and teaching assistant. Subsequently, she worked for Military forests and estates (state forestry company in the Czech Republic) as an enumeration officer and then started teaching at a secondary school. She is currently working there as a headmistress.

## PERCEPTIVE ABOUT THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN FORESTRY

Women's position is not the same as position of men. If woman wants to be at a top position, she has to make the decision of putting her career in front of her personal life.

On the one hand, she thinks that women are better suited for administrative activities. As a rule, they are able to do this kind of work carefully and neatly. On the other hand, she does not think that there is any job for which a woman is not suitable.

## EXPERIENCES WITH WOMEN WORKING IN FORESTRY SECTOR

Jobs in forestry are physically and mentally demanding with high level of responsibility. To succeed, women have to be as good and as strong as their male colleagues. Women must be experienced and educated. For leading positions, they must have „sharp elbows“, to put emotions aside which can be a problem because men can make decisions with icy calm, women need to have the answer in a moment.

## ABOUT RADKA

Year of birth: 1986

Work position: Headmistress of the  
High school of forestry Žlutice

Professional background in forestry  
(education: doctoral)

Experience in forestry: 11 years



## WHAT SHOULD BE DONE FOR BETTER INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN FORESTRY SECTOR?

Better explanation of job positions and their description – not to discourage potential candidates. For many job positions (such as forest district manager) it is also hard to imagine the possibility of flexible working hours or home office. Another option could be courses preparing women to work in higher positions. For example, management courses, where women will work on their self-confidence and psyche etc. so that women lose their shyness in front of men.

Also promotion of forestry (starting from primary schools) will be helpful. Explain to pupils that women can also work in forestry, not only men. Above all, promote women and forestry so that the public gets used to it.



### INTERESTING INITIATIVES WHICH HELPED WOMEN WITH THEIR CAREER

Nothing particular but Radka gave examples of women in senior management positions who do their job well and have an indispensable role in an (other) all-male team. She stated that these women in particular were experienced, fearless and ambitious and that helped them to pursue in their careers.

## KEY MESSAGES FOR YOUNG FEMALE IN EARLY CAREER

Do not be afraid.  
Grit your teeth.  
Go for your goals.  
Whenever fall, get up.

Motivate women, mostly for sustainable economy.  
Think not only about themselves, but also for future.

Help to restore the shine of forests and forestry professions, especially when forestry and hunting are already in UNESCO. Mainly because forestry is a family that is based on communication and traditions that you will not find in any other sector.



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