

HELENA ZECHNER

ROLE MODEL IN FORESTRY SECTOR

HER CAREER

From an early age it was clear to Helena Zechner that she would one day choose a profession that had something to do with agriculture and forestry.

At the age of fourteen she chose the Holztechnikum Kuchl, a five-year technical college with a focus on wood management, for her further school career.

After graduating from high school, she worked in a large sawmill for several years and was responsible for organization, logistics and accounting.

Last year she switched to the Styrian Forest Association as a forest worker and loves working in the forest with the rural forest owners in her new job. On site in the forest, she is responsible for wood harvesting, wood marketing and wood removal, takes care of afforestation and forest maintenance and also does public relations work with forest tours.

PERCEPTIVE ABOUT THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN FORESTRY

Helena Zechner is of the opinion that forestry offers a wide range of different areas of work and that it should be selected which activity suits you best and is a pleasure.

EXPERIENCES WITH WOMEN WORKING IN FORESTRY SECTOR

Forestry is very traditional, so there are still many old clichés. Helena Zechner is convinced, however, that if women are enthusiastic about something, it can be implemented successfully and without problems.

ABOUT HELENA

Helena is 25 years old and has been working in forestry for six years.

She is a forest helper in the Murtal region and coaches forest management with the forestry work for the members of the Styrian Forest Association.

At her job, she loves working in the forest, in nature and the contact, the conversations with the forest owners.



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

There has to be a "role reversal". Men have to be more involved in raising children and in the household.

The creation of more part-time jobs in forestry should be aimed for in order to combine family and work.

Helena Zechner sees it as important that young people have a high level of practical relevance during their training in order to find out their own strengths at an early stage.



INTERESTING INITIATIVES WHICH HELPED WOMEN WITH THEIR CAREER

Helena Zechner gained a lot of her forestry experience in her parents' business and in the rural youth.

With the rural youth they were a team of two girls who, together with the boys, changed chains at forest competitions, cut notches, ... participated and had great fun.

KEY MESSAGES FOR YOUNG FEMALE IN EARLY CAREER

Working in forestry does not mean eight hours of hard physical labor - there are many different areas of activity for working in nature!

There is a place in forestry for every enthusiast!

It is important not to let yourself get down, you have to have a strong will and consistently pursue your goal!



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