

# VALENTINA KIRNBAUER

## ROLE MODEL IN FORESTRY SECTOR

### HER CAREER

She attended studies in wood and natural fiber technology and completed a master's degree in wood technology and management at BOKU Vienna.

In addition to her master's degree, she got into the family company and the private forest professionally in 2010, and from there she took on ongoing agendas.

In recent years Valentina and her father have increasingly taken over the management of the family-run sawmill.

### PERCEPTIVE ABOUT THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN FORESTRY

Men are usually more the matter-of-fact thinkers / logicians, whereas women, in addition to these characteristics, bring in that certain something of feeling and intuition, which often makes the small subtle difference.

Men are more confident than women; Men don't think about everything to death, but rather try it than women, regardless of whether they fail or not, but it's worth a try -> Valentina thinks this is a quality that women should finally learn too. .

### EXPERIENCES WITH WOMEN WORKING IN FORESTRY SECTOR

In forestry, as in every male-dominated industry, Valentina has made the experience that women or young women are "laughed at" and underestimated. But Valentina doesn't see this as a disadvantage - you can only win if you are underestimated!

There are definitely differences between women and men, and that's a good thing. Valentina is convinced that you need both in order to be successful, in order to be able to make balanced decisions.

## ABOUT VALENTINA

Valentina is a trained expert in wood technology and management.

She is a manager in her own family's sawmill.

She is also a forest manager and runs the family's own forestry business together with her father.



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

Women need women role models to be able to imagine that they can do it.

In forestry, as in other industries, women simply need the opportunity to prove themselves.

The process has already improved in the last few years or decades and will steadily improve as the decision-makers change. New generations are moving into the decision-making position who already have a completely different attitude to this topic.

The person who is most likely to correspond to the subjective opinion should not be chosen, but rather who best fits into the company and has the required qualifications, regardless of whether it is a woman or a man.



### INTERESTING INITIATIVES WHICH HELPED WOMEN WITH THEIR CAREER

Women who have achieved something and have established themselves in the "male-dominated" forest or wood industry must be brought before the curtain. Regardless of whether these women have taken over the management of a company or have taken on a management position.

Women need female role models so that they can imagine this path for themselves.

## KEY MESSAGES FOR YOUNG FEMALE IN EARLY CAREER

Dare to do something without thinking too long about the possible failure or consequences- Perseverance

The beginning is always a hurdle, but if you meet the mistrust / "headwind" of others competently and objectively, you can only grow with it

Enjoy your job



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