International Union of Forest Research Organizations

IUFRO MEETING REPORT

7th International Symposium of Forest Engineering and Technologies – FETEC 2026

"Digital Transformation in Forest Engineering 4.0 and Beyond: Artificial Intelligence and Information Systems Applications"

IUFRO FOCAL PERSON/MEETING ORGANIZER:

Name: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ebru Bilici (FETEC Platform; IUFRO Division 3.01 representative/co-chair role to be confirmed against the official reporting requirements)

Function in IUFRO: 3.01.00 Harvesting and transportation engineering

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MEETING DATA

Dates: 12–14 October 2026

Venue: Transilvania University of Brașov, Brașov, Romania

Meeting type: International symposium / scientific meeting

Organizer and IUFRO contact: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ebru Bilici (FETEC Platform; IUFRO Division 3.01 representative/co-chair role to be confirmed against the official reporting requirements)

Organizing partners: Prof. Dr. Stelian Alexandru BORZ, Transilvania University of Brașov, and IUFRO Division 3.01 (as stated in the event materials)

Participants: International researchers, academics, students, and forest-sector representatives. The official event page does not state a final participant count; therefore, no number is reported here.

Countries represented: The participants represented 18 countries, including Türkiye, Romania, Rwanda, Italy, Australia, the Republic of Moldova, the United States, Russia, Algeria, the United Kingdom, Ghana, the United Republic of Tanzania, Greece, Poland, Albania, China, and Sweden.

All IUFRO Units involved: 3.01.00 Harvesting and transportation engineering

Host Organizations: Transilvania University of Brașov and Forest Engineering and

Technologies Platform (FETEC)

Sponsors: ASFOR (Romanian Forestry Association)

Study tour(s) to: Azuga, Prahova County

Meeting report

a) Background information (meeting context)

FETEC 2026 brought together researchers, academics, students, and representatives of the forest sector to exchange scientific knowledge, present research findings, and discuss current and emerging technologies in forest engineering. The symposium focused on digital transformation in Forest Engineering 4.0 and beyond, particularly applications of artificial intelligence and information systems.

According to the official event report, the scientific programme included opening and invited speeches, panel sessions, technical sessions, poster presentations, and a technical field trip. The programme provided opportunities for knowledge exchange and international academic interaction.

b) Key topics addressed

- Artificial intelligence, robotics, and automation in forest engineering
- Smart forest roads and forest-road-related decision support
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS), remote sensing, and LiDAR
- Big data and information-system-based decision support
- Climate-resilient forestry and the use of digital technologies in forest operations

c) Main outcomes and conclusions

The symposium supported scientific information exchange, interdisciplinary collaboration, and international academic networking in forest engineering and technologies. The topics discussed highlighted the growing role of digital toolsincluding AI, GIS, remote sensing, LiDAR, and decision-support systems in developing and evaluating forest-engineering practices. The event also strengthened connections among academic institutions and forest-sector stakeholders.

Second step, Tethered logging systems use steel cables to support forest machinery operating on steep slopes. The cable is anchored to a stable point and helps improve machine traction and stability during harvesting operations. This method can reduce the risk of machine slippage and facilitate mechanized forest operations under challenging terrain conditions. Field studies on the application, operational performance, and environmental impacts of these systems were also discussed.

6.) Outlook to future activities (proceedings, future meetings, other):

The official event page states that the FETEC 2026 Abstract Book and Proceedings Book are planned for publication on 30 November 2026, with access expected after publication. Further follow-up may include continued collaboration among participants, dissemination of research outcomes, and

preparation of contributions for relevant scientific outlets, subject to the organizers' final publication arrangements.
The "International Symposium of JFES-FETEC2027" will be hosted by The University of Tokyo Utsunomiya, Japan on 27–29 September 2027.

Photo documentation

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Figure 1: An opening ceremony of International Conference of FETEC 2026 in Braşov, Romania.

Opening remarks by, Chair Prof. Dr. Stelian Alexandru Borz

Opening remarks by, Prof. Dr. Alexandru Lucian Curtu.and Opening remarks by, Prof. Dr. Selçuk Gümüş

A presentation introducing IUFRO and the FETEC Symposium during the opening ceremony by Co-Chair Ebru Bilici.

Keynote Speakers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kevin Boston, Prof. Dr. Mauricio Acuna, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Andrea Rosario Proto.

8. Official source and contact

Official event page: https://www.ormantransportu.org/en/event/7/fetec2026

FETEC 2026 contact: fetec.oritek@gmail.com