

PORTUGAL IN MARCH: EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON WOOD MODIFICATION AND COST TRAINING SCHOOL ON DECORATIVE LAMINATES

The **European Conference on Wood Modification**, ECWM7, was held 10 - 12 March, 2014 at the Laboratório Nacional de Engenharia Civil, LNEC, in Lisbon, Portugal. This conference, the seventh in the series, provided a forum for members of research organisations and companies to learn about the latest developments in this rapidly changing field. The conference covered thermal, mechano - thermal, chemical, impregnation modifications, as well as emerging technologies (microwave, rf, plasma, enzymatic etc.) and a special session on how architects use modified wood. It brought together experts from academia and industry, but also young scientists from all around Europe and other countries (32), in the field of wood modification.

In association with three Cost Actions: FP0904 "Thermo-hydro-mechanical wood behaviour and processing", FP1006 "Bringing new functions to wood through surface modification" and FP1303 "Performance of bio-based building materials", 110 high quality papers were presented on "New applications of modified wood", "Commercial aspects and applications", "Surface modification", "Thermal modification", "Chemical modification", "Process development", "Properties" and "Performance".

Romania was represented at this event by Lecturer PhD Emilia-Adela Salca from the Faculty of Wood Engineering, Transilvania University of Brasov and two researchers from "Petru Poni" Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry in Iasi, namely PhD Carmen-Mihaela Popescu and Maria-Cristina Popescu.



COST Training School after 1st day in Porto



Prof. Martins, host and trainer in the lab of Viseu

The main event was preceded by a high level COST Training School "**Production and Characterisation of Decorative Laminates**" organized by local hosts (universities and industry) under the framework of the Cost Action FP1006 in Porto and Viseu, Portugal, between 5 and 7 March 2014. The aim of the training school was to provide background knowledge and practical training related to low and high-pressure decorative laminates, production and characterisation.

The training sessions were hosted by LEPABE - Faculdade de Engenharia da Universidade do Porto, Sonae CIDI and ARCP, UPTEC, Centro de Inovação, in Porto and ESTG-IPV (Instituto Politécnico de Viseu), Department of Wood Engineering, Campus Politécnico de Repeses, in Viseu. The host team was coordinated by Prof.Dr. Luisa Carvalho and Prof.Dr. Jorge Martins.

The 23 participants from 15 countries had been involved in both theory and practical activities. Lectures were offered by Prof. Marius Catalin Barbu, from Transilvania University Brasov/Salzburg University of Applied Sciences and Dr. Sergej Medved, from University of Ljubljana.

The training sessions were focused on the following directions: high and low pressure laminates - theoretical background; production of laminates and overlaying of wood-based panels with low pressure laminates LPL; market development, testing of impregnation paper with ABES, testing of HPL (resistance to dry heat and to staining) and overlaid particleboard with LPL (formaldehyde emission, edge quality assessment of machined samples). A visit to Sonae Laminates located in the head quarter in Maya / Porto and quality control laboratory was also performed.

The event had a special success and it contributed to both the improvement of knowledge and the configuration of professional and relational background of all the trainees and trainers as well.

The participants gained new knowledge, skills and developed further professional network contacts; they also experienced new perspectives, opportunities and attitudes. The participants acknowledge the Cost Action FP1006 and local organizers for making this event possible.

For more details the following links are available:
<http://ecwm7.lnec.pt/index.html>
<http://cost-fp1006.fh-salzburg.ac.at/index.php?id=180>
www.proligno.ro/ro/articles/2012/3/barbu.pdf



The trainers: Prof. Barbu and Dr. Medved (above), the participants and main host Prof. Carvalho (center) at Campus Politécnico de Repe in Viseu

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