

THE SERIES “ICWSE” REACHED ITS 11TH EDITION (Brasov, 2 – 4 November 2017)



The International Conference of Wood Science and Engineering or in short “ICWSE” was facing a historic peak in 2017. The organisers were pleasantly surprised to receive at ICWSE 2017 a number of 135 participants and among them 90 internationals. There is no better reward for the effort of organizing such event than the response of so many “*bearers of the torch of discovery*”, scientists and researchers, together with industrial people, from 4 continents and 31 countries: ALBANIA, AUSTRIA, BELARUS, BELGIUM, BRASIL, BULGARIA, CANADA, CHINA, CZECH REPUBLIC, ESTONIA, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREECE, HUNGARY, IRAN, ITALY, JAPAN,

LATVIA, NIGERIA, NORWAY, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, TURKEY, UK, UKRAINE and USA. It became obvious that ICWSE has gained more and more international popularity during years becoming an event familiar to many participants who remained devoted and willing to renew every second year such experience, but, at the same time, attracting new participants from all over the world.

As usual, the venue was organized in the heart of epic city of Brasov by the Faculty of Wood Engineering, in itself an institution with more than half a century tradition in wood science and engineering. We were honoured that the 11th edition of ICWSE unfolded under the aegis of three prestigious groups: The International Union of Forest Research Organizations, The Forest Products Society and The Society of Wood Science and Technology and of eight partner institutions: The University of Tennessee Knoxville, Salzburg University of Applied Sciences (FHS), Oklahoma State University, FPInnovations Vancouver, Bucks New University High Wycombe, Technical University Zvolen, Stellenbosch University and Shizuoka University.

This conference has been organized every second year due to the generosity and continuous support received from its sponsors. For this year edition they were: Kastamonu, Egger, Holzindustrie Schweighofer, EDS-Lab, JF. Furnir, Kronospan, Yildiz Entegre, Werzalit, ACRM, Cluster Mobilier Transilvan, Imageline and ProLigno foundation.

The conference works comprising 113 papers, among which 98 oral presentations and 14 posters, distinguished themselves either by their scientific novelty, by their potential for industrial applicability or by bringing out elaborated syntheses of some high impact subjects.



The papers benefited from a careful selection and exigency of 49 referees. They were grouped into 11 sections meant to cover a diverse range of subjects of interest for the wood domain, such as: wood structure and properties, wood drying and heat treatments, wood-based materials, mechanical wood processing and surface quality, computer-aided engineering, wood preservation, chemical modification, gluing and coating, conservation-restoration of wooden objects, furniture design, wood constructions, renewable energy from wooden biomass and economics in wood industry.

The keynote papers, offering a genuine and thoroughly selected informational periplus, were prepared by six top researchers: Dr. Mark Irle-Ecole Supérieure du Bois (France), Dr. Joris van Acker-Ghent University (Belgium), Dr. Rupert Wimmer- University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Tulln (Austria), Dr. Timothy Young, University of Tennessee (USA), Dr. Salim Hiziroglu- Oklahoma State University (USA) and Dr. Marius Catalin Barbu, Transilvania University Brasov (Romania).

Dr. Mark Irle, has worked in France since 2002 as the Research Director of Ecole Supérieure du Bois in Nantes, is President of InnovaWood; country representative for COST Action FP1303 and a Fellow of The Wood Technology Society of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (UK). His keynote paper attempted to better understand the origin of the formaldehyde emitted by wood and compared the formaldehyde emission from natural and acetylated *Pinus radiata*.

Dr. Joris Van Acker is Professor at the Ghent University (Belgium), President of the International Research Group on Wood Protection and head of the research group Laboratory of Wood Technology (Woodlab). His team is part of an interfaculty collaboration called the Centre for X-ray Tomography (UGCT). His latest studies were focussed on the moisture dynamics defining service life performance of wood products, which concluded into a synthesis paper presented at ICWSE.

Dr. Rupert Wimmer caught the attention with a state-of-the-art review and synthesis on alternative materials used for bio-based composites, which widely show a satisfying overall performance at lower prices. Dr. Wimmer is a Professor for Wood Science at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Tulln Austria, is Director of The Society of Wood Science and Technology and fellow of the International Academy of Wood Science.

The following keynote paper focussed on wood products curriculum and education in North America and their trends over the last two decades. The issues raised by current challenges in the education sector were thoroughly analysed and discussed by the three authors. In order, they were: Dr. Marius Catalin Barbu, full professor since 2002 in the field of wood based composites, group leader for IUFRO Division 5 and president Forest Products Society - Section Europe; Dr. Timothy Young, Professor and Graduate Director in the Center for Renewable Carbon at the University of Tennessee, Past President of the Forest Products Society and member of the American Society of Quality (ASQ) and American Statistical Association (ASA); Dr. Salim Hiziroglu Professor at the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management, Oklahoma State University and with a vast research area in value-added composite technology.

For two days, the conference works were distributed in three conference rooms with parallel sessions, in an attempt to meet the requirements of various research topics. At the end, there was no better reward than the one of guests response to the quality of this event, which often was characterised as "perfectly organized", "great conference", "generous warmth and hospitality". Hereby are more comments: Dr. Salim Hiziroglu "is my third participation to the conference and I must tell you I was impressed one more time with running all activities very effectively and efficiently throughout the conference"; Dr. Mark Irle "it was an excellent conference with a large social dimension that sets it apart from many conferences". If just half of it was true and fully hearted then already this is a great impulse to the organizers to reach more confidence in what they do and to improve the quality of further events.

After two days of conference works, the social program at ARO Palace brought some relaxation with a cocktail dinner and a dancing banquet where the charm and crystal voices of 40 children from UNISON choir enchanted the public with an opening 20 minutes program.



For those guests interested in exploring more from the land of “Dracula”, the excursion organized on the 4th of November gave them a chance to see its birth house in the medieval UNESCO citadel Sighisoara and visit some of the famous spots of the city, but not before stopping over to Rupea fortress in order to admire the landscape from the top of one of the oldest archeological vestiges on the Romanian territory.

Full of pleasant impressions we close here, for other two years, the series book of ICWSE story, after we wrote another page in November 2017.



**Conference coordinator,
Assoc.Prof.Dr. Lidia GURAU**