

**Ewa RATAJCZAK**

## **EARLY STAGE RESEARCHERS FROM THROUGHOUT EUROPE PRESENTED THEIR RESEARCH IN FORESTRY-WOOD SCIENCES**

*The Early Stage Researchers' Forum was an accompanying event to the international conference of the European Forest-Based Sector Technology Platform (FTP) organised on 26-27 September this year in Warsaw. The forum created a good opportunity for researchers at the start of their scientific careers to present the results of research in the area of wood science and forestry. More than twenty short presentations provided an overview of the research currently conducted at European universities and in science centres.*

**Keywords:** wood science, forestry, research, early stage researchers

The present scientific policy attaches much attention to the creativity of young people who have just started their scientific careers. This group of researchers has a large creative potential and a vested interest in the future of the scientific domains they are active in. In wood science and forestry that drive was expressed in the Early Stage Researchers' Forum organised on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2011 in Warsaw, under the auspices of COST (Cooperation in Science and Technology) and FTP (Forest-Based Sector Technology Platform). The COST-FTP Early Stage Researchers' Forum was an initiative of InnovaWood (wood technology) and other research organisations such as EFPRO (pulp and paper research) and EFI (forestry), organised in conjunction with an FTP Conference "Pacing Innovation for the Bioeconomy" within the framework of the Polish presidency of the EU.

The approximately 80 participants of the Forum came from 23 European countries. 23 presentations were given by researchers from 15 countries. Those researchers represented universities, private research institutes and other research entities. The audience consisted of representatives of universities, companies, industry federations, and governmental bodies.

The Forum was opened by Ewa Ratajczak, President of InnovaWood and a representative of the Polish NSG of FTP, followed by a presentation by Matthias

Haury, the Head of Science Operation at the COST Office in Brussels, who gave a broad overview of the COST structure and activities.

Following this, the early stage researchers presented their research in the form of short presentations. The session was moderated by Werner Förster, Secretary General of EFPRO. All the presentations are now available at [www.ftp-c7.eu](http://www.ftp-c7.eu); [www.innovawood.com](http://www.innovawood.com) and [www.itd.poznan.pl](http://www.itd.poznan.pl).

The subject matter of the research (and the presentations) was very broad and covered the whole forestry-wood chain. In the area of forestry, the issues addressed included: extending large-scale forest inventories to non-forest areas, designing forest management plans for protected areas, bundling or stacking payment for environmental services, the wood properties of some species (*Castanea sativa*, *Dipteryx panamensis*), possibilities of developing wood resource bases (new methods and instruments for the identification of forest reproductive material, an assessment system for the evaluation of potential biomass residues, coppice restoration). Among the wood technology issues discussed we could find:

- the improvement of conventional kiln drying of sawnwood,
- environmental benign wood protection by means of electro osmotic pulsing technology,
- simultaneous shaping and fixation of veneer by specific material modification,
- novel green building composites (properties, design and Life Cycle Assessment),
- load-bearing constructions using poplar and willow wood,
- a method for estimating the efficiency of chemical pre-treatment for micro- and nanocelullose production,
- towards a more homogeneous technical lignin using carbohydrates,
- the performance of a surface coating made from liquefied wood,
- cationisation of hemicelluloses and their use in paper pulp,
- flexible automation in furniture manufacturing using dual-armed manipulators,
- intelligent chair development for healthy office work.

Having listened to all the presentations, the audience voted for the best ones. The winners were Erik Larnøy from the Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute (NTI) with the presentation entitled “Environmental benign wood protection by means of electro osmotic pulsing technology (PLEOT)” and Martin Lawoko from the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) with the presentation entitled “Can carbohydrates be used to dictate structure in native lignins? Towards a more homogeneous technical lignin”. The award for the winners was the opportunity to present their research results at the main conference session on “Research Trends in the Forest-Based Sector” held on the second day of the FTP conference.

At the forum the emphasis was placed on the fact that in the modern world characterised by a hectic pace of changes, new ideas having a bearing on quality

of life are now needed, and due to their complex nature they should be developed by multidisciplinary teams. Therefore, co-operation as well as quick and constant communication are very important, not only between research networks in the forest-based sector, but first of all between the science sphere and industry.

Taking advantage of the experience gained in Warsaw and taking into account the recommendations of the COST representative, the organisers would like to arrange another such side-event for researchers, in conjunction with the next FTP conference in 2013 in Barcelona, in order to put researchers in contact with industry representatives and policy makers.

## **MŁODZI NAUKOWCY Z CAŁEJ EUROPY O WYNIKACH WŁASNYCH BADAŃ Z ZAKRESU LEŚNICTWA I DRZEWNICTWA**

### **Streszczenie**

*The Early Stage Researchers Forum* (Forum Młodych Naukowców) stanowiące imprezę towarzyszącą międzynarodowej Konferencji Europejskiej Platformy Technologicznej Sektora Leśno-Drzewnego, która odbyła się 27-28 września 2011 roku w Warszawie, stworzyło dobrą okazję do przedstawienia wyników badań z dziedziny drzewnictwa i leśnictwa przez osoby będące na początku kariery naukowej. Ponad dwadzieścia krótkich prezentacji dało przegląd badań prowadzonych aktualnie w europejskich uczelniach i ośrodkach naukowych. Dwie najlepsze prezentacje były przedstawione w trakcie Konferencji.

**Słowa kluczowe:** drzewnictwo, leśnictwo, badania naukowe, młodzi naukowcy