

The background of the entire page is an abstract, artistic composition of several thick wooden beams. These beams are arranged in a complex, overlapping geometric pattern that resembles a star or a stylized cross. The wood has a natural, light brown tone with visible grain patterns and some darker, possibly charred or treated, sections. The lighting is soft, creating subtle shadows and highlights that emphasize the three-dimensional quality of the wood.

**Book of Abstracts**

**COST Action  
FP1407  
Final Conference**

**LIVING  
WITH  
MODIFIED  
WOOD**

**Belgrade, Serbia**  
12-13 December 2018



University of Belgrade – Faculty of Forestry

**COST Action FP1407**

Understanding wood modification through an integrated scientific and environmental impact approach (ModWoodLife)

**Living with modified wood**

Final COST Action FP1407 International Conference

Belgrade, Serbia, 12 – 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018

**Book of Abstracts**

**Editors:** Goran Milić, Nebojša Todorović, Tanja Palijsa, Andreja Kutnar

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**Table of contents**

Local organiser preface .....	7
Preface.....	8
Conference Program .....	9
<b>Keynote .....</b>	<b>15</b>
Shift Your Thinking for Research Innovation .....	16
<b>Session 1: <i>Modified wood in use</i> .....</b>	<b>19</b>
Human interaction with wood – what to measure, how to measure? .....	20
Can modified wood compete with untreated wood in preference of people? .....	22
EcoModules - an on-line Eco-design Tool .....	24
Online tool for generating Environmental Product Declarations (EPD-tool) for modified wood products.....	26
<b>Session 2: <i>Novel modification technologies</i>.....</b>	<b>29</b>
Review: wood modification techniques based on cell wall bulking with non-toxic chemical reagents.....	30
The potential application of Maillard-type reactions during thermal modification treatment.....	32
Effect of polymerization temperature during $\epsilon$ -caprolactone modification on wood properties .....	34
Wood sawdust and alkali activated slag bio-composite .....	36
Wood protection from the olive industry .....	38
<b>Session 3: <i>Projections and monitoring of modified wood</i>.....</b>	<b>41</b>
Projection of the effects of climate change on decay risk of external timber: United Kingdom case study .....	42
State of the art of wood modification in Spain. Researches, industrial treatments and examples of end uses in real cases.....	44
Monitoring of the performance of thermally modified wood in buildings.....	46
Durability of modified wood and bio-based materials under outdoor conditions .....	48
Furfurylated wood durability in a cyclic hydrothermal environment .....	50
Termite and decay resistances of Bioplast-spruce green wood plastic composites.....	52
<b>Session 4: <i>Beyond wood modifications</i>.....</b>	<b>55</b>
Wastewater remediation with formaldehyde free tannin-furanic foam powders.....	56
The application of water pretreatment in the pellet production process.....	58
Charring of Norway spruce wood surface as a surface modification technique.....	60
Wood modification related researches at the University of Sopron .....	62
Networking in European wood research.....	64
<b>Session: <i>Short Term Scientific Missions</i>.....</b>	<b>67</b>
Engineered wood products in contemporary architecture .....	68
Effect of silane treatment on mechanical properties of degraded wood .....	70
The impact of temperature increase rate during thermal modification on wood surface-coating interaction.....	72
Cutting forces assessment when machining wood over all grain orientations – example of thermally modified poplar .....	74
Experimental and numerical analysis of fracture toughness of thermally modified beech in mode II.....	76
Mechanosorptive creep tests on thermally modified wood .....	78

Characterisation of subfossil oak wood from central Serbia using SEM and FTIR spectroscopy .....	80
Generalised thermal modification kinetic model of poplar wood under different technologies .....	82
Properties of multi-layer plywood made from combinations of densified and non-densified veneers in one structure .....	84
Decay and insect resistance of modified wood with epoxidized plant oils .....	86
<b>Poster Session .....</b>	<b>89</b>
Strategies for improvement of visibility and acceptance of modified wood .....	90
Volatile organic compounds emitted from heat and vacuum-heat treated wood .....	92
In-service performance of floorings with modified wood top layer.....	94
Thermo-hydro mechanical densification process of <i>Nothofagus pumilio</i> and <i>Nothofagus antarctica</i> and the effect of annual width ring on modulus of hardness, and dynamical mechanical properties .....	96
Enhancing outdoor durability of heat treated wood surface by photo-stabilization with waterborne acrylic coating using bark extract.....	98
Changes in wood surface properties caused by aging techniques .....	100
Photostability of thermally modified poplar wood coated with alkoxysilanes .....	102
Wood properties and extractive exploitation from thermally modified chestnut wood .....	104
Antimicrobial particleboards – part 1: preparation and strength .....	106
Antimicrobial particleboards – part 2: resistance to bacteria and fungi .....	108
Selected mechanical properties of lignocellulosic layered composites produced in various temperature conditions .....	110
Assessment of lignocellulosic-substrate fungi-based materials .....	112
The compressive resistance of low density mycelium boards.....	114
Variability of hemp concrete material performance: a focus to modulus and their calculation methods .....	116
Characterization of two liquefied agricultural wastes.....	118
Influence of hydrothermal modification on the properties of cellulose and lignin after-service-life valorisation of wood.....	120
Improving hydrophobicity and thermal stability of wood through esterification with fatty acids .....	122
Preservation of wood structures in non-controllable environment by the example of pre-stressed laminated timber bridge deck with two curved geometry.....	124
Sensitivity and reliable design of a timber beam considering crack growth and environmental effects .....	126
Creep response of European species under environmental and mechanical loadings in outdoor conditions .....	128
Understanding shrinkage and fracture process of green wood using X-ray microtomography .....	130
Modified wood – research on selected physical and mechanical properties .....	132
Paper tissue reinforcement – coating with nanocellulose and silanes.....	134
Preliminary analysis of bio-sourced hybrid resins as coatings for wood protection.....	136
Nano-modified adhesives for composite wood panels manufacturing.....	138
<b>Session 5: Thermally modified wood – properties.....</b>	<b>141</b>
Influence of heating rate during thermal modification on some properties of maple wood .....	142
The evaluation of the quality control methods for thermally modified wood .....	144
Physical and elastomechanical properties of full-size fir ( <i>Abies alba</i> ) sawnwood after heat treatment with different intensities .....	146



## Local organiser preface

It is both a pleasure and a privilege for the Department of Technologies, Management and Design of Furniture and Wood Products, Faculty of Forestry to host the final conference of COST Action FP1407. This honour has given us an opportunity to establish a more visible position within the European network of wood related institutions.

Wording of the title - “Living with modified wood” - signifies that the time in which we live has provided us with technologies of wood modification that will ensure that never again will this material be regarded as a lesser material with a short life-span. Wood, as one of the rare living materials, is experiencing a worldwide renaissance, one that could not have been considered possible just a generation ago. For these very reasons, the primary goal of this conference is to foster, forge and encourage the cooperation and exchange of ideas between wood modification researchers and experts in related fields and, hopefully, help them grow.

Belgrade, as a city with a long and rather eventful history, is an environment where sparse moments of peace and prosperity have instilled a way of thinking that appreciates the little things in life. This setting emphasises even more the pressing need of the modern age to live more organically, ethically and above all, ecologically – and what better way than living with an organic material such as wood.

Success of this event would not have been possible without the effort of the entire team of my colleagues. I would like to thank them and to express my deepest gratitude to Andreja Kutnar, Chair of COST FP1407, for leading this fantastic Action, and for her continuous help in organising this Final Conference.

Last but not least I would like to thank all of the participants and contributors of the Final COST FP1407 Conference. I wish you to have a memorable time in Belgrade.

So let us look forward to an exciting conference!

Goran Milić

## Preface

Welcome to the fourth and final international conference of COST Action FP1407 “Understanding wood modification through an integrated scientific and environmental impact approach” (ModWoodLife). This conference, “Living with modified wood”, held in Belgrade, Serbia December 12 and 13, 2018 brings researchers and professionals together to share and disseminate their work. Their research contributes significantly to our Action’s objectives. It is especially rewarding too see contributions that have resulted from collaborations developed and strengthened through this network. Since the beginning of the Action in 2015, we have delivered new knowledge in the field of wood modification and environmental impact assessment. We can all be proud that during our Action, the European Union recognized the need to strategically approach activities, research, and policy to reduce climate change. Among the key strategies that were accepted in the past three years are the Circular Economy (2015), the Paris Agreement (2016), the Research and Innovation Roadmap 2050 – A Sustainable and Competitive Future for European Raw Materials (2018), as well as the recently renewed Bioeconomy strategy. Although our Action did not directly contribute to these documents, I am convinced that the activities of our network and its participants accelerated their adoption. At the same time, it is clear that our collaboration must continue after the Action ends on March 9, 2019. Going forward we should jointly contribute to “closing the loop” of product lifecycles through greater recycling and re-use and bring benefits for both the environment and the economy.

I would like to thank you for your great collaboration. Besides the new knowledge we created, our new friendships will continue for many years more!

Wishing you a successful and memorable conference in Belgrade.

Andreja Kutnar  
Chair, COST FP1407

## Experimental and numerical analysis of fracture toughness of thermally modified beech in mode II

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Thermally modified timber (TMT) has been long recognized as an efficient and eco-friendly alternative to tropical species and wood treated by other techniques. Nevertheless, the range of feasible applications for TMT is limited by undesired side effects, such as reduction of mechanical properties including the fracture properties such as energy release rate (Majano-Majano *et al.* 2012). For examination of the fracture properties of wood in shear mode II, there has been developed a unique procedure based on so-called equivalent crack length to obtain fracture energies from global mechanical response (Wang and Qiao 2004, de Moura *et al.* 2006). The procedure is implemented in end-notched tests with three-point bending set-up. Such tests provide R-curves and may also be used to derive cohesive zone models for finite element analyses of fracture problems (Arrese *et al.* 2010). Therefore, this paper aims to evaluate the fracture properties TM beech wood in mode II by coupling three-point bending test and optical technique based on digital image correlation (DIC) and implementing the experimental data into the numerical model for later assessment.

As depicted in Fig. 1 right, the forces and deflections of the non-treated wood samples are greater than the thermally modified specimens. Additionally, the image data from the 3-D DIC provided additional data such as displacement and strains helping in the analysis of the crack development. Fig. 1 left shows distribution of the shear strain ( $\epsilon_{xy}$ ) at maximal force (at effective strength). We see the highest shear strain is allocated at the crack tip. The crack development is not possible to see by naked eye, but using DIC, we may obtain the opening by listing horizontal displacements below and above the crack. The single-factor Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) on a level of  $\alpha = 0.05$  showed that all three groups (reference, modified at 180 °C and 200 °C) differ significantly in terms of maximal strain energy release rate. Further, a numerical model of crack propagation was built based on the experimental data of cohesive law obtained using results from standard testing and

DIC. The numerical model uses special adhesive finite elements that enable to define bi-linear behaviour of crack propagation.

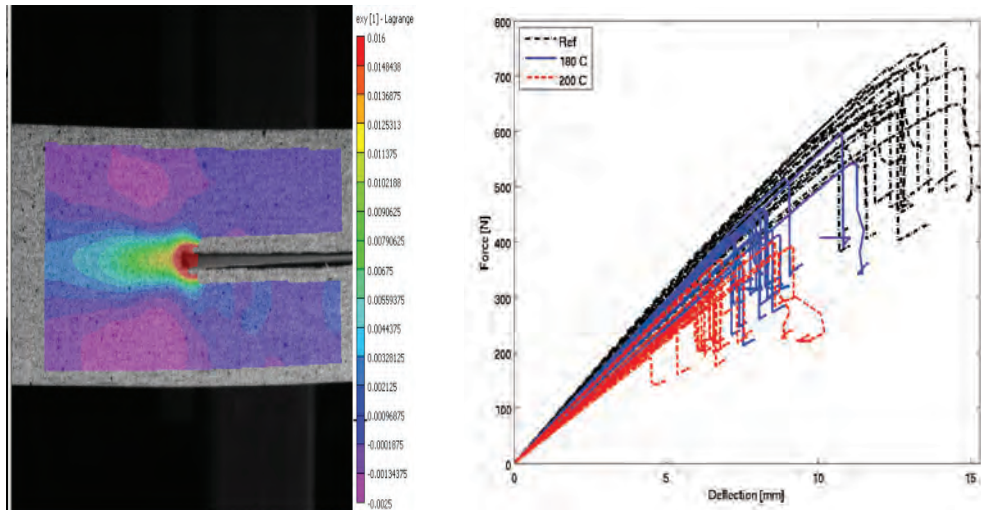


Figure 1: Shear strain at crack tip obtained using DIC (left) and force vs. deflection diagrams for all three tested groups.

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