Editorial

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The 15th European Workshop on Lignocellulosics and Pulp (EWLP) in Aveiro, Portugal (June 26–29, 2018)

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The 15th European Workshop on Lignocellulosics and Pulp (EWLP) was held in Aveiro, Portugal from 26 to 29 June, 2018. It was the 15th conference in a biennial series founded almost 30 years ago by Prof. Oskar Faix, former editor-in-chief of *Wood Research and Technology/Holz-forschung*. The conference, organized by the University of Aveiro and co-organized by RAIZ, the University of Coimbra and the Instituto Superior de Agronomia of the University of Lisbon, found a beautiful venue in the University's Conference Centre, a former tile factory. The generous support of several Portuguese sponsors had ensured that the ambiance, the leisure program and the culinary delights were on an equal footing with the excellent scientific quality and the superb organization of the meeting, chaired by Professor Carlos Pascoal Neto.

In Aveiro, more than 200 scientists from 17 countries presented their scientific results in 35 lectures and 106 posters. The high number of doctoral students and young scientists taking part was particularly encouraging. This was certainly a positive effect of EWLP's long-term policy and also of the Executive Committee's strategy to promote the participation and presentation of outstanding young scientists at the career levels of doctoral students and postdocs. Also the tradition of fostering discussion and

bringing scientists from different fields together, by avoiding parallel sessions, has been maintained.

The scientific contributions discussed the full range of general topics indicated in the general workshop title, covering both traditional aspects and recent developments: "Biotechnological approaches", "Biorefineries", "Pulping and bleaching", "Analytical techniques", "New materials and products" and "Structure of lignocellulose" were the titles of the nine sessions. The tripling of the area "Biorefineries" testifies to the great importance of this field in today's research on lignocelluloses.

The selected articles presented in this special issue give an insight into the topics of the 15th EWLP conference. It also shows that the long tradition of the connection between this conference series and the journal *Wood Research and Technology/Holzforschung* is active and very much alive. Together with the scientific community, we are looking forward to the next EWLP conference, which will take place in Gothenburg, Sweden, from June 22 to 26.

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