

# The work of CATAS becomes culture

Franco Bulian & Andrea Giavon

There are two University courses taught by CATAS personnel which have just concluded in June. The Director Andrea Giavon is teaching for two years a course at the University of Trieste on "Materials and testing methods in the furniture city" at the Faculty of Industrial Engineering, now open to other faculties and preparatory to the following master course. The Deputy Director Franco Bulian teaches, in English, "Materials and technologies of the wood and furniture industry" which this year has involved 27 students at the University of Trieste (the course is held in Pordenone). This master course, called "Production Engineering and Management" is carried out in collaboration with the German University of Lippe providing, at the end of the studies, a "double degree" meaning the Italian Master Degree and the German Master of Science. The students, who this year were a third Italian, a third German, and the rest from other countries all over the world (China, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Iran) spend their training period in both Universities thus enriching not only the their specific knowledge, but also the English language and the ability to interact with different people and cultures.

Even foreign institutes have realized the wealth of knowledge represented by CATAS. Starting with September of 2014 some CATAS technicians will held lectures at the nearby University of Ljubljana, and some students will then prepare their thesis at the Institute of San Giovanni al Natisone.

Then we can conclude that the work of CATAS is really becoming "culture". This concept, which is expressed in different forms, has presumably its major evidence in the University courses mentioned above. It also shows that furniture can become a subject of in-depth studies. Students are often surprised by the incredible variety of materials and technologies used by this industrial sector. What surprises them is the evidence that a simple piece of furniture, such as a chair, can be very complex showing also some interesting innovation perspectives both in terms of design and in the research for new materials.

