



EUROBOIS

THE TIMBER, WOODWORKING MACHINERY,
AND FITTING-OUT TRADE SHOW

4-7 FEBRUARY
2020
EUREXPO LYON
FRANCE

PRESS RELEASE

February, 2020

Eurobois 2020: An outstanding edition!

A success that cements the event's status as the benchmark for the sector

The timber, woodworking machinery, and fitting out trade show took place on 4th–7th February this year.

It's a precious, fulfilling moment, which every two years reveals the market temperature and gives stakeholders in all branches of the sector the chance to get together, exhibit their latest technology, and help their business flourish. All those factors came together at the Eurobois trade show to offer professionals participating in this 2020 edition an exceptional, generous episode. In the aisles, on the stands, around the activities, on the social networks—everywhere you looked, the talk and the messages were positive. And the event was able to illustrate the momentum of a sector engaged full-throttle in modernization.



The outcome of these 4 days is therefore positive, and promises were kept with room to spare! With 29,100 professional visitors, 420 exhibitors—a third of them from abroad—and a growing representation from fitting-out and first-stage timber conversion, Eurobois asserts its status of leader and becomes the benchmark national event in timber & woodworking and the go-to gathering for professionals in the sector.

A high turnout of professionals

With **29,100 professional visitors** over the 4 days (+25% vs 2018) and with **420 exhibitors and brands present** (+11% vs 2018), including 30% first-time exhibitors, all the indicators were on the up at this edition.

Firmly rooted in a buoyant region, the trade show enjoyed nationwide outreach, with over 45% of visitors from regions outside Auvergne Rhône-Alpes representing a 35% increase in that segment.

That wasn't this year's only success: **there was a huge progression in the number of fitting-out professionals (three times the 2018 number) and almost as big an increase in the number of visitors from first stage timber conversion (twice the 2018 turnout).**

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These impressive figures vindicate this year's big expansion in the fitting-out and first stage conversion offerings. In these two flagship sectors, the number of exhibitors soared and the solutions on offer were ever newer and ever more extensive. Fitters-out and sawyers were thus able to find all the products, services, and equipment at this year's Eurobois that they need for their future projects. They were also able to update their knowledge and meet and trade thoughts with others thanks to dedicated features and highlights organized by the main institutions and representative federations. The French timber federation, Fédération Nationale du Bois, organized dedicated workshops and held its General Meeting attended by 220 sawmill operators. France's fitting-out and furnishing association, Chambre Française de l'Agencement and l'Ameublement Français, took part in many conferences on the TV stage and played a big part in organizing dedicated features, including Fabrik Eurobois.

Professionals all agree: "markets are progressing"

Very few people deny that the coming decade will be one of environmental awareness and a widespread resolve to reduce human impact on the planet. They want yesterday's energy wastage to become today's choice of renewables and resource management. Yet we still need to build, to fit out, to keep warm. For addressing these issues, timber ticks all the boxes. Eurobois has shown that all stakeholders—whether they be industrial corporations or jobbing firms, federations or training centres—are committed and are developing their solutions and know how. The feedback was unanimous: "despite some pitfalls (political, regulatory, tariff issues), markets are showing big progression. End-customer demand (local authorities, business, private) is a reality and price is no longer the sole consideration in a project. Respect for the environment has become a necessity."

A national trade show with international outreach

The relevance of the solutions on show, the dynamics of the French market, and the quality of welcome know no frontiers. In 2020, Eurobois ratcheted up its international openness and consolidated its outreach beyond French borders. The result: the trade show welcomed **32% of its exhibitors from abroad**, in the main from Germany, Italy, Austria, Belgium, and Spain. **International visitors from over 50 countries accounted for 6% of the overall turnout**, half as many again as in 2018. Swiss, Italian, Moroccan, Belgian, and Algerian visitors were in the majority, with Morocco and Switzerland showing an especially big increase. There were also plenty of international delegations, notably those from Morocco and Ireland, who made the trip to Eurobois. These facts & figures confirm the trade show's international dimension and herald a trend at future editions!

Employment and training at the core of this edition

Employment and training were a major thrust axis at Eurobois. Market progression puts the whole of the chain under stress, prompting the national federation to announce that "in first and second stage timber conversion, excluding furniture and fitting-out, 5,000 to 6,000 recruits will be needed in the very near future." The Eurobois Campus dedicated to employment and training therefore provided a single centre where trades could be presented and promoted, training centres could meet candidates, and companies could post their job offers. This space was a big hit and much appreciated by participating institutions and visitors alike.

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Eurobois Campus in 4 figures:

> **10 training institutions** presented their programmes, including AFPIA, Campus des Métiers et des Qualifications–Bois Grand Est, Compagnons du devoir et du Tour de France, ENSTIB, ESB, Fédération Compagnonnique, Fibois, Formabois, Lycée Bois Mouchard, Néopolis, Pôle Emploi.



> **30 conferences** run by training institutions present in the Campus and by Pôle Emploi, covering many subject areas: existing courses, recruitment needs, the trades in greatest demand, employment news, and more.

> **40 job offers were posted** at the trade show, freely available for consultation by job-seeking professionals.

> **1 whole day dedicated to employment**, on 5th February, was organized by France's "Pôle Emploi" job centre, attracting job-seeking professionals and featuring career workshops.

[See the "Eurobois Campus" press release](#)

Among other highlights at the trade show, the **National finals of the European Young Carpenter contest** were organized by Compagnons du Devoir. Over four days of competition, 12 apprentices went head-to-head on carpentry jobs using the traditional know-how of the trade. The three winners chosen to represent France in Austria at this autumn's 14th edition of the European contest are:

- Karl Hévin – LES COMPAGNONS DU DEVOIR
- Colin Laine – LES COMPAGNONS DU DEVOIR
- Laurent Bolot – FEDERATION COMPAGNONIQUE

The judges also named Charles Navelot of Compagnons du Devoir the "Best Prospect".



Innovation all around as industry 4.0 becomes a reality

Another central theme of Eurobois 2020, innovation, really was everywhere to be seen at the trade show! The Eurobois Awards as well as "La Canopée", a **national innovation contest dedicated to the timber-forestry sector** and organized by Forinvest with the ESB, highlighted the proliferation of technological evolutions and insolent projects.

But the big innovation was of course industry 4.0, presented in all its glory on often impressive stands. After years of incubation as an abstract idea, it has materialized through a multitude of machines and solutions for digitalizing and robotizing the production tool. A key element at a time when sawmills and manufacturers have bought into an industrial tooling modernization policy. "In the two years that have passed since the previous edition of the trade show, we can see enormous progress in this area, reckons Symop chairman Olivier Dario. It comes in many and varied shapes. For first-stage timber conversion machinery builders, for example, we are seeing the advent of tools with built-in sensors to improve productivity. In second-stage conversion, we find predictive maintenance, or for jobbing and small craft

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firms, NC machines and cutting-edge software that greatly facilitate hitherto labour-intensive tasks. But the common factor among all these professionals is the will to meet their customers' exact requirements and thus grab digital with both hands. "Given the success of in-show events on these themes, exhibitors have also responded to visitor interest while reminding them that "4.0 is not a threat to jobs but an opportunity to make them less strenuous and to create new trades."

A look back at the winners of the contests:

> Among the 13 entries in the **Eurobois 2020 Awards**, 3 were honoured with prizes:

- Shaper Origin from SHAPER TOOLS GMBH
- SPIDER from ROTHO BLAAS France SARL
- SPITBULL from SPIT PASLODE

The judges also gave a special mention to

- Logistock from DIGIBOIS
- OAKBOT from EPUR SAS
- PCS - Preventive Contact System from FELDER



[See "Eurobois Awards" press release](#)

> **La Canopée** selected the following projects to go forward to the final in Paris on 15th April next:

- Grand Prix Enterprise: Soprema
- Grand Prix Start-up: Ephemère Square
- Grand Prix Ideas: Bioglue

The next edition of the Eurobois trade show is scheduled for 1st–4th February, 2022!

ABOUT THE ORGANIZER

With 200 events organised worldwide for professionals and the general public alike, GL events Exhibitions Operations has acquired unparalleled know-how in the business of organising trade shows, a trade which requires ever more exacting skills in marketing, communication, and organisation while staying close to the people in its markets.

The Eurobois trade show is organised by the GL events Exhibitions Operations Green Tech+ department, which also manages 7 other major events: BePOSITIVE, HyVolution, Lighting Days, ExpoBiogaz, Paysalia, Rocalia and Piscine Global Europe.



[Site web Eurobois](#)



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