



TOGETHER
for a sustainable future

OCCASION

This publication has been made available to the public on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation.



TOGETHER
for a sustainable future

DISCLAIMER

This document has been produced without formal United Nations editing. The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries, or its economic system or degree of development. Designations such as “developed”, “industrialized” and “developing” are intended for statistical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgment about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process. Mention of firm names or commercial products does not constitute an endorsement by UNIDO.

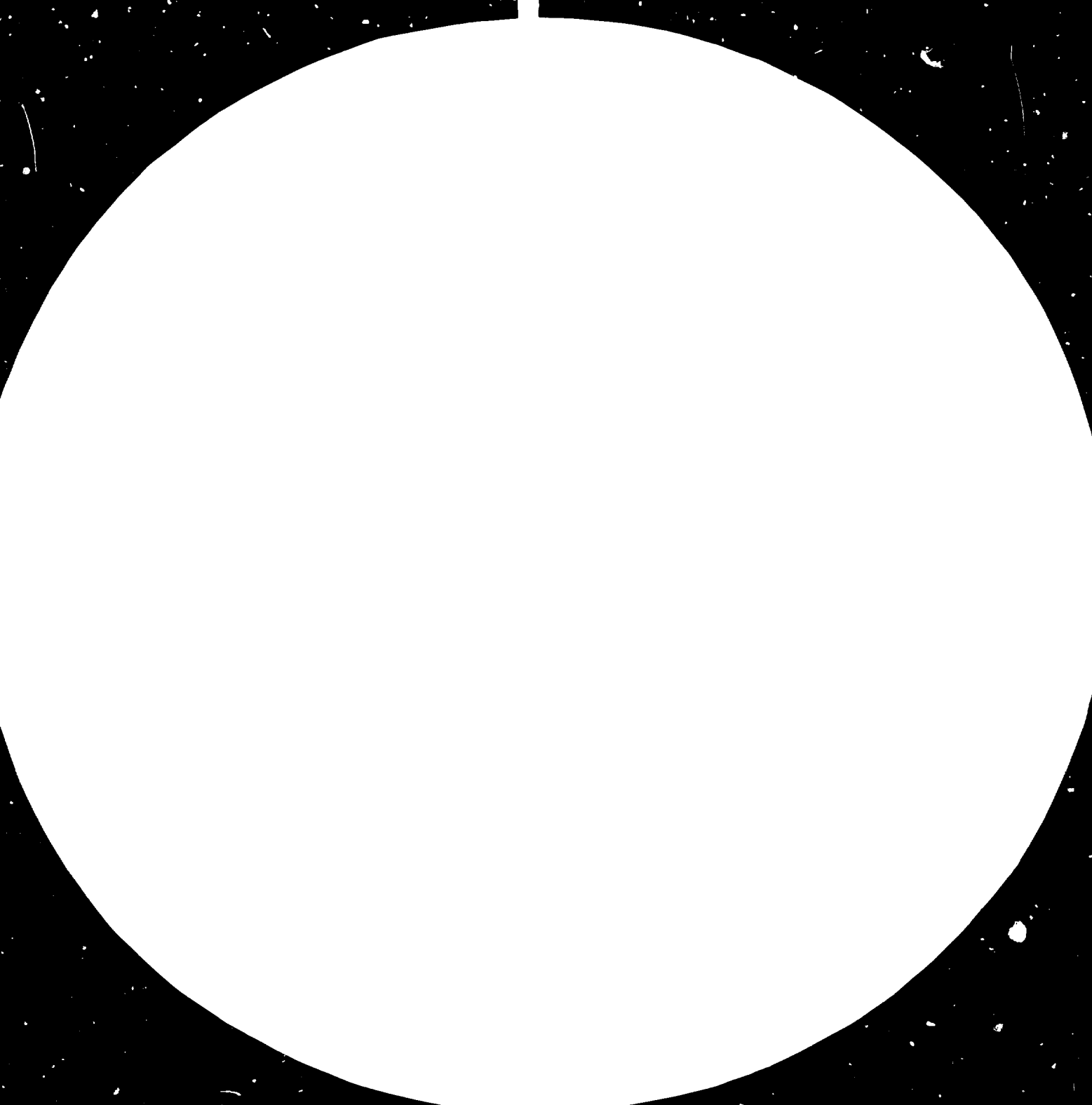
FAIR USE POLICY

Any part of this publication may be quoted and referenced for educational and research purposes without additional permission from UNIDO. However, those who make use of quoting and referencing this publication are requested to follow the Fair Use Policy of giving due credit to UNIDO.

CONTACT

Please contact publications@unido.org for further information concerning UNIDO publications.

For more information about UNIDO, please visit us at www.unido.org





3.2



4.0



5.0



MIKROGRAFIEN UND FOTODUKTIONEN
VON
RESOLUTIONSTESTZIELEN



10253



United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Distr.
LIMITED
ID/WG.323/13
30 December 1980
ENGLISH

Seminar on Furniture and Joinery Industries
Lahti, Finland, 3 - 24 August 1980

FURNITURE AND JOINERY INDUSTRIES IN CYPRUS*

by

Costas Leonidas **

000.000

* The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the secretariat of UNIDO. This document has been reproduced without formal editing.

** President and Managing Director, Costas Leonidas Company Limited.

Cyprus lies 33 degrees east of Greenwich and 35 degrees north of the Equator. It is found in the north eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea, about 240 miles north of Egypt, 60 miles west of Syria and 40 miles south of Turkey. It has an area of 3,572 square miles of which about 670 square miles are forested. It is the third largest island of the Mediterranean Sea after Sicily and Sardinia. Its maximum length is 140 miles and its maximum breadth is 60 miles. Cyprus has a population of about 700,000 of which 77 per cent are Greek-Cypriots, 18 per cent are Turkish-Cypriots and 5 per cent are Maronites, Armenians and of some other origin.

Cyprus being a British colony since 1878 gained its independence in 1960. The years that followed were characterized by a rising productivity almost in every sector of the Economy. During that decade the manufacturing sector showed a very rapid rate of growth which was mainly a result of the Government's policy whereby the private sector was encouraged to co-operate with it. The United Nations' cross-sectional studies of industrial growth have played a remarkable role to ensure this success. In 1974 the Turkish invasion and the displacement of some 40 per cent of our population from their homes and economic activities destroyed almost everything that had been achieved in the period from 1960 to 1974. Since then Cyprus fights (through the United Nations) to regain its occupied land and to bring about peace in the island.

Cyprus can be characterized as an agricultural country. 65.5 per cent of its area is considered agricultural land. The forests of Cyprus mainly consist of pine trees (not very high) similar to these of Sweden. However, the wood has many knots and it is denser due to the Mediterranean climate. Moreover there also grows a small percentage of cedar trees. Our forests cover only a 12 per cent of the local demand for wood. Shortages of softwood are covered by imports from Sweden, Finland, USSR and Romania. Also all hardwood required is imported from Africa, Asia and Yugoslavia. As far as particle

board production is concerned, there is in Cyprus a factory which produces veneered particle board. This local production covers only 75 per cent of the local demand. In Cyprus there are also two factories producing latex foam for upholstery and they satisfy all the local demand. No other industry exists which could provide with raw materials the furniture and Joinery Industries in Cyprus. All veneers plywood and laminated plastic products are imported.

Due to the smallness of the local market, economies of scale cannot be developed. Small scale enterprises have many disadvantages which have their origin in size. No specialization in production can be achieved as they are rather engaged in the production of limited quantities of a large range of products. Thus the introduction of a mass production methods and improved methods of organization and operation is both difficult and inappropriate. In Cyprus there are about 700 establishments related with furniture and Joinery activities and they employ more than 3600 persons. From these only 9 - 12 industries can be characterized as "large" and they engage from 30 to 70 persons. The total output of furniture and joinery industries is about £C 7 million per year.

The furniture and joinery industry of Cyprus exist due to the high import tariff which the Government imposed on imported furniture. This import tariff is 64 per cent (for E.E.C. member states, the preferential tariff is 54 per cent). This high rate shows the degree of competitiveness of our industries and their limited possibilities for export. Developed countries have a comparative advantage in technology which help them to enter foreign markets with lower costs and therefore lower prices of furniture and thus prevent developing countries from entering this type of trade.

In Cyprus as in every other developing country, the production of furniture is characteristically still a handiwork. The traditional skillful way of production based on old working conditions which exist still. Furniture and joinery industry are important for Cyprus because:

(a) they employ a substantial percentage of the local working force

and (b) They help to improve the balance of payments by satisfying most of the local demand and therefore preventing imports.

One of the main problems that our industries face is the lack of qualified production managers and skillful labour. The local technical schools do not have the required experience and equipment in that particular sector. As a result, the furniture and joinery industries engage every year less and less skilled labour. In our attempt to industrialize our country, even partly, we face problems in choosing the necessary machines, in maintaining the machines and in using them due to the lack of experience. Due to this reason many accidents happen no matter how many security measures are taken. Generally speaking, we also face problems in the wood drying production organization and finishing of furniture. All these problems more or less exist in every developing country. We will have a possibility at the Seminar to discuss ways to improve methods and correct mistakes. This in turn will contribute to the general improvement of the technological level of each country and it will lead to an increase of standard of living. Simultaneously we have to examine practical methods of helping each other in order to overcome all our present difficulties.



