Bringing damaged furniture back to life

In order to improve professional skills, Czech and German students from restoration schools co-worked on a renovation of baroque wooden furniture.

The project brought together restoration students from Germany and Czech Republic to conduct a full restoration on the damaged wooden equipment from the Church of the Assumption of Virgin Mary in Brno, Czech Republic.

It took them 14 thousand hours of work to renovate the beautiful, 270-year-old furnishings from the church’s sacristy.

Bettina Beaury, project coordinator from Goering Institut e.V. in Munich, said:

‘Conservation of such objects is very expensive. Our Czech partner asked us whether we would like to join forces and engage students.’

This great idea gave students the opportunity to study and practice while bringing to life beautiful examples of baroque furniture.

The project took two years and involved 50 participants, both students and teachers. During the first mobility phase, visitors from Munich participated in a two-week regular theoretical and practical training at the Czech school in Brno.

The second phase lasted 8 weeks during which time students worked on the complete restoration of the equipment from the church’s sacristy.

The works included UV examination of polychrome objects, cleansing of the gold-plated elements, substituting wooden profiles, repairing the veneer patterns, and preparing full documentation.

‘Students even had a chance to apply a very advanced laser technology for cleansing wooden objects. It was the first time such equipment was used in the Czech Republic,’ Beaury highlighted.

Workshops allowed students to learn new restoration techniques and improve their English, which was the communication language, thus increasing their competitiveness on a job market.