

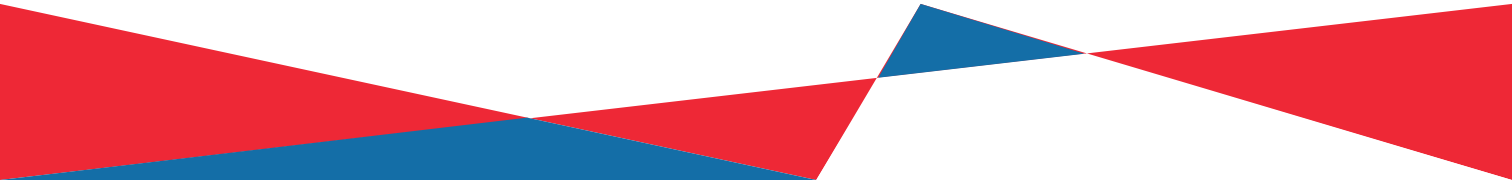


CRAFTS
YOUTH
FUTURE
ENGAGEMENT

A GUIDE
OF CRAFTS, PROFESSIONS, AND CRAFTSMEN
for young People

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WELCOME TO THE CYFE PROJECT

The CYFE project aims to change the mindset about crafts and improve the knowledge among youth workers, educators, and, consequently, young people about the place and role of traditional and fine crafts professions in contemporary society.

Have you ever heard about crafts?

Have you ever thought about the role of crafts in our society?

Can you quickly think about any craftsmen or craftswomen you know?

Have you ever thought about becoming a craftsperson?

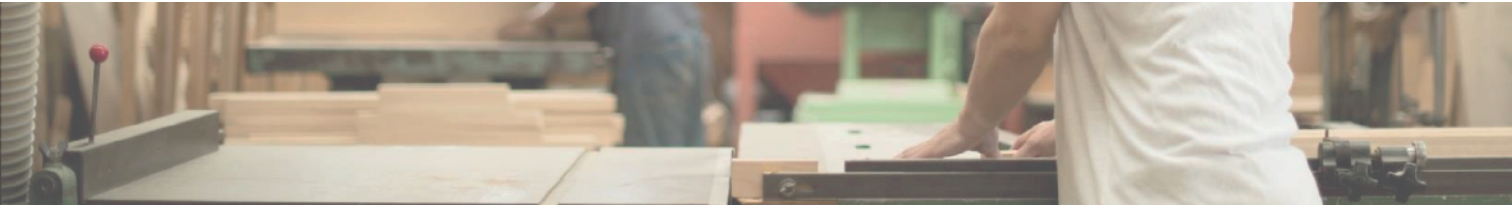
The CYFE project aims to provide valuable and varied information on some of the main professions in different craft areas and set the basis for a future generation of qualified crafts professionals. It also intends to raise awareness among youngsters about the importance of crafts in our society by:

- *Reconnect young people with the sector of professional crafts;*
- *Enhance the role of crafts in building a more sustainable, inclusive and responsible society;*
- *Demonstrate that crafts are an opportunity for youngsters in terms of employment, self-accomplishment and expression of creativity;*
- *Remind that crafts are the mirror of cultural heritage and cultural diversity*
- *Provide valuable information about the profession, materials and educational opportunities*

To achieve the main goals of the project, the partnerships is focused on the development of the following main deliverables:

- *A guidebook for youth workers and educators to better acknowledge crafts professions with experiences from real people;*
- *This guide – for young people – as a contextualization for understanding the contents of the games – digital and board games – that will be available too;*
- *Virtual reality tours for youngsters where you can travel, enter the workshops and listen to the testimonials of the different craftspeople.*

SO, JOIN US TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT THIS INCREDIBLE
WORLD OF CRAFTS IN EUROPE!



THE GUIDE OF CRAFTS, CRAFTS PROFESSIONS AND CRAFTSMEN

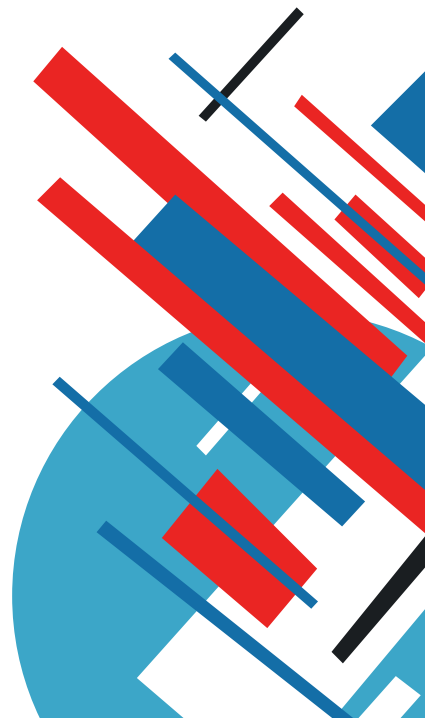
This guide aims to provide young people with knowledge and learning content, introducing them to craftsmanship. Based on the comprehensive and complex CYFE Guidebook for youth workers and educators to better acknowledge crafts professions, this guide is intended to be an accessible and simple guiding document that provides young people with knowledge about the crafts, the working materials and examples of personal stories so that they feel motivated and prepared to play the Toolkit Games!

LET'S DIVE TOGETHER INTO
THE WORLD OF THE CRAFTS!

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF CRAFTS AND CRAFTSMEN

Although it is challenging to define crafts in the different countries, it is commonly accepted that **crafts are represented by self-employed professionals or by microstructures using specific skills and techniques that were carefully developed over the centuries and used to transform raw materials.**

Crafts are the traditional means of creating and making unique pieces or small series by hand or restoring existing ones. They encompass many activities and are often associated with small-scale production and creating special, one-of-a-kind items.



THE CRAFTS UNIVERSE: AN OVERVIEW OF THE DIVERSE AND CREATIVE WORLD OF CRAFTS

In the global market, crafts are **professions of excellence** and represent a **reliable and sustainable career option**.

DO YOU KNOW WHO ARE THE CRAFTS PROFESSIONALS?

Most crafts professionals are entrepreneurs whose trade is characterized by risk-taking, need for investment, innovation, research and adaptation to consumers' behaviour. In the globalized market, crafts represent small-scale production, cultural heterogeneity, and high quality.



Did you know that...

Over the centuries, crafts professionals have demonstrated their high levels of adaptability to changes in the world, people's interests and market needs? Thanks to their adaptability and creative aptitude, craftspeople have integrated new trends and technologies, including digital ones, in recent years.

AND ABOUT THE MAIN MARKETS INTERESTED IN THE CRAFTS PRODUCTION?

Crafts trades are strongly connected with the luxury industry, fashion, interior design, tourism, and the preservation of built heritage and vernacular architecture. Their production feeds the economy of mass retailers, departmental stores, independent retailers, online stores, architects, designers and cultural heritage curators. Their final consumer can, therefore, be either private or professional.



Did you know that...

Crafts professions represent a stable and durable opportunity for employment? According to a study by The International Market Analysis Research and Consulting Group, "The Europe' handicrafts market size reached 223 Billion Euros in 2022. Looking forward, IMARC Group expects the market to reach 413 Billion Euros by 2028, exhibiting a growth rate (CAGR) of 9.6% during 2023-2028".

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF CRAFTS ON THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PLANET?

Most crafts professionals are based on eco-friendly methods, natural and local materials or even recycled materials; they reduce waste, support local economies, promote social cohesion, and promote responsible production. Therefore, crafts have a significant influence on sustainable development. In this way, crafts can concretely play a very positive role in the planet's sustainability: poverty reduction, well-being, responsible consumption, innovation, less impact on climate change, and use of clean energy.



Did you know that...

Crafts professions are characterized by practices that meet the requirements of the Agenda 2030 of Sustainable Development Goals? This Programme (undp.org) of the United Nations was adopted in 2015 "as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity". The aims of the Agenda 2030 are represented through the Sustainable Development Goals, also known as the Global Goals, and the crafts are entirely in line with this global Agenda!

HOW CAN WE CATEGORIZE THE WORLD OF CRAFTS?

The crafts sector is incredibly wide. It includes fine and contemporary crafts, traditional crafts and traditional building crafts. The French National Institute for Crafts (INMA) counts 16 categories and 281 professions (Institut National des Métiers d'Art, 2016), a list that can be considered as a reference. Whatever the category, craft professionals must have skills and know-how that require years of learning and practice.



Did you know that...

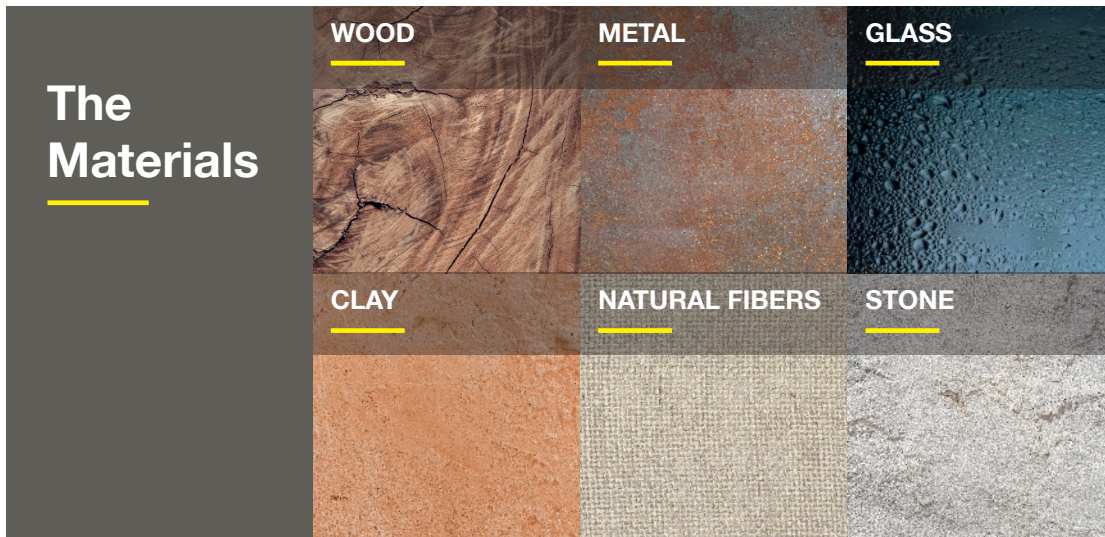
Crafts are commonly divided by families? Usually, crafts are divided according to the materials that crafts professionals transform and work with, thanks to their skills. Some other families (musical instruments, natural fibres) are organized differently and require the knowledge of working with more than one material.

SO, LET'S EXPLORE THE FAMILIES OF CRAFTS, SPECIFIC PROFESSIONS, AND SKILLS TOGETHER!

THE CRAFTS FAMILIES: MATERIALS AND REAL STORIES, FROM REAL CRAFTSPEOPLE

In this section, we will explore the world of crafts through the different materials that crafts professionals transform and work with. It would be possible to learn more about each material and how it can be worked with, and you'll also get to know the real stories of crafts professionals who work with the specific materials.

It is important to highlight that crafts professionals usually work with a specific material, developing their own skills in the art of understanding, explore and transform that material. However, some professionals work with more than one material to produce, for example, jewellery from stones and metal or musical instruments from natural fibres or wood.



WOOD

Human beings have always used wood to improve their living conditions: for making fire, for sheltering themselves, for working, for travelling, for storing, for living, and for decorating.

Crafts, timber constructions, flooring, wheel vehicles, furniture, boats, musical instruments, painted wooden panels, tools and much more have been to meet the needs and tastes of everyone.

Each region has offered different wood species, which were transformed according to social rank, epoch and style. If we observe pictures of wooden buildings, furniture or objects, we can easily understand in which region they were made. The popularity of wood declined in the 20th century as other materials became more widely available. Still, considering humanity's sustainability challenges, wood remains one of the most natural materials. However, knowing how much trees contribute to carbon sequestration and to contain global warming, the awareness is increasing about the need to use wood sustainably.

Woodcrafts cover a wide range of professions, and the process of transforming wood into a wooden artefact covers various techniques.



PROFESSIONS

Carpenter, stairs maker, woodcarver, woodturner, wood sculptor, cabinet maker, boat maker, luthier, instruments maker, joinery maker, iconographer, wood engraver, restorer of furniture, etc.



SECTOR

Building, interior design, musical instruments, leisure, fashion, museums, heritage conservation, musicians, toys, etc.



ACTIONS

Sawing, cutting, assembling, engraving, burning, painting, turning, sanding, smoothing, polishing, laminating, finishing, drilling, measuring, etc.



TOOLS

Hand saws and power saws for cutting coming in different shapes and sizes according to the cutting purpose they're used for. A workbench and sawhorses are used by woodworkers for most of their handwork. Planes for shaving off wood fibres for shaping and smoothing; Sanders for smoothing, polishing, or cleaning; Hammers, mallets, drills and screw guns are used for assembling; Square and tape measures for measuring and marking, etc.

Oscar Hurup Larsen, **Denmark**
Boat builder

I am a boat builder's apprentice. Denmark is surrounded by water and I'm from Holbæk, a harbour town, with a shipyard where I first learnt the trade. I started working in this profession when I was 17 years old, as a sweeper at the National Museum's boat workshop, after that I sailed with the Danish School Ship and then I continued here as an apprentice.
"I have had an interest in boats for many years, but at first it was just sailing".

"What I think is the most exciting thing about this profession is that we are preserving the old craftsmanship and carrying on with the tradition – otherwise it will be forgotten".

METAL

Metals have been used since the prehistoric period, and considering their central relevance for humanity, history was divided into the Copper Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. It has been used for many centuries in various applications on diverse scales: from everyday tools as kitchen objects to weapons and armour, as well as luxury objects, and most recently, in the aircraft industry and renewable energy. For crafts, metals can be grouped according to their chemical components, techniques applied for processing, common characteristics such as melting point, hardness and ductility, and market value.

Metal is highly sustainable, with some metals, such as steel, being recyclable and long-lasting. It reduces the amount of raw materials needed for production, massively reduces energy consumption, and lowers greenhouse gas emissions. It also helps to preserve natural resources and reduce waste.

Different metals are used for various purposes: crafts professionals sometimes work only with specific metals or, in some cases, with unique skills and techniques applied to other metal types.



PROFESSIONS

Blacksmith, silversmith, goldsmith, jewellery maker, bell maker, sculptor, watchmaker, coin maker, metal engraver, guilloché master, restorers of metal, gunsmith, etc.



SECTORS

Interior design, industrial design as kitchen utilities, luxury, construction sector, heritage conservation, aircraft, renewable energy technologies, etc.



ACTIONS

Orging, casting, metal turning, filigree, welding, brazing and soldering, engraving, chip carving, gilding, enamelling, stamping or pressing, etc.



TOOLS

Since man started to use metals, the most important tool has been fire. Then, the hammer, as the oldest and the most essential tool used for metalworking, Files are used to remove fine amounts of material to create smooth edges and smooth out rough surfaces on metal. A hacksaw is a hand saw, while a chop saw is a machine saw with a round blade. The grinder is used to shape and polish metal surfaces. Pliers are used to hold and manipulate small pieces of metal. Anvils are used while hammering out shapes and curves in metal. The most typical tools are the vise and the calliper ruler. The welding torch helps to join pieces of metal together, etc

Arlindo Moura, Portugal
FiligrEE

I come from a family of jewellers. Precisely, I am the sixth generation of jewellers and as such, I followed the family's work, specialised in filigree. The passion came from my grandfather, who passed me the skills. He is still an active and passionate teacher both in the family's workshop as well as in the professional school of jewellery.

"The good thing about gold is that most of the gold is recycled and reused. It is the result from casting processes of unused and sold, broken parts. Therefore, the gold market is a market very much based on the circular economy and reuse. Very few amounts of gold are extracted today"

"I recently made a filigree dress with a well-known fashion designer, who represented Portugal at the Dubai Expo"

GLASS

It is one of the oldest materials known to mankind, with its first recorded use dating back to 3500 BC. Initially, glass was made from a mixture of sand, ash and lime heated to a very high temperature. This combination could be melted and cooled to form a solid, clear material. It is used extensively in the modern world for interior design, tableware and art pieces, but also for windows, windshields, medical equipment and fibre optic cables.

Glass's sustainability is almost unparalleled: it is an energy-efficient metamaterial an excellent insulator, allowing for less energy use for heating and cooling; it can be melted down to infinity and thus recycled; it is highly durable as it can last centuries. It takes on the shape and transparency that its creator desires and reflects light, reducing the need for artificial lighting. Glass is a natural, completely recyclable, and environmentally friendly material.

Glass is made by nature; it results from the encounter between sand, more particularly silica, and fire, whatever the technique used and the final result achieved.



PROFESSIONIS

Master glass artist, glass decorator, glassblower, etc.



SECTORS

Interior design (tableware, furniture, lighting and art pieces), fashion (glass beads and jewellery making), architecture (stained glass making), etc.



ACTIONS

Glassblowing, kiln-formed glass, lampworking, "glass-beads" technique, glass colouring, glass engraving, etc.



TOOLS

Blowpipe to shape the glass with the help of a punty (or mandrel), bench, marver, blocks, jacks, paddles, tweezers, newspaper pads, and a variety of shears. Cane and murrine (rods cut in cross-sections to reveal patterns) create complex designs with great details. A torch/lamp is used to melt and shape glass in the technique of lampworking; a lathe and wheel to engrave and polish glass pieces, cutters, grinders, and drills; a lathe is a machine used to turn glass while it is being worked, glass grinding machines, etc.

Anuschka Bayens, **Belgium**
Glass Artist

My work revolves around 3 main axes: Artistic works, creation of design objects and interior decoration and creation of jewellery. I work with glass in all its forms, hot and cold. I make glass beads with a blowtorch, I practice glass blowing which allows me to give volume to the glass and glass casting to form a hollow or flat object depending on the available surface. I also make engravings on glass to decorate it: "It was the magic of molten glass and its infinite possibilities of creation that led me a few years later to decide to do this job fulltime"

"For any young person interested in my craft I would rather advice to undertake the complete training (...) and then to continue to train by visiting a maximum of workshops or active glass craftsmen to discover the various techniques and choose the one(s) that seem(s) to work best for you"

CLAY

Clay is a natural material extracted from the soil, used by humans for over 25 centuries to store food and liquids, build shelters, and create objects. In nature, we can find different clays used to make ceramic according to the different relief levels and the minerals and organic residues they contain. The more you rise to mountains, the harder the clay will be and the harder it will resist high-temperature glazes. Clay and ceramic products are sustainable resources because they are made from natural and recyclable materials. Ceramics are energy efficient, used to store and retain heat and regulate humidity in buildings with ceramic materials. However, the transformation of clay at high temperatures consumes a lot of energy – not according to sustainability goals. Ceramics are safe and non-toxic, and adequate for food and beverage applications.

The variety of products made of clay all over Europe for centuries tells us about our history and highlights the extraordinary diversity of our cultures.



PROFESSIONS

Potter, tile and bricks making ceramic turner, stove-maker, jewellery maker, etc.



SECTORS

Pottery, jewellery, architecture, interior design, construction industry (tiles, roof ornaments), etc.



ACTIONS

Clay moulding, turning, engraving, clay g in kilns, clay glazing, clay painting inlays, etc.



TOOLS

Clay cutters, clay trimmers, rolling pins (to roll out clay into thin sheets to make slabs, tiles, etc), ribbons, loop tools, rasps, needle tools to etch, carve, and shape clay, palette knives (to mix and blend clay colours), sculpting and carving tools, slip trailers (to apply a thin layer of liquid clay, called slip, to the surface of a clay piece), kilns (to fire clay pieces and transforming them into ceramic pieces), wheel (used in the shaping/ "throwing" of clay into round ceramic ware).

Annarita Capuano, Italy
Cold Porcelain Master

I create products made of cold porcelain. Mostly interior decoration and jewels. Some examples are dolls, frame with flowers, baskets, garlands, etc. I have always been attracted to art in general, however I chose to graduate in Sports Science. After running a gym for many years, my natural penchant for art has emerged so much that it finally took over. I was 33 when I started creating with cold porcelain. I am completely self-thought. Like all artists, it took me many years to perfect myself and I feel that this improvement process is still going on today.

"The main material I use is cold porcelain. It is a malleable material that hardens without the need for an oven. After drying it achieves an appearance similar to classic porcelain"

"In the modelling process I mainly rely on my hand and occasionally traditional tools"

NATURALS FIBRES

Since the beginning of civilization, natural fibres have been an essential component of human life. In the last century, synthetic fibres such as rayon, nylon, and acrylic began to replace natural fibres. Nowadays, pieces made of synthetic fibres are often less expensive. However, the true cost of their use is paid by the pollution they cause during production, the fact that they are not biodegradable, and the high expense of recycling.

Natural fibres are renewable, biodegradable materials that have the potential to be sustainable in the long term. They can be regrown and harvested with minimal environmental impact and are often produced with fewer energy inputs than synthetic fibres. Natural fibres are also usually made using traditional techniques that are often more labour-intensive but conserve energy and resources.

The sustainability of natural fibres depends on how they are processed, as some processes may involve the use of chemicals like pesticides or other potentially harmful materials.



PROFESSIONS

Spinners, weavers, tapestry makers, fibre dyers as blueprinting, embroiderers, felt makers, painters on textiles, restorers of textiles, etc.



SECTORS

Cultural heritage, fashion design, interior design, art market, costume design, accessory design, etc.



ACTIONS

Spinning/twisting, weaving, knitting, crocheting, knotting, felting, tatting, braiding, blueprinting, screen printing, binding, embroidering, sewing, tailoring, quilting, pleating, etc.



TOOLS

A Carding Comb is used to separate and align protein fibres; a Spinning Wheel is used to twist and spin fibres into yarn; a Drop spindle is used to spin wool and other natural fibres into yarn; Weaving Looms are used for transforming yarn or threads into fabric; Yarn bobbins are used to store yarn while weaving; Felting needles; Knitting needles; Needle felting mat used to protect surfaces while needle felting; Embroidery hoops used to stretch natural fabrics while embroidering; Crochet hooks used to create fabric from natural fibres, etc

Paulina Adamska, **Poland**
Basket maker

I combine several different professions. First of all, I am the founder of the Serfenta organizations, which allows me to combine my skills and qualifications into a coherent whole. I graduated in cultural anthropology, I am responsible for research processes related to handicrafts and I am also an artistic handicraft instructor.

“The process of creation in my profession depends on the technique and material, but it always starts with the selection and appropriate preparation of the material. There are many braiding techniques that allow you to obtain a variety of forms and patterns.”

“I am aware that what is most valuable for the young generation is the experience of craftsmanship. To touch all these materials, and see how they behave.”

STONE

Stone was one of the first materials used to make tools, constructions, tombs, and religious objects, as it was always readily available and accessible to humans. Natural stone was created thousands of years ago when the Earth was just a ball of mineral gases. These gases condensed and solidified to make the world we know today as they started to cool. Natural stone was developed during this cooling process, and its creation is strongly linked to the presence of minerals. This explains why different stone types with distinct characteristics are available in other parts of our planet and why craftspeople learned to use them in different ways according to the stone's territory and properties.

Stone is a highly sustainable material for construction due to its durability and longevity, and it can last for centuries with minimal maintenance, making it a cost-effective choice for building materials.

In nature, we can find different types of stones: limestone, marble, slate, granite, precious and semi-precious stones, including diamonds, emeralds, rubies and sapphires.



PROFESSIONS

Sculptor, stone restorer, tile maker, jewellery maker/designer, stonemason - with different techniques such as the dry stone wall, arch masonry or stone roofs etc., stone carver, mosaicist, tools manufacturer, etc.



SECTORS

Cultural heritage, architecture, landscape design, interior design, engineering, luxury industry, restoration and conservation, arts, etc.



TOOLS

Steel chisel in various sizes and shapes and hammer - typically used for hand carving; Grinder power tool with a rotating disc for cutting, polishing, and grinding; Diamond blade saw for stone cutting; Grindstones, Sanders, and Polishing Wheels for polishing, etc.



ACTIONS

A cutting (for example, diamond cutting), polishing which includes different techniques such as sanding - polishing with sanding stone; grinding - large metal discs or diamonds sand out roughness and imperfections; buffing - where polishing powders and compounds such as silicon carbide are pushed over the surface; or in case of glossy surface, applying a coat, such as a polymer that gives the stone an added shine. Hand carving, sandblasting, etc.

Serge Moret, [France](#) Stone Cutter and sculpture

I have been working as a stone cutter for 45 years. I started my own business 30 years ago. Now, I train both young people and not so young people, I organise internships and I am a member of the school exam jury for 30 years.

“Working with stone is very complicated because it is a very vast sector. I make mostly fireplaces and staircases. I also work on buildings, do restoration, and work a lot on historical monuments like cathedrals, and castles. Occasionally I also do funeral monuments...there is a lot going on in my profession.”

ANCIENT CRAFT TRADITIONS: EXPLORING THE RICH HERITAGE AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FUTURE

When we try to understand and know more about one civilization, we search for its cultural heritage – the collection of artefacts, objects, tools, products, and the specific knowledge, skills and traditions that, in that particular time, people shared as a community. Nowadays, we face the challenge of perpetuating our European Cultural Heritage. Craft creation is one way of manifesting cultural heritage with cultural and economic value (Leal Filho & Rayman-Bacchus, 2019).

When discussing crafts, it is essential to understand this approach as it prioritizes human engagement over machine control, reflected through specific skills and attitudes distinguished from machines and mechanical work. Regarding skills, it is essential to consider mastery of technology and embodied expertise; in terms of attitudes, a craftsman must have a devotion to work, concern with communal interests, and an explorative mindset (Klarenbeek, 2022).

Do you know you can practice crafts as a business or hobby?

For hobbyists, crafts are seen as a form of leisure, while for business, crafts aim to generate income, and it is crucial to consider entrepreneurial skills. Also, craft entrepreneurship has differences from general entrepreneurship in terms of time (they need more time to finalize a product, using their hands compared to other entrepreneurs who take more into consideration efficiency), products (usually made by hand) and creativity (as they typically include traditions and cultural aspects in the products) (Klarenbeek, 2022).

Do you know what motivates people to practise crafts?

Sennet (2009, retrieved from Klarenbeek, 2022) suggests that craftsman engages in crafts entrepreneurship for their own sake. However, this broad definition includes factors such as the need for fulfilment, a career change or the desire to express creativity through their work (Klarenbeek, 2022).

Craftsmen also feel motivated in the crafts sector, from one side, to better reach their autonomy and job satisfaction, and on the other side, to preserve craft practices and keep the cultural heritage (England, 2021).

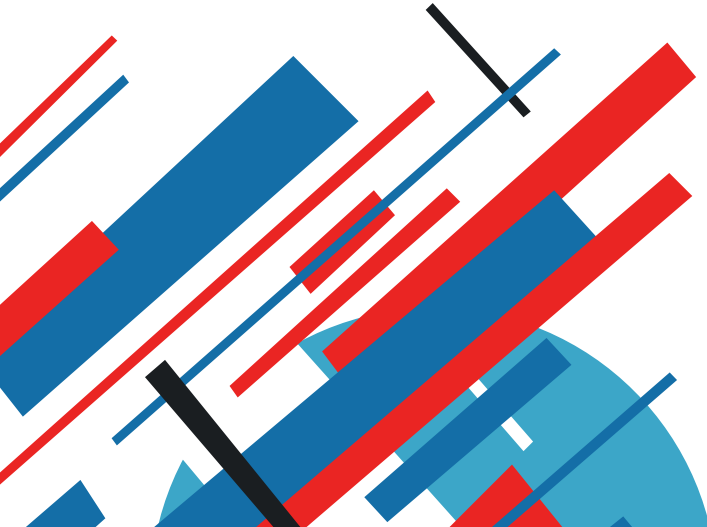
Do you know that is the passion for crafts usually supports crafts professionals?

Usually, at the beginning, there is the idea that this is a sector which is economically “hard” to keep due to the uncertain work (England, 2021). However, after being involved in this sector, the passion for crafts usually tends to be highlighted, compared to the entrepreneurial approaches, and it is a high motivation to continue and improve the skills and knowledge needed to live – and make money – from the crafts profession. It would be very complicated to be a crafts professional without a passion for crafts.

Do you know you can learn and train your crafts skills with professionals?

In different countries – and cities – you can find a wide variety of schools, training courses and workshops where you can choose a training course curricula on the learning process of working with a specific material – or technique. As you understand from the testimonials presented in this guide, most professionals combine practice sessions with the learning process to improve their knowledge and skills and to work as professionals – and not only as a hobby. After training in a school, professionals always recommend doing an internship in a specific professional workshop to learn by practising in a real context.

To access more detailed information about schools and workshops in the Czech Republic, Belgium, France, Portugal, Poland, Italy and Denmark, you can check the “CYFE Guidebook for youth workers and educators to better acknowledge crafts professions”.



CRAFTS ARE DYNAMIC AND EXCITING

Craftsmanship is an important part of many industries and trades, and that it is a skill that takes patience and practice to develop. Learning and mastering a craft is often very rewarding and can be a great source of pride. Crafts give us the opportunity to work with our hands – through the use of traditional techniques – and the satisfaction that comes from creating something from scratch!

Crafts are a way to express creativity, to experiment with new materials, and to create something unique and meaningful. Crafts can be used to make a statement, explore a new idea, create a personal story, or create a creative outlet. They can be used to express one's individuality and to explore their personal interests. Crafting can be a way to relax, to connect with others, or to learn new skills. Crafts may also be used to celebrate special occasions or to build community. Crafts are an ever-evolving form of expression that can be used to positively impact the world.

In the global market, crafts represent a responsible and sustainable option. By supporting the production of handmade items, customers are helping to keep traditional techniques alive and preserve cultural heritage. This also contributes to the local economy, as the income generated by craftspeople is spent within their community, which in turn helps to create jobs and stimulate the local economy. Additionally, crafts are often made from natural and recycled materials, making them more environmentally friendly than mass-produced goods. The importance of craftsmen, whose know-how and technical skills are highly valued by the market (customers), has emerged within the society and the territory where they operate. The knowledge acquired and retained by the crafts professionals becomes, therefore, crucial for the survival of the crafts' know-how and skills and their sustainability in the long term.



CRAFTS ARE EXCLUSIVE AND PRECIOUS

The Craft profession plays a crucial role in creating and producing exclusive, high-value products; hence, it is essential to preserve and properly transfer their know-how and skills. This result is particularly relevant for the world of practice: in a time where globalization demands the relocation of production processes and technology automates several job tasks, the variegated world of crafts, where the handmade abilities and skills of craftsmen cannot be replicated, imitate or standardize, becomes extremely important for the economy. Craftsmen and the products they create are part of the local identity and culture, as they are rooted in and express the tradition of the place where they are made. In addition, crafts generate a sense of pride and appreciation for their products, thus driving the creation of a local industry.

Moreover, crafts are a key element for the preservation of the cultural aspects of a place and the creation of tangible cultural heritage, thus providing a basis for cultural tourism. Crafts are also a major driving force for local economic development and social inclusion within disadvantaged communities, as they create jobs and provide economic diversification opportunities.

Traditional crafts can also be used to promote social cohesion and peacebuilding, as they are a source of identity and pride and a means of intercultural dialogue. Finally, crafts can be a powerful tool to raise awareness about the importance of sustainable development, as the production processes are often closely linked to the environment, making craftsmen a key element in the defence of the environment and the fight against climate change. Crafts can also allow for the use of local and recycled materials, thus reducing the environmental impacts associated with producing goods.

At a social level, the activity of crafts organizations helps preserve the uniqueness and exclusivity of the heritage and culture of the territory where they are located, reflects the tradition of such region, the know-how and ability of its inhabitants and helps preserve this unique reservoir of competences and know-how.

Crafts rooted in territories also prevent young people from leaving the territories to seek opportunities elsewhere. Territories have an important cultural heritage passed from generation to generation, and craftsmanship often preserves this heritage and helps maintain a sense of identity and belonging in the local community. By providing an opportunity for locals to learn, preserve, and practise their cultural crafts, it gives young people an alternative to leaving their homes and encourages them to stay and contribute to their local community.

CRAFTS AND CURIOSITIES

#1

Have you ever noticed that some of your jewellery or an outdoor sculpture turned green? That implies that that metal object contains some amount of copper. When copper reacts with oxygen, it oxidizes and generates a greenish-blue layer that protects the metal from further corrosion!

#2

Some European glass workers decided to opt for a sustainable approach by using recycled glass by collecting everyday glass-made bottles and processing them to create specific and proportional shapes!

#3

Stone is a natural material, and its creation is strongly linked to the presence of minerals. This explains why different stone types with distinct characteristics are available in other parts of our planet and why craftspeople learned to use them in different ways according to the territory and the properties of the stone. However, this has changed due to advanced transportation, but transporting stone for long distances is costly and not sustainable!

#4

Clay and ceramic products are sustainable resources because they are made from natural and recyclable materials. However, the transformation of clay at high temperatures consumes a lot of energy – not according to sustainability goals!

#5

Clay and ceramic products are sustainable resources because they are made from natural and recyclable materials. However, the transformation of clay at high temperatures consumes a lot of energy – not according to sustainability goals!

UNDERSTANDING THE CRAFTSMEN'S TOOLKIT

"The Craftsmen's Toolkit" is a carefully curated package designed to ignite a passion for crafts among young people. At its core is a funny and insightful guide that invites young minds to explore the captivating universe of craftsmanship. This guide seamlessly blends wit and wisdom, offering a playful yet informative exploration of various artisanal pursuits. Complementing this guide are two engaging online games: "Which Craftsman Are You" and "Who Wants to Be a Craftsman." In the former, players embark on a whimsical self-discovery journey, answering questions to unveil their unique artisanal persona. The latter, inspired by the popular quiz format, turns the pursuit of craftsmanship into an exciting challenge, testing players' knowledge and appreciation for different crafts.

Adding a tactile dimension to the toolkit is a desk game featuring a set of cards that beg to be combined. As players meld these cards, they unlock a world of creative possibilities, mirroring the process of crafting itself. This tangible game encourages strategic thinking and imaginative connections, offering a hands-on experience that complements the digital adventures.

"The Craftsmen's Toolkit" is more than just a guide and a set of games; it's an immersive and holistic approach to fostering a love for craftsmanship. Whether exploring the virtual realm or engaging with physical cards, this toolkit promises to captivate the curiosity of young people and instill in them an appreciation for the artistry and skill inherent in the world of crafts.

CONCLUSIONS

valuable knowledge and cultural heritage. The scarcity of suitable replacements signifies a loss of expertise, making it crucial to tackle this situation proactively. The CYFE project emerges as a beacon of hope, empowering youth workers to counteract this trend by cultivating a new cohort of skilled individuals who can seamlessly step into the roles left vacant by retiring professionals. The CYFE project underscores the broader impact of this skills gap, emphasizing that it extends beyond mere job vacancies. It represents a potential depletion of vital skills and cultural legacy. By encouraging young individuals to actively engage with and master traditional crafts, the project aims to transform the narrative from a reactive approach to a proactive one. It's not just about replacing retiring professionals but about instilling a deep appreciation for craftsmanship among the youth, recognizing it as a form of cultural expression and identity.

In conclusion, the CYFE project is a visionary initiative that goes beyond addressing the imminent skills shortage. It is a call to action, encouraging a paradigm shift that places value on traditional crafts and positions them as vital components of a community's identity. Through this project, the goal is not merely to fill a gap but to foster a legacy, ensuring that the skills, knowledge, and heritage embedded in craftsmanship endure and thrive among the youth, creating a bridge between the past and the future.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

