



# EUROPEAN JEWELLERY TECHNOLOGY NETWORK

## Thematic Network



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Phoemina Vase (dull and bright)  
Des. Gabriele de Vecchi, 1978  
Argento 925888 - sterling silver  
An object in dull silver is perceived as different when it is bright (polished): it becomes a mirror and reflects whatever surrounds it, interacting with the environment

## Network Overview

The Network main objectives are to develop synergies among European organisations, industries, research centres, academic organisations active in scientific and technological projects and training activities, involved in the European Jewellery Industry; to improve the exchange of information and knowledge among the different participants; to facilitate technology transfer to the low-tech end-users and accelerate the dissemination and exploitation of results from research activities through a co-ordinating action.

The European Jewellery Industry is considered to be of a relatively low technological content. There is a serious lack of knowledge on specific materials, low awareness of quality in process technologies; and most Countries suffer from a low level of technical training. The majority of the European Jewellery Industry is based on conventional technologies and is not open easily to advanced technologies. This is mostly due to the dimension of production structures in this industry, formed mainly by micro-SMEs, without in-house research facilities and sometimes with a low level of managerial culture. Some

European Jewellery industries - the largest ones and the most advanced and innovative SMEs - carry on their in-house research and training; and some Research Centres and Universities are working on materials (precious metals) and technologies. The European Jewellery Industry needs to be updated on the research projects closed and in progress and to be brought to a better and higher-level of technology through technology transfer from other industries. Dissemination of results deriving from these activities and training on latest technologies must be promoted and improved as well.

The Network partners whose function is to support local industry, such as CNR in Italy, CETEHOR in France, UCE in the UK, FEM in Germany and TNO in the Netherlands will transfer technologies to both the industry and SMEs. The Universities involved would profit from this exchange of information and use it in their educational functions.

To reach the network objectives, there will be several approaches and activities:

- state of the Art review and market;
- evaluation of training and courses suited for industry and SME needs, through confrontation with operators and experts to be organised at European level on design, materials, production technology, craftsmanship and management for the jewellery industry. Evaluation of proposals to fill the gaps in the education, training and implementation field;
- evaluation of possibilities to transfer and apply technologies from related industries, for instance microelectronics, precision technology and dental industry;
- technology transfer and implementation of new techniques by suppliers of equipment and consumable, research centres, universities, consultants and media;
- setting up a priority list of promising new technologies and methods to adapt them to the jewellery industry;

## European Dimension and Partnership

The European Jewellery Industry basically uses the same technical language: state-of-the-art and research know-how must be brought to this sector; knowledge needs to be exploited and trans-

ferred through education and training. Many of the problems are shared by more than one company. It is by bringing together the problems under one networking "umbrella" that the true benefits of its existence can be realised. The Network role can be that of the channelling tool, becoming the interpreter to make itself understood in two directions: by all its actors and by the European Commission, enhancing the social and economic cohesions of this Industry. Courses in goldsmithing and silversmithing do exist in several European countries leading to craftsmanship or engineering qualification. In other European countries there is no officially approved educational path in goldsmithing and silversmithing at all. In view of European-wide employability of personnel, it will be advisable to have a European qualification programme for the jewellery industry. The European Welding Federation's (EWF) program for

welding practitioner, welding technician and welding engineer can be used as an example to set up such a program. TNO's excellent relation with NIL (the Dutch welding society) will make every detail of this program available to the Network project.

Most partners of this Network are active in research: through contacts developed in EU research projects, they have had the opportunity to exchange views, compare research and technical level of their own Countries. The belief in the validity and need of a European Jewellery Technology Network is such that the partners have agreed to create an EEIG, European Economic Interest Grouping.

## Results and activities

The first activity of the Grouping was the Thematic Network Project, completed with important results in September 2000, of which major achievement was the creation in Italy of

the first level University Degree in Jewellery Science and Technology, operative since 2001. Other recent projects coordinated by EJTN-GEIE:

JEWELMED - Project: ICA3-CT-1999-0005  
IncoMed Programme - Comparative Analysis of Manufacturing Technologies in Goldsmithing and Silversmithing from the VII to the I century B.C. in the Mediterranean Area.

PROMOMED - Project: ICA3-CT-2000-30003-IncoMed Programme - Promotion of Local Competitiveness and Development of Local Capabilities of jewellery manufacturers in the Mediterranean Region.

VI-JET - The European Virtual Institute for Jewellery Technology, strongly market-oriented, fostering integrated development of globalisation and technological progress through a new kind of infrastructure to support jewellery industry stakeholders, particularly SMEs.

