

## **European Iron Academy 2016 – Part 1**

Guidelines Erasmus+

**Record of current rules, regulations and institutions for training and advanced education for blacksmiths and metalwork designers**

**Country: Ireland**

This questionnaire is for recording the current rules, regulations and possibilities for training and advanced education for blacksmiths and metalwork de-signers in the countries of the European Community.

1. Which ministry is responsible for education in your country?

*Address / persons responsible*

*Department of Education & Skills Richard Bruton*

*Address Dept. of Education and Skills Marlborough St Dublin 1*

2. Which trade/professional association is responsible in your country for blacksmiths and metalwork designers?

*Address / persons responsible*

*None*

3.a) Who is legally responsible for the training of blacksmiths and metalwork designers in your country?

*None at present.*

Limerick & Clare Education Board are currently supporting the only School of Forgework in the country at LCFE Cappamore.

European contact Tara Robinson ,LCETB Offices, Kilmallock Road Campus, Limerick,Rep of Ireland.

This School currently has 1 City & Guilds Level 2 programme being run from September to May ( the acedimic year) maximum number of learners 7,along with this there are short introductory courses run in the form of evening classes and also there are some Community Education classes run on a similar time frame.

Short courses can be found on the website [www.lcfe.ie](http://www.lcfe.ie)

*(Please find out the addresses, websites, and contacts . Try to obtain the training targets in writing and attach these to your research data and write a short resume for our joint Erasmus Report).*

3.b) Which grants or aid/help (governmental or private) is offered in your country and on which conditions?

*(Training grants, loans, accommodation whilst away from home)*

*None available at present.*

4. Which schools (including schools financed by the government or private schools) in your country provide training/education for young blacksmiths and metalwork designers?

*Please see above answer to question 3*

*Address / persons responsible*

*Which conditions have to be fulfilled to be accepted for training?*

*Interview and criteria set out by City & Guilds.*

*Schooling – which certificates are necessary?*

*Which EQF levels (from 1 to 8) are reached during training?*

*City & Guilds Level 2*

*Who issues the training certificates?*

*City & Guilds*

*Who conducts the practical and theoretical examinations?*

*City & Guilds*

5. How does one become a blacksmith trainee, journeyman or a master craftsman?

*Occupational training in internet (investigate curriculum)?*

*Who issues the certificates?*

*Address / persons responsible*

*The only accreditation at present available in Ireland is through the City & Guilds Level 2 Programme.*

*Some blacksmiths get on the job training but there is no certification available for same or no infrastructure to evaluate or accredit any blacksmith in Ireland.*

6. Are there free schools, academies for blacksmiths and metalworkers?  
*(investigate curriculums)*

*The Community Education programmes are sponsored by the state, these are usually at introductory level. Best contact for these would be Tara Robinson at LCETB email tara.robinson@lcetb.ie*

*Address / persons responsible*

7. Are there leading metalworker designers/companies (Stakeholders) in your country who take care of training and advanced education?  
*(for example, who offer traineeships or support journeymen.)*

*Address / persons responsible*

*There are a number of blacksmiths who open their forges to journeymen and train blacksmiths, but there is no education structure in place to evaluate same.*

8. Are there any institutes, academies or schools in your country which take care of advanced education (special knowledge)?

*(e.g. working with metal in the preservation of ancient buildings / architecture / tools/ construction/ historic techniques or methods / blacksmiths / carriage makers*

*Address / persons responsible*

*The Heitage Council and Georgian Society offer talks and demonstrations from time to time, occasionally heritage ironwork is addressed by these bodies.*

9. Which networks are available nationally and internationally for blacksmiths and metalworkers?

*(e.g. Internet information platforms, discussion groups, free organisations etc.)*

*The main forms of information would be through the following.*

*The Irish Blacksmith Forum ;a closed facebook page open to all Irish smiths to network,ask questions, show current work,its basically an information resource. There are currently 112 members of the group.*

*The Irish Artist Blacksmith Association,a private membership clubs that promotes blacksmithing currently there are 35 members.*

10. Media: which printed text books and internet media are available in your country?

All available

*Address / persons responsible*

11. Which technical literature is offered in your language?  
*Publishers / Addresses / persons responsible*  
*Nearly all is published in English*

12. Are certain elements of the metalworkers' and blacksmiths' training lacking in your country?  
There are huge areas that need to be addressed as explained earlier the only accredited course in the country is City & Guilds Level 2  
*Which parts? Please use the list of detailed knowledge attached hereto.*

### **Main areas of techniques (methods) and fields of training**

Please check if and in what quality the training centres, schools, academies and institutes in your country have included the following skills in their training programmes. Please add missing skills to the list.  
City & Guilds only training available

#### **Steel / stainless steel**

Material science

Correct firing guides / correct handling of wrought iron

Forge welding

Welding: process: 111 Metal-arc welding with covered electrode

Process: 131 Metal-arc inert gas welding MIG-welding

Process: 135 Metal-arc active gas welding MAG-welding

Process: 141 Tungsten inert gas arc welding TIG -welding

Process: 311 Oxy-acetylene welding

Tool-making: forceps (tongs), hammer, punch

Basic techniques of forging: forging by hand, with a mechanical hammer

Techniques/Methods: punching holes, gorging (elbowing), splitting

Twisting

Pipe bending without machines: free bending according to size

Manufacture of tools for the above-mentioned techniques/methods

Most welding techniques can be gained throughout the country through various technical colleges, with the exception of firewelding.

#### **Methods of Joining**

Surface engineering: black annealing (oil blacking)

Splitting techniques: metal fittings, ornaments

Inlay work

Historic ornaments: identification of such, implementation

Sacred and mundane ornaments

#### **Planning – Draft – Drawing of Object**

Design training: search for possible shapes/designs, shaping of form/design

### **Restoration – Reconstruction**

Corrosion protection for historic works

### **Non-ferrous metals (Copper and Bronze)**

Material science

Basic methods: annealing, handling (treatment)

Soldering: soft and hard soldering

Welding: Process: 131 Metal-arc inert gas welding MIG-welding

Process: 141 Tungsten inert gas arc welding TIG -welding

Process: 311 Oxy-acetylene welding

Handling: calculating

Handling: metal plates, hollow parts

Handling: ornaments

Deformation: construction of tools from sheet metal or tube blanks

Coating: construction of tools

Deformation of ornaments: relief

Colouring of copper and copper alloys

Joining: riveting, crimping

Tin coating of copper and copper alloys

Forging of copper and copper alloys

Corrosion protection, surface protection

Restoration, reconstruction

Cast bronze: methods

Historic works: identification

### **Interconnection with other materials: glass, stone ...**