Official launch of Crafting Europe website
13 July 2020
Press Release

Georgian Arts & Culture Center today announced the official launch of a website dedicated to the Crafting Europe project: www.craftingeurope.com.

Georgian Arts & Culture Center is the project partner on this three-year Crafting Europe project, which is taking place in eight countries across Europe. Through the new website, craft practitioners in Georgia and across Europe can learn more about the programme and how they can participate. Details of open calls, opportunities, digital toolkits and resources will be available on the site.

Crafting Europe encourages innovative forms of creation that integrate new digital fabrication technologies into the practice of craft-making. Supported by Creative Europe, the project was inspired by the need to strengthen the crafts sector across Europe. It is a partnership between nine expert organisations.

The project will:

- Showcase the importance of the craft sector and its impacts on the economy
- Support craftspeople
- Address challenges to the sector
A key focus of Crafting Europe is to enhance the skills and employability of new entrants and practising professionals in the crafts sector. The project will include expert training and tutorials, seminars, webinars and collaborations between makers and designers. The project seeks to engage future generations of skilled craft professionals and to open up potential new markets and opportunities for the sector.

Maka Dvalishvili, Director of Georgian Arts and Culture Center said: It is our honor to be a part of such an inspiring consortium under the Creative Europe’s project “Crafting Europe”, that gives us the floor to present and develop Georgian Crafts on the European level”.

The Crafting Europe website will host opportunities and resources, including information on its own activities:

- Open calls for Crafting Business: These professional practice training programmes will share expertise and knowledge to support the business development of young craft professionals and recent entrants.
- Open calls for iAtelier: A programme of activities designed to encourage innovative practices that integrate new digital fabrication technologies into the practice of craft-making.
- Research surveys: Crafting Europe will undertake research into the economic value of the crafts sector to agree on and promote a clear coherent understanding of the impact and value of European craft. Surveys and other collected data will be made available to audiences via the website.

Crafting Europe activities in Georgia and in their EU partner countries will range from maker residencies and training workshops to conferences and a final exhibition and event to be held during Dutch Design Week 2022.

Specific priorities of Crafting Europe include:

- Addressing challenges to the crafts sector by encouraging its members to cooperate in policy making
- Fostering capacity building through innovative approaches to the development of skills and business models for craft professionals and their representative organisations across Europe
- Enabling people to gain new skills, which will enrich their professional life and open new channels in the labour market

Culminating in 2020, Crafting Europe activities and outputs will include:

- Crafting Business workshops
- iAtelier sandbox events
- Residencies in eight partner countries
- Conferences
- An exhibition
- Research on the economic value of the crafts sector
- Digital toolkit resource on the Crafting Europe website
- Promotion of the crafts sector across Europe
- Increasing opportunities across Europe to upskill and support makers
The partners in the Crafting Europe project are:

- Design and Crafts Council Ireland (DCCI) – Ireland (lead partner)
- Artex – Italy
- Crafts Council (CCUK) – United Kingdom
- Limerick Institute of Technology – Ireland
- CEARTE – Portugal
- EOI-Fundesarte – Spain
- Crafts Council Netherlands (CCNL) – Netherlands
- Handicraft Chamber of Ukraine – Ukraine
- Georgian Arts and Culture Centre (GACC) – Georgia

Visit: https://www.craftingeurope.com/ for more details.

Follow: Crafting Europe- @craftingeurope on Facebook and Instagram

For further press information, please contact:

Georgian Arts and Culture Center
Add: 7 Niko Nikoladze str. Tbilisi, 0108, Georgia
Tel: (+995 32) 2931335
e-mail: gacc@gaccgeorgia.org

Georgian Arts and Culture Center
Georgian Arts and Culture Center works for the preservation, development and sustainable use of heritage crafts and cultural industries in Georgia since 1995; supporting innovative approach GACC contributes to economic viability of cultural sector through studies, trainings, marketing and international exchanges. The Center also conducts preservation of tangible and intangible heritage and gallery activities

What is Crafting Europe?

Crafting Europe addresses the need to strengthen the crafts sector across Europe. Crafting Europe will provide craftspeople and the crafts sector with the knowledge, skills and research to grow and develop. It is supported by Creative Europe, the European Commission’s programme for developing the culture and audiovisual sectors, and is a partnership between nine expert organisations.
Other partners on the Crafting Europe Project:

Design & Crafts Council Ireland
Design & Crafts Council Ireland (DCCI) is the national agency for the commercial development of Irish designers and makers, stimulating innovation, championing design thinking and informing Government policy. DCCI's activities are funded by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation via Enterprise Ireland. DCCI currently has 569 member organisations and more than 3,000 registered clients. [Dcci.ie](http://Dcci.ie)

Artex- Centre for Artistic & Traditional Handicrafts in Tuscany
Artex is the Centre for Artistic and Traditional Craftsmanship in Tuscany and promotes innovation and development of artistic and traditional handicrafts. Artex was created in 1987 by the CNA and Confartigianato crafts associations; over the years it has developed and managed projects for the improvement of crafts enterprises and their manufactures, gaining a unique experience in this sector.

The Crafts Council
The Crafts Council champions high-quality contemporary craft practice nationally and internationally through exhibitions, publications including Crafts magazine, education programmes, and curating the United Kingdom’s national collection. It aims to build a strong economy and infrastructure for contemporary craft and is a member of the World Crafts Council.

Limerick School of Art & Design
Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT) is a Higher Education Institute with a national and international outlook. The hallmark of our educational philosophy is active learning through a fusion of theory and practice. Limerick School of Art & Design (LSAD) within the LIT is composed of the Department of Design which includes a number of leading craft courses in Ireland. LSAD has an award-winning reputation in Fashion Design, Fashion & Textiles, Visual Communications, Painting, Printmaking, Ceramics, Sculpture & Combined Media and Teacher Education.

Cearte
CEARTE is a Vocational Training Centre and, since 1986, has worked for the sector of Arts and Crafts, heritage, creative industries, and small companies, promoting employment, the valuation of territories, skills acquisition, professional evolution, innovation for artisanal production units and, in general, the qualification of the Portuguese
**EOI-Fundesarte**
Fundesarte is since 1981 the leading institution in the promotion and development of Spanish craft enterprises as part of the EOI Foundation (School for Industrial Organisation), entity attached to the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism. A priority of their programme is to promote, value and communicate the quality of craft products and the sustainability of its production processes.

**Crafts Council Netherlands**
Crafts Council Nederland (CCNL, 2013) is the all-encompassing platform for contemporary craft. It is the place where art, fashion, design and heritage unite and where craftsmanship is nurtured and passed on to a new generation. CCNL works together with all key players within the crafts domain. As researcher. As initiator. As catalyst. As guide. As concept developer. As unifier.

**The Handicraft Chamber of Ukraine**
The Handicraft Chamber of Ukraine is an all-Ukrainian non-governmental organization that has been working at the national and international levels since 2009 to protect the rights and interests of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the field of production and service.