



European Craft Days®

#2026ECD

WITH HEART AND SOUL

europeancraftdays.eu

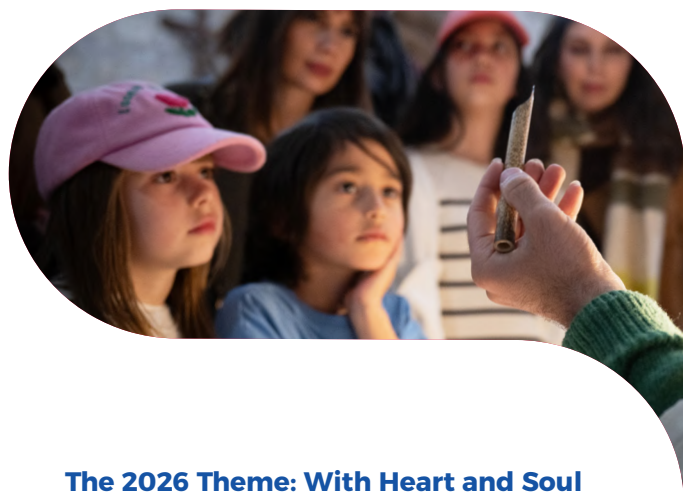


April 2026
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EUROPEAN CRAFT DAYS[®] 2026

The European Craft Days return this spring. From 7 to 12 April 2026, workshops, studios and more across Europe open their doors, bringing the public closer to the hands, skills and quiet expertise behind European craft. What started as a French initiative in 2002, now annually engages over 1 million visitors in a single week. Across 24 participating countries, the event mobilises a network of nearly 10,000 events, ranging from intimate studio openings to large-scale events.

Initiated in 2002 and coordinated since by the French Savoir-Faire Institute (L'Institut pour les Savoir-Faire Français), the annual event adopts from 2026 onwards, a clearer, stronger English title: **European Craft Days**. The removal of Artistic is designed to reduce language barriers, with **craft** being the operative word. Whether the national terminology is **Métiers d'art**, **Artesanía**, or **Kunsthandwerk**, the simplified English title now tells the story in a unified voice. While this English name serves as the international banner, each country is encouraged to use its own translation for their national programming.



The 2026 Theme: With Heart and Soul

The theme of the ECD 2026 is **With Heart and Soul** («Cœurs à l'ouvrage»). Often, we picture a craftsperson working alone. This year, however, the focus shifts to the shared effort behind the work. It connects the **Heart** - the passion, with the **Soul** - the discipline required to shape timber, fire clay, or weave fibre.

A Vibrant New Visual Identity

To reflect this spirit of connection, the visual identity of the 2026 edition centers on the human encounter. It captures the bubbling creativity of the workshop and the moment of transmission when a visitor witnesses a skill in action. It serves as a visual celebration of the exchange between the audience and the professional.

“

Most importantly, the theme is about connection. It celebrates how specific techniques are passed down, keeping crafts alive in both cities and rural regions.

”

Lucile Barde, Project manager - European Craft Days

FRANCE - THE BIRTHPLACE



As the birthplace of the **European Craft Days**, France continues to lead the continent with an unparalleled celebration of heritage and creativity. Marking its twentieth edition, the ECDs were initiated and are coordinated by **L'Institut pour les Savoir-Faire Français**, having welcomed over **20 million visitors** since 2002.

This year, the majestic **Centre-Val de Loire** takes the spotlight as the official French Region of Honour. Home to iconic UNESCO World Heritage castles, the region boasts over 10,000 craft businesses. Visitors can explore a rich local legacy of ceramics, interior decoration, and glassmaking, alongside the meticulous restoration trades dedicated to preserving these monumental historical sites.

Beyond the historic castles of the Loire Valley, the French programming embraces the 2026 theme by placing a powerful emphasis on transmission. With a strong focus on **rural dynamism and youth engagement**, thousands of independent workshops and training centers across the country are opening their doors to inspire the next generation of makers. This grassroots energy is championed by the newly launched **«Coups de cœur»** programme, which specifically celebrates outstanding collective and community-driven initiatives. By spotlighting these local efforts, the French agenda ensures that precious heritage skills continue to circulate from hand to hand, remaining an active, living part of both urban and rural economies.

Full programme at europeancraftdays.eu



COUNTRY OF HONOUR BELGIUM

More than 60 events throughout the country



photo: Au Charbon

While the centre of European decision-making, Belgium is also home to a rich and varied craft landscape. Craftsmanship has shaped the identity of Belgian cities for centuries, from the power of medieval artisan guilds to the rich traditions of Flemish lace-making.

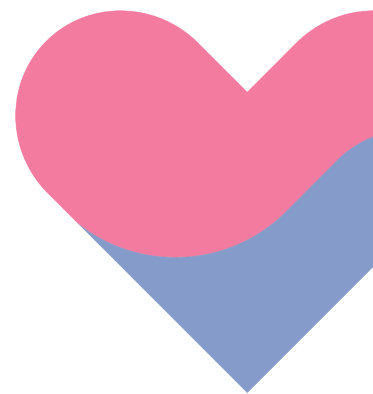
To strengthen this spotlight, the **European Crafts Alliance (ECA)** is providing specific support to the national coordination. Driven by the collaborative efforts of **BeCraft** and **Mad'in Europe**, this initiative unites Belgian artisans and maximises visibility across the country. The ECA is also driving engagement across its wider European network to amplify the international reach.

As part of the Country of Honour programme, **Mad'in Europe** is spearheading the digital and heritage outreach, connecting the public with the profound history of Belgian making. To mark the occasion, they have published an exclusive series of bespoke articles exploring the roots of «Crafts in the Belgian Style.» These editorial deep dives invite readers to discover the fascinating history behind

the 12th-century guild houses of the Brussels «Grand Place», the «Golden River» of flax that birthed the world's finest lace, and the masterful stone cutting and decorative «trompe l'œil» painting that defined the Belgian Art Nouveau movement.

BeCraft is anchoring the physical celebrations with two major exhibitions at the historic **Anciens Abattoirs** site in Mons. In the Grande Halle, the exhibition «À la belle vue de l'abattoir» brings together 55 craftspeople from 12 European countries to explore the heritage of these spaces. Simultaneously, the site's Stables host the soul of BeCraft: the «Vitrine des Créateurs» (Creators' Showcase). Featuring the works of 36 member artists, it highlights contemporary creations in dialogue with the historic architecture.

BeCraft also offers a curated «Open Atelier» interactive map on their website to guide visitors through private studios. Online, this experience is enriched by 20 video portraits of makers and a brand-new premiere spotlighting the «Au Charbon» collective.



BELGIUM HIGHLIGHTS



photo: Atelier Tou

Earth

Clay & form

Independent ceramics

Step inside the studios of independent makers: Anna Tou, Diane Tenret, Coline Rosoux, Emilie Janiaud, Sarah Guilloux, Olivia Mortier, Morgane Saladin, Philippe Brodzki, Nathalie Campion, Laurence Clotman, Patrick Jadot, Aline Michel, Beeck Studio / Yael Jessica Chetrit.



photo: Nathalie Campion

Fire

Sculpture & glass

Material mastery

Discover sculptural ceramics and glassblowing with Philippe Brodzki, Nathalie Campion, Laurence Clotman, Patrick Jadot, Atelier du Capricorne, and Frederik Rombach (Rero Glass), Anuschka Bayens, Les Ateliers de la rue Voot.



photo: Au Charbon

Collective

Hared studios

Collaborative making

Explore the multi-disciplinary environments of Atelier Bardaf, Au Charbon, the Atelier collectif, Constellation Atelier / Maude Wagner.



photo: Laurie Kasier

Fibre

Textiles, paper & wood

Tactile innovations

Delve into rich traditions and masterful bookbinding. Meet Laure Kasiers, Mopsa Marciano, Louise Limontas, Romina Remmo, Sébastien Lenouvel, and ASBL CRECIT, alongside paper design studio Tokowo (Grégoire Vigneron) and woodworker storyteller Hugh Roche Kelly.



photo: Isabelle Azaïs

Precision

Jewellery

Adornment

Delve into the disciplines of fine jewellery and contemporary cabinetmaking. Meet the craftspeople: Saskia Shutt, NOJ (Aurore de Heusch), Isabelle Azaïs, École Jeanne Toussaint, Hectare Gallery, La Fiancée du Bijoutier / Stephane Lefebure.



photo: Maria Fernanda Guzman

Vision

Eyewear & objects

Optical & sculptural forms

Step into the studios of master lunetier Ludovic Elens for bespoke spectacles, and explore conceptual object design with An Vandenberg, Monique Voz, Machteld Lambeets, Maria Fernanda Guzman, L/SCRNR / Thom Lescrainier

BELGIUM HIGHLIGHTS

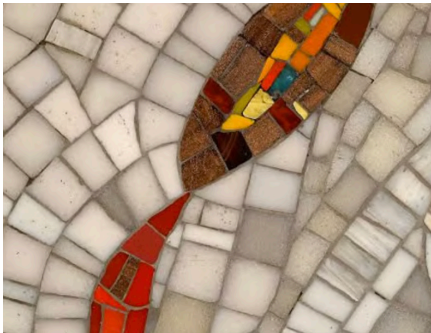


photo: Mosaic Brussels

Heritage

Architecture & restoration

Preserving the past

Witness the preservation of architectural beauty and decorative arts. Discover meticulous decorative painting and trompe-l'œil with Florine Dain, masterful plasterwork and marble stucco with Angel Barrero, and intricate pavement restoration with Judith Delville (Tilt / mosaic.brussels).



photo: TAMAT- Tournai Belgique, Au coeur des fibres ©TAMAT

Museum

Curated Exhibitions

Exploring crafts

Delve into the history and evolution of Belgian making. Visit Keramis (Centre of Ceramic), the Musée du Verre de Charleroi, and TAMAT (Tapestry and Textile Arts Museum). Explore contemporary textile dialogues at La Maison des Arts, and special showcases at Maison Losseau and CID au Grand-Hornu.



photo: Académie des Beaux-Arts de Watermael-Boitsfort

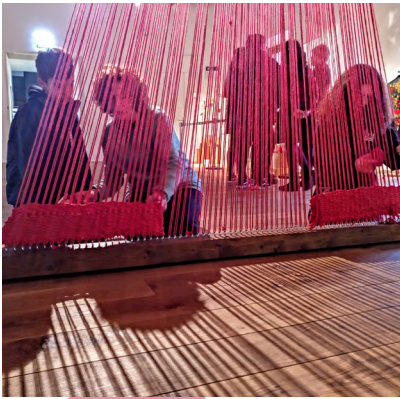
Knowledge

Training & tradition

Living heritage

Discover how ancestral skills are passed on. Explore the open-air heritage museum of Bokrijk, and witness meticulous training at Le Pôle de la Pierre (stone craftsmanship), the Centre des métiers du Patrimoine - La Paix-Dieu, and the Académie des Beaux-Arts de Watermael-Boitsfort.

A CONTINENT-WIDE CELEBRATION OF CRAFT



This spring, the European Crafts Days bring together 25 countries in a coordinated, continent-wide celebration of craftsmanship. The ECDs are taking place in France, Belgium, as well as in Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine. From major cities to rural communities, makers across Europe will open their doors simultaneously, inviting the public to discover the skills, processes, and stories behind craft.

Southern Europe and the Mediterranean

Spain leads with an extensive programme of more than 700 events, coordinated nationally by Fundesarte.

Highlights include a three-day contemporary textile festival in Madrid by Asociación para la Creación Textil (ACT), a series of glass art open studios in Barcelona organised by Objetos con Vidrio and the opportunity to participate in workshops in rural Asturias.

In **Italy**, Artex is coordinating a wide programme, from tailoring workshops, clay handbuilding, textile revival, guided terracotta tours to the CUORI SACRI exhibition by Fondo Plastico in Veneto.

In **Portugal**, CEARTE invites visitors in Coimbra to experience the full ceramic process, from raw clay to finished object. Meanwhile, the Malta Crafts Foundation is launching an interactive map guiding visitors through open studios across **Malta and Gozo**, culminating in an artisan market in Floriana.

Central Europe and the Balkans

Driven by the Chambers of Skilled Crafts, a massive network of independent makers and studios will open their doors across **Germany**. Visitors can look



forward to live demonstrations, fashion shows, and deep dives into craft apprenticeships. Highlights include exquisite porcelain by Claudia Biehne in Leipzig, traditional blueprinting by Holger Starcken in Berlin, and more.

In **Slovakia**, ÚLUV explores the evolution of twentieth-century craft design through a major exhibition in Bratislava.



ECD in Numbers

25 countries celebrating crafts

10000+ crafting events around Europe and beyond

1000000+ visitors exploring crafts

Further south, Creative Glass **Serbia** hosts engraving workshops, while the Zenica City Museum in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** presents ašikli jagluk, a delicate form of gold-painted embroidery.

The programme continues across the region in **Hungary**, where the Association of Hungarian Folk Artists is curating a special series of regional events, while the Zala County Folk Art Association is organising an array of workshops ranging from folk weaving, natural dyes and pottery. Natalia Komorowska presents innovative hybrid glass and ceramic sculptures at the Glass Heritage Centre in Krosno, **Poland**.

The Caucasus

In **Georgia**, the focus turns to heritage and sustainability. The Georgian Arts and Culture Centre is coordinating a programme of more than 14 masterclasses across disciplines including ceramics, textiles, and metalwork. Alongside this, the Georgian Heritage Crafts Association presents a masterclass inspired by the work of Niko Pirosmani.

In **Azerbaijan**, Arts Council Azerbaijan explores reuse and sustainability through its Second Life of Carpets workshop.

Join the Celebration

This shared European moment brings the spirit of craft to life. Skills, stories, and materials travel across borders, connecting craftspeople and the public through a living tradition shaped by hand and heart.

JOIN ECD 2026



photo: Au Charbon

Whether you are a craftsperson, an enthusiast, or simply curious, join the celebration of European craft from 7 to 12 April 2026 near you. Stitch by stitch, hand to hand: let us put our heart and soul into the work!

More

europeancraftdays.eu

Instagram: [@jemaofficiel](https://www.instagram.com/jemaofficiel)

Facebook: [@journeeseuropeennesdesmetiersdart](https://www.facebook.com/journeeseuropeennesdesmetiersdart)

#JEMA2026 #2026ECD



ABOUT

French Savoir-Faire Institute

The European Craft Days were initiated and are coordinated by **L'Institut pour les Savoir-Faire Français**. Founded 137 years ago, the Institut pour les Savoir-Faire Français is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to the recognition and longevity of exceptional craftsmanship. The Institute supports the sector through vocational training, digital transformation, and the preservation of rare skills. It coordinates national and international initiatives to ensure these ancestral practices remain integrated into the modern economy and cultural fabric.

More at institut-savoirfaire.fr

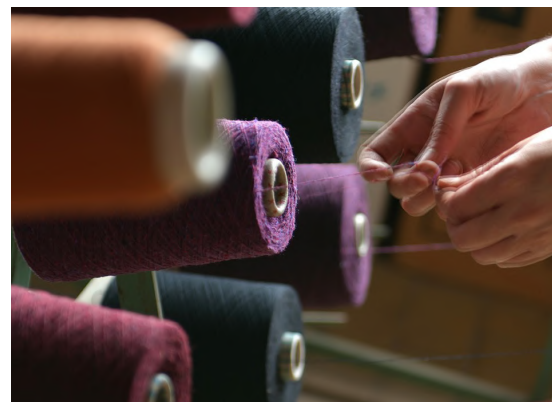


photo: Laurie Kasier

European Crafts Alliance (ECA)

ECA is a non-profit network organisation of 43 members from 23 European countries. The ECA supports its members and partners to promote, grow and preserve crafts as a vital part of the European economy and culture as a driver for sustainability and innovation. More at europeancraftsalliance.org

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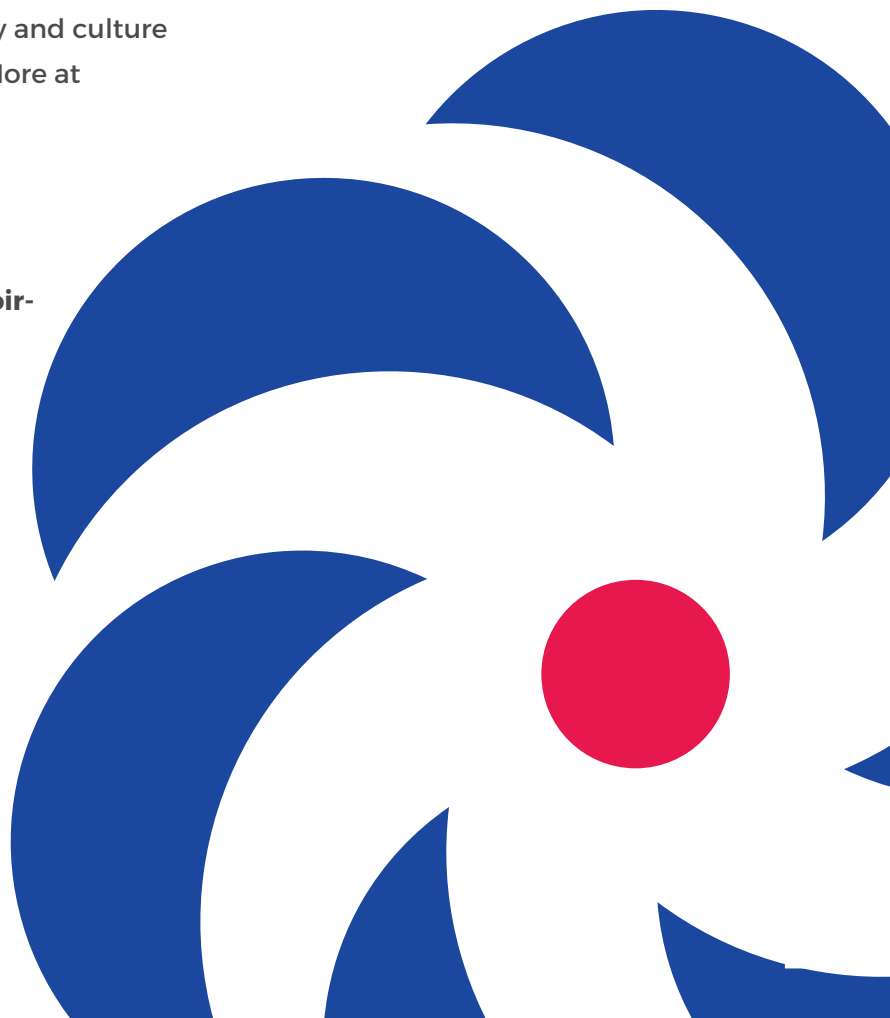
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Journées Européennes des Métiers d'Art[®]

European Craft Days are coordinated by:

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