

EFW 20th Anniversary – 20 years “joining” Europe together



EFW, the European Federation for Welding Cutting and Joining has been the pioneer organisation in Europe in the harmonisation of qualification of personnel. In fact, even as European efforts towards harmonization of qualifications began to bear fruit in recent years, EFW celebrated the 20th anniversary of its harmonized system of qualifications for professionals working in welding technology, in EFW.

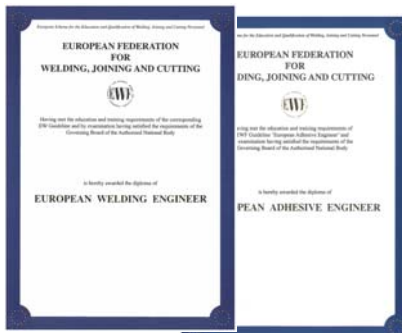
The welding institutes of the European countries felt, back in 1992, that there was a need to harmonise the way qualification of engineers in welding technology was achieved in different countries. This was the start of a comprehensive T&Q&C system which is now used in 30 European countries and 13 from outside Europe covering more than 30 qualification levels and more than 10 certification levels in a wide range of professions in welding, joining and cutting technologies. The system is complemented by a quality assurance methodology also in use since 1992.

Recognition of EFW’s role in the harmonization of qualifications has also come from official EU bodies and organizations, with EFW training standards being referenced in official publications and ISO standards.



A celebration of EFW’s achievements for the past 20 years was held during its annual meetings, in Lisbon. During a full week of activities, EFW members were able to look back on their achievements, but with an understanding of EFW’s future challenges in an ever changing environment.

55 participants from over 32 different European countries actively discussed the present situation of the training, qualification and certification system and how it can meet Europe’s present challenges in the area.



The event presented also the framework for discussing innovation in education and training and to organize a session for evaluation of new tools resulting from EU collaboration projects, an area where EFW and its members have excelled in producing interesting collaboration opportunities as well as successful project outcomes throughout more than 40 different European projects.

The celebration did not overlook EFW Past Presidents that, through their efforts, laid the groundwork for what the EFW stands for, today. As a symbolic treat a “welded” Anniversary cake was presented to all in attendance, testifying the strong bonds that have bound together so many different countries for the past 20 years and that will continue to do so for 20 more.

