

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.

