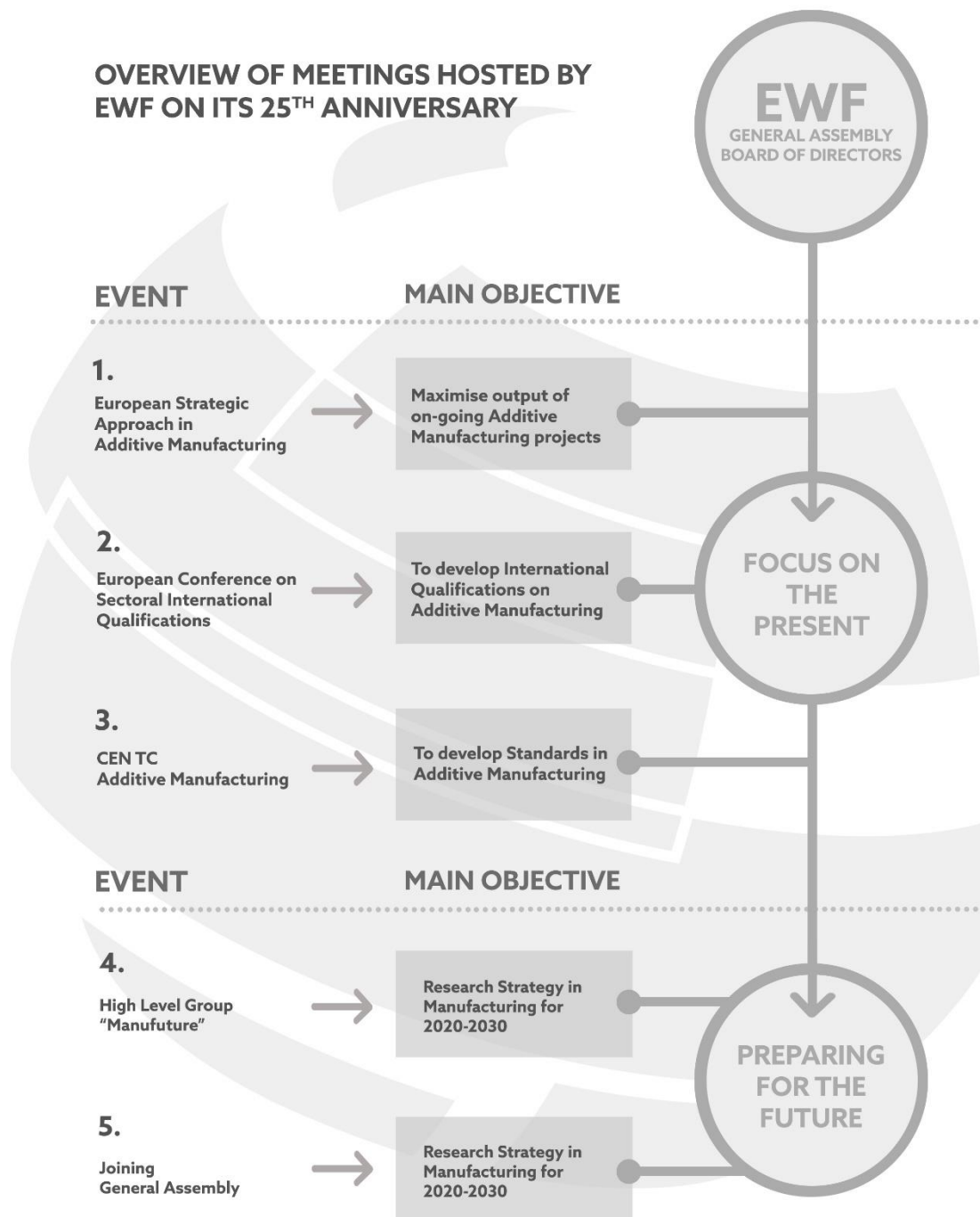


Europe's manufacturing transformation discussed in Lisbon

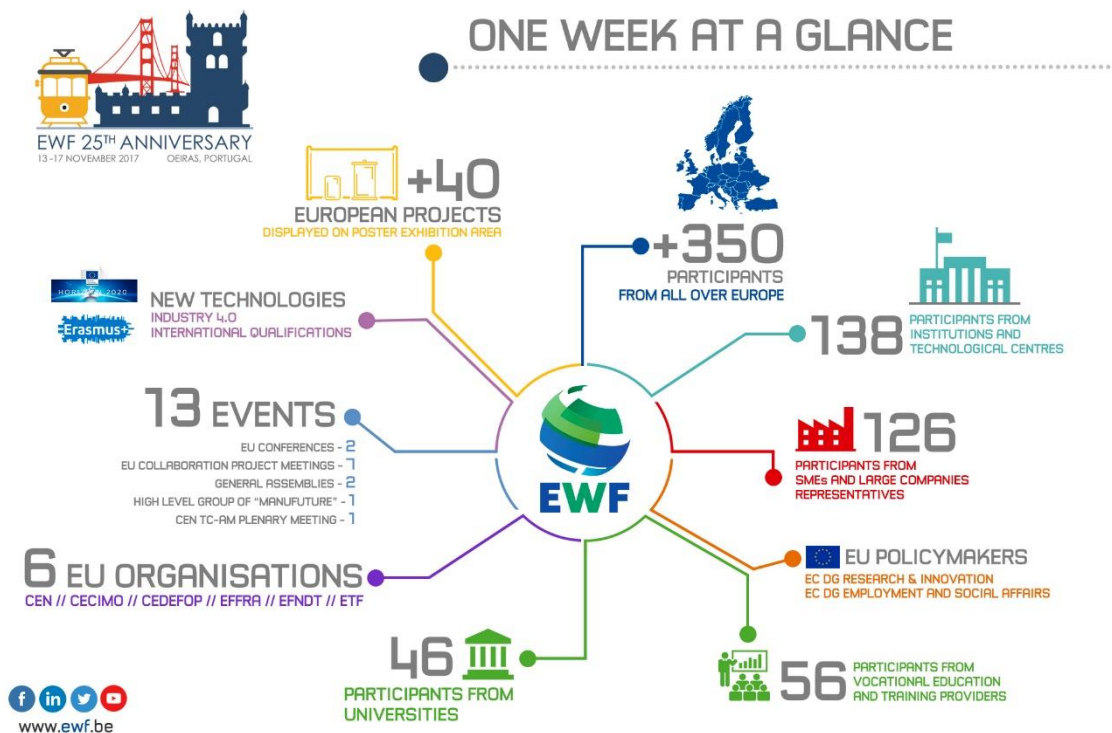
Manufacturing is at the core Europe's history since the industrial revolution. And its legacy can be seen in the number of companies, organisations and research institutions that exist in the continent that inherently work in the field. The new industrial revolution, currently in its infancy, and which will profoundly impact the economic landscape, has also started in Europe. And the European Commission has an ambitious goal to maintain Europe as the world's leading region in manufacturing.



Addressing that and other challenges facing the industry, from the adoption of new manufacturing technologies to the areas of innovation that are already disrupting the industry and the professionals required to support them, was in a debate during the general assembly of the European Federation of Welding, Joining and Cutting (EFW).

An enthusiastic group of representatives from the most diverse manufacturing organisations met for a week to address the future of the manufacturing sector, from additive manufacturing to industry 4.0. As a leading organisation comprising 30 member states, that manages a harmonised qualification system adopted by 46 countries worldwide, EFW plays a pivotal role in this transformation.

Around 350 leaders from the most diverse organisations, including research, education and training and manufacturing companies that are actively engaged in devising the future of Europe’s manufacturing, [gathered during the week](#) to discuss, among other themes, key trends and technologies, such as additive manufacturing. A few numbers provide an overview of the relevance of the meetings held. Within the research, education and training communities, the venue was an opportunity for over 138 participants from Institutions and Technological Centres, as well as 56 from Vocational Education providers and 46 from universities to get together and exchange experiences and opportunities with the 126 representatives from SMEs and Large Companies present. Lastly, the meeting also included some European Union organisations and national agencies, as well as the national institutes of welding.



One of the fields that are advancing more rapidly is additive manufacturing, and a special event took place to discuss the opportunities and next steps for this technology to grow. The conference held brought together stakeholders from the leading projects, with over 150 participants. They had the opportunity to share their experiences and knowledge to help shape the European Strategic Actions for Additive Manufacturing, defining the possibilities to be leveraged under the H2020 programme and evaluating the impact of the exploitable results of the projects showcased during the event.

The interactive conference was an excellent occasion to learn more about the latest trends, about the H2020 programme and the initiatives of European Commission regarding the additive manufacturing area.

About the European Federation for Welding, Joining and Cutting

EFW is a pioneer in implementing a harmonised qualification and certification system for joining professionals. Through European projects, EFW has been innovating in training methodologies, and involved in the development of new technologies and uses for joining. Through its member organisations, EFW has established a firm link to the local industry, providing knowledge and training as well as participating in research initiatives that address the most pressing questions and challenges in the field of joining technologies.

Contacts for media: Monica Sibisteanu (msibisteanu@ewf.be)