



The Label “Entreprise du Patrimoine Vivant” (EPV)

Artisans and industrialists: Become an ambassador of French know-how with the label “Entreprise du Patrimoine Vivant” (EPV)

Created in 2005, the label “Entreprise du Patrimoine Vivant” (EPV) is a state certification established to distinguish French artisanal and industrial companies with rare and exceptional know-how.

Awarded for five years by the Regional, Prefects, the EPV label brings together companies dedicated to excellence in their craft and products.

over 1,000
labeled companies

€14.2
billion
in cumulative revenue

of which
52.3%
of revenue from exports

13.8
average revenue
per company



French Excellence and Expertise

Entreprises du Patrimoine Vivant (EPV) are grouped into eight sectors of expertise:

- Architecture & Built Heritage
- Culture & Communication
- Furniture & Decoration
- Fashion & Beauty
- Gastronomy
- Industrial, Medical & Mechanical, Equipment
- Leisure & Transport
- Tableware art

The EPV label: a guarantee of quality, expertise, and recognition

Official recognition

The EPV label is a mark of distinction awarded by the French State, recognizing the excellence of traditional and industrial expertise

Credibility and prestige

Earning the label provides prestige to your company, enhancing credibility with clients, partners, and investors

Increased visibility

Labeled companies gain increased visibility through official communication channels and events organized by the State and stakeholders

Access to exclusive networks

The label allows companies to join a network of excellence, fostering exchanges and strategic partnerships

Showcasing expertise

The label highlights the unique expertise of your company, attracting clients who value the preservation of cultural heritage

Market differentiation

The EPV label offers a competitive advantage by distinguishing your company from competitors through recognized excellence

Export opportunities

The label facilitates access to international markets by assuring foreign clients of the quality and authenticity of products

Employee pride and motivation

Being recognized as an excellent company boosts employee pride and motivation, contributing to overall better performance

Financial and technical support

Labeled companies can access financial and technical assistance, including subsidies and innovation support such as the Crafts and Artistic Trades Tax Credit



The criteria

How to become an EPV?

To be eligible for certification, a company must meet at least two criteria per category.

1. Criteria indicating a specific economic heritage (and/or)

- The company owns rare equipment, tools, machines, models, or technical documentation;
- The company holds industrial property rights related to its products, services, or production equipment;
- The company actively pursues creation or innovation, generating a significant customer base.

2. Criteria indicating rare expertise based on traditional or advanced techniques (and/or)

- The company produces in its historical region or has been established in its current locality for over fifty years, or operates in historically or architecturally significant premises;
- The company trains employees, including apprentices, in expertise not commonly available through traditional educational paths;
- The company employs staff with collective expertise in excellence, supported by high-level qualifications, diplomas, awards, or significant professional experience.

3. Criteria relating to geographic location, reputation, or social responsibility (and/or)

- The company produces in its historical region or has been established in its current locality for over fifty years, or operates in historically or architecturally significant premises;
- The company has a recognized name or brand due to national awards, publications, or work on heritage-protected items, or creates products reflecting the cultural identity of its region;
- The company undertakes social responsibility initiatives, such as promoting its trades to younger audiences or adopting responsible sourcing policies, including short supply chains.

How to apply?

Applications and renewal requests must be submitted exclusively online. For more information about the current procedure, click here: www.sgs.com/labelepv

What are the eligibility criteria for the label?

To apply for the label, companies must meet the following conditions:

- Be registered in the Trade Register and/or the Chamber of Trades;
- Engage in production, transformation, repair, or restoration activities;
- Be up to date with social and tax obligations.

The steps

- 1 Receipt of the file candidacy
- 2 Admissibility study administrative
- 3 Contracting and invoicing of the royalty
- 4 Audit including the study of the application file, an audit on-site, and writing a report audit
- 5 Consultation of the Group of External Personalities (GPEX)
- 6 Transmission of the notice to the prefecture of the region
- 7 Notification of decision of labeling to the company candidate by the prefecture of the region.

The EPV Label Management by SGS: Supervision, promotion & development.

Since 2024, SGS ICS has been mandated by the «Direction générale des entreprises» to oversee the certification process for candidate companies and promote the EPV label nationally and internationally.

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