

Definition

The term handicraft is used for everything that used to be made by hand before industrialization, and that includes stone-working, shoe-making, ceramics, weaving etc. Arts in general have been divided into two categories, fine arts and handicrafts, since the Renaissance. Before the Renaissance, these two categories were considered to be one. Until the 20th century, all activities except fine arts were considered handicrafts and attracted only secondary attention in society. This led to the neglect of some handicrafts such folk architecture and woodworking, which in fact includes examples of the most outstanding artistic merit.

The same situation also applies to Turkey. Until the middle of the 19th century there was no artificial distinction between fine arts and handicrafts. Yet this eventually appeared due to changes in Western thinking. Since there was no word available to express the idea of handicrafts, the word “zanaat” was taken from Arabic. The Arts and Crafts Movement in England in the middle of the 19th century helped the emergence of a new vision of handicrafts, although work that began in 1910 dealt the final blow to this conception. Today, the concept of handicrafts has lost much of its importance. Many crafts that encompass modern artistic understanding and aesthetics, such as architecture, ceramics and rug and carpet-making are considered within the framework of art.

Legal Status :

Regarding the current laws, the craftsmen (individual or a entity) should be register as a company to trade their products.

Types of Companies

Incorporated companies such as:

- Joint-stock company (A.S)
- Limited liability company (Ltd.)
- Commandite company
- Collective company

Unincorporated companies such as:

- Joint-venture
- Business association
- Consortium

Companies with Special Legislation

Banks, private finance institutions, insurance companies, financial leasing companies, factoring companies, holding companies, companies operating foreign currency exchange offices, companies dealing with public warehousing, publicly held companies subject to the Capital Markets Law, while companies that are founders and operators of free zones are subject to a permit from the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

- **Joint Stock Company**

The company's stock capital is divided into shares and the liability of the shareholders is limited to the capital subscribed and paid by the shareholder. At least five shareholders (real persons or legal entities) and a minimum capital of TRY 50,000 are mandatory. The mandatory company organs include a general assembly, a board of directors and a supervisory board.

- **Limited Company**

It is the company established with at least two and at most fifty real persons or legal entities and the liability of the shareholders is limited to the capital subscribed and paid by the shareholder. A minimum capital of TRY 5,000 is mandatory. Unlike joint stock companies, no stock certificate is issued.

- **Commandite Company**

It is the company established to operate a commercial enterprise under a trade name. Whereas the liability of some shareholders is limited to the capital subscribed and paid by the shareholder (commanditer), for some shareholders there is no limitation of liability. Legal entities can only be commanditer. No minimum capital is required. The rights and obligations of the shareholders are determined by the articles of association.

- **Collective Company**

It is the company established to operate a commercial enterprise under a trade name and, the liability of none of the shareholders is limited only to the capital subscribed and paid by the shareholder. No minimum capital is required. It is mandatory that all the shareholders be real persons. The rights and obligations of the shareholders are determined by the articles of association.

Company Establishment Procedures

Three copies of articles of association (one copy original) which are notarized are prepared. Following the notarization of articles of association, within 15 days at the latest, application to the relevant trade registry office with the documents set below is needed.

Documents for the Company Establishment

- A company establishment petition and a notification form, duly filled in and signed by persons authorized to represent the company. The list of the documents to be procured, and forms to be filled can be downloaded at www.sanayi.gov.tr and www.hazine.gov.tr
- Notarized signatures of persons authorized to represent the company together with the company trade name
- A letter of commitment in accordance with Article 29 of the Trade Registry Regulation
- The bank receipt indicating that 0.04% of the company capital has been deposited to the account of the Turkish Competition Authority at a state bank or the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey
- Certified copies of the ID certificates of the real person founders and their residence certificates (if they have Turkish citizenship)
- In case there are any real persons of foreign citizenship among the founders of the company, the xerox copy of his/her passport to be presented together with the passport itself or its notarized copy

- In case the foreign shareholder(s) is a legal entity; the original copy of the certificate of activity issued by the competent authorities and approved by the relevant Turkish Consulate or apostilled and its notarized translation
- In case there are any rights and movable and immovable assets to be put in as capital for a company to be established; expert report of the assessment made to ascertain the value of these and the related court decision for the expert assignment

Protection of Geographical Indications

For the purposes of this Decree-Law, geographical sign shall mean signs indicating the origin of a product which possesses a specific quality, reputation or other characteristics attributable to that place, area, region or country of origin.

For the purposes of this Decree-Law, geographical signs are divided into two groups as designation of origin and geographical indication.

The name of a place, an area or a region of a product's origin shall mean "designation of origin" when all of the following conditions are met:

- a) a product originating from a place, an area, a region or, in exceptional cases a country, of which the geographical boundaries have been defined;
- b) a product, the quality or characteristics of which are essentially or exclusively due to the inherent natural and human factors of this place, area or region;
- c) a product, the production, processing and preparation of which take place within the defined boundaries of this place, area or region.

Traditional geographical or non-geographical names which have become customary in the current language designating a product originating in a place, an area or a region which fulfill the conditions referred in paragraph 3 may also be used as designations of origin.

The name of a place, an area or a region of a product's origin shall mean "geographical indication" when the following conditions are met:

- a) a product originating from a place, an area or a region of which the geographical boundaries have been defined;
- b) a product possessing a specific quality, reputation or other characteristics attributable to this place, area or region;
- c) a product, at least one of the activities of production, processing or preparation of which take place within the defined boundaries of this place, area or region.

Furthermore, for the purposes of this Decree-Law:

- a) 'Institute' means the Turkish Patent Institute assigned to implement the rules of this law.
- b) 'Paris Agreement', means the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property of March 20, 1883.
- c) 'Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization' means the international agreement of 15 April 1994 establishing the World Trade Organization.
- d) 'Producer' means producers of agricultural, industrial and hand-crafted products or processors of natural products or traders of these products.

HANDICRAFTS

Handicraft has been existed from the beginning of the human being depending on the environment conditions. It has given its first samples for protecting, covering human beings and providing with the necessities of them. The handicrafts, which has later improved and changed according to the environment conditions, has gained “traditional” character by becoming an art which reflects the artistic sense of taste and cultural characteristics of the community.

Traditional Turkish Hand Crafts has formed a rich mosaic by bringing together its genuine values with the cultural heritage of the different civilizations which were coming from the thousand years of history of the Anatolia.

Traditional Turkish Hand Crafts can be listed as; carpet making, rug making, sumac, cloth waiving, writing, tile making, ceramic-pottery, handwork making, making embroidery, leather manufacturing, music instrument making, masonry, coppersmith, basket making, saddle making, mining, felt making, weaving, wood handicraft, cart making etc. The raw material of the weaving is provided from the wool, mohair, cotton, bristle and silk.

Weaving can be every kind of cloth, plait, carpet, rug, felt which are obtained by spinning thread or connecting the fibers together by other methods.

The weaving is a handicraft, which has been made in Anatolia for a long time and was made for a living and still being made for a living in many regions.

The embroideries, which are one of the delicate samples of our handicrafts, are being used also as a communication tool with their meaning carried other then decoration. Those of the embroideries made with tools such as crochet needle, needle, shuttle, hairpin designed either as a border or motif, are called with different names according to the tool used and technique. These are can be listed as; needle, crochet needle, shuttle, hairpin, silk cocoon, wool, candle stick, bead and cloth left over. These have been made mostly in our districts such as Kastamonu, Konya, Elazığ, Bursa, Bitlis, Gaziantep, İzmir, Ankara, Bolu, Kahramanmaraş, Aydın, İçel, Tokat, Kütahya but they try to exist in trousseau chests since they are losing their former importance.

Along with our embroideries used with the traditional costumes the “taki”, which are put around one’s neck, are also the important accessories. All civilizations lived in Anatolia, have produced works of art having artistic value with precious and semi precious stones by either working up with metals or separately. The most importance of the various methods which have come with Seljuks are Turkmen Taki. At the Ottoman period the jewelry has gained importance in parallel to the development of the Empire.

After the periods of the Bronze Age in Anatolia when the bronze have been obtained by mixing the tin with copper, the materials such as copper, gold, silver have been also worked up by using the cast and wrought technique. The most used material is copper. The techniques such as wrought, scraping, savaklama (engraving in black on silver) have been used. The handicrafts made with copper, as well as the metals such as brass, gold, silver, are tried to be kept alive today by using high quality workmanship and various designs. The copper, which is the most widespread metal work up used today, is continued to be used by making cookware by tin foiling it. The architect created from the sheltering requirement has been designed and increased in varieties according to the conditions of the environment. The wooden workmanship, developed depending on that, has reached a characteristic quality unique to itself in Seljuk period. The wooden arts in Seljuks and rank of rulers are mostly the

architectural elements such as niche of a mosque indicating the direction of Mecca, mosque door, cupboard covers and have included high quality workmanship. In Ottoman period these have been applied mostly in ever day used objects such as tripod, wooden stand for a quilted turban, writing set, drawer, chest, spoon, throne, rowboat, low reading desk, Koran cover and architectural work of arts such as window, wardrobe cover, beam, console, ceiling, niche of a mosque indicating the direction of Mecca, pulpit, coffin.

The material used in the wooden workmanship is mostly walnut, apple, pear, cedar, ebony and rose tree. The wooden objects worked by the techniques such as tapping, painting, relief-engage, cage, coating, burning are still used nowadays. The usage of the walking stick and stick batons which are made by using these techniques still used in districts such as Zonguldak, Bitlis, Gaziantep, Bursa, İstanbul-Beykoz, Ordu have been lasted hundreds of years and became very common in 19th century. The handles of the walking sticks and stick batons are made of materials such as silver, gold, bone and the body part are made of wood such as rose, cherry, ebony, bamboo, reed etc. trees.

Making musical instruments has been continued since the old times. These instruments are being made by using trees, plants and the skin, bones and horns of the animals. They are grouped as strings, woodwind and percussion instruments. The other work art branch developed as depending on the architecture is glazed tile art. It was brought in Anatolia by Seljuks. The Seljuks artisans who were not hesitated to use figured work of arts were very successful especially in animal description. The glazed tile art initiated in 14th century in İznik, 15th century in Kütahya, 17th century in Çanakkale, has brought new designs to the Ottoman period ceramic and glazed tile arts. The glazed tile and ceramic art between 14-19th century has gained world wide fame with its extraordinary creative workmanship.

The most distinctive samples of the glass workmanship obtained from the Anatolian civilizations enlighten the development of the glass history. The vitray in different models and forms has been developed in Seljuk period. In Ottoman Empire period İstanbul has become the center of the glass art center. Çeşmi-i Bülbül is one of the techniques, which has been able to arrive from that period to our days. First production of the glass as a bead for averting the evil eye has been achieved by the craftsmen of İzmir-Görece village. It is possible to see in every part of Anatolia beads for averting the evil eye. It is believed that the glances directed to the living creature or objects can be averted by the amulet. Because of that the amulets made of bead for averting the evil eye are put on the part of the living creature or the object where can be seen easily.

Stone workmanship is takes important role in exterior and interior decoration in traditional architecture. The most used area of the stone workmanship other than the architecture is gravestone. The techniques such as carving, relief, script are applied. The ornamental motifs used are plants, geometric motifs and writing and figures. The animal figures are less. The human being figures are seen in Seljuk period. The basket making is made by weaving reed, willow, and nut branches as learnt by ancestors. It is started being used for inside home decoration other than carrying purpose. The saddles made of felt, rough clothes has formed a branch of the traditional artworks during the period when it was used widely at the rural areas dealing with livestock.

Depending on the changing living conditions, mainly industries, productions of these almost diminished. At the area inspections, made each year in the area determined by General Directorate, it is tried to find out by filming. The information obtained are recorded in the archive of the General Directorate and presented to the usage of the scientist working in this field and experts and students.

Existing Sectors:

- Carpets
- Pileless Carpets
- Textile
- Tile-Making
- Earthenware
- Embroideries
- Embroideries on Edges
- Leatherwork
- Musical Instrument Making
- Stoneware
- Copper Works
- Basket Making
- Plaiting
- Woodenware
- Jewellery
- Glassware
- Metalwork
- Society for Promoting Turkish Handicrafts