



COMPLETE GUIDE

How to Become a Certified
Welder in Europe

ITAFORMA

Welding is today one of the most in-demand professions in Europe.

This guide will take you step by step through the path to certification: which training courses to choose, how exams work, and which opportunities await you across Europe.



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Welding is today one of the most in-demand professions in Europe. From metal constructions to shipbuilding, from automotive to oil & gas, the role of the certified welder is essential to ensure the quality, safety, and durability of structures.

Becoming a certified welder means opening the door to thousands of job opportunities in Italy and abroad, with competitive salaries and real career growth.





What is a Certified Welder

A certified welder is a professional who has proven, through theoretical and practical exams, that they have the skills needed to produce high-quality welds.

Certifications are issued by accredited bodies and are internationally recognized. They confirm not only manual ability but also knowledge of processes, materials, and safety standards.

👉 The key difference between a generic welder and a certified welder is the legal validity of their work: only a qualified welder can work in regulated sectors such as construction, transport, and industrial plants.



Main European Certifications

To work as a welder in Europe, it is crucial to know the recognized certifications:



ISO 9606-1

qualification of welders for steel.



ISO 9606-2

qualification for aluminium welding.

These standards ensure that the welder's skills are verified and aligned with European quality requirements.



The Global Standard: ASME Certification

While the ISO 9606 is a key European standard, ASME is the definitive qualification for industries such as oil and gas, nuclear power, and petrochemicals.

- ASME Section IX: This is the primary standard for welders. It outlines the rules for qualifying welding procedures and personnel for critical infrastructure like pressure vessels and piping.

Holding an ASME certification demonstrates an advanced level of skill and commitment to safety, a professional credential that's recognized and respected worldwide.



TIG Welding (Tungsten Inert Gas)

Description:

TIG welding uses a non-consumable tungsten electrode and an inert shielding gas (usually argon or helium). The filler material, when used, is added separately by the welder. This process ensures precision and high-quality welds.

Materials:

- Stainless steel
 - Aluminium and aluminium alloys
 - Copper and copper alloys
 - Titanium
-

Typical industries:

- Metal structures and construction
- Shipbuilding
- Automotive mass production
- Industrial manufacturing and repair



MIG/MAG Welding (Metal Inert/Active Gas)

Description:

MIG/MAG welding is a process where a consumable wire electrode is continuously fed through a welding gun, protected by a shielding gas. MIG uses inert gases, while MAG uses active gases like CO₂ or gas mixtures. It is one of the fastest and most versatile welding processes.

Materials:

- Carbon steel
 - Stainless steel
 - Aluminium and alloys
-

Typical industries:

- Metal structures and construction
- Shipbuilding
- Automotive mass production
- Industrial manufacturing and repair



Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW / Electrode Welding)

Description:

Commonly known as “stick welding,” this process uses a consumable electrode coated in flux. The coating produces shielding gases and slag, protecting the weld pool. It is robust and adaptable, especially for outdoor work.

Materials:

- Carbon steel
- Stainless steel
- Cast iron
- Some nickel alloys

Typical industries:

- Construction sites and infrastructure
- Maintenance and repair
- Heavy industry and shipyards
- Energy sector (pipelines, oil & gas installations)



Training Paths

To become a certified welder, there are several training options:

1 Basic course

Introduction to fundamental processes (MIG/MAG, TIG, shielded metal arc welding)..

2 Complete course:

Specializations and welding in difficult positions.

3 Online theory course:

To prepare for certification exams and deepen theoretical knowledge.

4 Intensive bootcamps:

Hands-on training concentrated in a few days, ideal for fast results.

☛ Each training path is designed to improve manual skills and prepare students for certification exams.



The Qualification Exam

The welder qualification exam is regulated by authorized bodies and includes:

Practical test:

Execution of welded joints in different positions.



Non-destructive testing (NDT):

Radiography, ultrasound, or visual inspection.



Document check:

Compliance with the WPS (Welding Procedure Specification).



Passing the exam leads to the issue of a welding license, valid throughout Europe, with limited duration and renewable.



Career Opportunities in Europe

The job market for certified welders is wide and diverse:

- Shipbuilding sector: Netherlands, Norway, Denmark.
- Metal construction: Germany, Poland, Italy.
- Oil & Gas: United Kingdom, France.
- Automotive and aerospace: Spain, Italy, Germany.



Average Salary of a Certified Welder

Welder salaries depend on:

- The country of employment.
- The welding process certified (TIG and MIG/MAG are among the most requested).
- Experience and the industrial sector.

3000-5000+

2000-3000

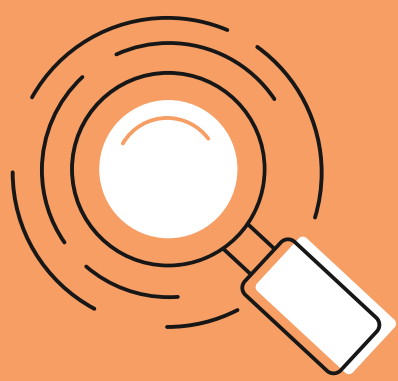
1500-2000

Expert & Multiprocess

Semi expert welder, with
several certification

Junior
welder





How to Choose the Right School

Not all welding schools provide the same quality of training. Key factors to evaluate:

- Modern equipment and advanced workshops.
- Certified instructors with international experience.
- Hands-on training with personalized guidance.
- Recognized certifications issued by accredited bodies.





Why Choose ITAFORMA

Unique Dual Certification: One of the only schools to offer dual UNI EN ISO AND ASME certification.

- Certified Instructors: Professionals with solid industrial experience.
- State-of-the-Art Laboratories: Fully equipped with the latest technologies.
- Flexible Educational Format: Online theoretical courses + intensive practical sessions.
- Full Support: Comprehensive help in preparing for certification exams.
- Job Placement: Partnerships with companies to facilitate job placement.



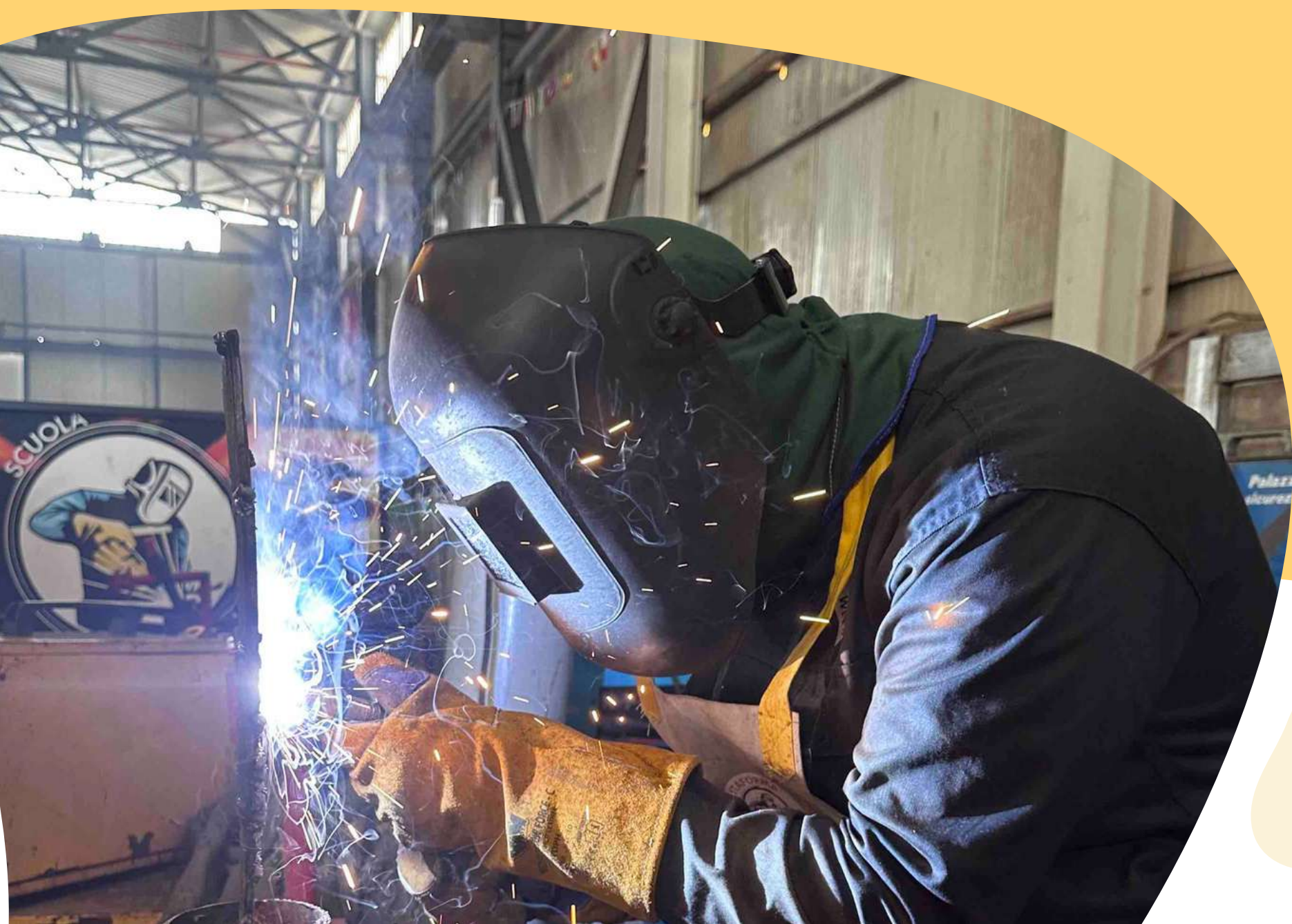
Becoming a certified welder



Becoming a certified welder in Europe means building a solid, well-paid career with long-term growth opportunities.

✦ With ITAFORMA you can start your journey today:

- Discover the available courses
- Request a free consultation
- Prepare for your certification exam





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