

ROAD TO EUROSKILLS 2020

Edition No. 11

euroskills2020.com



NEW EVENT DATE, NEW CHALLENGES FOR EUROSKILLS 2020

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COVID-19 came out of the blue earlier this year and turned all our lives upside down. Some difficult decisions had to be taken in the events industry, too, including EuroSkills 2020 GmbH. In April it was announced that Austria's first European Skills Championships for young, skilled workers would have to be postponed until 6-10 January 2021.

The fact that an event originally planned to take place in late summer will now be held in winter, has presented the entire EuroSkills 2020 team with completely new challenges in terms of planning and preparation.

The biggest challenge also involves a great deal of responsibility: the new framework conditions related to COVID-19 for staging an event of this scale require various preventive measures to be implemented. These measures are defined by EuroSkills 2020 GmbH in continuous coordination with the relevant authorities, ministries and the Red Cross, because the top priority must be the safety of all competitors and everyone else involved in the event.

The Operations team also saw a number of items added to their "to do" list due to the

postponement. These include providing winter-proof tents for some of the competitions, which will of course also need to be heated. Each of the tents will require adequate infrastructure such as running water, electricity and various special supply connections. Snow clearance at the event premises is also now an issue for the organisation team. And, after the postponement was announced, even more work awaited the team with regard to the accommodation arrangements, as they had to ensure that a sufficient number of hotel rooms would still be available on the new dates.

The Partnership & Events team had more than enough to do this spring, when it became necessary not only to move the opening and closing ceremonies to a bigger hall, but also to relocate some of the EuroSkills 2020 side events to different venues. Other major issues are the new COVID-19 rules concerning catering, limitations on the numbers of people admitted, social distancing requirements, and so on. The entire EuroSkills 2020 team is working around the clock to make the event an unforgettable experience for everybody involved.

WE ARE SKILLS!

COPING WITH CRISIS – SAFETY FIRST

The preventive measures we're putting in place to make your stay safe.

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SEE YOU SOON IN STYRIA

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WE'RE PART OF IT

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A MESSAGE FROM THE EUROSKILLS CEOS

DEAR READERS,

COVID-19 hit us this spring, all the more fiercely because it was totally unexpected. It marked the beginning of difficult times for all of us, and it will take a while before we can return to normality again. We could all lose heart and simply wait until the situation, with Europe firmly in its grip, has settled down again. Or we can keep our spirits up, think positively and look to the future. "Let's go for it!" These times are challenging for all of us, but we are convinced that EuroSkills 2020 will be a success if we all follow the required safety measures. We all are now called upon to find new ways of doing things in order to cope with COVID-19 as far as possible and to create a safe environment for everybody. Together, we intend to make EuroSkills 2020 a positive highlight at the beginning of the new year, and so convey the message that we are all in the same boat, things are getting better and it's time to look to the future. That's why we are doing all we can to make the event venue and all related locations as safe as humanly possible and to lead by positive example. It's not just us, the organisers of EuroSkills 2020, who are struggling with the COVID-19 restrictions, as the member states and their national championships are also affected. We are happy to share our experiences to help ensure that skills competitions can continue to be held in the future. By finding new ways and new approaches together, we will get through this. That's why the EuroSkills 2020 catchphrase "We are Skills" is now more relevant than ever. Stay healthy and safe – see you at EuroSkills in January!

SAFETY FIRST FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED

COVID-19 has hit the entire world out of the blue. Even though things are slowly returning to normal, it is very important to keep a close eye on the safety and wellbeing of everybody involved in EuroSkills 2020. EuroSkills has been working closely with the relevant authorities for some time to devise a sophisticated safety concept for the event. In Austria, the current rules for events will apply until 31 December 2020, but restrictions are expected to remain in force even after that date. That's why EuroSkills 2020 GmbH has already made contact with all the relevant authorities, because the common goal is to make the European Skills Championships happen. In cooperation with the authorities, EuroSkills is taking steps to ensure that all competitors, experts, delegates and other stakeholders are allowed to enter Austria, and that nothing stands in the way of Austria's EuroSkills debut in January 2021. The accreditation system that will be in place at EuroSkills 2020 has one

major advantage: the flow of visitors can be directed and kept under control. Competitors and experts are to be separated from visitors and staff by the workshop areas, and the catering arrangements are also being redesigned.

We will also be implementing further, familiar measures: hand sanitiser dispensers in entry areas and in highly frequented places, face masks, controlled serving of food in the catering areas, monitoring of compliance with social distancing, and other provisions to ensure maximum safety for everyone involved. The opening and closing ceremonies are being planned according to the same principles: designated seating and the accreditation system will considerably increase safety for participants as well as visitors. All measures serve the common goal of providing visitors and participants alike with a sense of safety and responsibility at all times.



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WORKSHOP MANAGERS FINALLY GET DOWN TO BUSINESS AGAIN

Despite the postponement, the 70 or so EuroSkills 2020 workshop managers – all of whom will play a major role in ensuring a successful Austrian EuroSkills premiere by volunteering their expertise free of charge – are still fully motivated. The workshop managers last met with the EuroSkills 2020 team at the Competition Preparation Meeting Salzburg in mid-July, primarily to discuss the final competition layouts, logistics, delivery and take-down (and the involvement of sponsors in these aspects), waste disposal on site and so on.

The requirements concerning set-up and take-down in particular have changed due to the postponement of the event. Some of the work at the Messe Congress Graz exhibition centre premises can be started as early as the beginning of December, while set-up at other hall venues cannot commence until after Christmas. In some skills and trades, for instance Welding, the workshop managers have even been using their free time to prepare for the competitions. Over the last few weeks they have been pre-assembling the required welding booths in Mureck in southern Styria, which means that the preparations are now well on the way to completion. So that the whole "crew" can gear themselves

up once again for the forthcoming event, the 70 or so workshop managers and the organisation team will gather for their final meetings before EuroSkills 2020 in Salzburg at the end of November and again in Graz in early December.



WorkshopManager © Marija Kanizaj

CPM GOES ONLINE FOR THE FIRST TIME

DUE TO COVID-19, THE COMPETITION PREPARATION MEETING (CPM) WAS HELD ONLINE AS A VIDEO MEETING FOR THE FIRST TIME.

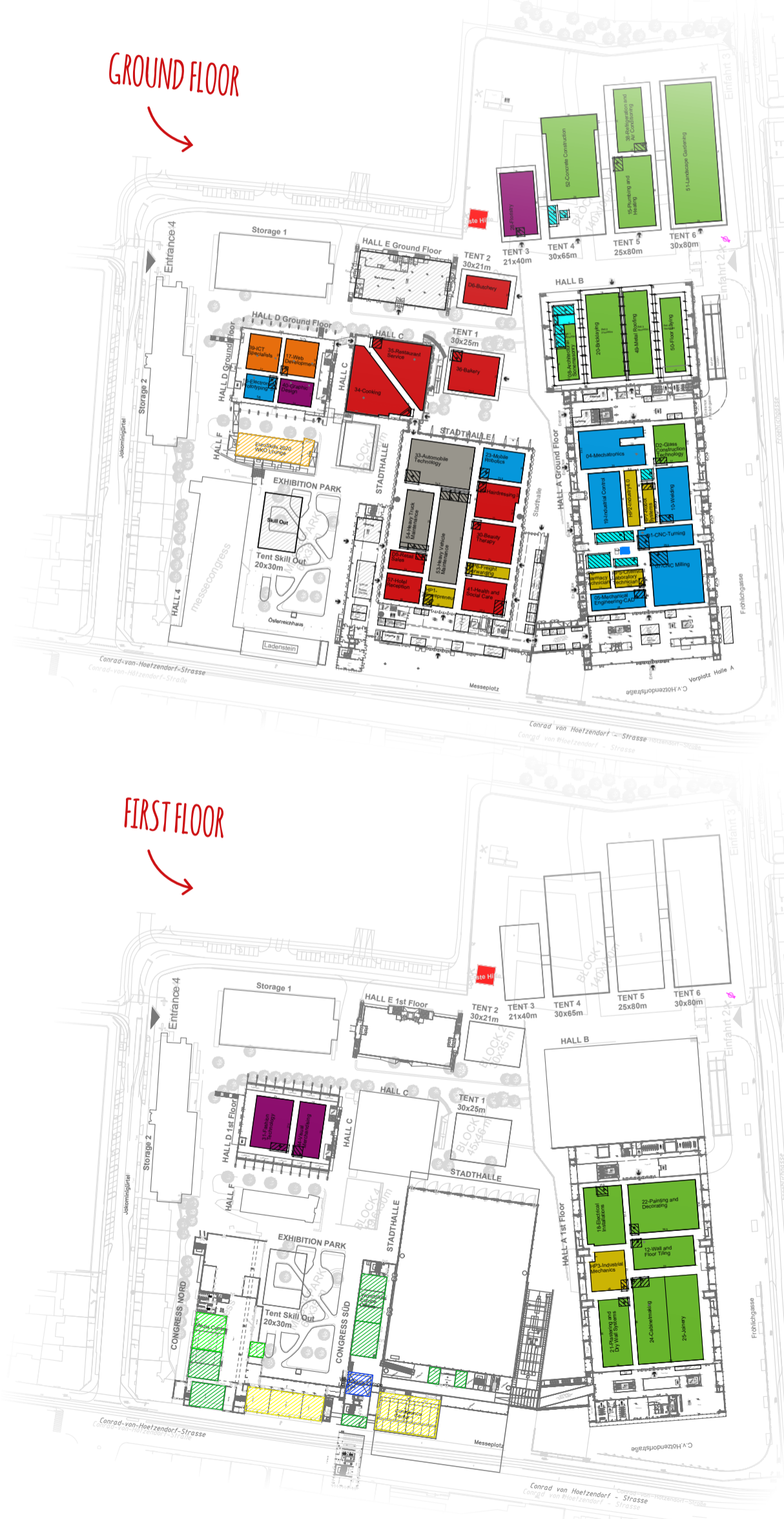
Initially planned as a meeting to be held in Graz between the EuroSkills 2020 team, workshop managers, experts from the WorldSkills Europe member countries and some of the sponsors, the CPM had to be cancelled at short notice to guarantee the safety of everybody involved. The CPM had originally been intended to give all member countries a first "taste of Graz" and the guests would have been able to explore the venue, the Messe Congress Graz, for the first time in person.

Even though it was not possible to meet up in the same place, a suitable solution was quickly found, at least for the planned meetings and discussions. Online video conferences replaced conventional meetings in March so that everyone could discuss all the main details concerning the international competition event for young, skilled workers.

The managing directors of EuroSkills 2020 GmbH, Angelika Ledineg and Harald del Negro, stated: "Holding the Competition Preparation Meeting online was the right decision, and an important one. Even though the situation regarding COVID-19 was still very uncertain in March, we managed to make enormous progress on the Road to EuroSkills 2020 together with everyone involved."

Over a two-day period, every single competition skill of EuroSkills 2020 was discussed with the relevant individuals. The agenda for the first online CPM included the infrastructure list for each of the skills, the layout for the competition area, the required working materials for the competitors, the logistics, the entire set-up and take-down and other details. During the online meeting, initial ideas were put forward for the competition tasks involving the 45 or so different skills and trades and a clear allocation of responsibilities was drawn up, as this would be required for further arrangements such as providing working materials.

The other EuroSkills 2020 teams were also actively involved in the Online CPM, with all outstanding questions by member countries on issues such as arrivals, accommodation, tickets and accreditations/passes being collected and answered by EuroSkills 2020 Member Support in a comprehensive follow-up Q&A document. Another important matter was the shipping guidelines: the Operations team presented the arrangements for shipment of the participants' personal tool sets to make sure that these arrive safely and are guaranteed to be in place and ready in plenty of time for the competitions.





GRAZ: CITY OF SKILLS

WHEN EUROSKILLS 2020 TRANSFORMS GRAZ INTO A CITY OF SKILLS FROM 6 TO 10 JANUARY, THE CAPITAL OF THE PROVINCE OF STYRIA WILL PRESENT ITSELF IN ALL ITS WINTER FINERY.

A white sea of rooftops, the aroma of chestnuts roasting in the traditional streets and squares of the old town: the staging of the European Skills Championships in Graz in January 2021 is sure to put a smile on the face of anyone who loves a winter wonderland. After all, Graz and winter have always been an idyllic combination for tourists – as can be seen from the great many highlights the city has to offer in the snowy season. First and foremost there is Graz's ice nativity scene, with Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus and the three Wise Men recreated by the aptly named Finnish ice sculptor, Kimmo Frosti, into a spectacular artwork that leaves visitors awestruck every year. The nativity scene, which is carved out of a 35-ton block of ice and is the first and still the only one of its kind in the world, helps to create a magical atmosphere in Graz and attracts thousands of tourists from all corners of the globe every winter.

COUNTLESS CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

A wintry stroll through the lanes and alleys of the charming city by the river Mur will provide enchantment for anyone with an interest in culture. That's because anything that started its season in the autumn will have reached its absolute peak by the winter. Cultural highlights abound in the opera house and theatres of Graz, while cabaret artists create laughter aplenty and the ball season is in full swing. In wintertime, the typical Austrian hospitality is helped along by the world-famous and extremely popular Styrian white wines – especially Pinot Blanc and Welschriesling – and the delicacies of Styrian cuisine also leave visitors feeling warm and welcome. Styrian style scrambled eggs – enriched with the traditional, locally produced pumpkin seed oil – will tempt your tastebuds. For the best experience we recommend visiting one of the many top restaurants, including

several award-winning establishments, which officially make Graz the "Gourmet Capital". In the area surrounding the Franciscan church and monastery, there are many traditional squares like the Mehplatz, Färberplatz and Glockenspielplatz, and the Iron Gate Square – where, among the architectural splendour, you will find high-end, exclusive restaurants serving regional and international specialities.

A CHOICE OF WINTER SPORTS

If you want to get back in shape after all that culinary indulgence, you'll find plenty of opportunities for exercising in Graz. Ice-skating is available at several locations, for instance at the "Graz Winter World" skating rink on the Karmeliterplatz square, the ice rink in Liebenau or on the charming Hilmteich pond. Despite being surrounded by picturesque mountain ranges, you wouldn't immediately

associate the university city of Graz with a skiing paradise. However, even the nearby slopes at Wimmerlifte and Gedersberg are ideal for beginners, with their gently sloping pistes and affordable prices.

POPPING CORKS IN GRAZ

Despite the cool temperatures – averaging between +3° and -4° Celsius in January – New Year's Eve in Graz is a night to remember, with celebrations in the main square featuring an impressive, eco-friendly show involving water, fire, lasers and light. The ultra-modern and technologically sophisticated performance is in striking contrast to the historic backdrop of the Graz town hall.

Whatever your preferences – culture or sports, food or shopping – Graz has something for everyone. We are looking forward to giving you a warm welcome in a charming city with many fabulous attractions!



FROM GLACIER TO WINE REGION

BETWEEN CHARMING VINEYARDS AND IMPOSING MOUNTAINS: WE LOOK AT WHAT STYRIA, THE HOST VENUE OF EUROSKILLS, HAS TO OFFER VISITORS

“From high up on the Dachstein ... down into the vineyards.” The imposing mountain range and the extensive wine region of Southern Styria – these highlights of the province are mentioned at the start of the Styrian anthem, and competitors at EuroSkills 2020 will be able to experience them at first hand from 6 to 10 January in Graz. The Austrian province of Styria is a vibrant destination, especially in winter: The mountain landscape – most notably the Dachstein – is guaranteed to make any dedicated mountain hiker’s heart beat faster. On the highest mountain in Styria, which towers at around 2,700 metres above sea level and overlooks the Suspension Bridge, the Stairway to Nothingness and the Sky Walk, visitors are offered a blend of thrills and mystical oases of calm. The Dachstein heights can also be reached via the Panorama Gondola – with the only finer view during EuroSkills being from the top of the winner’s podium.

THE SNOWY WHITE HEART OF AUSTRIA

Instead of descending by gondola, you have the option of skiing back down the mountain. In winter, Styria offers many kilometres of pistes, powder snow descents and glacial slopes for freeriders, carvers, boarders and all kinds of recreational skiers – and not just on the Dachstein. Mainly small yet excellent

ski resorts are located slightly off the beaten track and radiate the primordial charms of Styria. If you want to explore the entire range of skiing fun, you’ll find a wealth of options among the resorts of Planai, Stuhleck and Kneisberg – from culinary highlights in the mountain huts, to relaxing sun terraces and the annual ski spectacle of the Schladming Night Race. Styria may be known as “the green heart of Austria”, but these ski resorts turn that green heart to white in the winter with their cable cars and chair lifts, children’s lifts, night pistes and toboggan runs.

HOT SPRINGS

The stirring winter experiences that Styria offers in January mainly involve snow-covered landscapes, but are not restricted to high up in the mountain peaks. The Styrian thermal baths will give EuroSkills competitors the chance to enjoy some well-earned rest and relaxation. Situated mainly in the south and east of Styria, hot thermal springs invite visitors to unwind – magical tranquility included.

A WEALTH OF MUSEUMS IN STYRIA

The province’s many fascinating museums and exhibitions provide a wide variety of cultural and historical attractions. From

the Austrian Volcano Museum in Gniebing to the Open-Air Museum in Stübing and the Joanneum Universal Museum in Graz, the library at the Benedictine abbey in Admont and the House of Architecture in Graz – Styria is rich in cultural institutions and facilities and offers an insight into an extraordinary world, inviting visitors to linger especially during the coldest months of the year. Come and see for yourself!



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"FUTURE OF SKILLS" FROM VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES



How is vocational training going to change in the future? What are the requirements that the vocational training of the future needs to fulfil? How does life-long digital learning work? How are technological innovations changing our working and living environment? The EuroSkills 2020 conference "Future of Skills" will explore these and many other questions in detail and from a wide range of perspectives.

On the first day of competitions (7 January 2021), visitors will find a varied knowledge platform featuring several discussion formats and facilitating mutual exchange and knowledge transfer at European level.

Taking into consideration the current and future requirements of manufacturing and trade as well as those of educational institutions, the Future of Skills conference will aim to generate fresh impetus for the development of new,

forward-looking approaches to educational and economic policy and to identify new paths towards a strong and unified Europe of tomorrow. Through various discussion formats (in English), the conference will shed light on three core topics: "Vocational and Educational Training"; "Talent Economics and Generation Next" and "The Role of Skills and Competitions in Building Blocks for the Future".

The opening keynote on the topic "Technology vs. Humanity" will be given by the futurist Gerd Leonhard, and the closing keynote "Curriculum of the Future" by the Finnish author and visionary Perttu Pölönen. Further speakers include Antonio Lopez Arias, Head of Talent Acquisition at NATO, Hervé Huot-Marchand, Chief of the Section for Youth, Literacy and Skills Development at UNESCO HQ, and Stefano Tirati, Vice President of EfVET

and CEO of Learningdigital.eu. Some speakers come from the event's host country Austria, including Moritz Lechner, Austria's youngest founder of a company, EuroSkills 2020 hero and former EuroSkills gold medal winner Lisa Janisch, and Harald Zulehner, managing director of the Austrian branch of DOKA.



© Conference/Photo courtesy of WorldSkills International

Tickets for the Future of Skills conference are already available online.

More information is provided online at:

<https://euroskills2020.com/programme/conference/>

A DIGITAL EVENT COMPANION

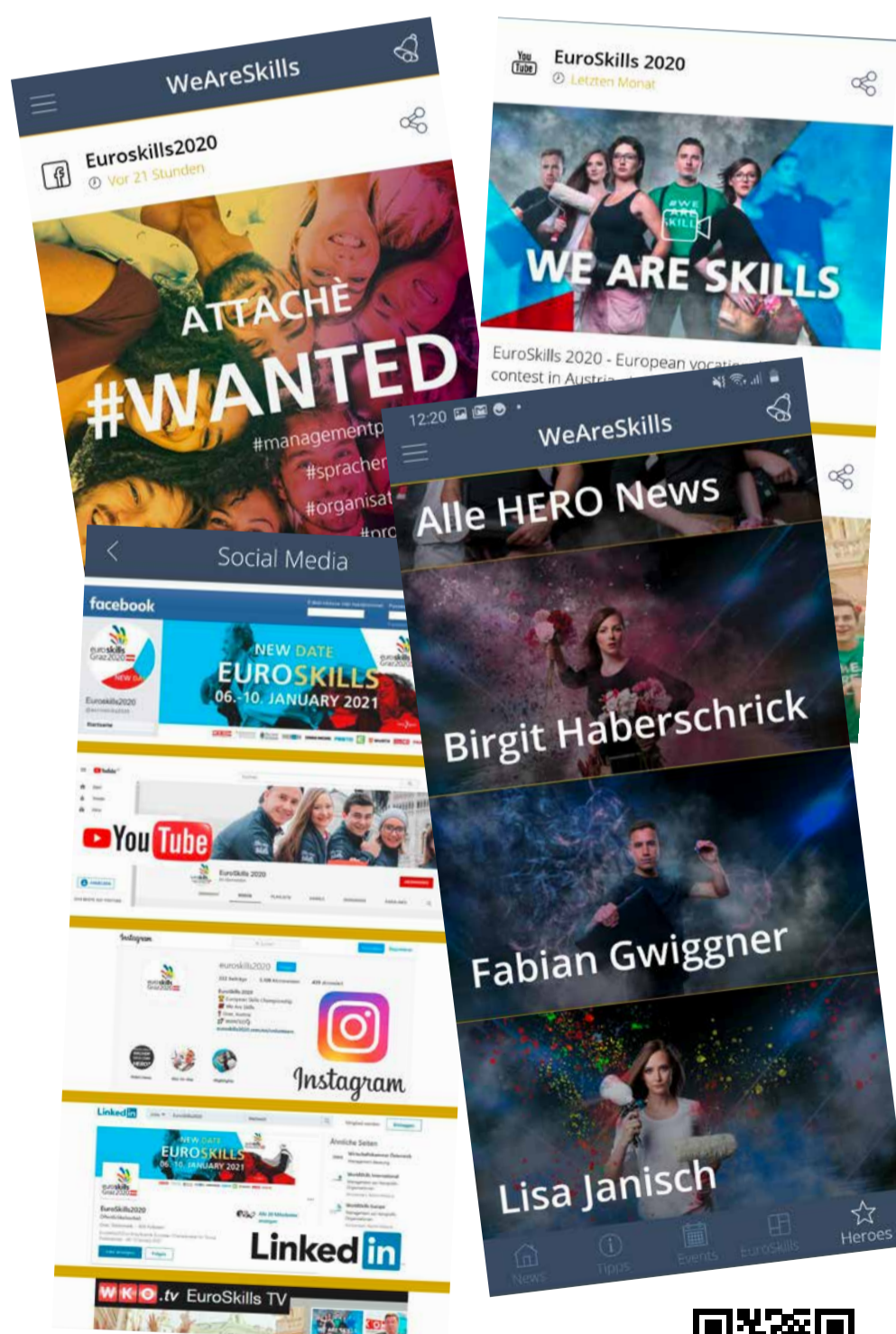
STAY UP TO DATE WITH THE "WE ARE SKILLS" APP

EuroSkills 2020, with Graz as its venue, is set to be one of the biggest and most extraordinary events of the year. One reason why the European Skills Championships event is so unique is that it enables so many people from different countries and cultures to come together in one place. And they all want the same thing: to showcase the top achievements of their young, skilled workers. The EuroSkills 2020 team is doing all it can to turn this event into the highlight of the year and to make visiting Graz an unforgettable experience for everybody.

The "We are Skills" app was developed to provide all visitors with everything they need to know about EuroSkills 2020 and to help them prepare for their stay in Styria. It can be used as a mini tour guide, with information about the most important sights, top local destinations and interesting facts and figures about the region known as the "green heart of Austria". Furthermore, the app will provide all the necessary information before and during the upcoming event, with details of the skills

competitions as well as the latest stats and competition results as around 650 competitors give their best performances and showcase their skills for the first time ever in Graz.

The goal is to ensure that spectators and participants from Austria and the rest of Europe enjoy their stay as much as possible, and to provide them with regular updates about the European Skills Championships. The We are Skills app will help do this, and it's so easy to use – which means there is now nothing to stop you from enjoying one of next year's most fascinating events. As a foretaste of your forthcoming visit this winter, the app already contains some short articles on the most important locations and traditions in Styria. At the same time, you can find out about the various skills and trades and access all EuroSkills 2020 facts and figures quickly and easily. The We are Skills app is the perfect companion for the event of the year in 2021. The app is already available and can be downloaded free of charge from every App store.



DOWNLOAD NOW





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SPONSORS REMAIN LOYAL TO EUROSKILLS 2020

Over the past few months, and despite the difficult times we are in, EuroSkills 2020 has welcomed an amazing thirteen new sponsors. This is a pleasing sign that support for the international skills community remains paramount even in times of crisis.

First and foremost, our two new gold sponsors: Siemens and voestalpine. At EuroSkills 2020, Siemens will be lending its strong support mainly in Industrial Control and Industry 4.0, a competition category in which not one, but two teams of young skilled workers from Siemens made it through the qualifying rounds. Many former voestalpine apprentices have also enjoyed success at EuroSkills and WorldSkills in the past. And all competitors from all nations

can indeed rely on strong support at the first skills championships to be held in Graz. As a new silver sponsor, BMW Austria is providing nine company vehicles for the organisation team as well as the vehicles for the Automobile Technology skill. In the Transportation and Logistics category, the German bronze sponsor Bosch Rexroth will be supporting Heavy Vehicle Technology and Heavy Truck Maintenance. The catering wholesaler MAYWAY rightly takes pride in supporting the "culinary skills" such as Cooking and Restaurant Service. And the high-tech business Shining3D, which specialises in 3D-digitisation and additive manufacturing, will make a valuable contribution to the Mechanical Engineering - CAD skill.

Hela Gewürze will make spices and cooking equipment available for "culinary skills" as a supplier, while Coffee-Tech will be indulging everyone with a much-needed energy boost on nerve-racking competition days. The French company Raphael Perrier will provide the hairdressers with various tools of the trade and model heads for the competition, and the Austrian company Holzmann Maschinen will be supporting the Cabinetmaking and Joinery skills with a range of tools. Finally, Raise3D is providing 3D printers for the Mechanical Engineering/CAD skill, Smithers-Oasis will be supporting the florists with various working materials and VCOM will supply materials for the Electronics skill.



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