

EUROSKILLS 2021: THE SKILLS SHOWDOWN

THE EUROPEAN SKILLS
CHAMPIONSHIPS

EuroSkills is a unique combination of vocational competition and other side events around the theme of vocational education and training.

This international event format is held every two years in the form of a European Championship. The focus is on the top performances of young, highly talented professionals aged up to 26 years old in around 45 European occupations. Around 450 active competitors will contest the competitions in the fields of industry, crafts and services. For the first time since EuroSkills was founded, this European Championship will take place in Austria from 22 to 26 September 2021.

When young chefs competing in skill no. 34 conjure up culinary extravaganzas, welders in skill no. 10 make sparks fly – literally – in welding booths, and when hair is swiftly cut, coloured and expertly styled before a fascinated audience, then it means EuroSkills has come around again. The vocational skills championships, EuroSkills, make up the flagship event of WorldSkills Europe, a non-profit membership association whose stated mission is to use the EuroSkills competition to raise the profile of vocational education in the long term and draw attention to the importance of highly qualified, skilled workers. The organisation currently comprises 31 member countries, which regularly send competitors to the European vocational skills contest. EuroSkills is held every two years in one of the member countries, the sole exception to this rule being EuroSkills 2021, due to be held three years after EuroSkills 2018 because of COVID-19. The up-and-coming elite of the skilled workforce will gather in Austria for the first time in the history of EuroSkills. The event will be held from 22 to 26 September at the Schwarzl See Lakeside Leisure and Event Centre near Graz.

What happens at EuroSkills?

The large-scale event focuses on the outstanding professional achievements of young, skilled workers up to the age of 26, who compete in about 45 different skills and trades falling into six vocational categories. Over the three days of competitions, the entrants will tackle tasks set beforehand and then assessed by experts in the field. The criteria are very strict and the expert jury evaluates the performances very closely. On the final day, all assignments are evaluated and the winners of the individual vocational fields as well as the overall European champion are announced during the awards ceremony. Key supporters are the numerous sponsors, who not only help to finance the contest, but above all provide non-monetary support in the form of various materials, machinery and other similar assistance. “Without our sponsors’ support it would be impossible to make EuroSkills 2020 happen on such a massive scale”, says supervisory board chairman Josef Herk. “That’s why we’re particularly grateful to all our sponsors for their cooperation in this magnificent event, which demonstrates their commitment to supporting young, skilled workers in Austria and abroad.”

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Who is behind EuroSkills 2020 GmbH?

EuroSkills 2020 GmbH is a non-profit company with limited liability under Austrian law and is managed by the directors Angelika Ledineg and Harald del Negro. The President of the Styrian Economic Chamber, Josef Herk, is the Chairman of the Supervisory Board, which also includes the Director of the Styrian Economic Chamber, Karl-Heinz Dernoscheg, and its Head of Finance, Anton Lampl. The Austrian limited company (GmbH) is a 100% subsidiary of the Styrian Chamber of Commerce.

EuroSkills 2021 facts, figures and dates

When/where:

22 - 26 September 2021 at Messe Congress Graz and Schwarzl Freizeitzentrum

Programme

- Wednesday 22 September 2021: Opening Ceremony (Messe Congress Graz)
- Thursday 23 to Saturday 25 September 2021: Competitions (Schwarzl Freizeitzentrum)
- Sunday 26 September 2021: Closing Ceremony (Messe Congress Graz)

Objectives:

- To throw the spotlight on highly trained and skilled workforces
- To provide an international showcase for companies
- To allow comparison of education systems

Facts:

- Approx. 450 competitors
- 31 member countries
- Around 45 skills and trades from the industrial, craft and service sectors

Six vocational categories:

- Construction and building technology
- Manufacturing and engineering technology
- Information and communication technology
- Creative arts and fashion
- Services
- Transportation and logistics

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