

A logistical masterstroke for Europe's elite

Today is the UN's World Youth Skills Day, a precursor to the European vocational championships to be held in Austria for the first time this September. Meanwhile, work is progressing at speed to prepare Styria's stage for top-level performances by European competitors, with high-bay warehouses covering several thousand square metres now being filled with products and components from sponsors and partners. Starting in mid-September, these items will be transported to the event venue, the "Schwarzl Freizeitzentrum" lakeside leisure and event centre (SFZ), where power and water lines are currently being laid.

Graz, 15 July 2021: Today has been designated by the UN as World Youth Skills Day, with the aim of raising awareness of the importance of vocational training and education. "We are facing huge challenges in the years to come, which we can only tackle with the help of young professionals. That's why we need to sustainably elevate the status of vocational training," says Joseph Herk, EuroSkills Supervisory Board Chairman and President of the Styrian Economic Chamber, as he sets out the strategy. But it is not only Austria that is spearheading this endeavour with its staging of the European vocational skills championships starting on 22 September. Around 400 talented individuals from all over Europe will converge at the "Schwarzl Freizeitzentrum" venue for the event showcasing professional excellence.

"We want to make the event unforgettable for the competitors as well as for our visitors from Austria and beyond – and, in this way, also play an important part in raising the profile of vocational training. That's why we're doing all we can to ensure that this major international event is organised to the highest possible standards," says Mr. Herk.

Complex logistics

The aforementioned organisation is, of course, already up to speed. In specific terms, this means that the three external warehouses in Styria – in Waagner-Biro-Strasse, in Puntigamer Strasse and in the warehouse provided in Messendorf by the EuroSkills 2021 corporate sponsor Zultner – are gradually being filled with products and components from sponsors and partners. For Bernd Flachs, managing director of Zultner, supporting EuroSkills means supporting the future. "As an innovative metal dealer, we are supporting the skilled workers of tomorrow in order to put new ideas into action and make Austria fit for the future as a business location. Challenging times call for outstanding talent."

It is mainly smaller items of equipment, such as measuring devices, electronics and pipework, that will be stored in the 4,000 square metres of warehouse space. Around 15,000 individual items are being sorted into batches of 100 or 1,000. In total, well over 100,000 products will be accommodated in the warehouses. "For the purposes of the competitions, it is crucial that all the skilled professionals are presented with identical conditions. This makes it especially complicated, since each competition or skill requires not only different equipment, but also a different basic infrastructure.

#WE
ARE
SKILLS

#EUROSKILLS2021
FOLLOW US

The great many different requirements presented by the 48 skills and trades make the logistics particularly challenging,” explains Gerald Prabitz, responsible for Operations.

However, there is no cause for concern: “The detailed planning work and the fabulous team spirit among employees, partners and sponsors will enable us to pull off a real logistical masterstroke. The team is right on track and is looking forward to the competitions,” say the two Managing Directors Angelika Ledineg and Harald del Negro.

Site visits for basic infrastructure

While the warehouses are being filled, the basic infrastructure is currently being installed at the event venue in Schwarzl. This means that the highly accurate placement of all twelve temporary structures for the competitions, the power generators and transformers, and the waste-water, power and IT lines is calculated by means of site inspections. “Because the temporary structures must be able to withstand wind speeds of 100 km/h, for example, they are fixed with ground spikes. So, of course, we need to be careful that we don’t cut any existing lines,” specifies Thomas Burger. Only when the basic infrastructure is finished will the 100,000 plus tools and products be transported from the warehouses to the “Schwarzl Freizeitzentrum” venue. “That will happen in mid-September. when the race against time really starts,” says Mr Burger with a wink, adding: “but a perfectly timed one.” To put things in perspective, it will take 25 lift trucks, ten e-pallet trucks, 15 forklifts and two golf carts to transport the portable components from the warehouses to their final location. Around 25 members of staff will be then be employed to set them up at the site. There are some challenges, however. Apart from the supplies for the huge temporary structures, from mid-September the larger machines needed for the competitions, such as CNC systems, wheel loaders and excavators, all weighing several tons, will be delivered directly to the event site. Extremely heavy plant and machinery will have to be taken to the Davis Cup hall. “as we have to take into account the maximum load limits in the temporary structures,” explains Burger.

Handover checks on 20 September

Meanwhile, the preparations for providing meals and refreshments during the major event are also under way: “35,000 meals, 10,000 bottles and a further 13,000 litres of water in the form of dispenser refills, and over 6,000 litres of wine are currently being provisioned”, explains Food & Beverage manager Katharina Schellnegger. The logistical undertaking will come to an end on 20 September at the latest, when the designated chief experts will carry out the final handover checks for each and every skill or trade.

For more information:

Angelika Ledineg
Managing Director
T +43/316/601-660
Mobile: +43 (0) 664 81 79 387
angelika.ledineg@euroskills2021.at

Christoph Sammer
EuroSkills 2021 Press Team
T: +43 664 8210928
pr@euroskills2021.at

#WE
ARE
SKILLS

#EUROSKILLS2021
FOLLOW US