

EuroSkills: some facts and figures

Just a few weeks from now, the European Skills Championship will be held in Austria for the first time. From 22 to 26 September, the “Schwarzl Freizeitzentrum” leisure and event centre in Premstätten near Graz will become an epicentre of professional excellence with an international cohort of round 400 young, skilled workers going for gold. Here are some interesting facts about the event.

Registration: All skill categories, all competitions: come and cheer on the contenders from Austria and other countries on the three competition days from Thursday, 23 September until Saturday, 25 September at the “Schwarzl Freizeitzentrum” venue. There is no charge for entry, but visitors will be admitted according to timed entry slots starting at 08.30 a.m. Anyone entering the site must provide evidence that they been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, have had a negative test, or have recovered from COVID-19. Please note: you are required to register online beforehand at euroskills2021.com.

Shuttle buses: Free shuttle buses will run on each day of the competitions (23, 24 and 25 September) every 30 minutes between the railway station in Graz and the event venue at Schwarzl-Freizeitzentrum. Free parking is also available directly alongside the venue. Swimming in the lake will not be affected.

Coronavirus: A carefully designed set of safety precautions will ensure that maximum distancing is possible on the 70,000 or so square metres of the event site. With timed visitor intakes at 8.30 a.m., 11.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m., the on-site capacity of 3,500 tested, vaccinated or recovered visitors will not be exceeded at any stage. Online pre-registration by competitors, volunteers and visitors makes for complete transparency and ease of contact tracing if the need arises.

Services Around 260 external companies and service providers have been hired for the event. The overall economic benefits for Austria as a business location are huge: alongside the 22 jobs that have been created directly as a result of the event, another 195 jobs throughout Austria have been safeguarded as a result of upfront contracts and consumer effects. This is equivalent to total salaries of around ten million euros.

EuroSkills 2020 GmbH: The Styrian Economic Chamber, which is hosting the event, set up its own (non-profit) subsidiary company in 2016 to handle the organisation involved in staging the competitions. At the head of the company is the Styrian Economic Chamber’s president, Josef Herk, in his capacity as supervisory board chairman and patron. The managing directors of the limited company are Angelika Ledineg and Harald del Negro.

Austrian treasury: The Austrian treasury will also benefit from EuroSkills, with the remarkable economic effects of the European Skills Championships resulting in taxes and levies worth a total of 11.6 million euros.

Andreas Gabalier: As the event’s most prominent brand ambassador, the well-known Austrian folk musician Andreas Gabalier aspires to champion the cause of crafts and trades. Alongside his enthusiasm for professional excellence, he also understands the importance of learning a trade.

Heroes: As well as Andreas Gabalier, world and European champions from previous competitions will also be flying the flag for EuroSkills. These include painter and decorator Lisa Janisch, stonemason Melanie Seidl, graphic designer Fabian Gwiggner, florist Birgit Haberschrick and cabinetmaker Manfred Zink, all of whom have not only won gold in their specialist disciplines but are now returning to the competitions as “EuroSkills Heroes”.

**#WE
ARE
SKILLS**

#EUROSKILLS2021
FOLLOW US

International conference: EuroSkills will transform the city of Graz into the “City of Skills”. On Thursday, 23 September, the Stadthalle Graz city hall will host an international educational conference featuring a number of high-calibre speakers – including keynote presentations by EU youth ambassador Ali Mahlodji, futurist Gerd Leonhard (rated as one of the 100 most influential people in Europe) and publicist Perttu Pölönen (whose works include the book “Future of Skills”).

Journalists: The pictures from the European Skills Championships in Austria will be beamed around the world. 250 foreign journalists have already gained accreditation for the event, with the largest delegation, numbering over 50 representatives, coming from Russia where EuroSkills is held in particularly high esteem. As for Austrian journalists, so far around 60 from all over the country have been accredited.

Coffee: Around 61 coffee machines will be on hand during EuroSkills, and there will also be 10,000 bottles of water, 60 water dispensers, 13,000 litres of water for dispensers and a total of 52,000 cans from the Red Bull range.

Logistics: Around 420 articulated lorries – about 100 more than originally planned – will be used for delivering machinery and professional tools. In total, over 10,000 items will be supplied from the three external logistics warehouses in Styria, which are already already fully stocked. Various lift trucks, e-pallet trucks, forklifts and golf carts will be used to transport the portable components from the warehouses to their final location.

Member states: The umbrella organisation WorldSkills Europe currently numbers 31 member countries, 19 of which – along with four other nations – are sending around 400 competitors to the European Skills Championships in Premstätten near Graz.

Catering: 35,000 meals will be prepared for competitors, supporters, guests, volunteers and organisational staff at EuroSkills, with the most frequently served dish being Wiener Schnitzel with potatoes.

Opening: The European Skills Championships will be declared open on 22 September, with the staging of the official opening ceremony at Stadthalle Graz at 7.30 p.m. The national teams will be arriving on the previous day to inspect the competition workspaces.

Presentation skills: The European Skills Championships in Austria will see the introduction of around ten new skills and trades to the competition programme. These are Entrepreneurship, Industry 4.0, Industrial Mechanics, Chemical Laboratory Technician, Freight Forwarding, Robot Systems Integration, Pharmacy Technician, Social Care, CNC Turning and Retail Sales, with competitors from all over Europe competing for the first gold, silver and bronze medals in these categories.

Eligibility and qualifying: All competitors at EuroSkills 2021 must have been born on or after 1 January 1995. The upper age limit for EuroSkills is usually 25, but has been increased to 26 for this year’s event because of the postponement. The young, skilled workers usually qualify for the event by winning the national championship for their skill or trade in their home country.

VIPs: As well as being a showcase for professional excellence, EuroSkills is also something of a “who’s who” of European politics and business, with high-ranking delegations from abroad leading international politicians and numerous Austrian government ministers, as well as representatives and decision-makers from Austrian businesses.

Skills Village: Everything from landscape gardening and mobile robotics, to cooking: the “Skills Village” at the Schwarz-Freizeitzentrum event venue will host competitions in around 38 categories and a further ten presentation skills. These contests will be held in the 12 temporary structures covering around 70,000 square metres. The most important requirement in terms of organisation is that all the competitors in a skill category must be given the same technical conditions and general environment. The final competition workspaces will be allocated before the start to avoid any potential competitive advantage.

#WE
ARE
SKILLS

#EUROSKILLS2021
FOLLOW US

Try-a-Skill: Alongside the competitions, the “Try-a-Skill” feature will make this Austrian careers information event unique. Young people in particular will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in a wide range of vocational environments as part of the career discovery tour. While it will be possible to watch a wide variety of occupations in the actual competitions, all 27 of the “Try-a-Skill” stations will invite young people to try their hand at these activities... and thus discover skills and talents of their own.

Supporters: EuroSkills is backed by a great many different sponsors and supporters. Over 150 companies from Austria and abroad have pledged to contribute in kind and in cash for the benefit of the young, skilled elite from all over Europe. The sponsorship value of goods alone comes to around ten million euros. Most of the machines have been produced especially for the European Skills Championships, as they all have to be identical.

Volunteers: From looking after visitors to accreditation and helping with the organisation of the side events: tasks such as these will be allocated to around 400 helpers from Austria and beyond at EuroSkills 2021. The opportunity to meet all kinds of people from all over the world and to play a small part in the success of this major event is a great motivation for many.

Value creation: EuroSkills 2021 will unleash added value of 13.5 million euros and a gross regional product in Styria of 15 million euros This will increase Austria’s overall economic output by 22 million euros.

Plenty of space to spread out: Work started on 23 August to set up a small city consisting of 12 temporary structures covering a total area of over 35,000 square metres within the shortest possible timescale, at the expansive premises of the “Schwarzl Freizeitzentrum” leisure and event centre. This is in addition to the 10,000-square-metre Davis Cup hall at the same site and the 2,500-square-metre hall in Premstätten. Even though these dimensions might appear gigantic, the WorldSkills (World Skills Championships) event postponed until autumn 2022 will still surpass Austria’s super-sized site in terms of size. At the event in China, 1,500 entrants will compete on a huge site covering several hundred thousand square metres.

Young professionals: One of the main aims of EuroSkills is to underline 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 for the future.

Ceremonies Gold, silver and bronze medals for each skills competition and the “Best of Nations” medals will be awarded at the closing ceremony on 26 September. The highlight of the ceremony will be the announcement of the “Jos de Goey Best in Europe” award for the competitor with the highest number of points in the overall ranking. The venue will again be Stadthalle Graz.

31 August 2021

For more information:

Angelika Ledineg
Managing Director
T +43/316/601-660
Mobile: 0664 81 79 387
angelika.ledineg@euroskills2021.at

Ing. Christoph Sammer, MBA, MA
EuroSkills 2021 Press Team
T: +43 664 8210928

pr@euroskills2021.at

#WE
ARE
SKILLS

#EUROSKILLS2021
FOLLOW US