

European Skills Championships about to start: all EuroSkills competitors have arrived

The biggest international delegation so far has arrived for the EuroSkills vocational skills championships in Austria. Over 250 skilled workers and officials from countries such as France, Belgium, Germany and Switzerland touched down at Graz Airport this afternoon. The Welcome Reception for competitors will be held this evening at the Schwarzl-Freizeitzentrum leisure and event centre.

EuroSkills is the European-level showdown for young, skilled workers aged 25 and under. Starting Thursday morning, 400 international competitors from around 22 countries will be battling it out for gold, silver and bronze. The first competitors started arriving in Styria last Saturday, followed by more on Sunday, including the Russian team – the biggest of all the 22 international delegations – with 48 competitors and 72 accredited journalists. The rest of the field of competitors arrived today, with a total of 250 skilled workers and team supporters from France, Belgium, Germany, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Estonia and Switzerland touching down at Graz Airport this afternoon. “From Thursday to Saturday, Austria, Styria and especially the Schwarzl- Freizeitzentrum leisure and event centre in Premstätten, near Graz will become an international hotspot for excellence in skills and trades, with the best of the best battling it out for gold, silver and bronze. Anticipation for the 48 competitions is almost indescribable,” emphasises EuroSkills Supervisory Chairman **Josef Herk**.

Competitors bursting with anticipation

The European Championships Initiator is keen to share this feeling of confidence with the international skilled workers as they arrive. “We’re really looking forward to Graz and have high expectations of the competition”, said sales assistant **Julian Ferrante**, who is entering for Switzerland, while his compatriot, painter and decorator **Susan Wildermuth**, talked about her hopes for a medal: “I’m going to do my best. I’ve trained hard over the summer and know that my skill is something that Switzerland does well in at EuroSkills.” The Swiss electrical installer **Simon Koch** was also keen to point out: “I’ve been towards this moment for years. I’m now going to give it my best shot.” **Clemens Böhm**, German mechatronics technician for utility vehicles said: “Last week we were still putting everything into our training, and now we’re hoping for a great contest and maybe even a medal.” Beauty therapist **Kelly dos Santos Ferreira** from Belgium is also looking forward to the competition: “For me, it’s about having fun and gathering new experiences”. The largest team overall is Russia, with 60 members, followed by the home team of Austria with 54 members, and France with 32.

First get-together this evening

The competitors will have their first chance to get together this evening at the Welcome Reception in the Premstättenhalle at the Schwarzl-Freizeitzentrum venue, where they will be able to meet one another and familiarise themselves with the competition area. “We’re completely ready for the event, we’ve finished all the organisational tasks and can now provide a magnificent, international stage for the young people,” declared Herk. The opening ceremony for the European Skills Championship will be celebrated tomorrow night at Messe Congress Graz, with the competitions taking place from Thursday to Saturday. Tickets are available at tickets.euroskills2021.at. Visitors to the site must provide evidence that they have been vaccinated, or have tested negative or recovered from Covid.

Feedback:

Angelika Ledineg
Management

T: +43 (0) 316 601-660

M: +43 (0) 664 81 79 387

angelika.ledineg@euroskills2021.at

Christoph Sammer
Press team

T: +43 (0) 664 8210928

pr@euroskills2021.at

#WE
ARE
SKILLS

#EUROSKILLS2021
FOLLOW US