

## European Skills Championships: 7,000 already signed up for “Try-a-Skill”

With the European vocational championships EuroSkills due to kick off on 22 September, young people are being invited to have a go themselves by diving into the world of skills and trades with “Try a Skill”. In total, 7,000 students from over 120 Austrian schools have signed up for the interactive programme at the Schwarzl-Freizeitzentrum event venue. Places are still available.

Whether it's making sparks fly, mixing cocktails or controlling robots, while the 400 or so international skilled workers are battling it out for medals in disciplines like these as part of the European Skills Championships, interested onlookers can try their hand at these same skill categories...without the pressure, in their case. The 27 or so “Try-a-Skill” stations, which are located right alongside the EuroSkills competition areas at the event venue, offer school students the chance to dive into the great variety of skills and trades – and even get expert guidance from previous gold medallists like Lisa Janisch and Manfred Zink. “It is especially important, at a time when we are experiencing a drastic shortage of skilled workers, that we inspire young people to pursue a vocational education. ‘Try-a-Skill’ will help us to create an appetite for skills and trades,” says EuroSkills supervisory chairman Josef Herk. There is support for “Try a Skill” from the Province of Styria. “With ‘Try-a-Skill’, we’re enabling young people to find out about new jobs and technologies in a fun way and discover their hidden talents,” stresses Barbara Eibinger-Miedl, Styrian Minister for Economic Affairs. “The initiative demonstrates the great variety and appeal of vocational education, and will give the skilled workforce of tomorrow a valuable impetus for their future careers.”

### Interest from all over Austria

The feature has already proved very popular: “Around 7,000 school students have signed up for ‘Try-a-Skill’ from over 120 schools, of which over a half are middle schools, roughly a quarter pre-apprenticeship training colleges and over 15 percent vocational colleges. The rest are secondary schools such as secondary technical education institutes, commercial schools and general secondary schools,” explain Angelika Ledineg and Harald del Negro, managing directors of EuroSkills 2021. The vast majority of ‘Try-a-Skill’ participants are from Styria, but school students from Vienna, Upper Austria, Burgenland, Carinthia and Salzburg have also signed up. There are even 50 applications from as far away as Vorarlberg, prompted by the local economic chamber.

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### A few places still available

The mornings of Thursday, 23 September and Friday, 24 September are almost fully booked, but a few places are still available. It's worth pointing out that there are still plenty of slots on Family Day, Saturday, 25 September. "Try-a-Skill' gives young people an insight into vocational careers. The interactive feature is specially designed for school students from fifth grade (age 10), and invites them to try their hand. Former WorldSkills and EuroSkills champions will present each skill in more detail and answer questions," says EuroSkills supporter Gerhard Fabisch, Chairman of the Management Board of Steiermärkische Sparkasse, with an invitation to join in: "Drop by, give it a try, and discover hidden talent." Styrian Director of Education, Elisabeth Meixner, is keen to point out that "EuroSkills has evolved into a unique opportunity for countless young people to measure their skills and talents against one another and to show them off in front of a large audience. We are thrilled that the competition is being held in Styria for the first time, and wish everyone taking part the best of success during this unforgettable experience."

School classes can still register at [tickets.euroskills2021.com](https://tickets.euroskills2021.com), subject to available capacity. The current Covid regulations apply on site, and anyone entering the venue must provide evidence of their Covid vaccination, testing or recovery status.

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