

## Final EuroSkills showdown: Russia tops the medals table

**Russia wins EuroSkills 2021: with 27 medals, the team secures first place in World Skills Europe's medals ranking, closely followed by Austria (26 medals) and France with a total of 13 medals.**

GRAZ. A brilliant closing ceremony at the Messe Congress Graz (MCG) exhibition centre, with an audience of around 3,000, marked the end of the vocational skills championships EuroSkills. "It was a true showcase of outstanding professional performances that we have seen over the past few days in Graz", stressed the President of WorldSkills Europe, Dita Traidas. "With these European Skills Championships we have informed people all over the world about the importance of vocational education and training." The top-scoring performances were rewarded with medals during the Closing Ceremony, with Russia taking home more than any other country. The host country for the next European Skills Championships finished at the top of World Skills Europe's medal table, with 13 gold, six silver and eight bronze medals. The umbrella organisation did not include the ten presentation skills in its medal count.

### Austria in second place

Austria came second from top of the medal ranking for the fourth time, with Team Austria picking up eleven gold, twelve silver and ten bronze medals, as well as four "Medallions of Excellence" awarded for outstanding performances. In the presentation skills, Austria collected a further two gold medals, three silver and two bronze. Next behind Austria in the rankings was France (13 medals), with Switzerland (12 medals) and Germany (nine medals) following in close succession. Overall, competitors from 15 nations were awarded medals. The Jos de Goey Best In Europe award for the best competitor overall went to Russia.

### Austria remains the most successful nation

Some interesting facts: the European Skills Championships have been held six times so far, and Austria has topped the medals table on three occasions (2016 in Gothenburg, 2014 in Lille and 2012 in Spa). It has also come second just as many times: 2008 in Rotterdam, 2010 in Lisbon – and 2018 in Budapest. Overall, Austrian EuroSkills competitors – now numbering 251 - have won 144 medals and 37 Medallions of Excellence since 2008. Ultimately, this means that that Austria remains the most successful EuroSkills nation to date.

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### **A safe EuroSkills: 4,808 Covid tests**

“Over the past six years we have continued to pursue our dream of hosting the European Skills Championships in the Austrian Province of Styria”, said the Supervisory Chairman of EuroSkills and initiator of the European Skills Championships in Austria, Josef Herk. “This week we were rewarded for our great efforts and, for the first time in history, we had the honour of hosting the European Skills Championships on Austrian soil. The inspiration provided by EuroSkills will now be felt in the long term and will lastingly enhance vocational education and training,” said Herk. The event has also shown us “that only a ‘can-do’ culture will enable us to progress, even in challenging times”, says Herk. Just one example: 4,808 Covid tests were carried out during EuroSkills – and not a single of them was positive.

### **Flag handover**

At the end of the ceremony, which featured numerous entertainment acts and an impressive supporting programme, the event’s initiator Josef Herk handed over the EuroSkills flag to St. Petersburg, host of the next European Skills Championships. The next European Skills Championships will be held in Russia in 2023. And WorldSkills will take place in Shanghai, China, in just a year’s time.

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