

ROAD TO EUROSKILLS 2020

Edition No. 9

euroskills2020.com

COUNTDOWN TO EUROSKILLS 2020: ALL ROADS LEAD FROM KAZAN TO GRAZ!

ONCE THE CLOSING CEREMONY IN KAZAN IS OVER,
THE SPOTLIGHT WILL TURN TO GRAZ.

In September 2020 it will finally be curtain-up: after the end of WorldSkills in Kazan, Russia, the next big date on the international Skills calendar will be "Graz 2020". The countdown will start very soon, as with just one year left to prepare for a mega event on this scale, the time is sure to go by in a flash.

A GIGANTIC STAGE FOR 600 "HEROES"

For the first time since EuroSkills was founded, Austria will be transformed into a gigantic stage for the top-performing young, skilled workers from all over Europe. Up to 100,000 visitors are expected to arrive in Graz in September 2020 to cheer on the 600 or so entrants from 30 nations competing in the 43 categories. In these pages we'll be reporting on topics such as the findings of the general assembly in Riga and the team meeting in Graz, the "Try-a-Skill" area and the

"We-Are-Skills" app, the greatest challenges facing the organisation team and the highlights and packages awaiting the visitors to Graz in 2020. This will ensure that our guests are kept fully up to date and well prepared for their visit in September 2020.

GREAT EXCITEMENT AND ANTICIPATION

As soon as the winners have left the podium in Kazan and the cheers of the crowds have died down, the last champagne corks have popped and the closing ceremony has been cleared away, the skills spotlight will turn to Graz, the charming city at the heart of Europe. And this is where it will remain until September 2020: all Skills roads now lead to Graz – the scene of great excitement and anticipation. Save the date and be part of it!

See you in Graz in September 2020!

INTENSIVE TEAM MEETING

Our staff gathered in July to take more steps on the road to EuroSkills 2020.

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AUSTRIA AWAITS YOU

Prepare for your visit to Graz: the most interesting sights and event packages!

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CHALLENGE(S) ACCEPTED

What major challenges will our team encounter between now and September 2020?

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY, RIGA

Learn all the latest news from WorldSkills Europe in this guest article.

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TEAM MEETING: HEADING FOR THE FINISHING LINE

THE TEAM MEETING IN EARLY JULY MARKED THE KICK-OFF FOR 2020.

Ehrenhausen, a small village nestled amongst the vineyards of southern Styria, was the venue where the EuroSkills 2020 project team gathered as they prepared for the home straight, in other words the final year in the run-up to EuroSkills 2020. The team, which has now grown to 15 staff members, worked hard on the most important work packages covering the next few months. One key item on the agenda was the Competition Preparation Meeting; another was project planning up until the September 2020 event. The team meeting kicked off with a short address to the team delivered by our Supervisory Board Chairman Josef Herk and his deputy, Karl-Heinz Dernoscheg. They both expressed their thoughts, objectives and expectations related to EuroSkills 2020 and also talked about the biggest challenges in the run-up to the big event. "It is only together that we can make EuroSkills 2020 a success across the board.

This is why it is particularly important now, in the final spurt, that everyone pulls together so we can meet all the challenges ahead of us", says Josef Herk.

TEAMWORK IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS

Cooperation is critically important in order for a team to work together smoothly and perfectly. The meeting therefore also addressed ways of optimising cooperation within teams and identified measures that can be easily implemented to reach this goal. On the second day of the meeting, our staff members divided into two groups divided into tasks to exchange information and identify interfaces between specific areas, such as Operations, Communication or Partnership & Events. During the morning, the teams discussed the most important work packages that

need to be tackled in the near future, and clarified focus areas and other tasks. There are now clearly assigned responsibilities for big projects, such as preparing for the CPM or other project-planning measures. Every staff member knows exactly which next steps are especially important.

As team meetings are always about team building, the event also included time for staff to get to know each other better. After all, some new faces had come on board in the previous weeks and months who had to be brought up to date. The two managing directors of EuroSkills 2020 GmbH, Angelika Ledineg and Harald del Negro, report: "Our task is now to integrate these steps and issues addressed at the meeting into everyday work. We are very confident about putting the lessons learned into practice because the team has really done an excellent job and has taken a big step forward during these two days."

IT IS ONLY TOGETHER THAT WE CAN MAKE EUROSILLS 2020 A SUCCESS ACROSS THE BOARD.

JOSEF HERK
Chairman of EuroSkills 2020 GmbH





BEST CONDITIONS FOR THE COMPETITION

Over the past few weeks and months, one of my priorities has been to review infrastructure lists for each trade or skill, together with Thomas Wurditsch and Christina Oppelz. We have developed a new system for inputting data into these lists and are now finalising them for the trades and skills for which competitions are to be held. My work also focuses on preparing for the CPM in March 2020 and developing layouts for the different competition workshops. At times, we have to coordinate details with the Messe Congress Graz on site, and also with some authorities. I have also assisted the team with various tasks on numerous occasions, such as searching for a logistics partner, and have chaired the workshop manager meetings and group discussions.

STEFAN PRASCHL
Head of Competitions



SPOTLIGHT ON TRY-A-SKILL SHOW

My tasks include developing, coordinating and implementing the "Try-a-Skill" project, including mobilising young people and families to get involved. We want to invite young people from Styria and from all other Austrian provinces to attend the "Try-a-Skill" hero special careers information exhibition, where we will provide information about 40 different skills and trades. In addition, interactive "Try-a-Skill" stations will be available to give participants a hands-on way to experience and try out new things. It will show them how successful a career path based on vocational training can be and will help young people to move in the right career direction. The prospect of competing at the European skills championships might serve as a goal and an incentive for starting an apprenticeship. I would like to thank my colleagues and I look forward to entering the home straight with them in the run-up to EuroSkills 2020.

PETER KROATH
Assistant Partnership & Events



ONLINE MEDIA UP TO DATE

Over the past few months, I have dedicated all of my energy to our technical means of communication. Our website is the figurehead for EuroSkills 2020 and should shine in all of its glory now, long before the event opens its doors. I am also in charge of the 'We are Skills' and 'MySkills' apps, which not only provide lots of exciting news but all of the information needed for the event in 2020. Over the next few months, my focus will be on project planning in communications, producing a variety of information materials and keeping our online channels up to date.

ANNA ZEBINGER
Assistant Communication & Media



ACCOMMODATION FOR THE CPM IS READY

Over the past few months, my main task has been to arrange hotels for the CPM and the main event in September, and to get all of the contracts signed and sealed. Now that all 26 hotels have gone through the final selection process and everything is done and dusted, my current tasks include meeting with partners to set up various tourism activities for visitors in September 2020, which they can enjoy in their leisure time. Another of my responsibilities is to cater to any accommodation requests from specific countries and to serve as a contact for all concerns and questions related to booking the packages. That is one of the reasons why I attended the General Assembly in Riga. I am also in the process of finalising contracts with various airlines for the CPM in March 2020.

SONJA PIRO
Assistant Hospitality



ALWAYS KEEPS THE OVERVIEW

As an assistant to the management team, I spend my days working on administrative tasks such as managing the directors' appointments, correspondence, data maintenance and placing orders. I also answer phone calls and emails and forward them to the relevant colleagues, if needed. My other administrative duties include assisting with team coordination, travel management and coordinating different events and meetings – most recently our managers travelled to the General Assembly in Riga. Over the past few months, my main focus has been on keeping track of and processing invoices for the grants we are receiving from the Province of Styria, the Republic of Austria and the City of Graz. It will take a few more months for this task to be completed – after that, constant updates will be needed.

LAURA HÜTTER
Executive Assistant



LOGISTICS AND ACCREDITATION AT THE CENTRE

Last month, a lot of our work in operations focused on the CPM. Packages will be available to book from the start of July so we have to finalise the accreditation system by then. We also intensified our cooperation with WorldSkills International on package management. Another priority over the summer will be the call for tenders for the construction of stands and wall systems: we are working on this now and the call will be published during the summer. The biggest challenges will be the tight schedule and the limited space, which will make it hard to construct the competition areas. We have also recently published a call for tenders for the logistics partner and expect a decision to be taken by end of August, provided that there are no legal issues.

THOMAS BURGER
Assistant Logistics



GRAZ: CITY OF SKILLS

THE STUNNING CAPITAL OF THE AUSTRIAN PROVINCE OF STYRIA AWAITS YOU.

When Graz becomes the arena for the first EuroSkills in Austria in 2020, the Alpine republic's second-largest city will have emerged from the shadows of the country's more well-known cities (in Europe, at any rate) of Vienna and Salzburg. The small nation of Austria is renowned in Europe for its great composers, its venerable traditions and its modern art and culture. The densely wooded region of Styria in the south-east of the country, on the border with Slovenia to the south, owes its many thermal spas to its volcanic origins and is known as the "green heart" of Austria. The Formula 1 circuit in Spielberg is located about an hour's drive north-west of Graz. It is not only known for the Austrian Grand Prix, but also for the Red Bull Air Race World Championship, in which pilots race to navigate a challenging obstacle course in the fastest time.

As the dynamic capital of the Province of Styria, Graz has developed an exceedingly modern image – even with its 1,000 years of history. Past honours include being named as UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site and European Capital of Culture 2003, serving as a UNESCO City of Design since 2011 – and now being the venue for EuroSkills 2020! With roughly 430,000 residents, five universities and numerous sights in and around the city centre between the Mur River and the Schlossberg hill, Graz is a charming, cosmopolitan and liveable city characterised by Mediterranean flair.

SIGHTS, CUISINE, NATURE AND FESTIVALS

The modern cityscape is shaped by buildings such as the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Kunsthau), also known as the "friendly

alien"; the island in the Mur and the Science Tower in the future Smart City. Sights such as the clock tower on the Schlossberg hill, the Mariatrost Basilica – a famous pilgrimage site – and the Baroque castle of Eggenberg take visitors back to bygone days. Food enthusiasts will enjoy the delights of the farmers' markets, excellent Styrian cuisine and exquisite white

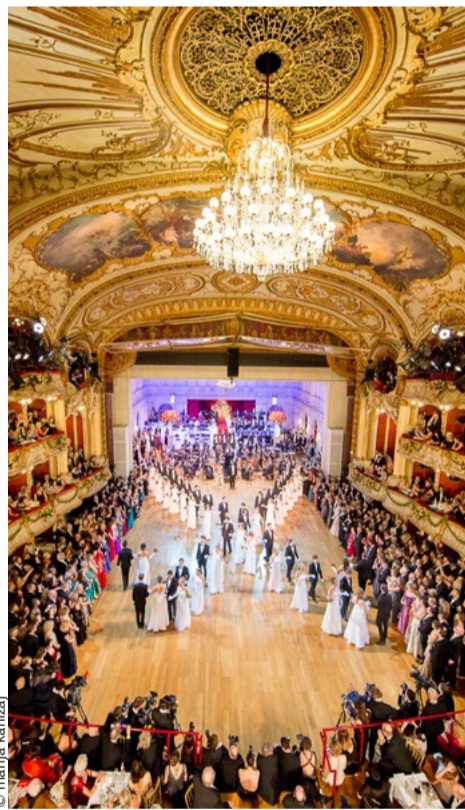
wines from the southern regions of Styria. Nature lovers will enjoy stretching their legs in Graz's vast parks as well as at the Hilmteich pond, the Rettenbach ravine, and the dripstone cave in Peggau. Anyone with an interest in the traditional side of Graz should not miss the annual "Aufsteirern", a festival of folk culture that transforms the heart of Graz into a stage for arts and crafts, folk music and regional specialities. Museums? There are plenty to choose from, including elaborate ones like a tramway museum, as well as the open-air museum in Stübing and the Arnold Schwarzenegger museum (the house of the actor's birth) close to Graz. This multifaceted city really does have something for everyone!

YOU NAME IT, GRAZ HAS IT!

We want all of our visitors to enjoy the three days of competitions and their stay in Styria to the full. So, we have done our best to put together attractive packages that meet the needs of different groups and allow them to enjoy their stay in Graz. The 26 different hotels are all situated in Graz, or close to Graz and near the venue. You can reach the EuroSkills

ACCOMMODATION PACKAGES

PACKAGE SPECIFICATIONS	PRICE
Competitors	1,635.00 – 2,170.00
Team Leaders	1,635.00 – 2,170.00
Experts, CEs and DCEs	1,610.00 – 2,230.00
Technical Delegates	2,040.00 – 2,475.00
Official Delegates	2,040.00 – 2,365.00
Technical Observer and Official Observer	1,565.00 – 2,095.00



EXPERIENCE THE STYRIAN WAY OF LIFE

The Aufsteirern Festival (September 18 - September 20, 2020) starts with the Fashionshow "Pracht der Tracht" on Friday. In front of the town hall of Graz Styrian labels present the latest trends in typical Austrian fashion. The second day of the Aufsteirern Festival, which is called "Volxmusik on Air", is the day of music! Traditional Austrian music is combined with different styles of music. Enjoy inspiring, typical and modern rhythms and sounds from numerous Austrian groups at many squares in the city of Graz.

Aufsteirern is a festival for everyone who loves Styria and Austria. You are welcome to join

in and celebrate the Styrian way, traditions, and hand crafts. A variety of musicians and performers from all areas of Styria come to Graz to showcase their folk music and dances and to help making this festival fun and enjoyable for everybody. All guests are invited to join the folk groups on the various stages and dance floors. The traditional hand crafts of Styria are a huge part at the Aufsteirern Festival.

The Austrian people take great pride in craftsmanship, so there will be a wide selection of crafts for you to explore. The elite of the Styrian artists and craftsmen will present their local high-quality products and furthermore you

will even have the opportunity to participate in these traditions. Besides this, indulge in Styrian cuisine and take a break at one of the numerous Styrian food stalls.

As people are brought together by experiencing and understanding different cultures, Aufsteirern would like to invite you to get in touch with the Styrian culture by introducing very unique specialties like our famous pumpkin seed oil, authentic Styrian dances and music and besides all, important traditional hand crafts. Aufsteirern Festival very welcomes you to have a fantastic time experiencing the Styrian way of life.

2020 venue quickly and conveniently from all of the hotels using public transport or a shuttle service. Our team is currently in the process of finalising the packages for the different categories, but we can already reveal that packages will be available in the gold, silver and bronze categories at prices ranging from 1,635.00 to 2,475.00 Euros. You will be able to book the various packages on our website starting in September 2019 – one year before the European skills championships open their doors. Should you have any questions about this, feel free to get in touch with us at member.support@eurosports2020.at.



TRY-A-SKILL: THE FIRST STEP TO A SUCCESSFUL CAREER

DISCOVER YOUR OWN SPECIAL SKILLS AT EUROSKILLS 2020 AND START WRITING YOUR VERY OWN STORY AS A HERO.



It's one of the most important items in the EuroSkills 2020 programme: the Try-a-Skill project, where school students can find out about various skills and trades. Most importantly, the students will have the opportunity to try out the skills and trades hands-on at several stations right inside the competition area. Experts from a number of fields will be on hand to offer advice and assistance to the students. This brings the "Skills feeling" right to the heart of the individual, so to speak, because anyone interested can watch the competitions and, having gained an impression of what's involved, decide which skills or trades they want to try out for themselves. "This gives the young people the opportunity to seek advice about their career path, so that they

can be confident in deciding whether to start an apprenticeship or pursue some other type of education or training," says Peter Kroath, who has recently taken on responsibility for the Try-a-Skill project at EuroSkills 2020. "First of all, we need to raise awareness in the right places, get people involved and encourage all the main institutions to take part in the project."

APPRENTICESHIP RECRUITMENT ON SITE

It's not only school students, but also sponsors and other stakeholders who will benefit from the 40 or so Try-a-Skill stations. Try-a-Skill is a chance for companies to present themselves as apprentice trainers to a wider public and take the opportunity to recruit apprentices.

Appearing in the Try-a-Skill area also displays a company's commitment to young skilled workers – and this is an opportunity not to be missed by any company. They can expect a large number of school students from all over Austria, who will not only be watching the competitions but also seeking information about their own careers.

And so we'd like to take this opportunity to say, loud and clear: "Try it for yourself, make use of your talents and become your own hero." A hero's story in the truest sense, which starts with the right career choice and – ideally after a successfully completed apprenticeship – ends up with qualifying for a skills championship at European or World level.

NEW VIRTUAL PINBOARD

STAY UP TO DATE WITH THE EUROSKILLS SOCIAL WALL

The virtual EuroSkills meeting point for everyone involved in the event, fans and followers – this is what the EuroSkills app is all about. Stay cool and find out everything you need to know about the European skills championships from the comfort of your smartphone. And keep up to date. Even better – the EuroSkills app is now available in English too, so that people all over Europe can be a part of it and share the excitement anywhere, at any time!

For newcomers, the EuroSkills 2020 area provides basic information about the Skills concept, the competitions and the skills and trades represented. The posts under News keep the digital EuroSkills community constantly updated with official news items, such as: which participants have qualified in the latest national competitions? For which products are we currently looking for suppliers? Which nations will be battling it out at the upcoming WorldSkills competitions? In the Heroes area, our Austrian heroes and medal winners share their very own posts. For example: which pic-

turesque locations is Lisa Janisch embellishing, and how? What do Birgit Haberschrck's latest floral creations look like? Will Melanie Seidl be joining us in Kazan, and where might you run into Fabian Gwiggner and Manfred Zink? Check it out!

All die-hard supporters will love the Webshop area, where they can order merchandise in the unique EuroSkills design. It means that everybody can get kitted out with the same clothing and accessories, so that they can look and feel like heroes along with our Austrian EuroSkills team members on the grand competition stage. Dates and events? Look under Events if you want to start getting updates right now. In September 2020 this site will also be used for providing concise directions, important event info and the latest competition news. Stay tuned and don't miss a thing!

And, best of all, we'll continue to run the app even after 2020, because enthusiasm for the Skills concept and appreciation of the skills and trades featured at the event will remain in our hearts!

Manufacturing and Engineering Technology

Construction and Building

Skills Idea

History

The history of EuroSkills - a real success story

The first European skills championships were held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, in 2008. 420 competitors from 30 European countries put their talents on show in 49 skills and trades before around 30,000 visitors over the course of three days.

The second European skills championships were staged in

WorldSkills Kazan 2019
Aug 22 | Thursday • Kazan Expo, Междуна...

Alpe Adria Cup
Österreich Florist 2019

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EUROSKILLS 2020: CHALLENGE(S) ACCEPTED!

RESERVING ROOM QUOTAS, CONVERTING A BUILDING, RECRUITING PEOPLE AND MOBILISING SUPPORT: YES, WE CAN!

What challenges are the organisation team facing in the run-up to 2020? Which special issues are expected to crop up when planning the European skills championships? Join us as we take a look behind the scenes as the team makes preparations.

It goes without saying that not everything runs according to plan when you are organising an event on the scale of EuroSkills 2020. Every now and then, we come across a variety of challenges that often require us to adopt a creative problem-solving approach. Our managing director, Harald del Negro, reveals that one of these challenges will be to convert the civic centre for the closing ceremony: "We will have just 26 hours to convert 5,600 m² of competition space so that the closing ceremony can take place there. That is why we have chosen to have the civic centre serve as the venue for skills and trades whose competition areas can be dismantled quickly. The Messe Congress Graz exhibition centre has organised a new grandstand system for the closing ceremony. Event technology will be installed in the hall days before."

One challenge already met by the team was to reserve room quotas for September 2020: we had to arrange enough rooms for competitors, delegates and visitors – across 26 hotels. At EuroSkills 2016 in Gothenburg, in contrast, one single hotel was able to accommodate these

„WE WILL HAVE JUST 26 HOURS TO CONVERT 5,600 M² OF COMPETITION SPACE.“

HARALD DEL NEGRO
CEO of EuroSkills 2020 GmbH

different groups. What is more, these hotels all had to agree to one common contract. Our project assistant, Sonja Piro, was in charge of this task. The next challenge, which is already in full swing, is the search for volunteers: some 600 volunteers need to be recruited for the event to be successful.

Volunteer recruitment is currently in progress, reports Head of Operations Gerald Prabitz: "We are primarily trying to find volunteers in all kinds of secondary schools because sound knowledge of English is a prerequisite for helping out in 2020. To this end, we are



also in contact with a number of partners who are helping us to recruit volunteers, e.g. large enterprises and organisations like the Austrian armed forces or Lions Club Austria."

The Operations team also needs to arrange additional infrastructure at the Messe Congress Graz venue to ensure that enough space is available for the European skills championships. "We need extra pavilion tents to prepare the premises for the competitions. It is really hard to find pavilion tents of the right size because many companies offer "standard sizes" that

do not meet the needs of our competitions", says Gerald Prabitz. Last but not least, another major challenge is to get the Try-a-Skill project right on track over the next few months. Mobilising support in schools will kick off with dedicated information and teaching materials from autumn onwards. "Our goal is to prepare young people for the "Try a Skill Show" in advance so that they know what to expect at EuroSkills 2020 and which skills and trades they are particularly interested in", reveals Peter Kroath, the staff member in charge of the project.

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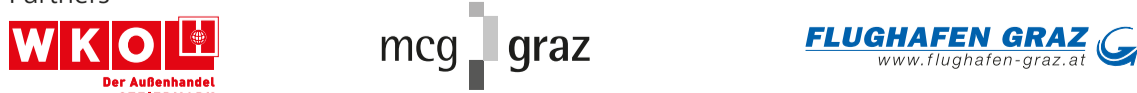
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THE ROAD TO GRAZ: WORLDSKILLS EUROPE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

This year's annual WorldSkills Europe General Assembly saw delegates convene in Riga, Latvia from 5 – 8 June 2019.

A total of 30 member countries attended the Assembly, which focused on preparations for EuroSkills Graz 2020 and plans for future competitions.

The event began with an Opening Plenary featuring a panel of distinguished speakers. After a formal opening speech by the President of WSE, Ms Dita Traidas, Latvia's Minister of Education and Science, Ms Ilga Suplinska, welcomed delegates and then handed over to the President of WSI, Mr Simon Bartley, who was followed by Latvia's Deputy Head of Analytical Administration at the Ministry of Economics, Mr Janis Salmins, and finally by Member of European Parliament and France's former Minister of Finance, Mr Jean Arthuis.

The GA consisted of four meetings: a MarCom meeting, a Strategy Committee meeting, a Competition Committee meeting and the GA itself.

Main announcements included:

// Two new members of WSE, Liechtenstein and Romania, were officially welcomed.

// A change to the Constitution to clarify WSE membership criteria – from now on, only member states that are also members of the Council of Europe can become members: WorldSkills Europe members are bodies representing a vocational education and training system in a state's commerce, services, and industry, and recognised as such by the organisation. Only organisations from states belonging to Europe, according to the Council of Europe Member states list, may become members of the Association.

// A discussion on the future direction of WorldSkills Europe as well as its relationship with WorldSkills International.

// The timeline for bids to host EuroSkills 2024; Denmark and The Netherlands expressed interest in being hosts.

// France presented its bid to host WorldSkills in the French city of Lyon in 2023. France is the only European country bidding to host the Competition; the other contender is Japan.

Representatives of the Organising Committee of EuroSkills Graz 2020 participated in all meetings, providing reports on progress relating to the organisation of the competition.

A special thanks to our General Assembly hosts – Skills Latvia – for their hospitality and for making the event so enjoyable.



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