

It's all about the score: going for gold at EuroSkills!



25 September 2021

It's the last competition day today, and tomorrow Sunday, the medals for the seventh European Skills Championships will be awarded to the winners. The scoring system for the competitions is subject to strict rules – here's how it works.

GRAZ. The medals in 48 vocational categories will be awarded on Sunday at the grand closing ceremony. The competitors will carry on with their painting, planing and bricklaying until 5 pm on Saturday, by which time the judges will have awarded all their scores. Just over 100 judges from 19 countries are keeping a close eye on the 400 or so competitors very closely, watching over their shoulders, noting how they are using their hands – and even their faces. Take the receptionists, for example, where even their facial expressions and gestures have an impact on the strict scoring. "Every scoring factor is clearly set out in the EuroSkills rules, for every single skill or trade," said Stefan Praschl. As Vice President of WorldSkills Europe, Praschl has been a judge for many years at many different competitions and has an excellent understanding of the extremely complex rules and regulations.

Maximum score: 1,000 points

The scoring process is comprehensive, but clearly defined: international judges award points for each individual skill category. The judging team for each contest is made up of representatives from the countries taking part in it. In other words, as Praschl explained: "If, as in the case of the graphics designers, there are ten competitors, then there are ten judges as well," said Praschl. It's worth pointing out that the judges cannot vote for the competitor from their own country. If there is disagreement among the judges, the previously nominated head judge will come in to negotiate and ensure that any potential room for interpretation is limited. "Many times in the past, the discussions have continued late into the night," WorldSkills Europe Vice President Praschl said with a wink. A total score of up to 1,000 points can be awarded, with scores of 700 or more eligible for a medal. If a competitor achieves a score of over 700 but still does not win a medal, he or she is awarded a "Medaillon of Excellence".

The most successful competitor overall wins the "Jos de Goey Award – Best in Europe", named after the long-serving president of WorldSkills Europe, who recently passed away.

Plans for the weekend

There is still a tight schedule of side events before the medallists and overall winners are declared. On Saturday, Austria's Federal Minister of Employment, Martin Kocher, the Styrian Provincial Governor Hermann Schützenhöfer, world champion downhill skier Nicole Schmidhofer and the French ambassador will be visiting the site. Sunday starts with a reception (starting at 1.30 pm) at Messe Congress Graz followed by the Closing Reception for invited guests and the grand closing ceremony, which starts at 4.00 pm and will include the awarding of medals, entertainment and the announcement of the overall winners. The ceremony will conclude with the EuroSkills flag being handed over to St. Petersburg, the host of the next European Skills Championships.

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