

# WorldSkills Europe

---

Annual Report 2021





# Contents

---

Board Foreword .....	05
EuroSkills Graz 2021 .....	06
EuroSkills Competition 2023 .....	09
EuroSkills Herning 2025 .....	10
Member Countries .....	12
Sponsors and Partners .....	13
Financial Report .....	14
Board of Directors .....	15



# Board Foreword

The seventh biennial EuroSkills Competition, hosted in *Austria for the first time in 2021*, saw **400 young skilled professionals** from **19 countries** gather to take part in **38 skill competitions** and 10 host demonstration skill events at the SFZ Center in the city of Graz.

After two postponements due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the successful staging of EuroSkills Graz in September 2021 became all the more significant as an invaluable investment championing skills excellence and emphasising the importance of professional education that will last for many years to come.

WorldSkills Europe is extremely thankful to the EuroSkills Graz 2021 Organising Committee and all organising partners, including all WorldSkills Europe Members, for their unrelenting dedication and commitment to ensure that this very special edition of EuroSkills could be delivered successfully and in the safest possible way. Austria, Styria, and Graz, through EuroSkills Graz 2021, displayed unforgettably Europe's best young talent enabling the WorldSkills movement to send a rallying and timely reminder to the world that highly trained, skilled workers are the backbone of society, of our economy and that the future belongs to young professionals.

Prior to EuroSkills Graz 2021, all WorldSkills Europe Members gathered virtually on 16 and 17 June for our annual General Assembly (GA). Since the GA could not take place physically in Krakow as originally planned, WorldSkills Poland was awarded the hosting of the GA in 2022. WorldSkills Europe looks forward to working with WorldSkills Poland for the WSE General Assembly Krakow 2022.

On an organisational level, 2021 saw a number of changes to the WorldSkills Europe Board. We bade farewell to President Dita Traidis (Latvia), and Board Members Francis Hourant (Belgium) and Stefan Praschl (Austria) who completed their terms. We extend our sincere thanks to Dita, Francis, and Stefan, each of whom have been unwavering in their support for WorldSkills Europe, for being cheerleaders for our Members and young people, and for the cause of vocational skills and education.

Following the Board departures, existing Board Member Teija Ripattila (Finland) was appointed as the new Chair of the Board, and we also welcomed Ben Blackledge, UK Technical Delegate, who was elected to the Board by the GA.

2021 also saw the signing of two new Premium Sponsors of WorldSkills Europe – a very warm and grateful welcome to Autodesk and to Lincoln Electric. Their support means we can continue developing the next generation of skilled professionals in Europe.

As we look towards 2022 and continue planning for the EuroSkills Competitions 2023 and 2025, we would like to thank all our Members, Competitors, Experts, volunteers and Secretariat for their hard work and support which ensures that the WorldSkills movement in Europe continues to thrive today and in the future.

# EuroSkills Graz 2021

Skills competitions are challenging events to host during normal circumstances, due to the logistical complexities and extensive equipment needed for each skill. However, the pandemic postponing of the seventh biennial EuroSkills Competition from 2020 to 2021, and ongoing challenges of travel and COVID-19 restrictions, made planning and preparing for the event all the more difficult.

All the hard work was rewarded, however, when organisers, volunteers, Member Countries, trainers, Competitors and supporters were finally able to gather for EuroSkills Graz 2021 between 22-26 September 2021.

EuroSkills Graz 2021 spanned five days, beginning with an Opening Ceremony, followed by three days of competitions, and concluding with a Closing Ceremony where awards including gold, silver, and bronze medals were presented to the highest scoring Competitors.

Around 400 young skilled professionals from 19 WorldSkills Europe Member Countries, as well as three guest nations – Albania, Thailand, and United Arab Emirates – came together to take part in 38 skill competitions and 10 host demonstration skill events at the SFZ Center in Graz.

The event welcomed more than 30,000 visitors and guests, including 10,000 students, who took part in the popular Try-a-Skill stations and relied on 500 volunteers who shared their time and expertise.

The most coveted accolade at EuroSkills – Best in Europe – is always the final award presented at the Closing Ceremony, when emotions are at the highest point. The presentation of the Award in Graz was more emotive than ever due to the challenges that the WorldSkills movement has faced in the previous 18 months.

In recognition of the longstanding commitment to skills development by the founder and first President of WorldSkills Europe, Jos de Goey, who passed away suddenly in 2020, WorldSkills Europe Members made the unanimous decision to rename the Best in Europe Award in his honour.

The inaugural Jos de Goey Best in Europe Award at EuroSkills Graz 2021 was presented to Eldar Seidametov and Vladislav Diubanov of the Russian Federation by Jos' wife, Anouschka de Goey-Seur, together with Josef Herk, President of the Styrian Economic Chamber.

EuroSkills Graz 2021 was the seventh EuroSkills event initiated by WorldSkills Europe, and the first to take place in Austria. Hosting the event is not only proof of Austria's sustained commitment to keep TVET and skills at the top of national and European agendas, but also its passion to honour and shine a spotlight on the outstanding achievements of the most talented young professionals in Europe.

Finally, thanks should be given to all those who worked so tirelessly, including the EuroSkills Graz 2021 Organising Committee, the Styrian Economic Chamber, the Government of Austria, the WorldSkills Europe Secretariat, WorldSkills Europe Experts, our Sponsors and Partners, and not least the hundreds of volunteers whose enthusiasm made EuroSkills Graz 2021 a success.

## A COVID-19 SECURE EVENT

The Organising Committee of EuroSkills Graz 2021, together with WorldSkills Europe, devised a catalogue of comprehensive COVID-19 preventative measures, in accordance with regulations set by the Federal Government of Austria, for the protection of everyone who attended the event.

Ninety per cent of all Member Country participants at EuroSkills Graz 2021 were either vaccinated against or recovered from COVID-19. In addition, compulsory testing was carried out for the duration of the event, which saw all 1,200 officials – including Competitors, Delegates, Experts, coaches and organisation teams – tested every 24 hours. The thousands of COVID-19 tests conducted during the event did not result in a single positive case.

# 19 COUNTRIES

## 274 CONFERENCE ACCREDITATIONS

# 369

## EXPERTS

# 369

## COMPETITORS

### 6,037 CEREMONY VISITORS + 61,888 LIVE STREAM VIEWERS

# 30,000

## VISITORS AND GUESTS

## 320 MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES

### 69 WORKSHOP MANAGERS

# 70,000

## M<sup>2</sup> EVENT VENUE

# 500

## VOLUNTEERS

## 27 TRY-A-SKILL STATIONS

### 38 SKILLS + 10 HOST PRESENTATION SKILLS

# EuroSkills Competition 2023

The Russian city of St Petersburg was originally awarded the right to host the eighth EuroSkills Competition following a vote at the WorldSkills Europe General Assembly in Budapest, Hungary in 2018.

Throughout 2021, the Organising Committee continued to build on the excellent progress that had been made in preparation for the event, despite the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the logistical implications of having to postpone the event by one year from 2022 to 2023.

However, in February 2022, through its military invasion of Ukraine, the government of the Russian Federation made choices that forfeited its access to participate in events and activities organised by WorldSkills Europe, WorldSkills International and the Members of both organisations.

Accordingly, on 1 March 2022, WorldSkills Europe applied the following penalties and sanctions against Russia:

- To move the location of the EuroSkills Competition 2023 away from the Russian Federation.
- To suspend, with immediate effect, WorldSkills Russia's membership of WorldSkills Europe and consequently any involvement or participation in the EuroSkills Competition 2023, future competitions and other WorldSkills Europe projects and activities.

WorldSkills Europe appreciates the many dedicated individuals (employees and related stakeholders) who have worked tirelessly over the last decade to build WorldSkills Russia, promote and improve skills development within Russia, and contribute to the continued success of the WorldSkills movement.

We would also like to acknowledge the hard work of the Organising Committee of EuroSkills St Petersburg 2023, including everyone at WorldSkills Russia, for the extensive preparations they had completed for the event.

*WorldSkills Europe announced on 11 March 2022 that WorldSkills Poland had accepted an invitation to bid to host the EuroSkills Competition 2023.*

*WorldSkills Poland's application to host the EuroSkills Competition 2023 will be ratified by the WorldSkills Europe General Assembly at its annual meeting in June 2022.*



**WorldSkills Europe stands in solidarity** with the people of Ukraine and unequivocally **condemns the use of violence** and large-scale aggression by the Government of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.



# EuroSkills Herning 2025

## Preparations continued throughout 2021 for the ninth EuroSkills Competition – EuroSkills Herning 2025.

In November, the signing of the official Organisational Agreement between WorldSkills Europe and WorldSkills Denmark for the hosting of the event took place in Copenhagen.

The signing ceremony, held at the Danish Ministry of Children and Education, was attended by the Chairman of EuroSkills Herning 2025 – former Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, Chair of the WorldSkills Europe Board, Teija Ripattila, and Denmark's Minister of Children and Education, Pernille Rosenkrantz-Theil.

The CEO of WorldSkills Europe, Laurence Gates, and the Chairman of WorldSkills Denmark, Søren Heisel also attended.

WorldSkills Denmark has worked closely with the Danish Government, the Trade Union Movement's Main Organisation, the Danish Employers' Association, Herning Municipality, and the Central Jutland Region to bring EuroSkills to Denmark as part of the country's ambitious overall strategy to get more young people to choose vocational education.

The city of Herning is home to a thriving industrial sector, with a large international workforce focusing on a shift towards Industry 4.0. This is a result of a long-standing tradition of close cooperation between local industry and businesses, educational institutions, elementary schools and the municipality.

EuroSkills Herning 2025 is scheduled to take place between 8-14 September 2025 at MCH Messecenter Herning, the largest exhibition centre in Scandinavia.

WorldSkills Europe places strong trust and confidence in WorldSkills Denmark, who we know will deliver, with the support of the Danish government and all partners and stakeholders, an exceptional EuroSkills event for all our Members.

*“Our ambition with this championship is not only to create increased focus on VET in Denmark, but also to raise the standards of excellence in technical and vocational education and training and provide inspiration for developing trades and skills across Europe – and lasting relations between countries on all levels.”*

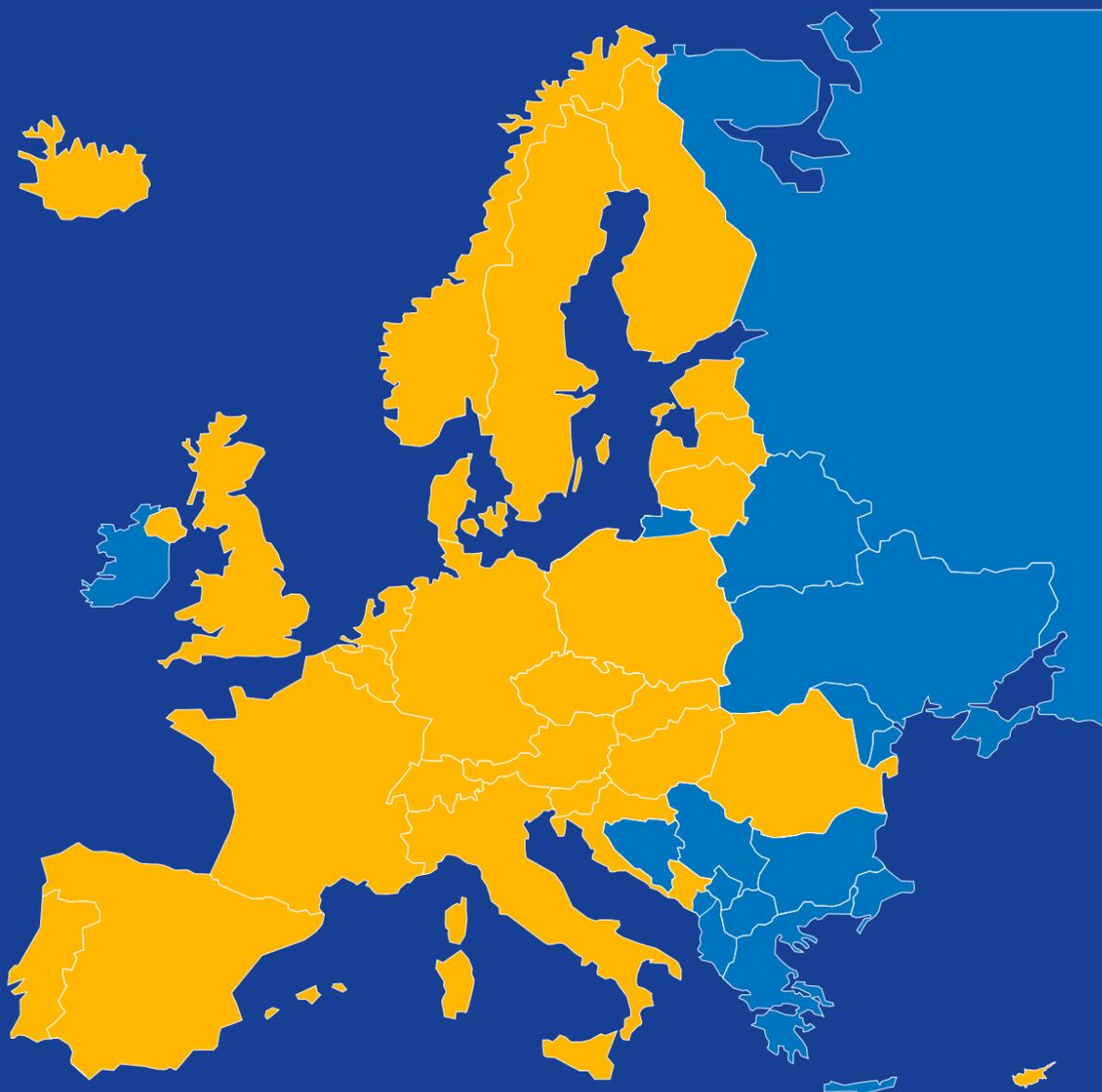
**Poul Nyrup Rasmussen,  
Chairman of EuroSkills Herning 2025**



# Member Countries

Our 30 Member Countries cover more than half of the European population.

- Austria
- Belgium
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Italy
- Kazakhstan
- Latvia
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Montenegro
- The Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- UK



# Sponsors and Partners

**WorldSkills Europe Sponsors and Partners see a role for industry, education, government, and policy makers to work together to raise the profile and recognition of skilled professionals across Europe. Through EuroSkills Competitions, together we are increasing the abilities, status, and economic prospects of young people.**

In 2021, we were proud to welcome two new Premium Sponsors to WorldSkills Europe – Autodesk and Lincoln Electric.

**Autodesk** is changing how the world is designed and made. Its technology spans architecture, engineering, construction, product design, manufacturing, media and entertainment, empowering innovators everywhere to solve challenges big and small.

EuroSkills participants will receive free access to Autodesk's professional-level advanced manufacturing, digital construction, and media and entertainment software, as well as a suite of learning

resources. Participants in Mechanical Engineering, for example, can leverage Autodesk Fusion 360 – a powerful design-and-make tool that combines CAD, CAM, CAE, and PCB design on one platform. With Fusion 360, Skills Experts and Competitors can take a big step towards digitizing their skillsets and furthering their careers.

**Lincoln Electric** has, for over 125 years, been the world leader in the design, development and manufacture of arc welding products, automated joining, assembly and cutting systems, plasma and oxy-fuel cutting and has a leading global position in brazing and soldering alloys.

As a global leader in Welding Education, Lincoln Electric is committed to providing each and every member of the welding community with the most well-rounded and comprehensive welding training programs in the industry. From products to training, all the way up to complete education solutions, Lincoln Electric provides equipment, curriculum, customized training, certifications, apprenticeship training and consulting to help companies set up the right infrastructure.

## PREMIUM SPONSORS OF WORLDSKILLS EUROPE



## OFFICIAL LOGISTICS PARTNER OF WORLDSKILLS EUROPE



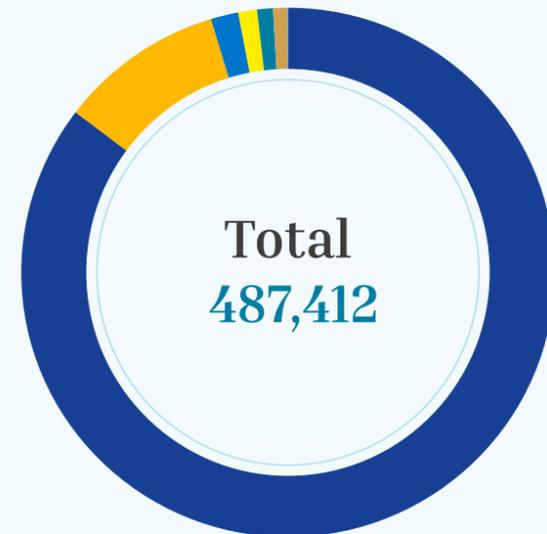
# Financial Report

## INCOME (in euro)



■ Membership Fees .....	323,041
■ EuroSkills Hosting Fee .....	197,500
■ Sponsorship .....	32,476
■ Interest .....	10

## EXPENDITURE (in euro)



■ Support Services .....	415,972
■ Travel/Subsistence .....	48,696
■ Office cost & External services .....	8,175
■ Marketing & Communication .....	5,515
■ ICT .....	4,702
■ Other costs .....	4,170
■ Depreciation Tangible Fixed Assets .....	182

# Board of Directors



Mrs. Teija Ripattila

**Chair of the Board**

🇫🇮 Finland



Mr. Terry Cooke

**Treasurer**

🇬🇧 United Kingdom



Mr. Guillaume Suteau

**Board Member - Competition Committee**

🇫🇷 France



Mr. Patrik Svensson

**Board Member - Competition Committee**

🇸🇪 Sweden



Mr. Ben Blackledge

**Board Member - Equity and Diversity**

🇬🇧 United Kingdom



Keizersgracht 241  
1016EA Amsterdam  
The Netherlands

[www.worldskillseurope.org](http://www.worldskillseurope.org)  
[secretariat@worldskillseurope.org](mailto:secretariat@worldskillseurope.org)