



WORLDSKILLS EUROPE  
**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**2024**





# CONTENTS

Board Foreword	4-5
WorldSkills Europe General Assembly 2024	6-7
EuroSkills Herning 2025	8-11
EuroSkills Düsseldorf 2027	12-13
EuroSkills Geneva 2029	14-15
Member Countries	16
Sponsors and Partners	17
Financial Report	18
Board & CEO	19



# BOARD FOREWORD

*Throughout 2024, preparations for future editions of EuroSkills, particularly next year's EuroSkills Herning 2025, gathered pace.*

WorldSkills Europe and the Organising Committee of EuroSkills Herning 2025 came together throughout the year to review the progress of preparations for the event and to prepare for the EuroSkills Competition Preparation Meeting in January 2025, an important milestone in preparations for a EuroSkills Competition.

Looking further ahead, we were delighted to announce that **Switzerland** was awarded the right to host the **eleventh EuroSkills Competition in the city of Geneva** in 2029, following a unanimous vote on Switzerland's bid, presented at the WorldSkills Europe General Assembly in June.

WorldSkills Europe also welcomed **Serbia** as its newest Member country, bringing the number of WorldSkills Europe Members to 33. We look forward to welcoming Serbia to EuroSkills Herning next year.

2024 also saw the signing of two new **Premium Sponsors – Festool** and **PPG**. We are grateful to both organisations for their invaluable support for our EuroSkills Competitions and for WorldSkills Europe Members to nurture their future talent.

In the following pages you can read about the progress of preparations for the next scheduled EuroSkills Competitions, EuroSkills Herning 2025 and EuroSkills Düsseldorf 2027, plus a summary of the key decisions and outcomes from our 2024 General Assembly, and information about our two newest Premium Sponsors, Festool and PPG.

As we look towards 2025 and continue planning for the EuroSkills Competitions in 2025, 2027 and 2029, we would like to thank all our Members, Competitors, Experts, volunteers and Secretariat for their hard work, support, and commitment, which ensures that the WorldSkills movement in Europe continues to inspire young people, and engage industry, governments and educational institutions, to help prepare the workforce and talent of today for the jobs of the future.

# WORLD SKILLS EUROPE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024



*WorldSkills Europe Members, Sponsors, and Partners came together for our annual series of strategic meetings at the WorldSkills Europe General Assembly 2024, which took place in Luxembourg from 4 to 7 June 2024.*

The theme of discussions this year was “Skills Shape Your Future,” reflecting WorldSkills Luxembourg’s dedication to fostering skills development, promoting vocational education, and championing the next generation of skilled professionals.

The General Assembly 2024 also represented a major milestone for WorldSkills Luxembourg on the road to EuroSkills Düsseldorf 2027, which Luxembourg will co-host with Germany.

During the General Assembly, Members, Sponsors and Partners also heard from the European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, Nicolas Schmit, and from the WorldSkills Lyon 2024 team about final preparations for the 47th WorldSkills Competition.

## KEY DECISIONS AND OUTCOMES:



### SERBIA OFFICIALLY WELCOMED AS A NEW MEMBER

The 2024 General Assembly approved Serbia’s membership of WorldSkills Europe and warmly welcomed Serbia as the newest (33rd) Member country. Becoming a Member of WorldSkills Europe means that Serbia will be able to participate at the EuroSkills Competition 2025 in Herning, Denmark, and at future EuroSkills Competitions and related activities.

### SWITZERLAND CONFIRMED AS HOST OF THE 11TH EUROSILLS COMPETITION IN 2029

WorldSkills Europe Members voted unanimously in favour of Switzerland’s bid to host EuroSkills in the city of Geneva in 2029.

Switzerland has extensive experience in staging skills competitions. The country has hosted the WorldSkills International Competition three times – in the city of Bern in 1968, and twice in the city of St. Gallen, in 1997 and 2003. Switzerland also hosted 14 skill competitions in nine locations across the country as part of WorldSkills Competition 2022 Special Edition.

EuroSkills Geneva 2029 is expected to take place in September 2029 at the Palexpo Geneva and the Geneva Arena.

### WORLD SKILLS EUROPE BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

Erik van der Zwan, CEO of WorldSkills Netherlands, was appointed as a Member of the WorldSkills Europe Board following a vote by Members. His appointment came as Guillaume Suteau (France), Chair of the Board, completed his nine-year mandate as a Board Member at the 2024 General Assembly.

Ben Blackledge (UK), WorldSkills Europe Board Member, took up the role of Chair of the Board following Guillaume’s departure, with Erik appointed as Board Member responsible for Member Engagement, and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. The Board extended its sincere thanks to Guillaume for his contribution to the Board and to the wider WorldSkills movement.

In 2025, there will be one open position on the Board, as Patrik Svensson (Sweden) will complete his first mandate at the General Assembly 2025.

# THANK YOU

**TO OUR GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024 HOSTS**

*WorldSkills Luxembourg and the Luxembourgish Ministry of Education, Children and Youth – for their excellent organisation and hospitality.*



## INCREASING DIVERSITY WITHIN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

As 2024 drew to a close, the Villum Foundation granted 17 million DKK (2.28 million Euros) to EuroSkills Herning 2025 to support a collaboration with Danish diversity and inclusion organisation, Divers. The partnership will enhance the focus on diversity within vocational education through a series of activities for participants, professionals, and companies from across Europe.



# EUROSKILLS HERNING 2025

*Preparations for the ninth edition of EuroSkills continued to gather pace throughout 2024, a pivotal year on the journey towards EuroSkills Herning 2025.*

In March, the WorldSkills Europe and EuroSkills Herning 2025 teams gathered in Herning to review the progress of preparations for the event. As well as important discussions about technical, operational and MarCom matters, the visit included a tour of the impressive Competition venue, MCH Messecenter Herning, and the Lalandia Billund Resort, which will be transformed into a 'Skills Village' for Competitors and Experts for the event.

At the WorldSkills Europe General Assembly in June, the EuroSkills Herning 2025 team presented an update on all aspects of the project, including details of the Competition Preparation Meeting (28–31 January 2025) during which delegates from all WorldSkills Europe Member Countries gather together with Sponsors, Partners, advisers, and the Competition Organising Team to review and finalise plans for the technical and practical aspects of staging the Competition.

September marked the exciting milestone of one-year-to-go until the start of the Competition, which is set to take place from 9 to 13 September 2025, and in November, WorldSkills Europe and EuroSkills Herning 2025 teams met in Copenhagen for the final Progress Meeting of the year.

The next Progress Meeting between WorldSkills Europe and EuroSkills Herning 2025 is scheduled for 3-4 June 2025.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

EuroSkills Herning 2025 is set to be the biggest and best EuroSkills Competition yet, bringing together almost 600 young professionals from across Europe, to participate in 38 skill competitions for the chance to become the Best in Europe in their chosen areas of expertise. Up to 100,000 visitors from across Denmark and abroad are expected to attend.

As well as presenting a world-class Competition celebrating the most talented young professionals in Europe, Denmark is using the opportunity of hosting EuroSkills Herning 2025 to increase the national focus on the development of technical and vocational education and training. The event will showcase how skills competitions and international skills benchmarking represent a significant opportunity to help drive up standards of excellence among young professionals and students, which supports industry, economic, and productivity growth.



# SKILLED FOR A GREENER FUTURE

*EuroSkills Herning 2025 will also emphasise how skills can help us all rise to the global challenge of creating a sustainable future for our planet.*

Skilled professionals are central to the successful implementation of green technologies; from technicians in renewable energy to experts in sustainable construction, trained professionals are key in the global environmental transformation.

The theme of sustainability is at the heart of the event's identity, underlining the ambition that the Competition aims to equip the young skilled workers of the future with the skills necessary to carry out the green transition.

EuroSkills Herning 2025 is organised in partnership by Denmark's Ministry of Children and Education, Herning Municipality, the Central Jutland Region, the Danish Employers' Association, the Trade Union Movement's Main Organisation, WorldSkills Denmark, and WorldSkills Europe.



# EUROSKILLS DÜSSELDORF 2027

*Preparations continued in 2024 for the tenth edition of EuroSkills, which will be staged in Düsseldorf in September 2027.*

Düsseldorf was confirmed as host city of EuroSkills 2027 at the WorldSkills Europe General Assembly 2022 following a unanimous vote in favour of the first ever joint bid by two countries – Germany and Luxembourg – to co-host a EuroSkills Competition.

WorldSkills Luxembourg also hosted the WorldSkills Europe General Assembly 2024 in June, representing a major milestone on the road to EuroSkills Düsseldorf 2027 and a sign of the co-hosts' readiness to embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

The EuroSkills Düsseldorf 2027 team provided an update to the WorldSkills Europe General Assembly on all aspects of the planning for the Competition.

*EuroSkills Düsseldorf 2027 is supported and endorsed by several key partners, including the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the State of North Rhine-Westphalia's Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs and the State's Ministry of Economics, Innovation, Digitisation and Energy, Luxembourg's Ministry of Education, Children and Youth, the City of Düsseldorf, and Messe Düsseldorf.*



*Düsseldorf is the capital city of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, the most populous state of Germany. It is a major international business and financial centre with a broad mix of industries.*

*EuroSkills Düsseldorf 2027, which is proposed for September 2027, will be held at the Messe Düsseldorf.*



# EUROSKILLS GENEVA 2029

*The city of Geneva will host the eleventh edition of EuroSkills in 2029.*

*Switzerland presented its application to host EuroSkills in Geneva in 2029 to the WorldSkills Europe 2024 General Assembly in Luxembourg on 6 June, after which WorldSkills Europe Member Countries unanimously approved the bid.*

The EuroSkills Geneva 2029 bid was presented by SwissSkills in partnership with the Swiss Association Cité des métiers et de la formation (ACdMF) by mutual agreement with the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER), and in association with The Greater Geneva Region.

Though this is Switzerland's first time hosting a EuroSkills Competition, the country will draw on its extensive experience in staging skills competitions. Switzerland hosted WorldSkills International Competitions in Bern in 1968, and St. Gallen in 1997 and 2003, as well as hosting 14 skill competitions as part of WorldSkills Competition 2022 Special Edition.

*Christian Schäli, President of SwissSkills, said: "As a member of WorldSkills Europe, SwissSkills is delighted to have earned the trust of its members and to have won the bid to host EuroSkills 2029, with Geneva as a strong partner."*



Rémy Hübschi, Deputy Director of Switzerland's State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), said: "Switzerland has long been at the forefront of vocational education and training, and we take pride in sharing our exemplary practices and programs with the global community,

"Moreover, Geneva, as the proposed host city, radiates international charm and the corresponding hotel and event infrastructure,

"We firmly believe that EuroSkills 2029 in Switzerland will not only serve as a source of inspiration for participants but will also leave a lasting positive impression that will reach far beyond the borders of our country," added Mr Hübschi.

Guillaume Suteau, then Chair of the Board of WorldSkills Europe, said: "Congratulations to Switzerland on their successful bid to host EuroSkills in 2029 in Geneva. Switzerland is a strong member of WorldSkills Europe, and we are thankful for their commitment and investment to drive the WorldSkills movement forward in Europe. We wish Switzerland well with their work in the coming years and I know they will do a great job."

## ABOUT THE CITY OF GENEVA

Geneva is the second-most populous city in Switzerland after Zurich and the most populous of the French-speaking Romandy region. It is a global financial centre, and a worldwide centre for diplomacy due to the presence of numerous international organisations, including the headquarters of many agencies of the United Nations and the Red Cross. Geneva's thriving economy attracts top talent and cutting-edge technology in industries such as chemistry, watchmaking, life sciences, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, medical technology, and precision engineering.

*EuroSkills Geneva 2029 is expected to take place at the Palexpo Geneva and Geneva Arena in September 2029.*



# WORLDSKILLS EUROPE

## MEMBER COUNTRIES

*Our 33 Member Countries cover more than half of the European population*

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

*WorldSkills Europe Sponsors and Partners recognise the important 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 2024, WorldSkills Europe was proud to welcome Festool and PPG as the newest Premium Sponsors of WorldSkills Europe.*

**FESTOOL** is a leading manufacturer of high-quality power tools. Inspired by craftspeople, Festool's dedication to professional craftsmanship has been unchanged since 1925. Since then, its continuous dialogue with customers has inspired Festool to develop power tools that meet craftspeople's high demands. Festool challenges the status quo, creating new product solutions that set the standards for tomorrow's generation of professional craftspeople.

As a Premium Sponsor of WorldSkills Europe, Festool builds on its past support of EuroSkills Competitions and WorldSkills Europe Members to further develop skills excellence for an internationally prepared workforce. This Sponsorship Agreement represents Festool's commitment to support the organisation of EuroSkills Herning 2025 and EuroSkills Düsseldorf 2027.

**PPG** is a global leader in paints, coatings, and specialty materials. With over 140 years of trusted innovation across construction, consumer products, industrial, and transportation markets, PPG is dedicated to solving its customers' challenges through collaboration and creativity. Headquartered in Pittsburgh, and operating in over 70 countries, PPG is committed to supporting education and workforce development initiatives. From investing in innovative solutions to promoting diversity and sustainability, PPG is deeply involved in shaping the future of industry. Partnering with WorldSkills Europe reflects PPG's mission to address skills shortages in the workforce, encourage youth participation, and foster talent development.

As a Premium Sponsor of WorldSkills Europe, PPG builds on its past support of WorldSkills National Competitions and WorldSkills Europe Members to further develop skills excellence for an internationally prepared workforce. This Sponsorship Agreement represents PPG's commitment to support the organisation of EuroSkills Herning 2025.

# SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

## PREMIUM SPONSORS OF WORLDSKILLS EUROPE

**AUTODESK**

**FANUC**

**FESTO**

**FESTOOL**

**GROHE**

**LINCOLN  
ELECTRIC**

**PPG**

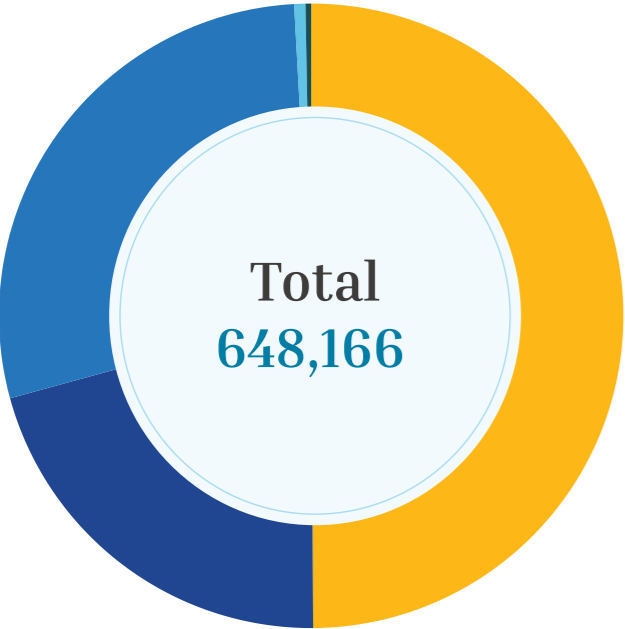
## SKILL SPONSORS OF WORLDSKILLS EUROPE

**DMG MORI**

**Mastercam**

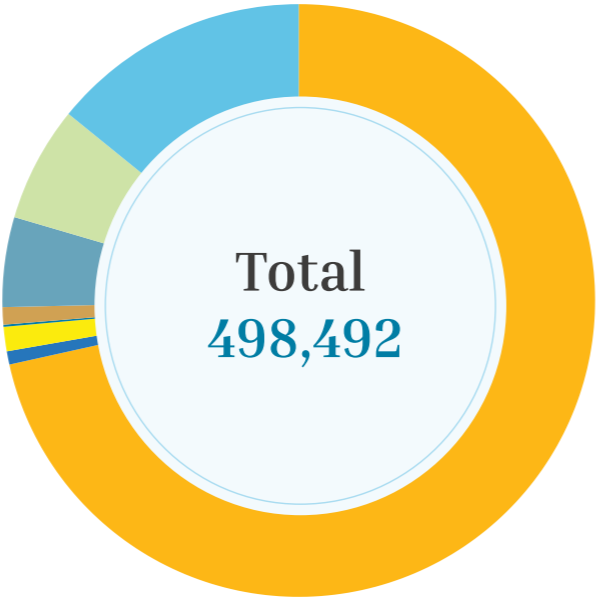
# FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME (in euro)



Admission Fees	10,000
Membership Fees	377,172
Sponsorship Fees	101,623
EuroSkills Hosting Fees	150,000
Interest	9,371
Other income	-

EXPENDITURE (in euro)



Depreciation tangible fixed assets	-
Support services	503,056
Marketing & Communication	3,853
Office costs & external services	13,279
Professional/Consultancy	4,220
ICT	5,912
Travel/Subsistence	34,997
Competitions/Events	5,720
Other costs	-72,545

# BOARD & CEO



**Mr. Ben Blackledge**  
Chair of the Board

United Kingdom



**Ms. Christine Davatz**  
Treasurer

Switzerland



**Mr. Patrik Svensson**  
Chair  
Competition Committee

Sweden



**Ms. Alina Fleaca**  
Vice Chair  
Competition Committee

Belgium



**Mr. Erik van der Zwan**  
Member Engagement, and  
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The Netherlands



**Ms. Laurence Gates**  
Chief Executive Officer

United Kingdom



---

Keizersgracht 241  
1016EA Amsterdam  
The Netherlands

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