

# WorldSkills Europe

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Annual Report 2020



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# Board Foreword

2020 was a year that made *huge demands* on all of us. A year filled with extreme sadness and grief, but also great *courage, hope, and determination.*

Only a few short months into his presidency of WorldSkills International, Jos de Goey suddenly passed away at the age of 56 in February. Jos is deeply missed and will be remembered by the WorldSkills Europe community for his contributions as the founder of the European Skills Promotion Organisation – now WorldSkills Europe. To honour Jos' lifelong devotion to the WorldSkills movement, we were proud to confirm that the prestigious EuroSkills Best of Europe Award will be renamed as the Jos de Goey Best of Europe Award. The new name will become effective at the EuroSkills Graz 2021 Competition.

The COVID-19 pandemic began to grip the world early in 2020, and we soon saw life and society as we know it begin to shut down. The situation made us all recognise more than ever before, that skills really are the building blocks of our lives. Skills keep the world moving and without them our communities and societies cannot prosper.

Millions of young skilled professionals have kept the world moving during the pandemic and they will be the ones helping employers lead the skills-based recovery in the months and years to come. It is therefore our duty and our moral obligation to find a way for vocational education and training and the WorldSkills movement to adapt so we can continue to inspire and prepare our young people for all existing, emerging, digital and green economies which support global economic prosperity.

WorldSkills Europe was, of course, planning to deliver the seventh EuroSkills Competition in Graz, Austria in September 2020. However, the ongoing uncertainty led to us having to take difficult decisions around postponing the event – initially to January 2021 and then indefinitely, while the Austrian authorities re-organised to mitigate against the spread of the virus.

Glimmers of hope thankfully began to emerge by the end of 2020 and EuroSkills Graz 2020 and WorldSkills Europe were able to identify new proposed dates and configurations for rescheduling the event to 22 – 26 September 2021. With further behind the scenes work set to continue into the New Year to confirm the new dates, the WorldSkills Europe community ended 2020 full of optimism that 2021 will indeed be the year for EuroSkills Graz.

The WorldSkills Europe Board would like to extend a special thank you to our colleagues in Austria for their unrelenting commitment and perseverance, to our Members for their patience and support, and to future EuroSkills hosts, Russia and Denmark for their flexibility in securing alternative dates for the EuroSkills Competitions they are hosting.

2020 also saw changes to the WorldSkills Europe Board and Secretariat team. Board Member Zsófia Csiszár stepped down from the Board following her appointment to the new part time role of Sponsorship Manager in the Secretariat team. Patrik Svensson, Sweden's Technical Delegate, was subsequently elected to the Board in June.

**WorldSkills International has named 2021 the year of innovation, showcasing, and promotion of skills. We at WorldSkills Europe fully support this ambition and look forward to working with our Members, partners, and stakeholders to strive for continued success in 2021.**





# General Assemblies & EuroSkills Graz 2020 Competition Preparation Meeting (CPM)

Despite the challenge of not being able to meet face-to-face in Graz in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the *WorldSkills Europe Secretariat and EuroSkills Graz 2020 Organising Committee* were able to make arrangements to facilitate the planned CPM and GA meetings to take place *virtually via video conferencing*.

WorldSkills Europe also held two extraordinary General Assembly meetings in 2020, which again took place virtually on 30 June and 16 September.

## **MAIN ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OUTCOMES:**

### **General Assembly, March 2020**

- A minute's silence was observed to remember the late Jos de Goey, who passed away suddenly in February 2020 at the age of 56, only a few short months into his presidency of WorldSkills International.
- To honour Jos' contributions as the founder of the European Skills Promotion Organisation – now WorldSkills Europe, and his devotion to the WorldSkills movement, the WorldSkills Europe General Assembly welcomed and accepted the proposal for the EuroSkills Best of Europe Award to be renamed the **Jos de Goey Best of Europe Award**. The new name of the Award will become effective at the EuroSkills Graz 2020 Competition.

### **General Assembly, March 2020 (continued)**


- New WSE Sponsorship Framework and Policy documents were presented and approved. It was announced that Zsófia Csiszár would be joining the WorldSkills Europe Secretariat as Sponsorship Manager in April 2020. Zsófia's appointment meant that she stepped down as a Member of the WorldSkills Europe Board.
- WorldSkills Europe and the EuroSkills Graz 2020 Organising Committee provided a progress update and explained that they were continually monitoring developments regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, while continuing preparations for EuroSkills Graz 2020. A full update on EuroSkills Graz activity in 2020 is featured on page 8 of this report.
- WorldSkills Russia provided an update report detailing the functional structures of WorldSkills Russia and St Petersburg Organising Committee, and a breakdown of the project funding.
- Poland was chosen as the host of the WorldSkills Europe General Assembly 2021, with Kraków as the host city. The President of WorldSkills Europe will be invited to participate in the design of the event, specifically regarding the inclusion of an Erasmus+ seminar. The event is scheduled to take place from 15-18 June 2021.

### **General Assembly, June 2020**

- Patrik Svensson, Sweden's Technical Delegate, was elected as a Member of the WorldSkills Europe Board of Directors. Patrik replaces Zsófia Csiszár who stepped down from the Board in March 2020.

### **General Assembly, September 2020**

- WorldSkills Europe Members voted unanimously for the Danish city of Herning to host the ninth EuroSkills Competition following Denmark's bid presentation during the meeting. Denmark was originally due to compete against WorldSkills Netherlands in the bidding process, but WorldSkills Netherlands withdrew its bid in July 2020.
- WorldSkills Europe officially welcomed the Czech Republic back as a returning Member Country, growing our membership to a total of 31 Member Countries.
- Elisabeth Lange of WorldSkills Norway was awarded Honorary Membership of WorldSkills Europe in recognition of her many years of devoted service to the WorldSkills movement. Elisabeth led WorldSkills Norway for 18 years as head of the secretariat. She retired at the end of 2020.



Just like the rest of  
the world, WorldSkills  
Europe had to hold all its meetings  
online in 2020.

Whilst we are incredibly grateful for  
the technology that enables us to  
connect virtually, we very much look  
forward to meeting all our Members,  
Partners and supporters in person  
again as soon as it is safe to do so –  
hopefully at EuroSkills Graz  
in September 2021.

# EuroSkills Graz 2021



At the beginning of 2020, the clock was counting down fast for the *seventh EuroSkills Competition*, which is set to take place for the first time in Austria, in the city of Graz.

The event was scheduled for 16 – 20 September 2020 at the Messe Congress Graz exhibition centre, and preparations were well and truly underway in the lead up to the planned Competition Preparation Meeting in March.

However, early into 2020, Europe was beginning to feel the full force of the COVID-19 pandemic and the world began to shut down. Competition Preparation Meeting, unable to be held in Graz, became a virtual gathering, and the EuroSkills Graz 2020 Organising Committee immediately began working closely with the Austrian authorities to monitor the severity of the pandemic and its likely implications.

As the situation in Europe continued to worsen, in April WorldSkills Europe and the EuroSkills Graz 2020 Organising Committee together made the decision to postpone the event, initially to January 2021. But again, given the growing scale of the pandemic and the intensified restrictions in place, a decision was made in October to postpone the event indefinitely while the Austrian authorities re-organised to mitigate against the spread of the virus.

Throughout the remainder of the year, the EuroSkills Graz 2020 Organising Committee continued to work tirelessly with a view to host the event at an alternative date in the future. The team developed extensive measures and a well-balanced and extremely comprehensive COVID-19 prevention concept in line with the regulations in force.

By the end of 2020, glimmers of hope began to emerge as EuroSkills Graz 2020 and WorldSkills Europe were able to identify new proposed dates and configurations for rescheduling the event for 22 – 26 September 2021.

With further behind the scenes work set to continue into the New Year to confirm and make the new dates official, the WorldSkills Europe community ended the year full of enthusiasm and hope that 2021 will indeed be the year for EuroSkills to showcase skills in Graz in Austria.





Schwarzl  
Freizeitzentrum  
Center – the new  
venue for EuroSkills  
Graz 2021



# EuroSkills St Petersburg 2023

The Russian city of *St Petersburg* was awarded the right to host EuroSkills 2022 following a vote at the WorldSkills Europe General Assembly in Budapest, Hungary on 7 March 2018.

Russia's hosting of EuroSkills St Petersburg is arranged by a partnership consisting of WorldSkills Russia, the government of St Petersburg, and Autonomous Non-Profit Organisation "Directorate for the Organisation and Implementation of Socially Significant Programmes".

Despite the ongoing challenges presented by the pandemic in 2020, preparations for EuroSkills in St Petersburg continued throughout the year, which included regular progress meetings with the WorldSkills Europe Secretariat.

A series of project sessions for each functional division were also held, and all aspects of the development of the event were progressed, including: Competitions, Marketing and Communications, and Sponsorship.

In October, as part of the decision by WorldSkills Europe to postpone EuroSkills Graz 2020 for a second time due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and coupled with the announcement

by WorldSkills International in November that the WorldSkills Shanghai 2021 and WorldSkills Lyon 2023 Competitions would both be postponed by one year, WorldSkills Europe initiated talks with the EuroSkills St Petersburg 2022 Organising Committee to examine the possibility of postponing EuroSkills St Petersburg to 2023.

In February 2021 WorldSkills Europe and the Organising Committee of EuroSkills St Petersburg 2022 officially announced the postponement of EuroSkills St Petersburg by one year to 2023. The new dates for EuroSkills St Petersburg 2023 have been scheduled for 16 – 20 August 2023.

In 2021 the St Petersburg Organising Committee will continue to develop the Competition programme jointly with WorldSkills Europe and will also further develop the Future Skills, Skills Passport and WorldSkills Juniors initiatives. WorldSkills Russia will also continue developing the conference programme, which will be a cornerstone of the event. It will see representatives of WorldSkills Europe Member countries, politicians, researchers, industry partners, and heads of educational and development organisations gather to discuss the influence and benefit of WorldSkills Europe to the economy and society.

It is expected that 540 competitors and 500 experts will participate in the main EuroSkills Competition in St Petersburg. Competitors from all WorldSkills Europe Member countries are anticipated to participate, and the event is expected to attract more than 140,000 visitors.

An aerial night photograph of St. Petersburg, Russia. The city is illuminated with warm yellow and white lights, contrasting with the deep blue twilight sky. In the foreground, a large, ornate building with a prominent golden spire and a classical facade is visible. To the right, a large, open square is lit up, and a river flows through the city. In the background, a bridge spans the river, and the city lights extend into the distance. A decorative hexagonal graphic is overlaid on the top left of the image.

**St Petersburg,  
Russia. Host city  
for the EuroSkills  
Competition 2023.**

# EuroSkills Herning 2025

At an extraordinary *General Assembly meeting* held virtually on 16 September 2020, WorldSkills Europe Members voted unanimously for the *Danish city of Herning* to host the ninth EuroSkills Competition.

The Danish government worked closely with the Trade Union Movement's Main Organisation, the Danish Employers' Association, Herning Municipality, the Central Jutland Region and Skills Denmark on the bid to bring EuroSkills to Denmark as part of an ambitious overall strategy to get more young people to choose vocational education.

Commenting on the country's successful appointment, Denmark's Minister for Children and Education Pernille Rosenkrantz-Theil said: *"It is difficult to contain our excitement that EuroSkills will be held in Denmark. EuroSkills is more than a competition. It is a way to focus on the many exciting vocational education programmes and the opportunities it offers to be excellent at one's skill."*

Jesper Juul Sørensen and Søren Heisel, Chairman and Deputy Chairman of SkillsDenmark, said: "We look forward to welcoming our colleagues from all over Europe. It is a huge event that is now coming to Denmark for the first time ever. International skills competitions give talented young Danish people the opportunity to compete against the elite from all over Europe, and at the same time provide inspiration for developing the trades and skills and the way we work with vocational education."

Although originally scheduled for 2024, WorldSkills Europe and SkillsDenmark announced in December that EuroSkills Herning will be moved forward by one year to 2025 due to the postponement EuroSkills Graz 2020.

EuroSkills Herning 2025 will be held at MCH Messecenter Herning which is the largest exhibition centre in Scandinavia. Herning houses 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.

Denmark was originally due to compete against WorldSkills Netherlands in the bidding process for the ninth EuroSkills Competition, but WorldSkills Netherlands informed WorldSkills Europe of the withdrawal of their bid in July 2020.





“It is difficult to contain our excitement that EuroSkills will be held in Denmark. EuroSkills is more than a competition. It is a way to focus on the many exciting vocational education programmes and the opportunities it offers to be excellent at one’s skill.”  
**Pernille Rosenkrantz-Theil, Denmark’s Minister for Children and Education**

# Marketing and Communication

Following the launch of the new WorldSkills Europe brand book in 2019, the *WorldSkills Europe website was redesigned in early 2020* in order to bring it into alignment with the new brand identity and to improve its compatibility with the WorldSkills International website.

With much of the planned MarCom activity for EuroSkills Graz 2020 having to be paused due to the pandemic in 2020, in June WorldSkills Europe was proud to focus resources on supporting WorldSkills International's rallying cry to remind the world how skilled workers were keeping life moving.

The 'Keep the World Moving' campaign featured heart-warming stories of many young skills champions who were rising to the challenges of the pandemic, demonstrating how these essential skilled workers became our new superheroes. We heard about the skills champions in Europe who have been instrumental to the skills-based response to the pandemic – including a rising star of Restaurant Services in Belgium who had been connecting COVID-19 patients in hospital with their families.

WorldSkills Europe was also proud to support the fifth edition of European Vocational Skills Week (#EUVocationalSkills) which took place 9 – 13 November. Due to the pandemic, the Week's activity was hosted 100% online by the European Commission in cooperation with the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Three members of the WorldSkills Europe community serve as official Ambassadors for European Vocational Skills Week – President of WorldSkills Europe & Director of Skills Latvia, Dita Traidas; Director of WorldSkills Belgium, Francis Hourant; CEO of WorldSkills Sweden, Pontus Slättman – and participated in the programme of events organised by the European Commission and its partners.

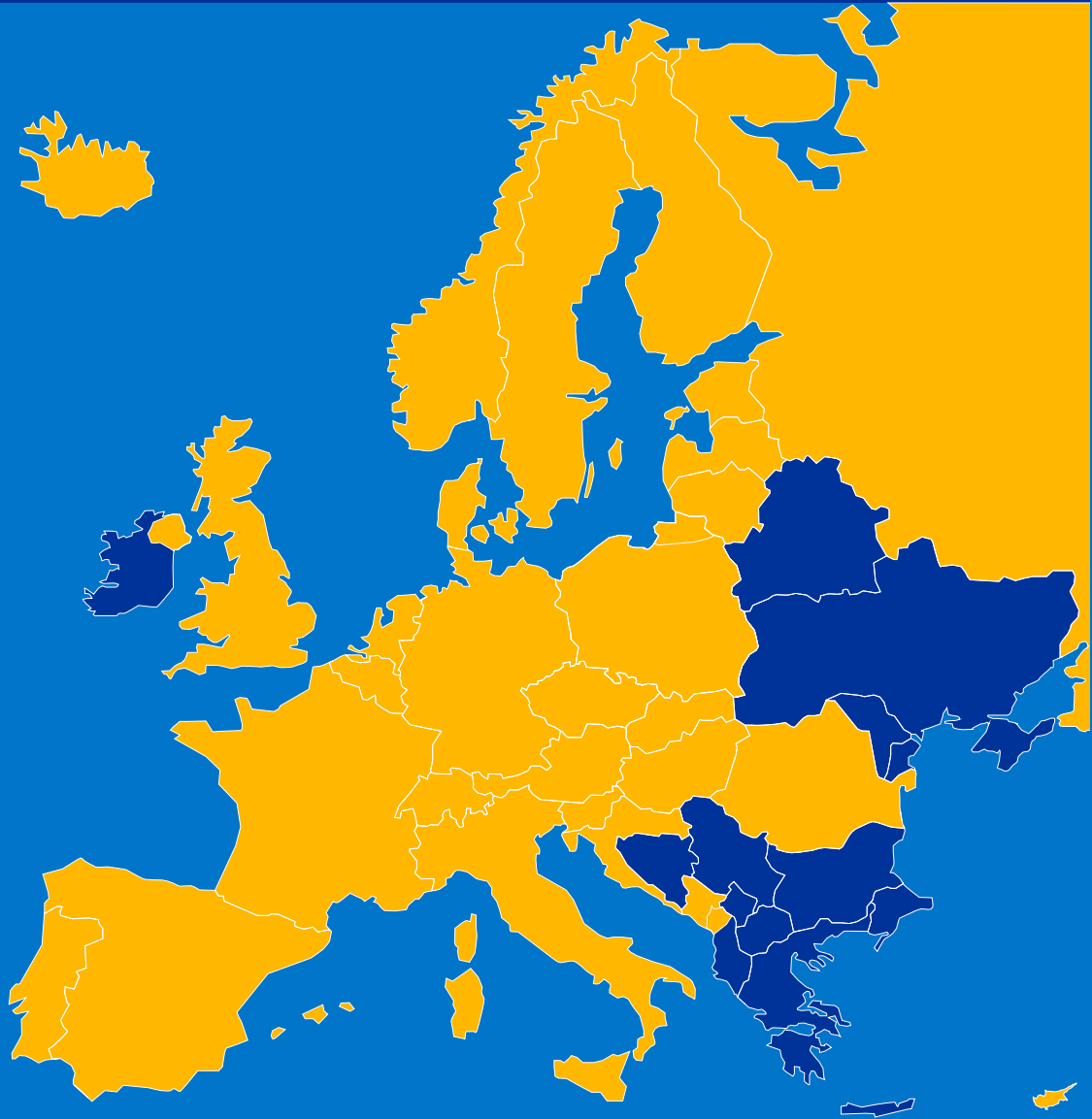
European Vocational Skills Week saw 39 countries participate, 1,241 events and activities held, and more than 3.9 million individuals take part.

In addition, five former WorldSkills and EuroSkills Gold Medallists from Austria were the recipients of a special honour at the VET Excellence Awards 2020 which are held as part of European Vocational Skills Week. Graphic Designer Fabian Gwiggner, Painter and Decorator Lisa Janisch, Cabinet Maker Manfred Zink, Stonemason Melanie Seidl and Florist Birgit Haberschrick were recognised for promoting the internationalisation of excellence in VET (vocational education and training) through their roles as ambassadors for EuroSkills Graz 2020.

# 31 WorldSkills Europe Member Countries

WorldSkills Europe was proud to welcome back the Czech Republic as a returning Member in 2020, growing our total membership to 31 Member Countries.

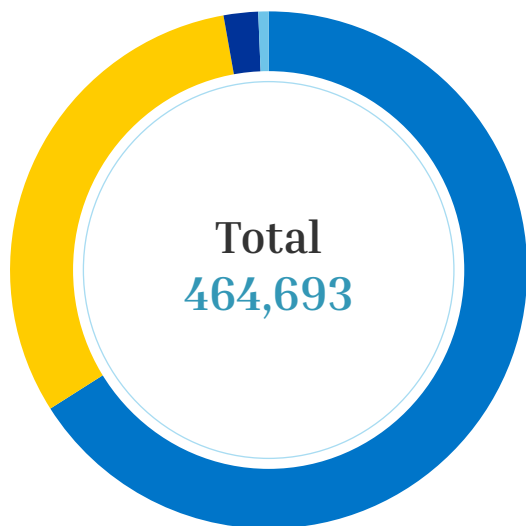
- Austria
- Belgium
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Italy
- Kazakhstan
- Latvia
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Montenegro
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- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania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





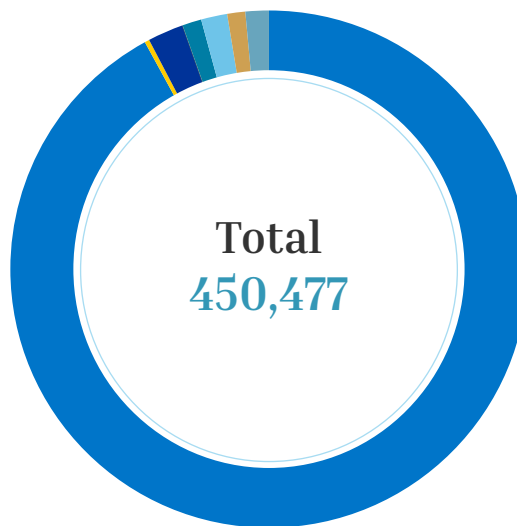
# Financial Report 2020

## INCOME (in euro)



|   |         |
|---|---------|
| All Membership Fees Types               | 306,693 |
| All Hosting Fees & Secretariat Services | 145,000 |
| All Sponsorship                         | 10,000  |
| Other Income                            | 3,000   |

## EXPENDITURE (in euro)



|                                 |         |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Support Services                | 414,601 |
| Marketing & Communication       | 1,326   |
| Office cost & External services | 10,144  |
| Professional/Consultancy        | 0       |
| ICT                             | 5,374   |
| Travel/Subsistence              | 7,377   |
| Competitions/Event              | 5,079   |
| Other cost                      | 6,576   |



# WSE Board of Directors



**Ms. Dita Traidas**

Latvia  
President

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**Mr. Terry Cooke**

United Kingdom  
Treasurer

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**Mr. Stefan Praschl**

Austria  
Chair - Strategy Committee

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**Mrs. Teija Ripattila**

Finland  
Vice Chair - Strategy Committee

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**Mr. Guillaume Suteau**

France  
Chair - Competition Committee

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**Mr. Patrik Svensson**

Sweden  
Vice Chair - Competition Committee

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**Mr. Francis Hourant**

Belgium  
Chair - Marketing and Communications

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Official logistics partner of WorldSkills Europe

