

Official opening of EuroSkills, the European Skills Championships

The European Skills Championships, EuroSkills, opened today to great fanfare in the Graz Stadthalle civic centre. And tomorrow morning, 400 competitors from 19 nations and three guest countries will be on the starting lines for the competitions in 48 skills and trades.

GRAZ. An impressive opening ceremony marked today's official start of the European Skills Championships, in which 400 young professionals from 22 countries will be going for gold in 48 skills and trades. The spectacular show, with an audience of almost 3,000 in attendance, was staged at the Graz Stadthalle civic centre. The international competitors took to the stage with a flag parade to their own selection of rock and pop tunes – and the 54-strong Austrian team chose the strains of Falco's legendary "Amadeus" to accompany their grand entrance. It was the same song that the Austrian delegation used when it was handed the official EuroSkills flag at the last European Championships in Budapest in 2018. Austrian president Alexander Van der Bellen then addressed the crowd by video message. The stream of welcoming messages then switched to EU commission member Nicolas Schmitt from Brussels, and the president of the Chamber of Commerce, Harald Mahrer, who welcomed the competitors in his opening statement. Dita Traidias, President of WorldSkills Europe, started her address by saying: "Highly trained, skilled workers are the backbone of society and of our economy. The future belongs to Young Professionals all over Europe."

A who's who of prominent figures from politics and business

Shortly before the official opening ceremony, a VIP reception was attended by high-profile guests including financial backers, politicians, entrepreneurs and business representatives as well as sponsors and the official delegates. The gathering was addressed by EuroSkills Initiator and Chairman Josef Herk, as well as WorldSkills Europe President Dita Traidias, Eurochambres President Christoph Leitl, Provincial Governor Hermann Schützenhöfer, Graz Mayor Siegfried Nagl and Austrian Chamber of Commerce Vice President Philipp Gady. "The staging of this skills contest in Graz is the fulfilment of a long-held dream," said EuroSkills initiator Josef Herk. "The prevailing mood here is like that of a football stadium. It's a spirit that will also make itself felt during the competitions over the next few days. Just come along and enjoy the unique atmosphere."

Spectacular acts

The opening ceremony was presented by Karoline Rath-Zobernig, wearing an outfit from top designer Eva Poleschinski, and Lukas Schweighofer, who hosts the TV show "Guten Morgen Österreich". Some spectacular acts and a dance performance made up the atmospheric supporting programme. The first of three competition days starts tomorrow. Admission is free of charge on the competition days. Tickets are available at tickets.euroskills2021.com.

For more information:

Angelika Ledineg
Management

T: +43 (0) 316 601-660

M: +43 (0) 664 81 79 387

angelika.ledineg@euroskills2021.at

Christoph Sammer

Press team

T: +43 (0) 664 8210928

pr@euroskills2021.at

#WE
ARE
SKILLS

#EUROSKILLS2021
FOLLOW US