

Girl Power at EuroSkills: women conquering traditionally male professions

At the 2021 European Skills Championships, the painting and decorating contest kicked off with females outnumbering males by two to one. And the trend towards women practising skills and trades is increasing overall.

Since this morning, the top young, skilled workers in Europe have been battling it out for medals at EuroSkills 2021, with the competitors in the 48 or so skills and trades reflecting the increasing female trend. A glance at the statistics shows that there are 80 female competitors, making up around 21 percent of the field. And in the Painting and Decorating category, with eight female competitors there are twice as many women as men. The Austrian team has seven female members. Yet despite progress in individual areas, there is clearly still room for improvement – especially when compared to the number of male competitors, with 287 young men involved in the competition overall.

Female trend towards apprenticeships

The increasing female trend towards skilled trades and technical careers is also evident from the Chamber of Commerce's nationwide apprenticeship statistics for the end of 2020, which show that one in ten apprentices qualifying in previously male domains such as metal technology is now female. In this field there were female apprentices in this field nationwide,

534 in electrical engineering, 467 in carpentry, 421 in painting and decorating/coating technology, 344 in automotive technology), 334 in mechatronics, 115 in bodywork technology, 91 in design engineering and 89 in electronics. In total, in 2020 around 3,500 young women opted to pursue a career in a traditional craft or trade.

And apprenticeship numbers for young women in a number of occupational categories have doubled since 2005: from 657 to 1,186 in construction/architecture/building technology, from 295 to 651 in electrical engineering/electronics and from 383 to 644 in wood/paper/glass/ceramics. An even greater increase can be seen in the machines/vehicles/metal area, if we compare the latest figure of 2,077 in 2020 to the 854 recorded in 2005.

**#WE
ARE
SKILLS**

#EUROSKILLS2021
FOLLOW US

The proportion of women in the training companies is also constantly increasing, with the figures currently standing at 11 per cent in mechatronics and 10 percent in metal technology, and are even as high as 14.9 per cent in carpentry. In the new apprenticeship of application development /coding, 15.3 per cent of the trainees are female. The progress made by women in metal technology is particularly striking – this occupational field already ranks as the seventh most popular apprenticeship among girls. Also near the top of the table when it comes to the most popular choice of occupation for females are electrical engineering (12th place), carpentry (15th place) and painting and decorating (19th place).

“An apprenticeship is the perfect springboard into a career,” declared EuroSkills Initiator Josef Herk. “Many people are simply not aware of the possibilities that are opened up by this route into a career. Businesses are desperately in need of apprentices who are currently in training or have qualified. The fact that more and more young women are choosing to follow traditional trades and technical careers is extremely positive,” he continued. “And this makes me all the more delighted that we are able to offer a stage to our young, skilled workers at EuroSkills in Graz.” Over the next three days, Europe’s top young, skilled workers will be doing battle for the coveted medals, with the event culminating in the grand closing ceremony on Sunday.

Painter and decorator Lisa Janisch, who brought back the gold medal from the 2016 EuroSkills in Gothenburg, also spoke out as an ambassador for the home-nation championships to encourage young women in male-dominated domains: “It often takes a lot of courage if you want to get into so-called male domains. But stepping outside your comfort zone quickly pays off. We need dedicated young women with a passion for technology and craftsmanship.”

Graz, 24. September 2021

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