

# Vocational competitions EuroSkills and WorldSkills

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT****PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE** GERMANY

## Timeline

**2022 Implementation****2023 Implementation****2024 Implementation****ID number 43947**

## Background

In the context of an interconnected globalised world, strengthening the European vocational training area is a declared goal of the EU. Promoting participation in the EuroSkills and WorldSkills vocational competitions is one of the Federal Government's instruments for implementing this goal. Participation in the competitions serves several purposes: these competitions are an important marketing tool both for Central Europe as an educational and business location and for the individual countries. At the same time, they help the participating nations to compare their own education systems with each other (benchmarking) and to learn about best practices (stimulus). The competitions are a national instrument for promoting talent (excellence in VET), as well as for recruiting new apprentices (shortage of skilled workers and apprentices). The companies that support the individual disciplines are offered a platform for exchange (networking); they learn so much about how training is done in other nations. Cross-border exchange is promoted within the framework of championships of the professions at European and international level.

## Objectives

At EuroSkills, Europe's best skilled workers compete in their disciplines in the fields of crafts, industry, services and future skills for the title of European champions. In order to internationalise further the German system of initial and continuing vocational education and training (VET), the participation and organisation of the German national vocational team is supported by the Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWK).

Vocational competitions as a whole and the EuroSkills competitions in particular have become flagship events for VET and excellence in Europe. At the same time, they serve as a seismograph of education and training in the member nations. The participants are ambassadors of VET with a very high public impact, which can be used to address existing prejudices and improve the image of VET. This is seen as an important measure to address the shortage of skilled workers and apprentices.

## Description

WorldSkills - the World Skills Championships - and EuroSkills - the European Skills Championships - take place alternately every two years. The WorldSkills Germany network

promotes and supports national and international competitions of non-academic professions. Founded in 2006, the WorldSkills Germany association currently unites over 80 members. In addition to companies and associations, these include Chambers of Skilled Crafts and guilds or industry associations, as well as the BMBF and the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB). The registration of the German national vocational team for a European and international competition takes place via WorldSkills Germany. These are determined in advance at national selection competitions and training sessions and registered by the respective associations and partners.

Funding opportunities are provided by the BMBF, BIBB and the BMWK, with a 80% of the costs for international participation usually covered by funding measures. Companies can assume costs for the participation of their apprentices as so-called skills sponsors, i.e. industry associations or sponsors. Through the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, WorldSkills Germany and its partners can also receive funding for training (e.g. travel and accommodation costs).

The trade magazine for talent management, vocational competitions and extracurricular learning is published by WorldSkills Germany.

WorldSkills Germany recognised national performance centres offer training and courses according to the concepts of the vocational competitions. Across Germany, 28 training and further education institutions already bear the title of performance or federal performance centre, and others are in the examination or certification phase.

### **2022 Implementation**

In 2022, Germany was the venue for nine world championships for the professions: Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz assumed patronage for the German national vocational team. Team Germany, the German national team for the professions, took part in competitions in 31 disciplines in 10 countries with 36 professionals. In total, Team Germany won three gold medals, five silver medals, two bronze medals and nine medals of excellence.

### **2023 Implementation**

In September 2023, Germany's top skilled workers competed in 27 disciplines at EuroSkills Gdansk 2023 in Poland. Two further competitions followed in October and November 2023 with the European Vocational Championships in Wels and Salzburg. The national team of 33 young talented skilled workers had a successful year 2023 in the skills competitions EuroSkills, European Vocational Championships and WorldSkills: Team Germany won a total of 24 medals at European vocational competitions, making them European vice-champion overall in 2023.

### **2024 Implementation**

Federal Education Minister Bettina Stark-Watzinger welcomed and congratulated the German national team for the 2023 European Skills Championships at the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in Berlin on 13 February 2024. The German national vocational team took part in the WorldSkills 2024 in Lyon, France, from 10 to 15 September 2024, with 44 top professionals from industry, skilled trades and the service sector in 39 vocational disciplines. Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz takes over the patronage of Team Germany. The team achieved: 1 x gold, 5 x silver, 3 x bronze and 22 medals of excellence for outstanding performance.

## **Bodies responsible**

- Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
- Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB)
- Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK)
- German Confederation of Skilled Crafts (ZDH)

- Federal States (Länder)

## Target group

### Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices  
Young people (15-29 years old)

### Entities providing VET

Companies  
Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)  
VET providers (all kinds)

### Other stakeholders

Social partners (employer organisations and trade unions)

### Other

talent  
programme

## Thematic categories

### European and international dimensions of VET

EU and international skills competitions

## European priorities in VET

### VET Recommendation

VET as an attractive choice based on modern and digitalised provision of training and skills

### Osnabrück Declaration

European Education and Training Area and international VET

## Subsystem

IVET CVET

## Further reading

[WorldSkills Germany 2024](#)

[WorldSkills Germany 2023](#)

[WorldSkills Germany - Annual report 2023](#)

[National performance centres](#)

## Related policy developments

## 2024 Implementation

### International cooperation in VET

The subject of bilateral VET cooperation is usually the intentions of a partner country to reform its VET system. Project funding in international VET cooperation serves to make expert knowledge and implementation competences from Germany available to the partner countries.



#### Type of development

Practical  
measure/Initiative

#### Subsystem

IVET CVET

## 2024 Implementation

### Promoting international mobility of VET learners

Outgoing mobility:



#### Type of development

Practical  
measure/Initiative

#### Subsystem

IVET CVET

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