

Vocational competitions EuroSkills and WorldSkills

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE



GERMANY

Timeline

2022 Implementation

2023 Implementation

2024 Implementation

2025 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, especially in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

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 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

The Federal Education Minister 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. The Federal Chancellor took over the patronage of Team Germany. The team achieved: 1 gold, 5 silver, 3 bronze and 22 medals of excellence for outstanding performances.

2025 Implementation

The 2025 European Professional Championships consisted of EuroSkills Herning 2025 and the European Skills Challenge competitions in Chur (Switzerland) and Salzburg (Austria). Team Germany was represented by 37 participants in a total of 33 disciplines at these three events.

The participation of the German national team at EuroSkills Herning 2025 (9-13 September 2025) was a joint effort between WorldSkills Germany and the German Confederation of Skilled Crafts. The team achieved: 7 gold, 6 silver, 3 bronze and 6 medals of excellence for outstanding performance.

By October 2025, 30 WorldSkills Germany recognised national performance centres offer training and courses according to the concepts of the vocational competitions and others are in the examination or certification phase.

Bodies responsible

- Federal Ministry for Education, Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMBFSFJ) (since 2025)
- Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) (until 2025)
- Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB)
- Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE) (since 2025)
- Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) (until 2025)
- 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

[EuroSkills and European skills challenges - Germany 2025](#)

[WorldSkills Germany 2024](#)

[WorldSkills Germany 2023](#)

[WorldSkills Germany - Annual report 2023](#)

[National performance centres](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Recruiting skilled workers from abroad

There are various approaches and actors contributing to a sustainable skilled labour immigration.

Legal framework for access to labour and training market

 GERMANY

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 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.

 GERMANY

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Promoting international mobility of VET learners

Outgoing mobility:

 GERMANY

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Promoting dual VET

Given the increasing trend towards academic education, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs (BMWi) have set up a joint campaign to present dual VET (apprenticeship) as an attractive option.

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Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

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