



## European competition in SKILLS+ project

The European SKILLS + competition took place differently than originally planned by the consortium.

The normal development of SKILLS+ project would have foreseen holding of the European SKILLS + competitions in the Netherlands between the months of June 2021 and August 2021. The winners of the National competitions in each category would have travelled to Burgh-Haamstede and took part in an important event for personal growth, sharing of experience, showing off their strengths and raising awareness of companies.

But because of the COVID-19 and different regulations in partners countries, EU competition was held online. At the beginning this presented a challenge and some brainstorming how to execute competition and still achieve the aim of the project.

Thanks to good partnership and the experienced coordinator EU competition went well, even though it required some adaptations and extra skills from all participants involved.



Coordinators Tessa and Teo from Pro Work at Online awarding ceremony of SKILLS+

*European competition in all partner countries was held online due to the pandemic restrictions.*

*Skills Plus are the skills competitions for people with (labour) disabilities. No one is judged by his or her disability – only talent counts!*

## D-day for SKILLS+ project or let the game begin!

**Organizing the national competition required quite some time, experience, and phone calls. But organizing and executing European competition locally, was even a bigger challenge.**

How it all started? How was EC executed? Let's go back and see what good partnership and collaboration means.

As mentioned, organizing any kind of event represents a challenge – well some would say opportunity. You can't start just with phone calls, buying materials, etc. You need a good plan from the beginning to the very end (so that you stay focused and on track).

The European Competition was spread into 5 days, from 28th of June 2021 to the 2nd of July 2021. Each day was originally dedicated to a different job type – in the morning from 10-12am CET. Unfortunately, it turned out to be too difficult in practice to plan this, so therefore, we later decided that if it could not take place on the specified day(s), the execution of the EC of individual job type should be done before that week. In that way we prevented potential delay in the execution of the EC in partners country.

To enable for Dutch judges to assess the participants' tasks on a distance, participants were recorded. The recording of the job type competition was done by each partner in their own way – with focus on showing the elements mentioned in the judging forms, to see if they can perform certain activities which are important according to the judging form. Each partner then compiled a video of duration of 5 to 20 minutes. The privacy of the participants was always respected.

When we try something new that no one has done before, we often encounter different challenges. Unfortunately, this element of challenge appeared with filming the competition. Although all partners did their very best to film everything properly, there were differences in how the competitions were filmed so the assessment was a bit of a challenge.

When it comes to judging, each partner also selected a national judge, so that the NL judge could consult them if necessary. The local judge also provided a filled-out judging assessment form specific to each job type. This was necessary for assessment the areas that could not be judged online (cooperation, taste, smell, hygiene etc.)

Even though European competition for SKILLS+ did not take place in person, event itself was success. In uncertain circumstances that all partners faced during pandemic, it is very important that you are surrounded with the right people that don't give up and instead of that come up with the solutions.

## Awarding ceremony of the European competition

**Every competition has a winner for the best performance. Even though winning was not the focus, but participation and display of talent and skills of individuals, someone still got the highest points in the competition.**

It is nice when you are awarded for being the best in competition – no matter what it is. This gives the winner confirmation that he or she achieved something great. It is also a reward for time and effort he (or she) has sacrificed for the result. For some of the participants, winning at the national competition was something special and unique. Not many can say that they qualified for European competition.

If we have the competition and the winner, we need awarding ceremony. This was also the case after EU competition for SKILLS+. Partners in project dedicated one day for announcing the winners live online. Ceremony was held in the week following the competition events. First, we thought it could be done in the same week, but the judging procedure took longer than expected.

On this day all countries and participants were present online to attend the ceremony, where the selected winner for each job type was honored. The awarding ceremony was streamed live, so in that way interested stakeholders had a chance to participate.

The ceremony was hosted by lead partner PRO WORK (NL) and they prepared a presentation, in which first of all the

structure of the project was briefly presented (also for the invitees, who were not yet familiar with the project). Two partners have also been asked (a new and experienced partner) to present their experience of this modified EC events. In addition, the manner of judging was briefly discussed and finally, the gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded for each job type. For the winners, it was briefly indicated what the judges thought of their work and why they won. The ceremony took place in English.

Here you can see the list of the winners in individual job type:

IT

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- 1. CZECH REPUBLIC!**
2. Turkey
3. The Netherlands



*Team from Czech Republic - winner in ICT*

Social Health & Care

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- 1. CROATIA!**
2. GREECE



*Team from Croatia - winner of Social Health & Care*

## Hospitality & Catering



1. **SLOVENIA!**
2. THE NETHERLANDS
3. ITALY

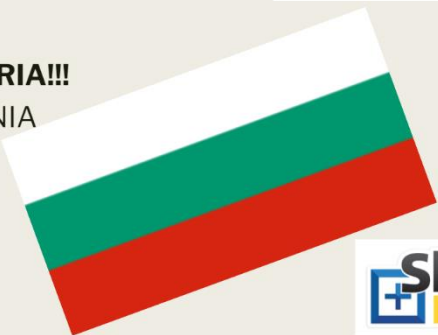


*Team from Slovenia - winner of Hospitality & Catering*

## Green Jobs



- **BULGARIA!!!**
- SLOVENIA
- ITALY



*Team from Bulgaria - winner of Green Jobs*

For the job type Electrician only team from Belgium was competing, so therefore they won.

### What to say at the end?

Not much really, the results speak for themselves. This partnership can be really proud of what we have achieved - if we take into considerations all the challenges that we encountered. Non of this could be done without hard work of all partners and their organizations. Special thanks goes to participants that showed their interest in the project and that they gave their free time and showed high level of professionalism.

*Skills Plus competitions are designed specifically for the target group, ranging from people with physical disabilities to people with mental disabilities. A truly inclusive competition is organized, which means that talents of different levels, who cope with all kinds of disabilities, compete in teams.*



Find out more:

<https://www.skillsplus.eu/>

<https://www.facebook.com/paraskillscompetitions>



## Erasmus+

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