

World Roofing Championships 2007

In October, the World Roofing Championships 2007 will bring together the top young roofers from across the world to compete in the Olympics of Roofing. The annual Championships, organised by the IFD (International Federation for the Roofing Trade) are held in conjunction with the IFD's World Congress. This year they will be held in Veszprém, Hungary. Young roofers from 14 countries will compete in two categories, Pitched and Flat Roofing, in the hope of taking the coveted Gold, Silver or Bronze medals. Each team comprises two members and is supported by a mentor, who prepares them for the competitions.

DUD, the German Industrial Association of the producers of thermoplastic roofing and waterproofing membranes, has acted as liaison with the IFD and initiated together with the Management of IFD the first flat roofing competition in the year 2001 in Vienna.

The teams must show a range of general roofing skills by completing a number of compulsory tasks. In the Pitched Roofing category competitors work with Slating, Tiling and sometimes metal roofing systems. In Flat Roofing they work with bituminous and thermoplastic materials.

In addition to the two compulsory categories there is a third, voluntary category, which is not marked in the competition. This provides competitors with the opportunity to display their skills with systems comprising, for example, roof gardens or solar panels.

Karin Arz, Managing Director of DUD, says that the competition is very important because it helps entrants build their confidence, show initiative and improve their skills. "It also helps to create international networks of roofers to bring the industry into the future, while also generating quite a lot of publicity for the industry as a whole."

Since 2003 ESWA, the European Single Ply Waterproofing Association, which groups the DUD members, is sponsoring the event to help the national contractors associations in financing.

This year's Championships will be held over three days between 3 and 5 October, parallel with the IFD Roofing Congress in Siófok, Balaton. In true Eurovision Song Contest tradition, team mentors vote on the other teams performances before an independent judge has the final vote to determine who takes the medals. The Championships are a great opportunity for young roofers to meet and compete with their counterparts from other countries. However it is not all work. There is also an important social element, where the entrants have an opportunity to compare work practices while also getting to know each other.

In addition to the honour of winning, the champions also get a work placement in the country of their choice. The ESWA Association as representation of the European producers of thermoplastic roofing and waterproofing membranes wishes the European lads and their mentors the best luck in this years Championships.