

Independent Test Project Developers Guide

A guide for the delivery of Independent Test Projects for use at EuroSkills Competitions



Independent Test Project Developers Guide

This document has been developed to help support those organisations or individuals who have been asked or who have volunteered to produce a test project or modules for a specific skill that operates as part of EuroSkills. It provides guidance on the required outputs, process steps, timing, security & confidentiality, and the type of information that the Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) will be required to produce to ensure a successful and high-quality competition that identifies the best competitor(s).

What is a test project?

A test project can be made up of single element or a collection of elements called modules. The test project or modules within EuroSkills are the assessment vehicle used for each skill competition. It is akin to the conventional examination paper that a student may take during their secondary education that tests their knowledge and understanding of a specific taught curriculum. A test project / module however is a physical or practical test of the competitor's abilities and skills set against the requirements outlined within the WorldSkills Occupational Standard (WSOS) or WorldSkills Europe Standard Specification (WSESS) for their selected occupation or work role. Here the occupational standards reflect the global occupations or work roles. The competition itself replicates the work environment and the test project/module is the means of directly assessing the performance and knowledge of the competitor by having them deliver a set of real-world tasks, behaviors, or projects. A test project is required to have between 14 -18 assessment hours spread over a 3-days.

Other key competition documents

Besides the Occupational Standard for the specific skill the other key document is the Technical Description that is published for the same skill competition.

A Technical Description is the document that defines how the specific competition should operate. It reinforces the required competencies that should be shown by the competitor and expresses their relative importance. It outlines the assessment structure needed for that the skill along with highlighting key criterion and the type of assessment (Judgement or Measurement) best used for the various aspects. The document also covers Health & Safety requirements for the skill and identifies the tools which all the competitors are expected to bring along themselves to the competition.

The Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) should familiarize themselves with both the Occupational Standard and the Technical Description for the skill to which they are developing the test project / modules for.

The profile of Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD)

The Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) would ideally have both an up-to-date industry knowledge complemented with the experience of how the specific skills competitions operates. However, provide the Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) has the relevant industry knowledge they can initially work with the appointed Chief Expert, Deputy Chief Expert and Skills Advisor to ensure that their gain the necessary understanding of the how the skill competition works and its requirements.

Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) can be found typically:

- Current WSI Expert in that skill but not involved in EuroSkills
- Main skill sponsor personnel directly related to the skill.
- Related European Sector organisations personnel to the skill.
- Passed WSI or WSE Expert from the skill
- Passed WSI or WSI competitors
- Organisations or businesses with personnel related with the skill.



Information Inputs and required Outputs Materials

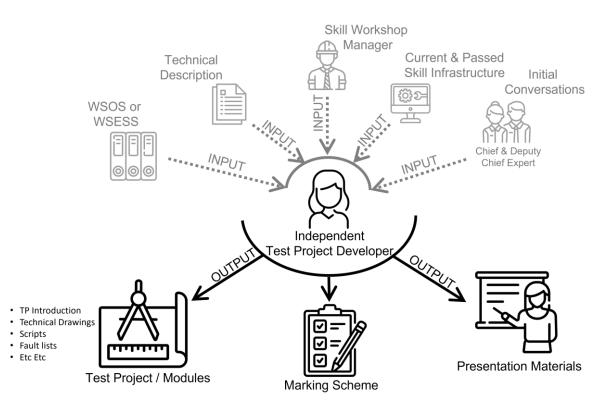
Diagram A shows both the required information inputs and the required outputs that a Test Project Develop should seek to obtain and thereafter be prepared to deliver.

INFORMATION INPUTS - The Occupational Standard and Technical Description documents have been discussed above. These documents can be obtained either directly from the Chief or Deputy Chief Expert of the skill or from the WSE Competition and Operational Director on request.

The other important input is the initial discussions that a Test Project Developer must have with the appointed Chief (CE) and Deputy Chief Expert (DCE). This is to ensure the overall goal of the skill can be expressed in more detail to the Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD). The CE and DCE may have more specific instructions or guidance for the ITPD. There may be some constraints or schedule limitations that the ITPD must be aware of. Some skills do produce very detail supporting documents in respect to how the test project should be designed (See **Appendix A**). Here the CE and DCE can talk through such documents if they do exist. Depending on the Competition experience of the Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) they may need to have several conversations with the CE and DCE to ensure they gain a comprehensive understanding of how they wish their competition to work and work with the test project.

Once the Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) has started his/her development on the test project direct communication with the CE and DCE should be restricted. Communication can still occur after this point if so required but the WSE Competition and Operations Director or coordinate must be included in any meetings or emails to ensure that no inadvertent advantage is being given to the CE and DCE. If either the CE or DCE are without a competitor competing in the EuroSkills competition, then communication with that Expert can be less restrictive throughout the development process. Communication with the wider expert group in the skill should not happen.

Diagram A.



OUTPUT MATERIALS - the Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) is required to deliver a test project / modules that aligns with the objectives of occupational standard and the Technical Description for the competition. This could be in the form of technical or detailed drawings of something that is to be produced by the competitor. It can also be a



script(s) or set of scenarios to be given to professional actors to follow. Sometimes it can be a list of faults that the competitor should find and resolve or an outline of a theme that the competitors need to adhere to.

This information is normally wrapped around an introduction that describes the test project or each of individual module. In some cases, the Test Project Developer may have to construct a schedule to go along with the Test Project especially if there are test modules that must be done in a specific order.

The Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) is required to provide a marking scheme to accompany the Test project / modules they have developed. The Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) can seek the assistance of the appointed Skills Advisor for the given skill to give advice, guidance, and information on how best to develop a robust marking scheme.

Once the Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) has the final version of the test project and approved (approved by the Skills Advisor) marking scheme they should seek to produce supporting presentation material that allows them to efficiently brief the jury of Experts on the Test project or on each module. If the Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) is present at the EuroSkills competition, then they themselves are expected to deliver these introduction or explanation presentations on the Test Project or modules and they to answer questions on it. However, if the Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) is absent then they should produce an automated presentation or ideally a video presentation giving this same information on the Test projects.

If the Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) is physical absent at the EuroSkills competition, then they must be prepared and available to still answer questions at the time of when the Test project or modules are being presented. This ideally should be done by zoom, skype or teams but as a minimum must be by phone from the Chief Expert and Deputy Chief Expert.

Before starting to develop a Test Project

You must register your intent to act as the Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) for a given skill(s) with the WorldSkills Europe secretariat before proceeding. Only after the WorldSkills Europe Competition secretariat has received back the signed confidentiality and professionalism agreement (appendix B) may the Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) proceed with their work.

Costs associated with Developing a Test Project

It must be understood that WorldSkills Europe has limited funds to support the development of independently developed test projects. Independent Test Projects are therefore normally developed purely from the goodwill and enthusiasm for the skill from the individual acting as the Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD). Alternatively, for sponsors the Test Project Development can be part of a sponsorship agreement between the WSE or the EuroSkills host organisation.

Attending the EuroSkills competition by the Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) although ideal and recommended is however not mandatory. WSE does not currently have the budget to support all Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) to attend the EuroSkills competition by funding the associate travel to/from the EuroSkills competition and their package whilst at the competition itself. WSE can however facilitate access to EuroSkills competition and the associated workshops for Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) should they wish to self-fund their attendance and participation.

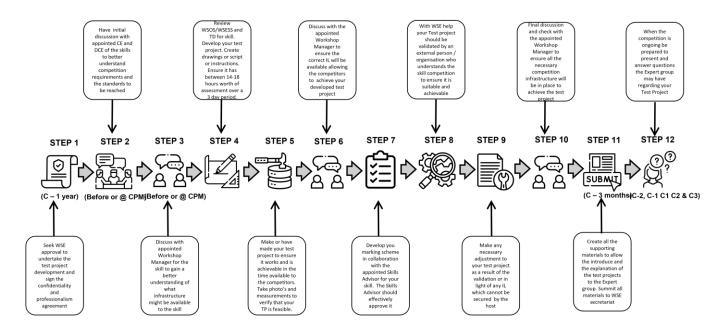
[Note: With the approval of the Trinity Proposal set for introduction at EuroSkills 2027 these challenges should be significantly reduced by the release of greater funding to support the increased use of Independent Test Projects.]

Process steps of Developing a Test Project

See diagram B for the main process steps and some key timing for the successfully delivering a test project for a skill at a EuroSkills Competition.



Diagram B.

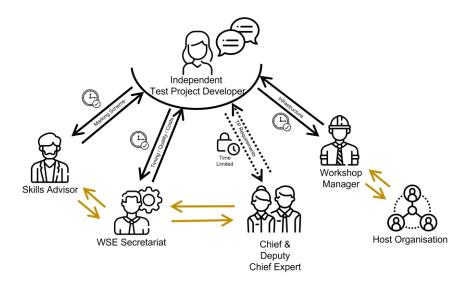


All the materials associated with the Independent Test project (Drawings, scripts, introductions, explanations, fault sheet, videos, and photographs) must be submitted to WSE three month before the start of the EuroSkills competition. The distribution and communication of the test project to the Expert group after submission is the responsibility of the WorldSkills Europe Secretariat.

Communicating the Developed Test Project

Diagram C below highlights who the Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) can and should communicate with during the various development steps of creating the test project. The Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) should treat the work outside of this group as strictly confidential and on a need-to-know basis. Clearly if the Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) needs to make the test project then they will need to discuss it with various suppliers or contractors involved in its manufacture or testing. The Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) in this case must safeguard the ongoing confidential and dissemination of the information of their selected suppliers. The Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) will be accountable for their confidentiality.

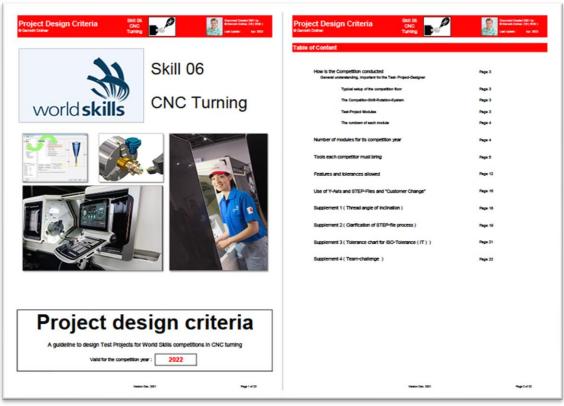
Diagram C.

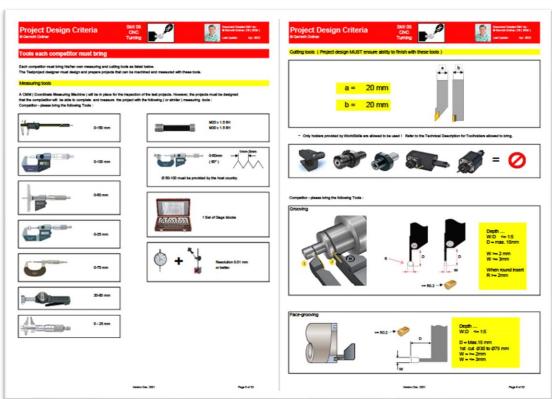




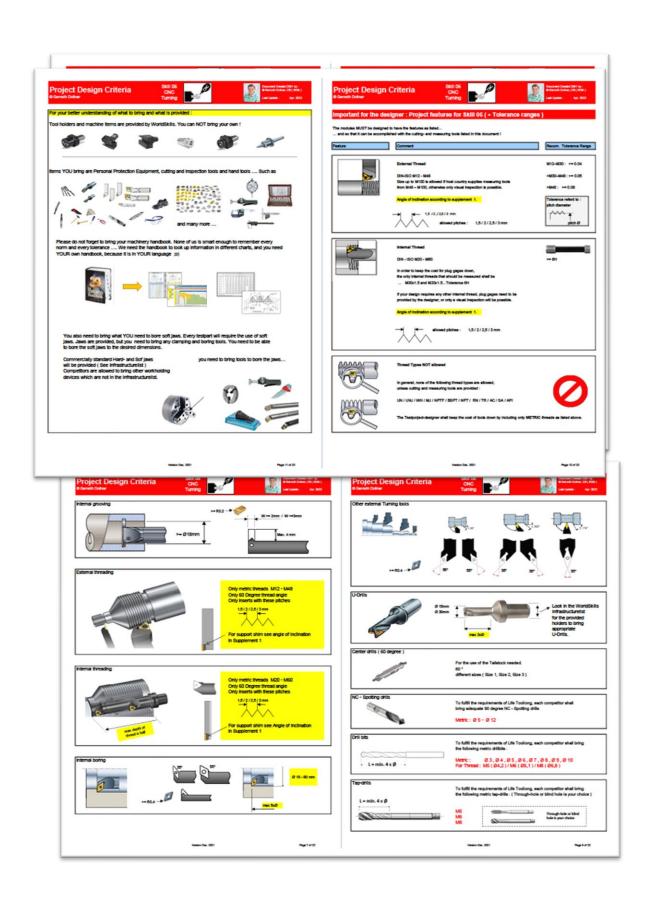
APPENDIX A

Authored by Gernoth Dolinar (AT)

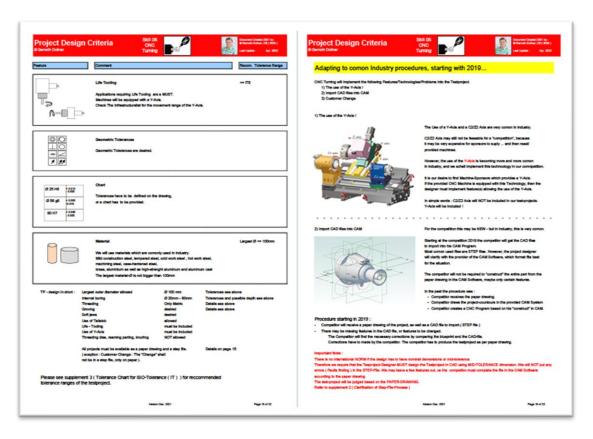


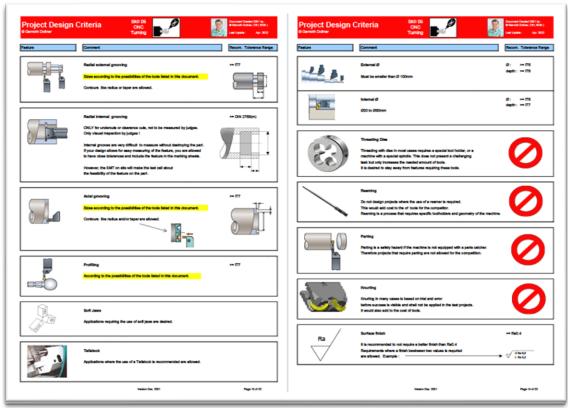




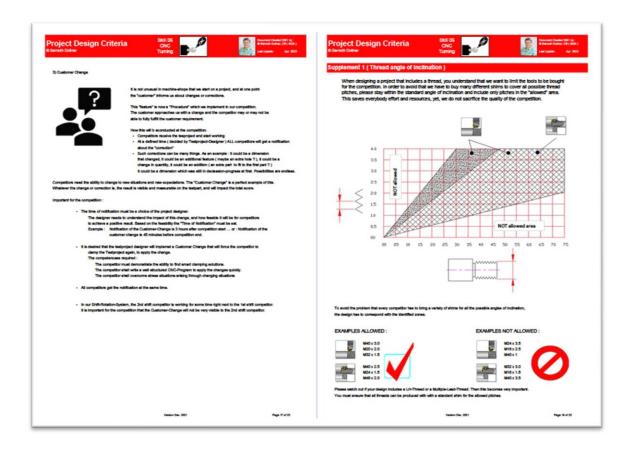


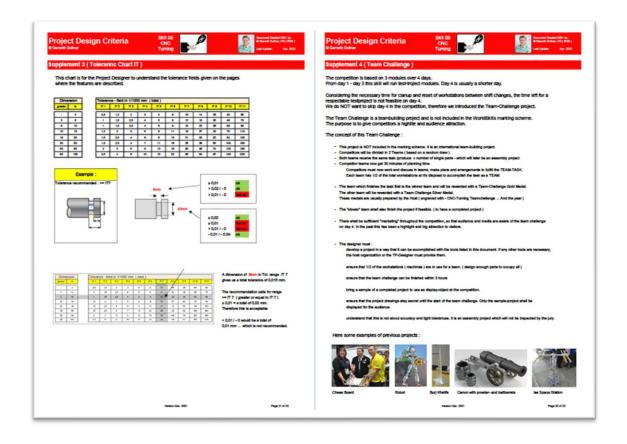




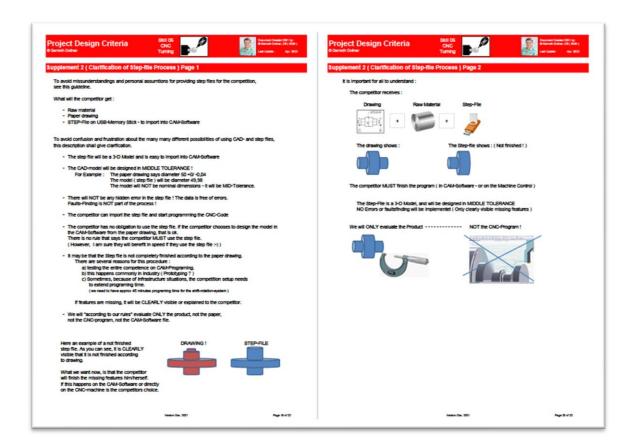














Appendix B



Confidentiality and professionalism agreement – Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD)

Confidentiality

[Type your full name and organisation if appropriate here] as the agreed independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) for the Skill of [Type the name of the Skill(s) here], declare that I will not discuss any details of the Test Project, nor pass or share any information, details or materials, relating to the Test Project or part thereof, to any other person except for the those persons in competition roles that have been outlined within the Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) guide.

I confirm that I have read the Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) guide and agree to carry out and deliver the work relating to the Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD) role and to the best of my ability shall deliver the required information, at the required time and to the required standard.

I acknowledge that any confidentiality non-compliance will be considered as a breach of the WorldSkills Code of Ethics and Conduct and dealt with accordingly.

I have read and agree to follow these confidentiality and professionalism requirements.

Agreed by Independent Test Project Developer (ITPD)

SKILL(s): [Type the name of the skill(s)	here]
DATE:	
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