



Zentralverband des Deutschen Schuhmacher-Handwerks

International competition on the merits of Shoemakers' trade 2026

Conditions for participants from Europe

International competition on the merits of Shoemakers' trade 2026

Host: Central Association of the German Shoemakers' Trade (ZDS)

Purpose and aim of the competition on the merits

The technical performance level of the shoemaker profession should be impressively demonstrated to advertise all goods or services of the trade. The image of the shoemaker trade must be established and expanded further. The manufacture of high-quality, custom-made shoes according to cutting edge craftsmanship must be demonstrated. Repair work must be provided as handicraft quality services.

Organizer

Zentralverband des Deutschen Schuhmacher-Handwerks (ZDS)

Bitterfelder Str. 7-9, 04129 Leipzig Germany

Phone: +49(0)341 904860, E-Mail: schuhmacher@khs-leipzig.de

Group of participants

Participation at the competition on the merits is open to shoemakers from Europe. For participants from outside Europe, special conditions apply on request to the Central Association (ZDS).

Competition groups

The competition on the merits is divided into two competition groups:

1) Custom-made shoes for ladies and gentlemen

The competition/ participation items must be made by the participants themselves and must not have been sent to any previous competition on the merits. The custom-made shoes must be wearable.

Women's shoes must be submitted in sizes 36 - 40,

men's shoes in sizes 41 - 45. In the evaluation of the custom-made shoes by the jury, a maximum of 100 points can be achieved, resulting from the evaluation of the following individual criteria:

Shaft/ Cap/ Lasting

Base/ Heel/ Up-soles

Sanding/ Cleaning and dressing

Optics/ aesthetics

The total score obtained is crucial for the award (see page 4). It is important to note that optics and aesthetics are an essential part of the evaluation, but craftsmanship is always in the foreground for the purpose of the competition. Each participant may participate in the competition with a maximum of 4 pairs of custommade shoes (2 x Women's, 2 x Men's).

2) Repair work

For this group, only repairs at worn shoes may be sent. For each pair submitted, 1 shoe must be completely repaired (sole, heel) and the second shoe must not be repaired. The competition / participation items must not have been sent to any previous competition on the merits. In the evaluation of the repairs by the jury, a maximum of 100 points can be achieved, resulting from the evaluation of the following individual criteria:

Sole/ Heel/ Sanding/ Cleaning and dressing

Each participant may participate in the competition with a maximum of 2 pairs of repair shoes.

3.) craziest shoe in Germany

There are no rules here and you can send in any interesting shoes.

Admission

The jury decides on the admission of the competition and participation items. This decision is final and not disputable.

The participant agrees on the registration form that the submitted competition items have not yet participated in any competition in merits of similar kind. Excluded therefrom shall be solely competing items that participated at the German PLW of young craftsmen and/ or similar youth competitions in Europe. The submitted competition/ participation items must be made by the participants themselves. This must be confirmed on the registration form.

Registration

The registration of competition/ participation items for the competition on the merits must be made in duplicate on application forms attached to these conditions of participation. The registration must be received the latest by 1th November 2025 (sending only as letter, fax, PDF file by mail or over our homepage) at the

Zentralverband des Deutschen Schuhmacher-Handwerks (ZDS), Bitterfelder Str. 7-9, 04129 Leipzig Germany

E-Mail: schuhmacher@khs-leipzig.de

Participation costs

To cover the costs (organization, jury, transportation, exhibition, insurance, medals and certificates) the following fees shall be paid by the participants:

"Custom-made shoes" group (per pair) Euro 59.00 (from abroad + € 22.00 for return)

"Repair work" group (per pair) Euro 49.00 (from abroad + € 22.00 for return)

Group "craziest shoe" (free of charge within Germany, abroad € 22.00 for return)

Should more than 1 pair of shoes be submitted from abroad, then a fee of € 22.00 is payable only once for their return.

The payment of participation costs must be made the latest until 15th November 2025 at the following account of the Zentralverband des Deutschen Schuhmacher-Handwerks (ZDS):

Kreissparkasse Leipzig, IBAN: DE39 8605 5592 1090 2372 15

Competition items, for which the costs have not been paid on time, will be excluded from participating to the competition.

Sending the competition items

The confirmation of participation you receive from us must be enclosed with the competition pieces.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Competition items must be sent post-paid so that they reach the latest until, 1st Dezember 2025 at the collecting point:

The collecting point address shall be notified upon confirmation of participation. Competition items shall be returned after the end of "Inter-Schuh-Service ISS 2026" Shoemaker's trade exhibition.

Jury

The awarding of the submitted competition items and the selection of participation items shall be made by a jury of experts convened by the Central Association of the German Shoemakers' Trade (ZDS). The evaluation and selection of participation items by the jury is based on a point system. The decision of the jury is final. Jury members may not participate in the competition on the merits.

Awarding

In the groups "custom-made shoes" and "repair works" gold, silver and bronze medals shall be awarded accompanied by a certificate. For competition items not awarded with medals but worthy of recognition the sender shall receive a participation certificate.

Display

All competition items, provided they have been awarded or have been found by the jury as worthy of display, shall be displayed at the "Inter-Schuh-Service ISS 2026" International Shoemaker's trade exhibition on 8th and 9th March 2026 in Wiesbaden. Participants are required to keep the submitted competition/ participation items available to the show organizers until the official closing of the exhibition.

Insurance

Competition/ participation items are insured throughout the period of disposal by the organizers, the jury and the exhibitor against loss and damage. For custom-made shoes the insurance value is € 750.00 per pair. Shoes with repair work shall be classified at fair value, but not exceeding € 125.00 per pair. The jury is the final arbiter. All decisions are final.

Further information

The management of the Central Association of the German Shoemakers' Trade (ZDS) is available for further information. Conditions of participation and registration forms can be downloaded from our homepage.