

## INTERNATIONAL WELDERS' COMPETITION “ZLATÝ POHÁR LINDE 2026”

From 20 to 22 April 2026, the 27<sup>th</sup> International Competition of Young Welders for students of educational institutions aged up to 20 years, “Zlatý pohár Linde 2026” (Gold Cup Linde 2026), was held in the city of Frýdek-Místek (Czech Republic). The competition was organized by the Secondary Vocational School of Frýdek-Místek in cooperation with the general partner, the company Linde Gas a.s. The competition was recommended by the Ministry of Education of the Czech Republic. The competition categories were: 111 — manual metal arc welding with a covered electrode; 135 — metal active gas (MAG) welding with a consumable electrode in a shielding-gas atmosphere; 141 — tungsten inert gas (TIG) arc welding; 311 — oxy-fuel gas welding. A total of 98 young welders from 39 educational institutions of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine, and Bulgaria took part in the competition. By category, the number of participants was as follows: method 111 — 20, method 135 — 31, method 141 — 20, and method 311 — 20 competitors.

### COMPOSITION OF THE UKRAINIAN TEAM

The team leader was Oleksandr Vorobiov, leading specialist and head of welding operations at JSC “OPZ” (Odesa Portside Plant) and executive director of the Odesa Regional Branch of the Welding Society of Ukraine, the town of Pivdenne, Odesa Oblast. The team coach was Oleksandr Popov, deputy director for production at Higher Vocational School No. 7 in the city of Kremenchuk, Poltava Oblast. The competitors were: category 111 — Dmytro Palamarchuk, a student of Higher Vocational School No. 7, Kremenchuk; category 135 — Volodymyr Soturchak, a student of the State Vocational and Technical Educational Institution “Interregional Higher Vocational School of Automobile Transport and Construction”, the city of Lviv; category 141 — Oleksandr Nykonenko, a student of Higher Vocational School No. 7, Kremenchuk, Poltava Oblast; category 311 — Timur Vovnianko, a student of the State Educational Institution “Yarmolyntsi Agro-Industrial Centre of Vocational Education”, the urban-type settlement of Yarmolyntsi, Khmelnytskyi Oblast.

The international competition was conducted solely on the basis of practical work. The practical part of the competition took place in the new training workshops, which had been commissioned in 2024 and met the announced programme and the conditions for holding the competition. Information regarding the competition tasks was provided to the participants one month before the start of the competition. In each category, it was necessary to weld two specimens of carbon-steel plates: a butt joint in the fixed vertical (uphill) position — single-sided welding with full penetration and without a backing strip — and a fillet joint in the overhead position. The day before the start of the competition, our participants were given the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the workstation and the equipment in the welding workshops and to perform a trial weld.



Official banner of the competition “Zlatý pohár Linde 2026/Gold Cup Linde 2026”



The Ukrainian team (left to right): Oleksandr Nykonenko, Volodymyr Soturchak, Oleksandr Popov, Jan Durčák (SOŠ, Czech Republic), Oleksandr Vorobiov, Dmytro Palamarchuk, Timur Vovnianko

Before the start of the competition, the team management conducted a briefing and provided recommendations concerning the performance of the competition tasks, taking into account the equipment settings, the specific features of the workshops, and the information received from the organizers regarding clarification of the welding procedure. There was also time to familiarize the competitors with the equipment and materials supplied by the team's sponsors.

During the performance of the practical assignments, the competitors were required to comply with the welding parameters in accordance with the welding procedure specification (WPS), including the use of the required diameter of welding consumables, the welding sequence, and the observance of safety rules. One of the key requirements was the performance of a forced stop when depositing the root and capping passes (STOP–START). Preparation of the plates for welding had to be carried out in accordance with ČSN EN ISO 9692–1. The total time — which included the preparation of the weld faces, fit-up of the joint, and setup of the welding power source for performing the welded joints — was 70 minutes for methods 141 and 135, and 80 minutes for methods 311 and 111.

The Czech Welding Society ANB acted as the expert authority for the competition. Oleksandr Vorobiov was included in the jury on behalf of Ukraine. The jury evaluated the welds using a points-based system in accordance with the requirements of EN ISO 5817, applying the visual inspection method only.

Prior to the awards ceremony, the competitors' welded specimens were displayed in the workshop so that the competition participants could examine them. Everyone interested was able to view and compare the works of the competitors. Based on the results of the competition, the winners and medalists were awarded diplomas and valuable gifts from the competition sponsors. The other participants received certificates of merit from the competition organizers.

This year, the Ukrainian team succeeded in achieving high results in the training of its team welders — a fact to which the final results tables eloquently attest. The team's best results were achieved by Dmytro Palamarchuk in category 111 — 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and Oleksandr Nykonenko in category 141 — 2<sup>nd</sup> place. We would also like to acknowledge the members of our team in the other categories: Timur Vovnianko, who placed 4<sup>th</sup> in category 311, and Volodymyr Soturchak, who placed 6<sup>th</sup> in category 135 — which is consistently the most numerous category.

The participation of the Ukrainian welders' team in the International Competition “Gold Cup Linde 2026” would not have taken place without the support of sponsors. The Welding Society of Ukraine expresses its gratitude to the sponsors who provided financial support: LLC “WTC” Welding Technologies Centre (Kyiv), LLC “INSIGHT” (Chernihiv), JV LLC “BINZEL UKRAINE GmbH” (Kyiv), LLC “Interkhim-BTV” (Kyiv), OJSC “SUMMIT” (Dnipro), and LLC “HEFEST-SV” (Kyiv).

Overall, with regard to the international competition of young welders “Gold Cup Linde 2026”, it should be noted that this competition was organized and conducted at a high level. The organizers make a significant contribution to promoting the welding profession and raising its prestige.

*Oleksandr Vorobiov, Ukrainian Welding Society*



Ukrainian competitors at work (categories 111, 135, 141, and 311)