

The last awarding oft he prize took place in November 2021. The winner was Merz Pharma GmbH. Mr. Björn Niemczak and his team were delighted about the "Employer of the Future" award. "We are very happy about it, it is a great motivation for us to continue working in this direction."

"This commitment makes us proud and happy," said the Lord Mayor Robert Reck, acknowledging this as an important location factor for the region.

## 3RD NEWSLETTER

# Family friendly working conditions for 200 employees

Since 2014, companies and institutions from Dessau-Roßlau have joined forces to form the employers' initiative "Family-friendly work" Dessau-Roßlau.

The education center of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Halle-Dessau coordinates and moderates the cooperation within this partnership, which is diverse in terms of size and industry.

The initiative is open to the participation of other actors from the region. Interested employers can also exchange ideas with the members of the initiative about their practical experience in improving the compatibility of work and family.

An annual highlight of the activities is the presentation of the "Employer of the Future" award, which recognizes particularly good practice for the compatibility of work and family.



All the award winners and honorees with the laudators (photo: Thomas Ruttke)





# 3RD NEWSLETTER

## **Great Orchestra of ChristmasAid**

On January 30, the Great Orchestra of Christmas Aidperformed for the 30th time. The slogan of this year's final was: "Look at the eyes." This time, the orchestraplayed to ensure the highest standards of diagnosis and treatment of vision in children. Once again the district staff WOMU, which had its seatin the district school complex No. 1 of Józef Bem in Pszczyna, participated in the collection. A total of 130 volunteers were present for the headquarters. This year's volunteers were students attending primary and secondary schools in Pszczyna County.

As in previousyears, entrepreneurs and institutions in Pszczyna participated in the collection. Since 15 December 2021, inpatient doses have been installed at 55 points in Pszczyna County.

The honorary patronof the staffwas Barbara Bandołafrom Pszczyna, and the co-organizerof the activities in the staffwas Pszczyna County.







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By 2020 60 European cities will have held the title.

It brings together all ideas, people and more colourful and attractive. community. Among the rest.

Southern Estonia worked closely together "Horoscope". European Capital of Culture in 2024.

region is the centre of the whole Europe.

## 3RD NEWSLETTER

# **Estonian Winter Night Song Festival at** Otepää

The traditional Winter Night Song Festival which took place in Otepää already for the 7th time was held on January 22, 2022 to offer an alternative to Otepää's winter sports possibilities and make the winter

stakeholders in the city or region. The one-of-the-kind song festival with choirs and an audience enriches the Through culture and art, Tartu as an joint events of the winter period and contributes to the development of the European Capital of Culture improves the regional image. The aim of the organisers is to offer the choirs a unique quality of life and strengthens its sense of chance to come together even during the snowy season.

45 choirs with 600 singers and favourite Estonian artists sang 18 songs at Tartu and the local governments of Otepää Central Square from the legendary popular song-contest

ensure that Tartu became the The event was part of the programme of "Tartu - European Capital of Culture 2024".

In 2024 Tartu and the Southern Estonian European Capitals of Culture is one of the most recognised and treasured EU projects that started already in 1985.





# After the applications had been received, the jury members interviewed the companies again in a personal interview about their measures. Another topic here was how to deal with employees during the pandemic, when it proved difficult to organize work and childcare flexibly, especially at the beginning due to the closure of childcare facilities. The subsequent evaluation and award of points show once again that companies with only a few employees can also offer flexible working hours and have many ideas and find ways for employees to reconcile family and career.

## 3RD NEWSLETTER

# Family-friendly company 2021 District of Anhalt-Bitterfeld

Family-friendly personnel policy through more flexible and family-friendly working time models and working conditions, regulated childcare and much more, contributes a lot to the fact that employees as parents or caregivers can reconcile family and work.

In the competition for the "Family-Friendly Company" of the Anhalt-Bitterfeld district, 28 entrepreneurs from our district showed how they support their employees in reconciling family and work. For some companies it was their first participation in the competition, the majority wanted to defend their title with a new application.



For pandemic reasons, after evaluating the questionnaires, the jury decided to move the award ceremony to spring 2022. The companies will be informed soon of the exact date and location of the event.

As the competition is now in its 10th year, in addition to the plaque with the newly designed competition logo, there will be a roll-up for the companies, as well as a brochure with the winners from the 2021 competition, in which the companies can present themselves and their present family-friendliness measures and possibly recruit new employees for your company. Because the compatibility of family and work is very important for young families, women and men. Not only the remuneration of the work performance, but a balanced work-life balance is an important aspect when choosing an employer and job today, which companies should not underestimate.





There was also the traditional gathering of the Santa Clauses where they sang the rap of the most important events during the year 2021.

Fireworks marked the official start of this year's winter capital status for Otepää, a practice which has led to the town's brand as a winter sports resort getting an international profile.

## 3RD NEWSLETTER

### Otepää as the winter capital of Estonia

Estonia has a capital for each season. Türi is the spring capital, Pärnu the summer capital, and Narva is the country's autumn capital.

The title of winter capital was officially handed to Otepää on 19 December 2021. The city has been honored with this name already since 1996.

Jaanus Barkala, Otepää rural municipality mayor, said of the annual tradition, which has been going for quarter-of-a-century now, that: "There's never been an idea to end it, but rather, it will get better all the time," listing the resort's ski trails and natural environment as its other appealing areas. The festivities started with the traditional Christmas fair where the local villages offered their products like honey, pastries, candles and other

traditional crafts and food products to the visitors.



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