

Discover the art of entrepreneurship.

#EOYSwitzerland2024



**EY Entrepreneur  
Of The Year™**



## What makes your business a masterpiece?

Discover the art of entrepreneurship.

We are searching for the best. Participate and become part of the largest entrepreneurial network in the world.



The better the question. The better the answer.  
The better the world works.



**EY**

Building a better  
working world

EY has sought out an EY Entrepreneur Of The Year for 27 years to date. As well as gaining recognition both in Switzerland and internationally, participants become members of the largest entrepreneurial network in the world. Over 50,000 entrepreneurs are part of this network today, and that number grows by approximately 1,200 more every year.

**Do you have what it takes to become an EY Entrepreneur Of The Year in 2024? Take part and find out!**

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Successful entrepreneurship is at the core of a healthy society. Although this insight is not new, we are once again witnessing how important it is in today's day and age.

For this reason, the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year has fostered and rewarded creative, exciting and successful entrepreneurship worldwide in over 60 countries for nearly 30 years.

In Switzerland, we have presented awards for entrepreneurial excellence since 1998 to companies ranging from young start-ups to multi-generational family businesses. Fresh wind and reliable continuity - both are essential.

Please help in supporting this entrepreneurship and in recognizing achievements that sustain our economy and ultimately our society. If you are an entrepreneur, we would be pleased to receive your application. If you know any potential candidates, please don't hesitate to share this brochure with them.

The following pages explain the steps that lead to securing the world's most coveted award for entrepreneurial achievement. An application, an interview and a potential jury visit.

The secret of the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year's success is not the grand stage. Rather, it is the sincere pride of employees, friends and families, and this cannot be offset with money.

Furthermore, it is the worldwide network that connects former candidates. Around 5,000 entrepreneurs from around the world apply every year. Engaging in conversations, sharing experiences and reaching new shores together - that is the essence of the program.

Become part of this unique community and support this program. Or enter the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year 2024 as a candidate.



**Stefan Rösch-Rütsche**  
Country Managing Partner  
EY Switzerland and Liechtenstein



**André Bieri**  
EW Market Leader  
EY Switzerland and Liechtenstein



**Frédéric Tissot**  
EY Entrepreneur Of The Year  
Program Director Switzerland

# A unique competition that offers so much more

EY Entrepreneur Of The Year is the world's largest and most prestigious award for entrepreneurial achievements. It is a locally-based program with a global impact.

- International** Through EY Entrepreneur Of The Year, EY has been committed to specifically recognizing the achievements of entrepreneurs since 1986. The program was launched in the US and has now spread to over 60 countries.
- Federal** Over the last 27 years, around 50 entrepreneurs in Switzerland have applied annually for most valuable national award with international acclaim.
- Competition** An independent jury selects three finalists in each of four categories. The winners are then chosen from these finalists. Finally, all the nominated and award-winning Swiss entrepreneurs celebrate together at the closing gala.
- Network** The network originating from this competition, which you join simply by being nominated, is second to none. This network of entrepreneurs, owners and founders concentrates energy with the potential to change our world.

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For us, entrepreneurship means fulfilling the dreams of our customers. Our team and our partner cooks really enjoy working employees and mixing up the office routine.



**Daniela and Emanuel Steiner**  
felfel  
EY Entrepreneur Of The Year 2018

“

What I believe holds true is that success breeds success. Initiatives like the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year program are critical in not only giving voice to the diverse group of entrepreneurs, innovations and businesses that make up our ecosystem, but in part inspiring the next generation of founders.



**Alisée de Tonnac**  
Seedstars  
EY Entrepreneur Of The Year Finalist 2021

## What do you need to win?

### Categories

**Swiss entrepreneurs compete in the following categories:**

- **Trade & Services**
- **Industry, High-Tech & Life Sciences**
- **Emerging Entrepreneur\***
- **Family Business\*\***

### Conditions of participation

**Entrepreneurs have the chance to win an award if they**

1. are responsible for their own business,
2. play an active role in the company and are largely responsible for the company's development in the past few years and
3. hold significant shares in the company.

### The company

4. is based in Switzerland and generates a significant proportion of its value here,
5. has existed for at least 8 years,
6. generated revenue of at least 10 million Swiss francs in the past fiscal year and
7. employs at least 40 employees.

### Special conditions

\* Candidates for the category Emerging Entrepreneur have at least 10 employees and generate a minimum of 1 million Swiss francs in annual revenue. The company exists between 2 and 12 years.

\*\*A company only qualifies as a Family Business if at least three generations of family members are or were actively involved in running the business in key leadership roles.

# Clear rules, even for disruptors

- Criteria** All decisions are based on the same criteria worldwide:
- ▶ Entrepreneurial spirit
  - ▶ Business development and value creation
  - ▶ Strategic orientation, innovativeness and sustainability
  - ▶ National, global and sustainable impact
  - ▶ Personnel management, values and exemplary function

- Rules** We stand for fair competition. This is why the same rules apply to all participants in EY Entrepreneur Of The Year:
1. Contestants guarantee that the information they provide is complete and truthful. Incorrect information will result in disqualification from the competition.
  2. Questions not answered or incompletely answered in the nomination sheet, in particular regarding company figures and shareholders, will be scored with zero points and will affect the overall rating.
  3. EY conducts an assessment to ensure compliance with the standards set out in the EY Global Code of Conduct and independence requirements to which EY is subject.
  4. By taking part in the competition, you authorize Ernst & Young AG to use your name, company name, logos, company and personal profiles as well as photographs, video and audio recordings free of charge. The information provided in your documents will be presented to the jury and used for the gala and all supporting channels (brochures, web, media and social media) as well as texts (stage, screen, event platform and hall of fame).
  5. Only the jury and EY will have access to the information submitted, which will be kept strictly confidential.
  6. The jury may, at its discretion, determine and allocate categories and obtain further information about contestants.
  7. An entrepreneur may enter the competition no more than three times.



**Dr. Jean-Paul Clozel**  
Idorsia Pharmaceuticals  
EY Entrepreneur Of The Year 2007  
for Actelion Pharmaceuticals  
EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year 2008

“  
When I won this award, I said to myself: I have to show them that they made the right choice. Even now, this motivates me to do my best in my demanding job every day.



# This network is more than the sum of its parts

As a member of the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year network, you enjoy many benefits: whether it's informative trips to promising markets, small informal round tables or a summer camp for the next generation of entrepreneurs, there's something for everyone – and above all, the chance to engage in in-depth personal exchange with other entrepreneurs.

## In Switzerland

- ▶ Alumni events for Swiss contestants
- ▶ Family Office round tables on safeguarding assets down the generations
- ▶ Specialist events on current economic issues
- ▶ Award night – the gala to celebrate the country's top entrepreneurs

## Around the world

- ▶ Family Office Summit for competitors from Europe
- ▶ EY NextGen Academy with workshops for the next generations
- ▶ Tomorrow's Legacy Retreat

## EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year™

Each country selects an entrepreneur to represent it at the EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year. An exclusive event is planned where representatives from 60 countries meet in Monte Carlo. The highlight of the event, an exclusive gala at the Salle des Étoiles, is accompanied by a first-class program of workshops, receptions, presentations and dinners.



# You take the first step, we do the rest

January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | December



You fill out the nomination sheet, either on paper with the attached form or online at [www.eoy.ch/application](http://www.eoy.ch/application). Filling it out takes at most 60 minutes.



We accept applications until **5 april 2024**



We contact you and ask to conduct an interview with you. This takes approximately 90 minutes.



We send your documents and our impressions to the jury. The jury independently discusses, evaluates and decides on contestants. You should schedule some free time in July/August in case the jury wants to meet you in person.



We organize an unforgettable gala evening. The gala will take place on **4 October 2024**. Together, we witness the jury's decision on the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year 2024. Upon your admission to the competition, you become a member of the international network of entrepreneurs.



# Independent, incorruptible, trustworthy

Credibility is crucial to the success of any competition. The EY Entrepreneur Of The Year is underpinned by clear rules, binding criteria and a qualified jury that is completely independent.

The jury of EY Entrepreneur Of The Year inspects the documents of the candidates free of charge and remains independent of EY and the sponsors. It selects categories and makes its decision based on the internationally stipulated assessment criteria. The jury subsequently visits entrepreneurs and their businesses.



**Dr. Adrienne Corboud Fumagalli**  
Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of Unyversal Technologies  
Member of the Board of Directors of SwissLife



**Marco Gadola**  
Chairman of the Board of Directors, DKSH, Medartis and WS Audiology



**Thomas Hanan**  
Founder & CEO  
Webrepublic  
EY Entrepreneur Of The Year 2017



**Jan Lichtenberg**  
CEO, InSphero  
EY Entrepreneur Of The Year 2015



**Didier Maus**  
Chairman of the Board of Directors, Maus Frères



**Michael Müller**  
Group CEO, Valora and Head Europe FEMSA Proximity & Health



**Jean-Marc Probst**  
Chairman of the Board of Directors, Probst Group Holding



**Franziska Tschudi Sauber**  
Chairwoman of the Board of Directors  
Weidmann Holding  
EY Entrepreneur Of The Year 2022



**Pascale Vonmont**  
CEO, Gebert RUF Stiftung



**Pr. Dr. Thomas Zellweger**  
Director of the Center for Family Business, University of St. Gallen

## Programme partner

Julius Baer is the leading Swiss wealth management group and a premium brand in this global sector, with a focus on servicing and advising sophisticated private clients. In all we do, we are inspired by our purpose: creating value beyond wealth. At the end of October 2023, assets under management amounted to CHF 435 billion. Bank Julius Baer & Co. Ltd., the renowned Swiss private bank with origins dating back to 1890, is the principal operating company of Julius Baer Group Ltd., whose shares are listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange (ticker symbol: BAER) and are included in the Swiss Leader Index (SLI), comprising the 30 largest and most liquid Swiss stocks.

Julius Baer is present in around 25 countries and over 60 locations. Headquartered in Zurich, we have offices in Switzerland in Basle, Berne, Crans-Montana, Geneva, Lausanne, Lucerne, Lugano, Sion, St. Gallen, St. Moritz and Verbier.



“

We are proud to be the programme partner of the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ in Switzerland for the second year running.

Julius Baer has been a partner of the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year events held in Ireland and the United Kingdom since 2019, and we have continued to contribute to the programme's success story through our collaboration in Switzerland since 2023.

We would like to wish everyone involved lots of success for the programme 2024, which we are delighted to be supporting.

*Bank Julius Baer Switzerland*

# Sponsors with entrepreneurial drive

## amag

### Solutions for the future.

With around 7500 employees, including over 800 trainees, the AMAG Group wants to develop itself as the leading provider of sustainable individual mobility solutions. The family-owned company is already the market leader for battery electric vehicles. Different needs call for individual mobility and that's where the AMAG Group's solutions come in. For a couple of hours, a few days, months or even for the lifetime of one car; together or by yourself, two-wheelers, Microlinos or electric cars. With the acquisition of Helion Energy AG, AMAG is augmenting its expertise in the energy sector and thus expanding the comprehensive product offerings for advisory services and provision of photovoltaic roof systems as well as energy and charging management for the home and for the companies.

## GIRARD-PERREGAUX



### About Girard-Perregaux

Since 1791, Girard-Perregaux has been embracing the rhythm of ever-elusive time. Cradled in the Jura mountains in the heart of La Chaux-de-Fonds, it is a pioneer in the world of Haute Horlogerie: an independent Manufacture which has retained this status for over two centuries, successfully keeping all production in-house and passing down exceptional horological skills throughout the generations. Always seeking the perfect balance of beauty and functionality, fans of fine watchmaking will instantly recognise the house signatures, such as the iconic octagonal bezel of the Laureato and the legendary Tourbillon with 'Three Gold Bridges'.

## HDI

### Innovative insurance solutions for today and tomorrow – wherever you are in the world.

HDI Global SE (HDI), established 120 years ago by entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs, is one of the world's leading industrial insurers. It meets the demand for tailored insurance solutions among SMEs, industrial companies and major corporations, while at the same time serving as their reliable "Partner in Transformation". As part of the Talanx Group, HDI is on hand to assist its clients in more than 175 countries with its branch offices, subsidiaries and sister companies, as well as network partners. HDI uses its innovative insurance offering to help companies to be successful – across the globe and with the support of local experts in Switzerland.

## + SWISS

### "Grüezi" and welcome aboard

Swiss International Air Lines (SWISS) is Switzerland's leading air carrier. With one of Europe's most advanced and carbon-efficient aircraft fleets, SWISS is a premium airline that provides direct flights from Zurich and Geneva to keep Switzerland connected with Europe and the world. Its Swiss WorldCargo division offers an extensive range of airport-to-airport airfreight services for high-value, time-critical and care-intensive consignments. As The Airline of Switzerland, SWISS embodies its home country's traditional values and is dedicated to delivering the highest product and service quality. SWISS is part of the Lufthansa Group, and is also a member of Star Alliance, the world's biggest airline network.

# Hall of Fame

## 1998

**SERVICES**  
Reto Gurtner, Weisse Arena

**INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH**  
Dr. Dieter Beer,  
CarboGen Laboratories

**TRADE**  
Olivier Burger (†),  
PKZ Burger-Kehl & Co

## 1999

**TRADE/SERVICES**  
Marcel Queloz-Fürer, Büro-Fürer

**INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH**  
Peter Spuhler, Stadler Fahrzeuge

**START-UP**  
Peter Ohnemus, The Fantastic Corporation

## 2000

**TRADE/SERVICES**  
Adrian Stalder, Hotel Saratz

**INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH**  
Dr. h.c. Thomas Straumann,  
Straumann Holding

**START-UP**  
Dr. Wolfgang Renner,  
Cytos Biotechnology

## 2001

**TRADE/SERVICES**  
Prof. Dr. Anton Gunzinger,  
Supercomputing Systems

**INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH**  
Fides P. Baldesberger, Outils Rubis

**START-UP**  
Dieter Trissler, The BEE Company

## 2002

**TRADE/SERVICES**  
Markus Oberholzer,  
First Catering Produktion

**INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES**  
Peter A. Schifferle,  
sia Abrasives Holding

**START-UP**  
Dr. Waldemar Kubli,  
AutoForm Engineering

**SUPPORTER OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP**  
START – Studentenschaft der  
Universität St. Gallen

## 2003

**TRADE/SERVICES**  
Stefan Arn, AdNovum

**INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH**  
Bernard Poupon, Reitzel (Suisse)

**START-UP**  
Adel F. Labib und François Callegaro,  
Télésonique Groupe

**MASTER ENTREPRENEUR**  
Louis Max Widmer (†), Louis Widmer

## 2004

**TRADE/SERVICES**  
Pierre-Alain Schnegg, Pro-Concept

**INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES**  
Heinz Aeschlimann,  
Aeschlimann Asphalt Engineering

**START-UP**  
Dr. Gery Colombo, Hocoma

## 2005

**TRADE/SERVICES**  
Robin Cornelius, Switcher

**INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES**  
Peter Heimlicher, Contrinex

**START-UP**  
Fabio Cesa und Jean-Luc Mossier,  
SilentSoft

**MASTER ENTREPRENEUR**  
Dr. h.c. Willy Michel, Ypsomed Holding

## 2006

**TRADE/SERVICES**  
Walter Borner, Zimmerli Textil

**INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES**  
Rudolf Liebherr, Morga

**START-UP**  
Fabio Cavalli, mondoBIOTECH

**MASTER ENTREPRENEUR**  
Domenic Steiner, Thermoplan

## 2007

**TRADE/SERVICES**  
Doris Albisser, CLS Communication

**HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES**  
Dr. Jean-Paul Clozel,  
Actelion Pharmaceuticals

**INDUSTRY**  
Bernhard Alpstaeg,  
swisspor Management

**MASTER ENTREPRENEUR**  
Dr. Urs Rickenbacher und Urs  
Baumann, Lantal Textiles

## 2008

**TRADE/SERVICES**  
Walter Hübscher, Zaunteam Franchise

**HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES**  
Andreas Schmidheini, Varioprint

**INDUSTRY**  
Dr. Geoffrey Scott,  
Uster Technologies

**MASTER ENTREPRENEUR**  
Klaus-Michael Kühne,  
Kühne + Nagel International

## 2009

**TRADE/SERVICES**  
Walter Fankhauser, Roth Gerüste

**HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES**  
Prof. Dr. Andrea Pfeifer, AC Immune

**INDUSTRY**  
Martin A. Ziehbrunner, Essemtec

**MASTER ENTREPRENEUR**  
Aimé Pouly (†), Pouly Tradition

## 2010

**TRADE/SERVICES**  
Rolf Boffa, Qualipet

**HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES**  
Moritz Lechner und Felix Mayer,  
Sensirion

**INDUSTRY**  
Christof und Markus Züger,  
Züger Frischkäse

**EMERGING ENTREPRENEUR**  
Dr. Sara und Christoph Hürlimann,  
zahnarztzentrum.ch

## 2011

**TRADE/SERVICES**  
Sébastien Tondeur, MCI Group Holding

**HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES**  
Frank Ziemer, Ziemer Group

**INDUSTRY**  
Kurt Schär, Biketec

**EMERGING ENTREPRENEUR**  
Kai Glatt, The Rokker Company

## 2012

**TRADE/SERVICES**  
André Lüthi, Globetrotter Group

**INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES**  
Dr. Riccardo Braglia, Helsinn Holding

**EMERGING ENTREPRENEUR**  
Dr. Alexander Ilic, Dacuda

**FAMILY BUSINESS**  
Claude R. Cornaz, Vetropack Holding

## 2013

**TRADE/SERVICES**  
Deniz und Kadir Ugur,  
Bentour Türkei-Reisen

**INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES**  
Rolf A. Sonderegger, Kistler Gruppe

**EMERGING ENTREPRENEUR**  
Jan Schoch, Leonteq Securities

**FAMILY BUSINESS**  
Christoph Tobler, Sefar Holding

**MASTER ENTREPRENEUR**  
Hans Huber,  
Ehrenpräsident der SFS Holding

## 2014

**TRADE/SERVICES**  
Beat und Martin Jucker, Jucker Farm

**INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES**  
Otto Hofstetter, Otto Hofstetter Gruppe

**EMERGING ENTREPRENEUR**  
Viktor Calabrò, Staff Finder

**FAMILY BUSINESS**  
Hans R. und Thomas H. Rüegg,  
Baumann Federn

## 2015

**TRADE/SERVICES**  
Maxime Ballanfat, Novae Restauration

**INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES**  
Marcel und Roger Baumer,  
Hälg Building Services Group

**EMERGING ENTREPRENEUR**  
Dr. Jan Lichtenberg, InSphero

**FAMILY BUSINESS**  
Dr. Pietro Supino, Tamedia

## 2016

**TRADE/SERVICES**  
Olivier Brouhant, Amaris Group

**INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES**  
Willi Miesch, Medartis

**FAMILY BUSINESS**  
Tej Tadi, MindMaze

**FAMILY BUSINESS**  
Hans-Rudolf Schurter, Schurter Holding

## 2017

**TRADE/SERVICES**  
Thomas Hanan, Webrepublic

**INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES**  
Paul J. Wyser, Wyon

**EMERGING ENTREPRENEUR**  
Dr. Jurgi Camblong, Sophia Genetics

**FAMILY BUSINESS**  
Max Renggli, Renggli

**MASTER ENTREPRENEUR**  
Hansjörg Wyss, Wyss Foundation

## 2018

**TRADE/SERVICES**  
Christina Mair, Caroline Staehelin und  
Kristina Rebsamen, Globegarden

**INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES**  
Christian Brönnimann, Dectris

**EMERGING ENTREPRENEUR**  
Daniela und Emanuel Steiner, Felfel

**FAMILY BUSINESS**  
George, Roger, Corinne und Fabian Kuratle,  
Kuratle Group

## 2019

**TRADE/SERVICES**  
Fabio Ronga, beqom

**INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES**  
Ueli Jost, Veriset

**EMERGING ENTREPRENEUR**  
Patrick Thévoz und Adrien Briod,  
Flyability

**FAMILY BUSINESS**  
Stefan und Christian Ganzoni,  
SIGVARIS Holding

**MASTER ENTREPRENEUR**  
Dr. Beat Curti, Serial Entrepreneur

## 2020

**TRADE/SERVICES**  
Marek Dutkiewicz, HR Campus

**INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES**  
Avni Orllati, Groupe Orllati

**FAMILY BUSINESS**  
Patrick Firmenich, Firmenich

**EMERGING ENTREPRENEUR**  
Michael Born & Karim Nemr, PXL Vision

**MASTER ENTREPRENEUR**  
Daniel Borel, Logitech

## 2021

**TRADE/SERVICES**  
Stefan Muff, Axon Active Holding

**INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES**  
Carlo R. Centonze, HeiQ Materials

**FAMILY BUSINESS**  
Markus Gericke, Gericke Group

**EMERGING ENTREPRENEUR**  
Lukas Böni & Pascal Bieri, Planted Foods

## 2022

**TRADE/SERVICES**  
Carsten Koerl, Sportradar

**INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES**  
Andreas Wältli, Evatec

**FAMILY BUSINESS**  
Franziska Tschudi Sauber & Daniel Tschudi,  
Weidmann Holding

**EMERGING ENTREPRENEUR**  
Yann Cotte, Nanolive

## 2023

**TRADE/SERVICES**  
Paul Fritz, Home Instead Holding

**INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES**  
Luca Santarelli, VectivBio

**FAMILY BUSINESS**  
Daniel Bossard, Bossard Group

**EMERGING ENTREPRENEUR**  
Judith Häberli & Robert Ruttmann,  
Urban Connect

Strong entrepreneurs have characterized the competition from the beginning. Of an average of 50 nominees per year, five at most will become an EY Entrepreneur Of The Year. The following entrepreneurs belong to this exclusive circle.



## EY | Building a better working world

EY exists to build a better working world, helping to create long-term value for clients, people and society and build trust in the capital markets.

Enabled by data and technology, diverse EY teams in over 150 countries provide trust through assurance and help clients grow, transform and operate.

Working across assurance, consulting, law, strategy, tax and transactions, EY teams ask better questions to find new answers for the complex issues facing our world today.

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