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.
EY has sought out an EY Entrepreneur Of The Year for 26 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 2023? Take part and find out!
Times like these call for entrepreneurial excellence. Creative solutions are in high demand. What is more, they will ensure the wellbeing of an entire society.

It is for this reason that the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year award has become a fixture of Swiss entrepreneurship. The number of candidates has increased, which has seen the emergence of new and promising business models. It is therefore especially important today to shine a spotlight on the most remarkable entrepreneurial achievements.

We want to inspire you to take part in the competition. This is your first step towards the world’s most sought-after award for entrepreneurial achievements. On the following pages, you can find out what advantages you have, how to apply and what criteria you must fulfill.

Participating is worthwhile because even as a nominee, you automatically become part of an entrepreneurial network that provides you with contacts around the globe, offers specialized information to give you an advantage and opens up new markets.

You too can join this unique community by taking part in the 2023 competition. We also invite you to forward the documents to your business friends. We welcome every success story.
For us, entrepreneurship means fulfilling the dreams of our customers. Our team and our partner cooks really enjoy wowing employees and mixing up the office routine.

Daniela and Emanuel Steiner
fellé AG
EY Entrepreneur Of The Year 2018
Entrepreneurs need a strong focus to drive success. I firmly believe that to do well, you must do good, and to do good, you must do well. Once you have a clear purpose and action that is in tune with a better world, you open a wealth of opportunities.

Patrick Firmenich
Firmenich SA
EY Entrepreneur Of The Year 2020

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 has existed for at least 2 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. 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).
4. Only the jury and EY will have access to the information submitted, which will be kept strictly confidential.
5. The jury may, at its discretion, determine and allocate categories and obtain further information about contestants.
6. An entrepreneur may enter the competition no more than three times.

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.

Dr. Jean-Paul Clozel
Idorsia Pharmaceuticals AG
EY Entrepreneur Of The Year 2007
for Actelion Pharmaceuticals AG
EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year 2008
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  A variety of platforms are available for local networking:

• Alumni events for Swiss contestants
• Family Business Circle for discussions about current business issues
• 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  EY Entrepreneur Of The Year also offers a number of international opportunities:

• Family Business Summits for competitors from Europe
• Strategic Growth Forum® for investments in global markets
• EY NextGen Academy with workshops for the next generations

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

- You fill out the nomination sheet, either on paper with the attached form or online at www.eoy.ch/application. Filling it out takes at most 60 minutes.
- We accept applications until 7 April 2023.
- 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 for all participants. The gala will take place on 27 October 2023. Together, we witness the jury’s decision on the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year 2023. 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
Member of the Board of Directors of Swiss Life
President of ComCom

Claude R. Cornaz
Chairman of the Board of Directors, Vetropack Holding
EY Entrepreneur Of The Year 2012

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

Thomas Hanan
CEO, Webrepublic
EY Entrepreneur Of The Year 2017

Dr. Sara and Christoph Hürlimann
Founders, zahnarztzentrum.ch
EY Entrepreneur Of The Year 2010

Franziska Tschudi Sauber
Delegate of the Board of Directors and CEO, Weidmann Holding
EY Entrepreneur Of The Year 2022

Dr. Pascale Vonmont
CEO, Gebert Rüf Stiftung

Didier Maus
Chairman of the Board of Directors, Maus Frères

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

Dr. Jan Lichtenberg
CEO, InSphero
EY Entrepreneur Of The Year 2015

Dr. Pascale Vonmont
CEO, Gebert Rüf Stiftung

Prof. Dr. Thomas Zellweger
Director of the Center for Family Business, University of St. Gallen
As a new partner of Switzerland’s EY Entrepreneur of the Year award, it is a tremendous honor to assist in giving due recognition to the success achieved by outstanding entrepreneurs.

Gilles Stuck
Head of the Swiss market at Bank Julius Baer

United in entrepreneurship

It is our great pleasure to welcome Julius Baer for the first time as our new EY Entrepreneur of the Year program partner.

For more than 130 years, Bank Julius Baer has been firmly rooted in entrepreneurship with an unwavering commitment to its core business: from day one Julius Baer has managed its clients’ wealth and served them - many of whom are entrepreneurs - as a trusted, truly personal, and holistic advisor. With its origins as a family business, the Bank knows the value of long-term relationships and the challenges and opportunities of growing wealth, protecting it, and passing it on.

Through its example, the Bank has shown that in the long term it takes more than just a brilliant idea for a company to remain at the forefront of an industry - in its case financial services. Thanks to a number of visionary decisions, Julius Baer successfully transformed the local family business. After the family ceded control, the Bank grew to become an international, publicly listed, private banking group.

Julius Baer is aware of the challenges that entrepreneurs face in today’s environment to achieve success and play an important part in the Swiss economy, as creators of wealth, employers, and visionaries.

Julius Baer wishes all entrepreneurs every success in their endeavors.
Meeting all your mobility needs.
The AMAG Group and its approximately 7,000 employees (including over 760 trainees) are passionate about ensuring that people can travel in a personalized and sustainable manner. Today, the AMAG Group is a comprehensive mobility provider with an excellent position on the Swiss market. It imports and sells high-quality cars, allowing its customers to fulfill their wishes and needs with regard to mobility through its own leasing business and further services and one-stop end-to-end solutions. These include logistics services, car park management, e-mobility consulting and offerings as well as offerings for energy management and solar energy systems. Both car drivers and corporate customers rely on AMAG because of its consistently excellent service, quality and professional expertise.

Traditional values interpreted in surprising and innovative ways.
For three generations, Bucherer has been based in Lucerne. Today, the long-established company with stylish boutiques also has branches in the most beautiful major cities of Europe and the United States. From humble beginnings in its hometown, the family company established in 1888 became one of the world’s leading luxury retailers for watches and jewelry through its entrepreneurial spirit, independence and courage to do something new. Creating new business models, constantly moving forward and surprising its customers with unique concepts – this is how Bucherer sets the pace for its sector. It underpins its expertise with its own luxury jewelry collections by Fine Jewelry as well as the watch manufacture named after the founder Carl F. Bucherer. The modern timepieces by Carl. F. Bucherer combine unique design with high precision and excellent quality.

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. 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.

“Grüezi” and welcome aboard
Swiss International Air Lines (SWISS) is Switzerland’s largest 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

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.

1998 SERVICES Reto Gurtner, Weisse Arena INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH Dr. Dieter Beer, Carbon Biosciences TRADE Olivier Burger (†), PKZ Burger-Kehl & Co

2001 TRADE/SERVICES Prof. Dr. Anton Gunzinger, Supercomputing Systems INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH Fides P. Baldesberger, Outils Rubis

2003 TRADE/SERVICES Stefan Arz, AdSolvum INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES Bernard Poupon, Reitzei (Suisse) START-UP Adel F. Labib and François Callegaro, Télésorique Groupe

2007 TRADE/SERVICES Doris Albisser, CLS Communication HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES Dr. Jean-Paul Clozel, Actelion Pharmaceuticals INDUSTRY Bernhard Alpstaeg, swisspor Management

2011 TRADE/SERVICES Sébastien Tondeur, MCI Group Holding HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES Frank Ziener, Ziener Group INDUSTRY Kurt Schär, Biketec

2015 TRADE/SERVICES Maxime Balanotal, Novae Restauration INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES Marcel and Roger Baumer, Häggi Building Services Group EMERGING ENTREPRENEUR Patrick Thévoz and Adrien Briod, Flyability

2019 TRADE/SERVICES Fabio Ronga, beqom INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES Ueli Jost, Veriset

1999 TRADE/SERVICES Marcel Quetsch-Fürrer, Büro-Fürrer INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH Peter Spuhler, Stadler Fahrzeuge

2000 TRADE/SERVICES Adrian Stalder, Hotel Saratz INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH Dr. h.c. Thomas Straumann, Straumann Holding START-UP Dr. Wolfgang Renner, Cytos Biotechnology

2002 TRADE/SERVICES Markus Oberhoffer, First Catering Production INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES Peter A. Schifferle, START-UP sia Abrasives Holding

2003 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, Swincher INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES Peter Heimlicher, Contrex START-UP Fabio Cosa and Jean-Luc Mossier, SilentSoft

2008 TRADE/SERVICES Walter Hösscher, Zaunteam Franchise HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES Andreas Schmidhein, Varioprint INDUSTRY Dr. Geoffrey Scott, Uster Technologies

2017 TRADE/SERVICES Thomas Hanan, Webrepublic INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES Dr. Jean-Paul Clozel, Actelion Pharmaceuticals

2012 TRADE/SERVICES André Lüthi, Globetrotter Group INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES Dr. Ricardo Braglia, Heliosn Holding

2016 TRADE/SERVICES Peter Bournhant, Amaris Group INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES Will Miesch, Mederits

2013 TRADE/SERVICES Walter Fankhauser, Roth Gerüste HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES Dr. Andrea Pfeifer, AC Immune INDUSTRY Martin A. Zehbrunner, Essentec

2018 TRADE/SERVICES Christoph Tobler, Sefar Holding INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES Hans Huber, Honorary Chairman of SFS Holding

2014 TRADE/SERVICES Rolf Boffa, Qualipet HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES Montz Lechner and Felix Mayer, Sensirion INDUSTRY Christof and Markus Züger, Züger Frischkäse

2019 TRADE/SERVICES Karin Morsch, Arstyl Active Holding INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES László Böröcz, GlaxoSmithKline

2017 TRADE/SERVICES Hans-Ulrich Schmitt, Mederits INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES Christoph Tobler, Sefar Holding

2016 TRADE/SERVICES Dr. Pietro Supino, Takeda INDUSTRY/HIGH-TECH/LIFE SCIENCES

2011 TRADE/SERVICES André Lüthi, Globetrotter Group

2012 TRADE/SERVICES André Lüthi, Globetrotter Group

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2019 TRADE/SERVICES André Lüthi, Globetrotter Group

2020 TRADE/SERVICES André Lüthi, Globetrotter Group

2021 TRADE/SERVICES André Lüthi, Globetrotter Group

2022 TRADE/SERVICES André Lüthi, Globetrotter Group

2023 TRADE/SERVICES André Lüthi, Globetrotter Group
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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