



**METHODOLOGY FOR THE EVALUATION OF  
APPLICATIONS FOR THE BUSINESS PIONEERS  
AWARD IN BiH FOR 2023**



The Business Pioneers Award in BiH is organized annually with the aim of promotion of private sector activities in the field of sustainable development of the country.

Private companies are already launching and undertaking praiseworthy activities and strategies that contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals both globally and at the level of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Business Pioneers award aims to:

- recognize and highlight initiatives by private companies in achieving sustainable development goals in BiH,
- motivate other private sector actors to incorporate sustainable development goals into their own business models.

This year, through the application process, attempts are being made to help companies introduce reporting based on standards of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), so that the application form follows the standards prescribed by the GRI and at the end of the process, the companies receive the basis for creating an annex to the annual report on sustainable development at the company level.

The award is organized as part of the project “ Framework for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals as a foundation for sustainable and inclusive growth in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SDG2BiH)”, implemented by the UNDP and funded by the Government Sweden.

### **Main themes and general terms for applications**

The focuses of the award for 2023 are **decarbonization, innovation and creation of new high-quality jobs**, through which the business leaders of sustainable development in Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2023 will be identified in two thematic areas, namely "People" (companies that create quality jobs) and "Resources and the environment" (decarbonization and innovation).



### Theme “People”

Business Pioneers Award for 2023 in this category is given to companies that have inspired others in creating new quality jobs that contribute to the development of value chains based on stakeholder cooperation (SDG 12 and SDG 8).

### Theme “Resources and Environment”

Business Pioneers Award in BiH for 2023 in this category is given to companies that prove that they are rethinking their ecological footprint through the process of decarbonization and the process of manufacturing innovation, as well as those that are purpose-built and continuously improving their value chains (SDG 12 and SDG 9).

### **Candidate categories**

The Business Pioneers Award in BiH is given to micro, small, medium, and large companies applying for the award and completing relevant questionnaires.

The categorization of companies is done according to the valid legal regulations in force in the territory of company registration.

### **Awards**

Companies can apply for the „People“ and/or “Resources and environment” theme.

The award is given to up to eight companies during the annual award ceremony. The winners will be awarded in four categories for the results achieved in two themes (e.g. winner in the “People” category for micro, small, medium, and large businesses).

The overall winner of the competition (Overall Winner) is also foreseen. The Overall Winner is selected among the companies that have applied in both thematic areas and demonstrate outstanding results in both categories and also win the most points for complying with the GRI standards and achieving the SDGs.

The Organizer of the Award reserves the right not to declare winners in one of the categories, in case that an insufficient number of companies are registered for the category, or the applications submitted are not of adequate quality.



If less than three companies apply for a category, they will be associated with applications in the category closest to the one in which they applied and will have equal status to receive the prize.

### **Evaluation criteria**

The evaluation is carried out by an independent Panel of Experts. A Panel of Experts reviews all applications and independently evaluates all received applications. The evaluation results will be confirmed by the UNDP Evaluation Commission and the SDG Council.

The results of the individual assessment of each member of the Committee will give the total score for every application.

The ten entries with the highest number of points in the respective categories will be shortlisted and will be invited to provide additional information based on which the three first-ranked companies who will be invited to the closing ceremony would be identified.

The evaluation system is implemented in two phases and eight steps:

#### **Phase one:**

- 1.** The Evaluation Committee shall consider all applications and grade firms in the themes "People" and "Resources and the Environment".
- 2.** 10 first-ranked companies are established per category (that is, 80 companies in total) in the following categories:
  - a. „People“ - micro, small, medium, and large companies
  - b. „Resources and environment“ - micro, small, medium, and large companies

#### **Phase two:**

- 3.** Shortlisted companies are sent an additional questionnaire for completion
- 4.** A rank list of shortlisted companies is made, and three first-ranked companies are determined in each category



**5.** Based on the questionnaire, scored interviews are conducted with the three companies per category

**6.** The Panel of Experts reviews the evaluation of the companies

**7.** Based on the points scored from the first round of scoring and the number of points from the second round, the Panel identifies the winners in the categories:

- "People" - micro company
- "People" - small company
- "People" - medium-sized company
- "People" - big company
- "Resources and Environment" - micro company
- "Resources and Environment" - small company
- "Resources and Environment" - medium-sized company
- "Resources and Environment" - big company

**8.** The independent Panel of Experts confirms which company from the respective categories received the most points in the sum of applications for both thematic areas and declares the Absolute Winner of the Business Pioneers Award in BiH for the year 2023.