



**METHODOLOGY FOR THE BUSINESS PIONEERS
AWARD IN BiH FOR 2021**



The Business Pioneers Award in BiH is the annual award in BiH that is being given to promote 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 are given a basis for their first annual report on the state of implementation of sustainable development goals at the company level.

The award is organized as part of the project “The SDGs Roll-out Support and Private Sector Engagement Project in Bosnia and Herzegovina”, implemented by the UNDP and funded by the Government Sweden.

Main themes and general terms for applications

The focus of this year's award are **decarbonization, innovation and creation of new high-quality jobs**, through which SDG business pioneers in Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2020 are identified in two thematic areas, namely “People” (new high-quality jobs) and “Resources and Environment” (decarbonization and innovation).

Theme “People”

Business Pioneers Award for 2021 in this category is given to companies that have inspired others in creating new 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 2021 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 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.

The organizer of the activity 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 the UNDP Evaluation Committee and an independent Panel of Experts. The UNDP Evaluation Committee will review all nominations and independently evaluate all relevant applications. The evaluation results will be validated by the Panel of Experts and the SDG Private sector Working Group.

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 Panel identifies which companies in the respective categories received the most points for compliance with the GRI standards and the SDGs and declares it the Overall Winner – the most sustainable company in BiH.