



**METHODOLOGY FOR THE EVALUATION OF
APPLICATIONS FOR THE SDG BUSINESS PIONEERS
AWARD IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA 2024**



The SDG Business Pioneers Award in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is organized annually with the aim of promoting the activities of the private sector in the field of sustainable development in the country.

Private companies are already initiating and implementing commendable activities and strategies that contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) both globally and at the level of BiH.

The SDG Business Pioneers Award in BiH aims to:

- Recognize and highlight the initiatives of private companies in the implementation of the SDGs in BiH,
- Motivate other actors in the private sector to incorporate the SDGs into their business models.

This year, the application process seeks to assist companies in implementing reporting based on the standards of the ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) and GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) standards, concepts that relate to environmental protection, social responsibility, and ethical governance. The award application form follows ESG and GRI prescribed standards, and at the end of the process, companies receive a basis for preparing an annex to the annual sustainability report at the company level.

The award is organized as part of the project "Translating the SDG Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina into sustainable and inclusive growth (SDG2BiH)", funded by Sweden and implemented by UNDP in partnership with UNICEF and UN Women with the support of the United Nations authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The official partner of the award is the Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Main themes and General Conditions for the Application

The focal of the award for 2024 are environmental protection, innovation, and the creation of new high-quality jobs, through which SDG Business Pioneers in BiH 2024 will be identified in two thematic areas: "People" (companies that create quality jobs) and "Resources and Environment" (companies that reduce the negative impact on the environment and promote efficient use of resources).

Thematic Area "People"

The SDG Business Pioneers Award in BiH 2024 in this category is awarded to companies that inspire others in creating new, high-quality jobs due to the way they contribute to the development of value chains through collaboration with stakeholders (SDG 5, 8, 9, 10, and 12).

Thematic Area "Resources and Environment"



The SDG Business Pioneers Award in BiH 2024 in this category is awarded to companies that demonstrate a reduction in their ecological footprint through decarbonization processes and innovative production processes. It is also awarded to those with a clear vision and a continuous improvement of their value chains (SDG 5, 9, 11, 12, and 16).

Candidate categories

The SDG Business Pioneers Award in BiH 2024 awarded to micro, small, medium, and large companies that apply for the award by completing relevant questionnaires.

The categorization of companies is done according to the applicable legal regulations in force in the territory where the company is registered.

Awards

Companies can apply for the award in the thematic area of "People" and/or for the award in the thematic area of "Resources and Environment."

The award is presented to a maximum of nine companies during the annual award ceremony.

Winners will be rewarded in four categories for achievements in two thematic areas (e.g., the winner in the "People" category for micro-enterprises).

Additionally, an overall winner of the competition (Absolute Winner) is anticipated. The Absolute Winner is selected from companies that have applied in both thematic areas, demonstrated outstanding results in both categories, earned the highest points, thereby confirming compliance with GRI and ESG standards, and showcasing their role in achieving SDGs.

The award organizer reserves the right not to award recognition in a particular category if a sufficient number of companies do not apply for that category or if the submitted applications do not meet the required quality standards.

If fewer than three companies apply within a category, they will be joined for evaluation to the pool of applications in the category closest to the one they applied for and will have equal status for receiving the award.

Evaluation criteria

The evaluation is conducted by an independent *Expert Panel*. The Panel reviews all applications and independently assesses all received submissions. The evaluation results will be confirmed by the *SDG2BiH programme team* and the *Council for Monitoring the Implementation of SDGs in BiH*.



The individual assessment results of each commission member will contribute to the overall score for each application.

Applications with the highest scores in their respective categories will be shortlisted and invited to provide additional information, based on which the top three or four placed companies will be determined. These top three companies will be invited to the final ceremony. The number of companies shortlisted depends on the total number of registered companies in each category and the ratio of their overall scores.

The evaluation system is carried out in two phases and eight steps:

First phase:

1. The *Expert Panel* considers all applications and scores companies in the areas of "People" and "Resources and Environment."
2. The top-placed companies are determined in eight categories individually, as follows:
 - a. "People"
 - i. Micro Companies
 - ii. Small Companies
 - iii. Medium Companies
 - iv. Large Companies
 - b. "Resources and Environment"
 - i. Micro Companies
 - ii. Small Companies
 - iii. Medium Companies
 - iv. Large Companies

Second phase:

3. Shortlisted companies receive an additional questionnaire to complete.
4. Based on the points obtained from the additional questionnaire, a ranking list of shortlisted companies is created, and the top three or four (depending on the number of points in certain categories) companies in each category are determined (finalists).
5. A detailed investigation into the work of finalist companies is conducted based on information provided through questionnaires, and scoring is carried out.



6. The SDG BiH team and Council for Monitoring the Implementation of SDGs in BiH review the evaluation results.
7. Based on the points from the first round of scoring and the number of points from the second round, the Expert Panel determines the winners in the categories:
 - "People" - Micro Company
 - "People" - Small Company
 - "People" - Medium Company
 - "People" - Large Company
 - "Resources and Environment" - Micro Company
 - "Resources and Environment" - Small Company
 - "Resources and Environment" - Medium Company
 - "Resources and Environment" - Large Company
8. The independent *Expert Panel* confirms which company in the respective categories has scored the highest total points across applications for both thematic areas and declares the company the Absolute Winner of the SDG Business Pioneers Award in BiH 2024.