

General regulations for the competition

1 - Objective of the competition

The objective of the competition, submitted to students, is to award the best entrepreneurial project in connection with France, whatever the field of specialization: service, product, trademark...

It will therefore be necessary to show a capacity for imagination and creativity, and an audacity to present innovative ideas. The French External Trade Advisers in Switzerland wish to discover and promote these young talents, as well as to share their experience with them.

2 - Organisation of the competition

The general organisation of the competition is co-ordinated by the French External Trade Advisers Committee.

Schools selected by the French External Trade Advisers Committee, which are representative of the sectoral and geographic category of Swiss industry, are involved in this organisation:

- Hochschule of Saint Gallen
- Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH) or any other agreed school from Zurich
- Federal Polytechnic School of Lausanne
- Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne
- Università della Svizzera Italiana (USI) in Lugano
- Scuola Universitaria Professionale della Svizzera Italiana (SUPSI) in Manno
- Geneva university

Each school must select a maximum of two projects. A grand jury will then choose the award winner who will receive the Young Entrepreneur Prize.

The language of correspondence is in French but the projects can be presented in one of the following national languages: French or English.

3 - Registration conditions

The term "student" means a physical person, man or woman. He/she must be a student registered at one of the above-mentioned schools for the year during which the prize will be awarded. The nationality is not important. A certificate from the school should be included in the registration form.

Participation in the competition can be on an individual basis or as part of a team. Each team will be represented by a maximum of four people who must be registered at the same establishment.

A participant, whether competing on an individual basis or as part of a team, may only present one single project.

Candidates must read the general regulations before signing the registration form, which should be sent to the person in charge of the competition at their school. Submission of a registration form by a candidate implies his/her unconditional acceptance of the clauses and conditions contained in the regulations governing the competition and the decisions of the juries.

4 - Participation of schools and companies

Each school selected by the French External Trade Advisers, and having accepted to take part in the competition, must appoint a coordinator to serve as the contact person for the Advisers at the school.

In turn, the French External Trade Advisers will designate one of their members for each of the schools selected to serve as the contact person for the school.

In February, March, an information meeting could be held at school by the French External Trade Advisers, which students may attend if they wish. During this session, one of the Advisers will present and explain the competition, in the company of the head of the school.

Each student will be expected to describe the project and marketing parameters, situate it in its competitive environment, estimate its potential, calculate the investment and justify all the components of the project.

The competition organizers have the right to refuse any idea they do not consider in keeping with the competition, without having to give a reason for their decision.

If a student participating in the competition wishes to be put in touch with a French or Swiss company, the French External Trade Advisers will try, as far as it is possible, and with the help of the school, to forge ties between the students and companies. The latter will receive the competitors to assist them in their projects.

The school and its teaching staff are free to provide assistance to the students carrying out a project.

5 - Selection of school winner

Each participating school will select, internally, a maximum of two projects to be presented to the Grand jury. This selection will take place at each school.

6 - Grand jury

To choose the winner, the French External Trade Advisers will appoint a grand jury that will include, among others, a representative of the French Embassy and a majority of French External Trade Advisers. The president of this Grand Jury will be the current president of the French External Trade Advisers, with a casting vote in the event of two equal candidates.

7 - Prizes

The Young Entrepreneur Prize will not be attributed systematically. It must be awarded for an exceptional project.

The winner will receive:

- Support for its development and for 12 months by one or more C.C.E.F. members with a value around 10'000 CHF
- A reward in cash of 10'000 CHF.

The other projects that will have participated in the grand jury, will receive a lump sum of CHF 100.- per person. The grand jury, the announcement of the winner and the prize giving ceremony will take place the same day. The French External Trade Advisers reserve the right to announce this event. A photo and curriculum vitae may be requested from the participants.

The participants undertake to testify during the presentation of the award of the following year.

8 - Property rights and communications

The awarded projects (participants and/or school winners) remain the full property of their authors. If they are called upon to collaborate with one or several companies they must first undertake formally, at the risk of their projects being declared null and void, to define the ownership of their projects with the company(s) with which they intend to collaborate. After deliberation by the school juries of the schools and the subsequent grand jury, the projects will be returned to their authors.

All candidates in the competition will have to take the necessary measures to protect their projects before the closing date for the submission of their work at the schools. The French External Trade Advisers decline all responsibility in the event of damage resulting from negligence on the part of the candidates regarding the protection of their work.

The French External Trade Advisers are authorized to report on the award winning projects, as well as on the identity of their authors, by any communication means of their choice, including press articles, brochures and exhibitions at public events of their choice, without any limits in time.

This authorization is valid provided the name of the author (or authors) is mentioned.

The prize winner will be permitted to add the words "Winner 2020" of the Young Entrepreneur Prize on documents relating to the prizes.

9 - Responsibilities of the French External Trade Advisers and the organizers

The French External Trade Advisers reserve the right to shorten, extend, postpone, modify or cancel the competition for any reason whatsoever. They undertake to inform the candidates, but the French External Trade Advisers will in no way be responsible for any consequences such action may have.

Whatever the objections raised, the French External Trade Advisers, the participating schools, the members of the grand juries, and the participating companies will not, under any circumstances, accept responsibility vis-à-vis any physical or moral person.

The interpretation of these regulations comes under the exclusive competence of the French External Trade Advisers.

10 - Timetable

February 2020	:	Launch of the competition in the schools
16 March 2020	:	Closing of registrations at the schools which will transmit the registration forms to the French External Trade Advisers
10 April 2020	:	Deadline for submission of the projects in the schools
15 May 2020	:	Receipt of the projects to forward to the grand jury
27 May 2020	:	Deliberation by the grand jury to select the winner out of the projects presented by the schools
		Official award of the prize in presence of the French authorities, journalists and business leaders.