

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 specialisation: 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
- Federal Polytechnic School of Zurich
- Federal Polytechnic School of Lausanne
- Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne

Each school must develop a minimum of three projects and each one of them will select the winner from among its own students. A grand jury will then choose the award winner who will receive the Young Entrepreneur Prize.

The language of correspondence is French but the projects can be presented in one of the following languages : French, German 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 co-ordinator 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 October, the French External Trade Advisers will organise an information meeting at the school, 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.

Each participant will have to present to the school his/her idea of how to "develop a French product in Switzerland". The competition organisers 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 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

This selection will take place at each school in the presence of at least one of the French External Trade Advisers.

6 – Grand Jury

Each participating school will select, internally, the project to be presented to the grand jury.

To choose the winner of the Young Entrepreneur Prize from among the school winners (one per school), the French External Trade Advisers will appoint a grand jury that will include, among others, a representative of each school 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 Young Entrepreneur will receive an award of SF 20,000 while the other winners in the finals will each receive SF 5,000. Except in the event of *force majeure*, the Young Entrepreneur and the school winners must attend the prize giving ceremony.

The name of the winner and the prize giving ceremony will be announced during the second half of June. The French External Trade Advisers reserve the right to announce this event. A photo and curriculum vitae may be requested from the Young Entrepreneur and the other winners.

8 – Property rights and communications

The awarded projects (Young Entrepreneur 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 authorised 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 authorisation is valid provided the name of the author (or authors) is mentioned.

The prize winner will be permitted to add the words "Winner 2.00.." of the Young Entrepreneur Prize on documents relating to the prizes. In the same spirit, the school winners will be permitted to include the words "School Winner 2.00.."

9 – Responsibilities of the French External Trade Advisers and the organisers

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 juries and grand jury, 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

October 2009	Launch of the competition in the four schools
19 march 2010	Closing of registrations at the schools which will transmit the registration forms to the French External Trade Advisers
16 April 2010	Deadline for submission of the projects in the schools
19 - 30 April 2010	Deliberation by the juries in the schools to select their winner
Thurs. 6 may 2010	Deliberation by the grand jury to select the Young Entrepreneur out of the four projects presented by the school winners
Thurs. 3 June 2010	Official award of the prizes

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