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Emerging Europe announces nominees for 2019 awards

From a total of 949 applications representing all 23 countries of emerging Europe, 120 companies and organisations, spread across 12 categories, have been officially nominated for the Emerging Europe Awards. In addition, 23 investment promotion agencies and 75 cities have been included in two research projects: the Investment Promotion Report and the Business-Friendly City Perception Index.

Here are the [Nominees](#):

1. **Global Champion of the Year** — a category open to companies from the region with no foreign capital that strengthened their operations outside the region, organically or through acquisition.

- Adamed (Poland)
- CCC (Poland)
- Blue Projects (Romania)
- Cleveron (Estonia)
- Grupa Nowy Styl (Poland)
- Inter Marine Group (Poland)
- LUG (Poland)
- PPF Group (Czech Republic)
- Valmera Glass (Latvia)
- Wielton (Poland)

2. **Regional Champion of the Year** — a category open to companies from the region that strengthened their operations and/or expanded to new countries within the emerging Europe region, organically or through acquisition.

- AD Plastik (Croatia)
- Conte (Belarus)
- Grampet Group (Romania)
- Itaka (Poland)
- Maxima Grupe (Lithuania)
- Mokate (Poland)
- OTP (Hungary)
- Sazska Group (Czech Republic)

- Tucano Coffee (Moldova)
- United Group (Serbia)

3. Foreign Direct Investment Project of the Year — a category assessing investment projects which have had a positive impact on the country or local area in which they have been implemented or completed.

- Aerostructure Technologies Cyclone (Georgia)
- Balfin (Albania)
- Bayer (Ukraine)
- Continental (Lithuania)
- Jaguar Land Rover (Slovakia)
- Mercedes Benz (Poland)
- Milteks (Georgia)
- Multivac (Bulgaria)
- Neo Group (Lithuania)
- Telamon (North Macedonia)

4. Research and Development Project of the Year — a category looking at R&D investment projects established in a country in the emerging Europe region, which uses local talent and expertise thus creating highly-skilled jobs.

- Acronis (Bulgaria)
- Devexperts (Bulgaria)
- Ericsson (Hungary)
- Gideon Richter (Hungary)
- Hello 2 (Kosovo)
- RoboticsX (Slovenia)
- TCL Research (Poland)
- Teslasuit (Belarus)
- Verint Systems (Romania)
- Viavi Solutions (Romania)

5. Innovation Initiative of the Year — a category open to companies and entities operating in emerging Europe, which have implemented innovative practices or technologies in their products, services or processes, resulting in a significant improvement in the effectiveness or results of their business, sector or industry.

- Badamy Geny (Poland)
- Barin.io (Estonia)
- eInspector (Serbia)
- Holo4Lab (Poland)
- Lightopsy (Poland)
- Quick Cash AI (Georgia)
- ROL (Lithuania)
- Santander One Pay FX (Poland)
- Solaris (Poland)
- Ukrtransgaz (Ukraine)

6. City FDI Strategy of the Year — a category assessing the strategies of municipal investment promotion departments or agencies, evaluating their creativity, effectiveness and success.

- Debrecen (Hungary)
- Galați (Romania)
- Klaipėda (Lithuania)
- Kraków (Poland)
- Łódź (Poland)
- Niš (Serbia)
- Poznań (Poland)
- Sosnowiec (Poland)
- Vilnius (Lithuania)
- Wrocław (Poland)

7. Tourism Campaign of the Year — a category assessing national, regional and municipal tourism promotion campaigns in 2018, focusing on their creativity, effectiveness and success.

- #beourguest (Moldova)
- #EstonianWay (Estonia)
- Georgia Travel (Georgia)
- Minskgorpravka (Belarus)
- Moustache tour (Slovenia)
- Spice of Europe (Hungary)
- The G-spot Vilnius (Lithuania)
- Tirana Photo Festival (Albania)
- Two million reasons (Slovenia)
- #visitPoland (Poland)

8. Renewal Project of the Year — a category covering projects which have transformed a building, public space or community, bringing a neglected place back to life, creating sustainable use and/or conserving heritage.

- Brandville (Ukraine)
- Gosposvetska Ljubljana (Slovenia)
- Networld Varna (Bulgaria)
- Open Theatre Tirana (Albania)
- Praga Koneser (Poland)
- Revitalisation of Łódź (Poland)
- Sisak Moslavina County (Croatia)
- Skanderbeg Tirana (Albania)
- UBB how we turned (Bulgaria)
- Writer's Hub (Slovenia)

9. Social Impact Start-up of the Year — a category open to start-ups whose purpose is to improve people's lives. The start-up should have been set up after January 2016 and have majority stakeholders from the emerging Europe region.

- CoPlay (Czech Republic)
- Echo (Georgia)
- Freewa Project (Croatia)
- Gater (Belarus)
- Genomtec (Poland)
- Glucocarer (Lithuania)
- Holoroad (Poland)
- Insignes Lab (Poland)
- Lingva.Skills (Ukraine)
- OmoLab (Croatia)

10. Young Empowerment Initiative of the Year — a category covering initiatives in 2018, whose goals are to increase young people's opportunities, awareness, self-confidence and engagement in society.

- City Incubator (Slovenia)
- Deti MBA (Belarus)
- Mladiinfo (North Macedonia)
- Promocija Montenegro (Montenegro)
- Tekwill (Moldova)
- Transfer HUB (Poland)
- UA Tech at CES 2018 (Ukraine)
- UCGA Educational Programme Board Direction (Ukraine)
- Ukraine Reformers Architecture (Ukraine)
- Zicer Startup Factory (Croatia)

11. Equality-Friendly Initiative of the Year — a category open to entities whose initiatives promote inclusion and equal treatment of individuals or groups regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation or religious beliefs.

- Charity I see (Belarus)
- Everyone's Business (Lithuania)
- iFamily (Belarus)
- Ilovediversity (Poland)
- LGBT Friendly Certificate (Slovenia)
- Matra (Hungary)
- New Door NGO (Latvia)
- Sara Rahabli (Azerbaijan)
- Space for Girls (Poland)
- Youth Cancer Europe (Romania)

12. Young Influencer of the Year — a category open to young people who — through politics, social activism, another influencing activity or by their own example — influenced society in their community, country or in the wider region, for the better.

- Florin Badita (Romania)
- Olga Grudniak (Poland)
- Mateusz Hołda (Poland)
- Ondrej Kania (Czech Republic)
- Edvin Kanka Cudic (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Timotej Kotnik (Slovenia)
- Olga Kudinenko (Ukraine)
- Margo Lazarenkova (Belarus)
- Marek Materek (Poland)
- Taras Yavorsky (Ukraine)

Similarly to 2018, *Emerging Europe* has run investment promotion research, which assessed the performance of 23 national agencies promoting their countries as an attractive foreign direct investment destination in two areas — communications and enquiry handling. The investment promotion agencies included are: the Albanian Investment Development Agency, Azpromo (Azerbaijan), Business Armenia, the Croatian Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts CzechInvest, the Development Agency of Serbia, Enterprise Estonia (EAS), the Foreign Investment Promotion Agency of Bosnia Herzegovina, the Hungarian Investment Promotion Agency, Invest Bulgaria, Enterprise Georgia, Invest Lithuania, Invest Moldova, Invest North Macedonia, the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia, Invest Romania, the Kosovo Investment and Enterprise Support Agency, the Montenegrin Investment Promotion Agency, the National Agency of Investment and Privatisation of Belarus, the Polish Investment and Trade Agency, the Slovak Investment and Development Agency, Spirit Slovenia and Ukraine Invest.

In 2019, *Emerging Europe* has also run a survey among dozens of location experts who looked at the brand, economic potential, business climate, available pool of talent, infrastructure and connectivity, quality of life and the support of local authorities in the following cities:

Tirana (Albania), Yerevan (Armenia), Baku, Gəncə, Sumqayıt (Azerbaijan), Brest, Gomel, Grodno, Minsk, Mogilev, Vitebsk (Belarus), Sarajevo, Banja Luka (Bosnia & Herzegovina), Burgas, Plovdiv, Sofia, Varna (Bulgaria) Zagreb (Croatia), Brno, Ostrava, Prague (Czech Republic), Tallinn (Estonia), Tbilisi (Georgia) — Budapest, Debrecen (Hungary), Prishtina (Kosovo), Riga (Latvia), Kaunas, Vilnius (Lithuania), Chişinău (Moldova), Podgorica (Montenegro), Skopje (North Macedonia), Białystok, Bydgoszcz, Częstochowa, Gdańsk, Gdynia, Katowice, Kraków, Łódź, Lublin, Poznań, Radom, Sosnowiec, Szczecin, Toruń, Warsaw, Wrocław (Poland), Braşov, Bucharest, Cluj Napoca, Constanţa, Craiova, Galaţi, Iaşi, Ploieşti, Timişoara (Romania), Belgrade, Niš, Novi Sad (Serbia), Bratislava, Košice (Slovakia), Ljubljana (Slovenia) Dnipro, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kryvyi Rih, Kyiv, Luhansk, Lviv, Mariupol, Mykolaiv, Odessa, Vinnytsia, Zaporizhia (Ukraine).

The *Emerging Europe* Council has also chosen the laureates of the Günter Verheugen Remarkable Achievement Award and the Princess Marina Sturdza Remarkable Achievement Award for the Region. The names will be announced shortly.

Statistics (number of nominees per country — Business-Friendly City and National Investment Promotion Agency excluded)

Albania — 4
Armenia — 0
Azerbaijan — 1
Belarus — 8
Bosnia & Herzegovina — 1
Bulgaria — 5
Croatia — 5
Czech Republic — 4
Estonia — 3
Georgia — 5
Hungary — 6
Kosovo — 1
Latvia — 3
Lithuania — 9
Moldova — 3
Montenegro — 1
North Macedonia — 1
Poland — 32
Romania — 7
Serbia — 3
Slovakia — 1
Slovenia — 8
Ukraine — 9

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