

Press Release

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Best Managed Companies show resilience amid COVID-19 pandemic

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Led by an internationally proven framework that was launched 27 years ago in Canada, the Best Managed Companies programme supports resilient entrepreneurship and sustainable growth. These qualities are even more relevant in the midst of uncertainty, such as the COVID-19 crisis. For this third edition, 20 Belgian private companies have been recognised for their clear strategy, extensive expertise, commitment, and financial performance by an independent jury. Provan, Zuidnatie, Vandenbussche, Sack Zelfbouw, Stadsbader, Quality by Design, Saey, and Vanheede Environment Group now bear the quality label, joining the 12 requalifiers from 2018 and 2019 that retained the Best Managed Company title.

Nikolaas Tahon, Best Managed Companies Programme Leader: *"Resilience is the quality that enables organisations to respond quickly but also be prepared for uncertainties and survive and thrive. A resilient company is able to achieve sustainability, emerging from economic downturns and remaining steadfast while facing growing uncertainty, such as the current COVID-19 crisis. Best Managed Companies not only show extraordinary competency in innovation, leadership, organisation, and risk management, but they are highly agile."*

Since 2018 Deloitte Private and Econopolis, joined by KU Leuven in 2019, have been searching for hidden gems in the Belgian entrepreneurial landscape. This year's external jury, led by Françoise Chombar (Melexis), consisted of academic Koenraad Debackere (KUL), Geert Noels (CEO and Chief Economist Econopolis), Rik Jacob (former CEO Ardo), Rik Vera (Nexxworks) and Yves Noël (former CEO NMC). The companies were subjected to a rigorous selection procedure during the end of 2019 based on strategy, capabilities, commitment, and financial strength.

Why are Best Managed Companies better equipped to respond to the coronavirus crisis?

Highly resilient organisations, such as the Best Managed Companies, have the common characteristics of strategic resilience and organisational agility. They focus on areas such as market diversification, remote working, clear communication to their people and stakeholders, stress tests, and scenario planning.

These qualities enable them to adapt and thrive through different economic cycles, including the challenging times brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The greater an enterprise's long-term mission, the greater its vitality.

This year's laureates join the group of 12 Best Managed Companies that have managed to extend their title. In 2018, CE+T Group, EASI, E.D.&A., LVD Company, Protime, Vanbreda Risk & Benefits, and Vandersanden Group received the Belgium Best Managed Company quality label. Golazo, Soudal Group, Easyfairs, Thomas & Piron and EXKi joined them in 2019.

The 2020 laureates are Provan, Quality by Design, Sack Zelfbouw, Saey, Stadsbader, Vandenbussche, Vanheede Environment Group, Zuidnatie.

20 Best Managed Companies:

Antwerp (6)	Zuidnatie, Quality by Design, Soudal Group, Vanbreda Risk & Benefits, Protime, E.D.&A.
Brussels (2)	Easyfairs, EXKi
East Flanders (2)	Vandenbussche, Sack Zelfbouw
Limburg (3)	Provan, Golazo, Vandersanden Group
West Flanders (4)	Vanheede Environment Group, Stadsbader, Saey, LVD Company
Walloon Brabant (1)	EASI
Liège (1)	CE+T Group
Luxembourg (1)	Thomas & Piron

About Best Managed Companies

In 2017, Deloitte Private launched Belgium Best Managed Companies in collaboration with Econopolis. The programme aims to provide guidance and recognition for Belgian privately owned and managed companies which achieve excellent results.

The globally proven framework is used to assess their leadership qualities and practices in the areas of strategy, talent, drive and financial performance. Companies wishing to participate in the programme must have a turnover exceeding €10 million. They must have been established for at least 5 years, with over 25 full-time employees and a majority stake (> 60%) owned by a Belgian resident, person or entity. The company's HQ or a major decision centre must also be located in Belgium. The companies must also be fully compliant from a legal, tax and ethical perspective.

The 'Best Managed Companies' label is intended to become an international label denoting quality and excellence. The programme was developed 27 years ago in Canada and has already been rolled out in Ireland, Mexico, the Netherlands, Chile, Turkey, Italy, Germany, China, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Trinidad, Australia, USA, Czech Republic, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand.

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