

## Announcement

### Family Business and Mittelstand Research Award 2026 (endowed by the EQUA-Stiftung)

On the occasion of the **29th Annual Interdisciplinary Conference on Entrepreneurship, Innovation and SMEs** (G-Forum 2026), the [EQUA-Stiftung](#), together with FGF e.V., supports researchers in the fields of family business and SMEs and presents the “**Family Business and Mittelstand Research Award 2026**”, endowed with €1,000.

The award, which is open to all topics within the fields of family business and SMEs, is aimed at all authors who submit a **full paper proposal** (max. 30 pages + references) to the G-Forum 2026 in Cottbus.

#### Procedure for the selection of the award winners

The award winner will be determined through a two-stage selection process. In the first stage, the results of the double-blind review process conducted by the G-Forum Review Board (developmental review) will be taken into account.

#### The selection and evaluation criteria for scientific paper proposals are:

1. Relevance/usefulness for family business research
2. Relevance/usefulness for family business practice
3. Conceptual strength
4. Methodology
5. Originality / novelty
6. Intelligibility

In the second stage, authors of the three best papers from this review process will be nominated for the “**Family Business and Mittelstand Research Award 2026**”. From the nominated papers, the final selection of the award winner will be made by a five-member jury (scientists from the FGF-working group Family Business and representatives of the foundation).

#### Submission guidelines

- Please submit a manuscript **without** author names (blind manuscript)
- Submissions may be made in **German** or **English**.
- The submission of the **scientific contribution** should ideally be structured as follows:
  - Problem (research gap / objectives)
  - Theoretical foundation
  - Methodology / empirical research context
  - Results
  - Implications for family business research and practice

#### Submission format

Full-paper proposals can be submitted as a **PDF document** via our [conference tool](#) from now until **May 10, 2026**. Authors will be informed about the acceptance of their paper proposals approximately in **mid-July 2026**.

#### Presentation of the nominated papers and award ceremony

The nominated authors (individuals or teams) will be invited to present their work at the G-Forum 2026. Presentation by at least one author is mandatory. The announcement of the winner(s) as well as the award and certificate presentation will take place during the G-Forum 2026 social evening in Cottbus on September 17, 2026.

For further information, please contact our FGF office via email: [info@fgf-ev.de](mailto:info@fgf-ev.de).