

Zurich, September 22, 2022

Press release

# Results of zRating Study 2022 on Corporate Governance

Zurich, September 22, 2022 – Orior has the best corporate governance in Switzerland with 82 points. According to Inrate's new zRating study, the food group wins ahead of Swisscom (82) and SGS (77). Last year's winner Lonza (77) comes in fourth. The biggest climbers are Gurit (+18) and Zur Rose (+15).

The zRating study is published for the 14th time since 2009. Inrate analyzes the corporate governance of 171 listed Swiss companies on the basis of their articles of association, annual reports and decisions taken at general meetings (AGMs). 68 quantitative and qualitative criteria are evaluated and assessed using a scoring model. The criteria catalog was slightly modified and supplemented with category 5 «Sustainability and information policy». This category focuses on important aspects of sustainability and transparency. In addition, the original areas «Shareholders and capital structure» (category 1), «Shareholders' participation rights» (category 2), «Composition of the Board of Directors (BoD)/Executive Board (BoM)» (category 3) and «Compensation and participation models BoD/BoM» (category 4) were analyzed. In total, a maximum of 100 points could still be achieved. Inrate uses the rating to identify potential corporate risks from a corporate governance perspective that could impact the value of the company and therefore have a negative effect on the minority shareholder.

### Orior wins ahead of Swisscom and SGS

The winner of this year's corporate governance rating is Orior with 82 points. The food group gained 4 points compared to the previous year. The annual report now describes the exit rules for the long-term incentive plan and the maximum number of permitted third-party mandates has been reduced. Orior also scored the maximum points (5 points) in the «Sustainability» subcategory (5.1). Swisscom, last year's runner-up, was also beaten with 82 points due to the lower score in category (2) «Shareholders' participation rights».

SGS made it into the top three for the first time with 77 points. The Geneva-based goods inspection group has moved up 5 places, mainly due to progress in agent points. At SGS, independence and the proportion of women on the board of directors have increased. Last year's winner Lonza slips to 4th place, also with 77 points, because SGS achieved the higher score in category (2) «Shareholders' participation rights».

Among the up-and-comers, Gurit stands out with a comprehensive revision of its Articles of Incorporation: Among other things, the composites specialist has introduced a single-name share and abolished opting-up. In addition, the company also benefits from the new sub-category (5.1) «Sustainability», where it scores 4 out of 5. Gurit scored a total of 18 points more than in the previous year, moving up 95 ranks (from 147 to 52). Zur Rose, in turn, gains 15 points and moves up 82 places. The pharmaceutical distribution company has improved in terms of its Board of Directors (including being more independent and more female) and, in terms of compensation, also benefits from being included in the SMI Mid Index (higher allowed limits on compensation levels).

### Sustainability in corporate governance continues to gain strongly in importance

The importance of sustainability in corporate governance has also increased this year. With Allreal, Burkhalter and Calida, three more companies have anchored sustainable (or long-term) value creation as a purpose in their Articles of Association (total: 16 companies out of 171). The anchoring serves the obligation of the board of directors and the legitimacy by the shareholders.

Sustainability is also gaining strongly in importance in compensation systems. At 47% of the companies, ESG criteria have an influence on variable compensation (previous year: 33%). ESG factors are now relevant for bonuses at all SMI



companies (previous year: 85 %). However, CO2 emissions are only present as targets in 10 % of the compensation systems. This, despite the fact that 54% of all companies we analyzed have formulated CO2 targets at the corporate level. Inrate believes that at least the 9% of companies that have set reduction targets for greenhouse gas emissions as part of the «Science Based Targets» should also evaluate their CEO in terms of compliance with the defined reduction path.

## Dealing with heterogeneous shareholder interests

More and more shareholders are demanding that companies make a positive contribution to solving social or environmental problems that goes beyond the financial aspect («Impact»). This concern is also at the heart of Inrate's self-image (see our «ESG Impact Ratings»).

In the United States, more and more ESG activists are submitting proposals on sustainability issues to the AGM. This trend is not likely to stop in Switzerland, especially as the hurdles for agenda items are lowered to 0.5% of the votes. It is not always clear exactly what interests the activists are pursuing. ESG activists should provide clear evidence that their intentions are not at the expense of long-term value creation. Agenda requests should demand representation on the board (to take responsibility) or transparency (to reduce information asymmetries), and not overly constrain management in their day-to-day operations.

Furthermore, topics can be discussed - with less publicity - in an exchange with the companies (so-called engagement). Socio-politically relevant issues should also be addressed through the democratic process. The state has responsibilities that have just as great an impact on the environment and society (e. g. infrastructure, human rights, education, unemployment, financial budgeting or free trade) and governments sign corresponding goals (e. g. Paris Climate Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals, SDG). Christophe Volonté, CEO at Inrate, says: «for all the demands placed on companies, accountability for the essentials must not suffer. Corporate leaders are primarily responsible for ensuring that their companies create long-term value. Value tends to be created by those companies that help address environmental and social challenges.»

#### Sustainability reports move into focus

The implementation obligations of the indirect counterproposal to the Corporate Responsibility Initiative will apply from the 2023 financial year. Companies will then have to report on non-financial matters. Compliance with reporting guidelines (e. g. GRI, SASB) helps in the preparation of proper sustainability reporting. The sustainability report should ideally be published with the annual report well in advance of the AGM. Inrate welcomes it if the sustainability report also reports on the positive and negative impacts of business activities on the environment and society and transparently addresses significant controversies in which the company is involved. This also allows companies to explain their position. «Sustainability reporting should be about more than reporting on management systems (CSR). Transparency regarding the impact of the company's business activities on the environment and society is equally important,» Volonté says.

The zRating Study 2022 can be ordered at https://www.inrate.com/bestellung-zrating-studie.htm.

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#### **About Inrate**

Inrate has been a Swiss ESG specialist since 1991. Inrate combines its in-depth sustainability analysis with innovative data, research, and services for the financial industry. Our «ESG Impact Ratings» (Environmental, Social, Governance) measure the impact a company has on society and the environment with its products and behavior, as well as its willingness and ability to address corresponding challenges.

Inrate also provides shareholder services. Since 2011, we have been actively engaged in improving corporate governance in Switzerland. Institutional investors are supported in exercising their shareholder rights with detailed corporate governance research («zRating») and voting recommendations. In addition, Inrate offers the opportunity to participate in the engagement process on sustainability issues through membership in the «Responsible Shareholder Group» (RSG).



## **Overall ranking**

- Cat. 1: Shareholders and capital structure (max. 20 points)
- Cat. 2: Shareholders' participation rights (max. 25 points)
- Cat. 3: Composition of BoD/BoM (max. 25 points)
  Cat. 4: Compensation and participation models of BoD/BoM (max. 20 points)
- Cat. 5: Sustainability and information policy (max. 10 points)

Rank	Company	Index	Industry	Score	Cat.	Cat. 2	Cat.	Cat.	Cat. 5	2021	Δ
1	Orior	Ex SMI Expanded	Consumer Goods	82	19	19	23	12	9	78	4
2	Swisscom	SMI	Other	82	18	14	24	18	8	81	1
3	SGS	SMI	Industrial Company	77	16	20	21	13	7	74	3
4	Lonza Group	SMI	Healthcare	77	14	18	22	16	7	81	-4
5	Holcim	SMI	Industrial Company	76	16	20	23	11	6	73	3
6	PSP Swiss Property	SMIM	Real Estate	75	18	19	14	17	7	74	1
7	Straumann	SMIM	Healthcare	75	20	17	18	11	9	72	3
8	Givaudan	SMI	Raw Materials	75	17	17	20	13	8	71	4
9	Swiss Prime Site	SMIM	Real Estate	75	16	16	19	16	8	75	0
10	Coltene	Ex SMI Expanded	Healthcare	74	20	23	16	12	3	75	-1
11	Orell Füssli	Ex SMI Expanded	Consumer Service	74	19	20	18	10	7	73	1
12	Swissquote	Ex SMI Expanded	Financial Services	74	17	20	19	11	7	70	4
13	Adecco	SMIM	Industrial Company	74	15	19	22	11	7	70	4
14	Logitech	SMI	Technology	74	14	19	19	13	9	65	9
15	Geberit	SMI	Industrial Company	74	16	17	22	13	6	74	0
16	ABB	SMI	Industrial Company	74	16	17	20	13	8	73	1
17	SIG Combibloc	SMIM	Industrial Company	74	15	17	21	11	10	70	4
18	Sika	SMI	Industrial Company	74	16	16	17	17	8	68	6
19	Calida	Ex SMI Expanded	Consumer Goods	73	18	20	21	8	6	64	9
20	Cembra Money Bank	SMIM	Financial Services	73	11	19	21	13	9	70	3
21	Inficon	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	73	19	17	16	14	7	72	1
22	SoftwareONE	Ex SMI Expanded	Technology	73	17	17	20	10	9	67	6
23	VAT Group	SMIM	Industrial Company	73	19	16	15	15	8	70	3
24	Burkhalter	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	72	19	22	18	7	6	70	2
25	Ascom	Ex SMI Expanded	Technology	72	17	21	18	9	7	68	4
26	Swiss Re	SMI	Financial Services	72	12	21	19	12	8	67	5
27	Schaffner	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	72	19	20	15	11	7	71	1
28	Landis+Gyr	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	72	17	19	17	10	9	69	3
29	APG	Ex SMI Expanded	Consumer Service	72	19	18	16	12	7	70	2
30	Komax	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	72	19	17	20	9	7	67	5
31	Mobimo	Ex SMI Expanded	Real Estate	72	16	15	20	13	8	69	3
32	Georg Fischer	SMIM	Industrial Company	72	16	12	22	14	8	73	-1
33	GAM	Ex SMI Expanded	Financial Services	71	17	20	18	8	8	72	-1
34	Valora	Ex SMI Expanded	Consumer Service	71	15	18	21	10	7	69	2
35	Zur Rose	SMIM	Consumer Service	71	11	16	23	15	6	56	15
36	Burckhardt Compression	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	71	18	10	21	14	8		
37	Clariant	SMIM	Raw Materials	70	18	20	13	13	6	67 71	-1
38	Forbo	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	70	17	20	18	10	5	66	4
39	Mobilezone	Ex SMI Expanded	Consumer Service	70	16	19	18	10	7	63	7
40	Alcon	SMI	Healthcare	70	15	19	19	11	6	71	
41	Barry Callebaut	SMIM	Consumer Goods	70	18	18	16	10	8	68	-1 2
42	Credit Suisse	SMI	Financial Services	70	13	18	20	11	8	66	4
43	Tecan	SMIM	Healthcare	70	16	17	18	11	8	67	3
44	Julius Bär	SMIM	Financial Services	70	13	17	21	11	8		
45	Luzerner Kantonalbank	Ex SMI Expanded	Financial Services	70	19	14	18	12	7	69 68	1
46	Comet	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	69	17	19	19	9	5	65	2
47	Implenia	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	69	14	19	19	9	8		
48	Mikron	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	69	19	17	17	11	5	68	1
49	Zurich Insurance Group	SMI	Financial Services	69	11	17	23	10	8	68	1
50	UBS	SMI	Financial Services Financial Services	69	13	15	23	9	9	68	
	Sonova	SMIM	Healthcare	69	18	11	19	12		67	2
51 52		Ex SMI Expanded							9	70	-1
52	Gurit		Raw Materials	68	17	19	16	8	8	50	18
53	Siegfried	Ex SMI Expanded	Healthcare	68	15	17	20	8	8	69	-1
54	Allreal	Ex SMI Expanded	Real Estate	68	16	15	17	12	8	60	8
55	Arbonia	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	67	20	19	11	7	10	64	3
56	Leonteq	Ex SMI Expanded	Financial Services	67	16	19	16	10	6	62	5
57	Autoneum	Ex SMI Expanded	Consumer Goods	67	17	17	13	10	10	61	6



58	Bachem	SMIM	Healthcare	67	19	15	10	16	7	63	4
59	SFS	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	67	19	13	16	11	8	63	4
60	Valiant	Ex SMI Expanded	Financial Services	67	16	12	20	11	8	69	-2
61	Galenica	SMIM	Consumer Service	67	15	9	23	15	5	66	1
62	Emmi	Ex SMI Expanded	Consumer Goods	66	19	19	15	6	7	65	1
63	Romande Energie	Ex SMI Expanded	Supplier	66	19	19	13	10	5	64	2
64	Dufry	SMIM	Consumer Service	66	14	18	17	8	9	60	6
65	Medacta Group	Ex SMI Expanded	Healthcare	66	18	17	15	9	7	66	0
66	DKSH	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	66	19	16	15	8	8	63	3
67	Banque C. Vaudoise	Ex SMI Expanded	Financial Services	66	19	15	16	9	7	65	1
68	Roche	SMI	Healthcare	65	10	21	18	8	8	61	4
69	St.Galler Kantonalbank	Ex SMI Expanded	Financial Services	65	19	16	18	7	5	62	3
70	OC Oerlikon	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	65	16	16	14	9	10	64	1
71	Huber+Suhner	Ex SMI Expanded	Technology	65	18	13	14	11	9	63	2
72	Bell	Ex SMI Expanded	Consumer Goods	65	19	12	14	12	8	63	2
73	Nestlé	SMI	Consumer Goods	65	17	11	19	10	8	64	1
74	Belimo	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	65	19	10	19	10	7	61	4
75	VZ Holding	Ex SMI Expanded	Financial Services	64	18	21	12	10	3	63	1
76	Meyer Burger	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	64	12	19	20	8	5	61	3
77 78	Investis Bossard	Ex SMI Expanded Ex SMI Expanded	Real Estate	64 64	17 10	18 18	13 17	12 12	4 7	65	-1
79	Kardex	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company Industrial Company	64	19	16	15	8	6	62	2
80	Sulzer	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	64	17	16	16	8	7	64	0
81	Medmix	Ex SMI Expanded	Healthcare	64	17	16	14	13	4	60	4
82	BB Biotech	SMIM	Healthcare	64	17	15	22	7	3	61	3
83	Rieter	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	64	16	15	16	11	6	58	6
84	Bâloise	SMIM	Financial Services	64	12	11	20	14	7	63	1
85	Starrag Group	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	63	17	21	12	7	6	67	-4
86	Temenos	SMIM	Technology	63	15	16	18	6	8	61	2
87	V-Zug	Ex SMI Expanded	Consumer Goods	63	19	15	17	5	7	64	-1
88	dormakaba	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	63	16	15	15	9	8	60	3
89	u-blox	Ex SMI Expanded	Technology	63	14	14	18	10	7	63	0
90	Swiss Life	SMI	Financial Services	63	12	12	17	14	8	61	2
91	Sensirion	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	63	17	10	19	11	6	59	4
92	Kühne + Nagel	SMIM	Industrial Company	62	16	18	13	8	7	61	1
93	Swiss Steel	Ex SMI Expanded	Raw Materials	62	17	16	15	7	7	62	0
94	Cicor	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	62	14	16	15	11	6	59	3
95	Bucher	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	62	18	15	14	10	5	60	2
96	Interroll	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	62	14	13	19	10	6	59	3
97	Novartis	SMI	Healthcare Other	62	14	10	20	10 9	8	63	-1
98 99	Transocean Richemont	Ex SMI Expanded SMI	Consumer Goods	61 61	13 9	19 19	15 17	9	5 7	56	5
100	Edisun	Ex SMI Expanded	Supplier	61	14	18	13	10	6	56	5
101	HIAG Real Estate	Ex SMI Expanded	Real Estate	61	17	16	17	5	6	61 66	0 -5
102	Zehnder	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	61	10	15	18	12	6	54	-5 7
103	Vontobel	Ex SMI Expanded	Financial Services	61	16	12	18	7	8	60	1
104	Jungfraubahn	Ex SMI Expanded	Consumer Service	61	19	9	16	13	4	57	4
105	Helvetia	SMIM	Financial Services	61	15	9	15	14	8	55	6
106	Berner Kantonalbank	Ex SMI Expanded	Financial Services	61	19	4	19	12	7	57	4
107	Idorsia	Ex SMI Expanded	Healthcare	60	11	20	18	6	5	58	2
108	Warteck Invest	Ex SMI Expanded	Real Estate	60	17	18	15	7	3	55	5
109	EMS-Chemie	SMIM	Raw Materials	60	19	14	12	9	6	59	1
110	Bellevue	Ex SMI Expanded	Financial Services	60	19	12	15	8	6	57	3
111	Flughafen Zürich	SMIM	Industrial Company	60	18	8	12	16	6	59	1
112	Dätwyler	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	59	10	20	10	10	9	52	7
113	Bergb. Engelberg-Titlis	Ex SMI Expanded	Consumer Service	59	18	18	12	10	1	62	-3
114	Aryzta	Ex SMI Expanded	Consumer Goods	59	12	17	16	7	7	55	4
115	LEM Zugar Kantanalhank	Ex SMI Expanded Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	59	18	14	16	6	5	56	3
116 117	Zuger Kantonalbank Bobst	Ex SMI Expanded Ex SMI Expanded	Financial Services Industrial Company	59 59	17 18	13 12	16 15	8	5 6	57	2
118	BKW	Ex SMI Expanded	Supplier	59	18	10	15	11	5	52 54	7 5
119	Basilea	Ex SMI Expanded	Healthcare	58	8	20	17	8	5	52	6
120	Walliser Kantonalbank	Ex SMI Expanded	Financial Services	58	18	19	11	9	1	52 56	2
121	Molecular Partners	Ex SMI Expanded	Healthcare	58	14	16	11	11	6	57	1
122	Meier Tobler	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	58	18	15	12	9	4	62	-4
123	Peach Property Group	Ex SMI Expanded	Real Estate	58	16	15	13	9	5	59	-1
124	Klingelnberg	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	58	14	14	16	10	4	56	2
125	Schweiter Technologys	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	58	12	14	15	11	6	54	4



126	Adval Tech	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	58	19	13	7	13	6	57	1
127	Hypo. Lenzburg	Ex SMI Expanded	Financial Services	58	17	13	14	12	2	58	0
128	TX Group	Ex SMI Expanded	Consumer Service	58	19	12	15	9	3	56	2
129	Glarner Kantonalbank	Ex SMI Expanded	Financial Services	58	16	10	18	9	5	52	6
130	Partners Group	SMI	Financial Services	58	17	9	16	10	6	55	3
131	IVF Hartmann	Ex SMI Expanded	Healthcare	57	19	11	12	9	6	54	3
132	CPH Chemie + Papier	Ex SMI Expanded	Raw Materials	57	18	11	14	9	5	55	2
133	MCH Group	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	56	17	17	10	7	5	55	1
134	Züblin Real Estate	Ex SMI Expanded	Real Estate	56	16	17	11	11	1	56	0
135	Feintool	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	56	16	14	9	11	6	59	-3
136	Intershop	Ex SMI Expanded	Real Estate	55	18	14	8	11	4	56	-1
137	Bystronic	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	55	11	13	16	9	6	50	5
138	PolyPeptide	Ex SMI Expanded	Healthcare	55	18	9	15	8	5	_	_
139	Ypsomed	Ex SMI Expanded	Healthcare	55	19	8	14	9	5	58	-3
140	Stadler Rail	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	54	15	16	8	11	4	54	0
141	Dottikon ES	Ex SMI Expanded	Raw Materials	54	19	15	7	12	1	57	-3
142	Crealogix	Ex SMI Expanded	Technology	54	12	15	13	12	2	53	1
143	EFG International	Ex SMI Expanded	Financial Services	53	9	19	13	6	6	48	5
144	HOCHDORF	Ex SMI Expanded	Consumer Goods	53	16	14	11	6	6	54	-1
145	Metall Zug	Ex SMI Expanded	Consumer Goods	53	12	14	14	7	6	50	3
146	Evolva	Ex SMI Expanded	Healthcare	52	11	18	9	11	3	53	-1
147	Plazza	Ex SMI Expanded	Real Estate	52	10	16	14	9	3	49	3
148	Medartis	Ex SMI Expanded	Healthcare	52	16	12	11	7	6	52	0
149	Valartis Group	Ex SMI Expanded	Financial Services	51	16	17	7	9	2	51	0
150	ALSO	Ex SMI Expanded	Technology	50	15	15	10	4	6	52	-2
151	Zug Estates	Ex SMI Expanded	Real Estate	50	12	13	12	7	6	49	1
152	Aevis Victoria	Ex SMI Expanded	Healthcare	49	11	16	12	8	2	48	1
153	Vetropack	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	48	11	16	10	5	6	47	1
154	Schlatter	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	48	16	14	7	9	2	50	-2
155	HBM Healthcare Inv.	Ex SMI Expanded	Financial Services	48	15	10	11	11	1	50	-2
156	Orascom	Ex SMI Expanded	Real Estate	47	12	17	12	4	2	47	0
157	Leclanché	Ex SMI Expanded	Consumer Goods	47	13	14	11	6	3	48	-1
158	Schindler	SMIM	Industrial Company	47	12	9	12	7	7	45	2
159	Tornos	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	46	16	17	4	5	4	47	-1
160	Vaudoise Assurances	Ex SMI Expanded	Financial Services	46	9	16	9	5	7	48	-2
161	Energiedienst	Ex SMI Expanded	Supplier	46	13	13	6	11	3	51	-5
162	Santhera Pharma	Ex SMI Expanded	Healthcare	45	7	17	12	5	4	48	-3
163	Phoenix Mecano	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	45	11	13	11	7	3	45	0
164	Lindt & Sprüngli	SMIM	Consumer Goods	45	13	10	12	6	4	43	2
165	Carlo Gavazzi	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	43	7	17	13	5	1	42	1
166	Swatch Group	SMIM	Consumer Goods	43	10	10	13	5	5	40	3
167	Spexis	Ex SMI Expanded	Healthcare	41	10	15	6	7	3	49	-8
168	WISeKey	Ex SMI Expanded	Technology	39	3	13	16	3	4	37	2
169	Von Roll	Ex SMI Expanded	Industrial Company	38	4	15	8	7	4	43	-5
170	Kudelski	Ex SMI Expanded	Technology	37	6	15	8	5	3	35	2
171	Tradition	Ex SMI Expanded	Financial Services	35	5	18	4	3	5	32	3

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> If two companies have the same score, the company with the better score in the category «Shareholders' participation rights» followed by «Shareholders and capital structure» and «Composition of BoD/BoM and information policy» is ranked higher.



## 2022 Score distribution

(Average: 62.3 / Median: 63.0)

