



Evaluation of the composition, dynamics, and cooperation of the BoD and EM

Competency-based and team-oriented boards bring more competitiveness and sustainable value creation

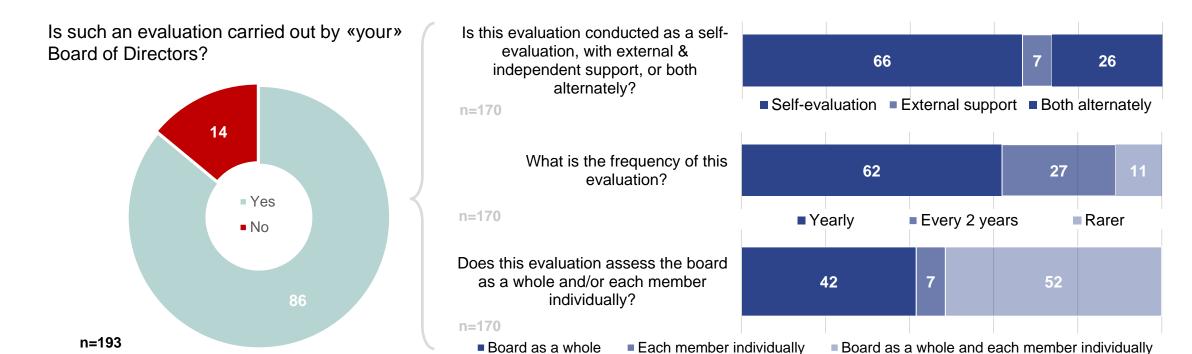
Written by Sandro V. Gianella and Dr. Fabienne E. Meier June 2021

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Initial situation: 86% of Boards of Directors conduct an evaluation of their own board.



14% do not carry out any evaluation. Of the 86% that do conduct an evaluation, 66% do so without external support. 62% carry out this evaluation annually, with the majority evaluating the BoD as a whole and each member individually.

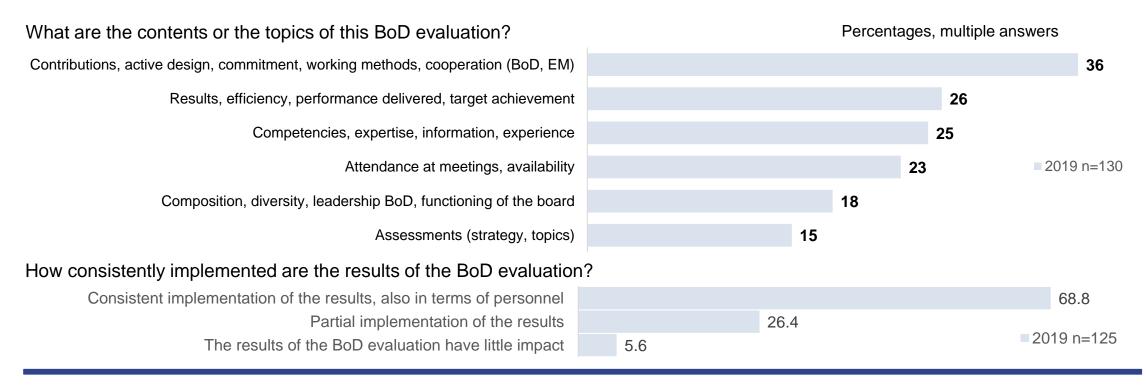








Initial situation: The BoD evaluation criteria are pragmatic but still not systematic enough.



The open-end responses to this question suggest that no standard has yet emerged regarding BoD evaluation criteria, otherwise individual categories would be mentioned by more than 36% of respondents.







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Benefits: The evaluation creates a shared understanding of goals and collaboration.

When evaluating the composition, dynamics, and cooperation of the BoD and EM, the requirements are defined to optimally master the strategic, management-specific, and entrepreneurial challenges as a team.



Strategic fit: The board's competencies are more aligned with the company's strategic challenges so that the company is fit for the future.



Gap analysis individuals and boards: Individuals are part of the team and must make optimal contributions. The gaps should be closed so that the team can function perfectly as a whole.



HR agenda / succession planning: Succession can be built by making the strategic challenges transparent and building new long-term competencies.



Gender diversity / talent management: A systematic approach creates the framework for attracting, developing, and retaining top female executives.



Shared understanding: The fact-based assessment creates an agreed-upon framework about the team's goals, composition, and collaboration. This makes it an effective tool for discussions and optimization.



Positive perception: Shared understanding increases the perception and reputation of the team externally (external stakeholders) and internally (own organization).





Options: The external evaluation (every 3 years) is the basis for an optimal (annual) self-evaluation.

External evaluation

Accompanied evaluation

Independent and trustworthy partner evaluates the board

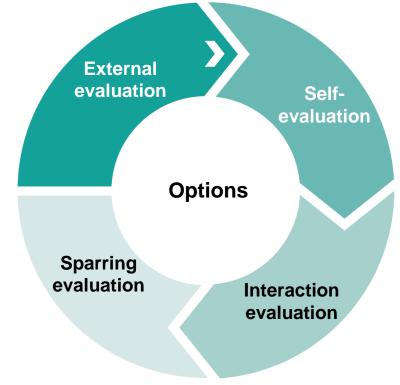
Duration: approx. 3 to 4 months

Execution: every 3 years

Sparring evaluation

Individual evaluation

Independent and trustworthy partner evaluates the board members as value-based team role models Execution: situational as needed



Each of these options can be performed independently of the others.

Self-evaluation

Annual update

Board evaluates itself, independent and trustworthy partner accompanies the process

Duration: on a fixed date **Execution:** annually

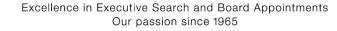
Interaction evaluation

Extended evaluation

Independent and trustworthy partner evaluates the board (interaction in the meetings)

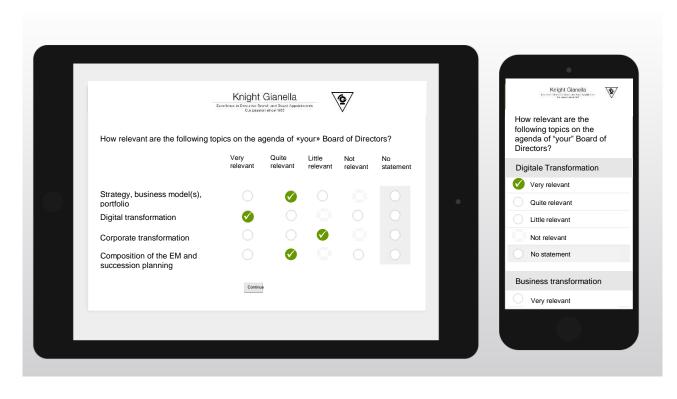
Execution: integral on a fixed date

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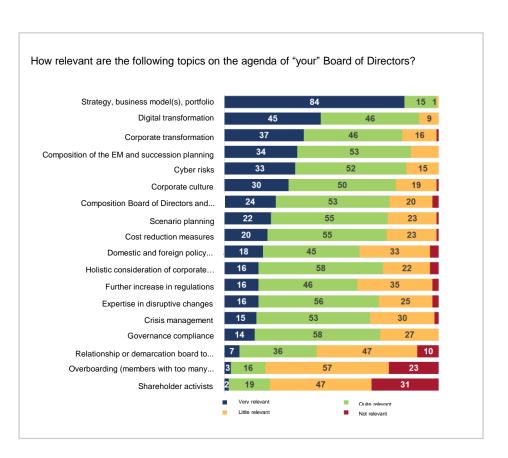




Self-evaluation: Knight Gianella's questionnaire is provided cloud-based.



Fictitious sample







Opportunity: Systematic evaluation leverages the strengths of the team.

A (systematic and customized) external evaluation is useful if ...

- ... the succession process is to be restarted, jointly discussed, and validated at BoD and / or EM level;
- ... a new Chairman / Chairwoman wants to get to know the Board Members better;
- ... a new CEO wants to know the key members in his/her management team better;
- ... the dynamics and cooperation of an existing team are to be improved;
- ... effective framework conditions for implementation are to be ensured following the strategy process;
- ... a company is acquired, integrated, or outsourced to reposition the boards;
- ... the effectiveness and efficiency of the BoD and EM team are to be ensured in preparation for an IPO or if the management team is to be reconstituted or supplemented.

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We look forward to sharing thoughts with you!



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