



TRANSPARENCY REPORT 2024

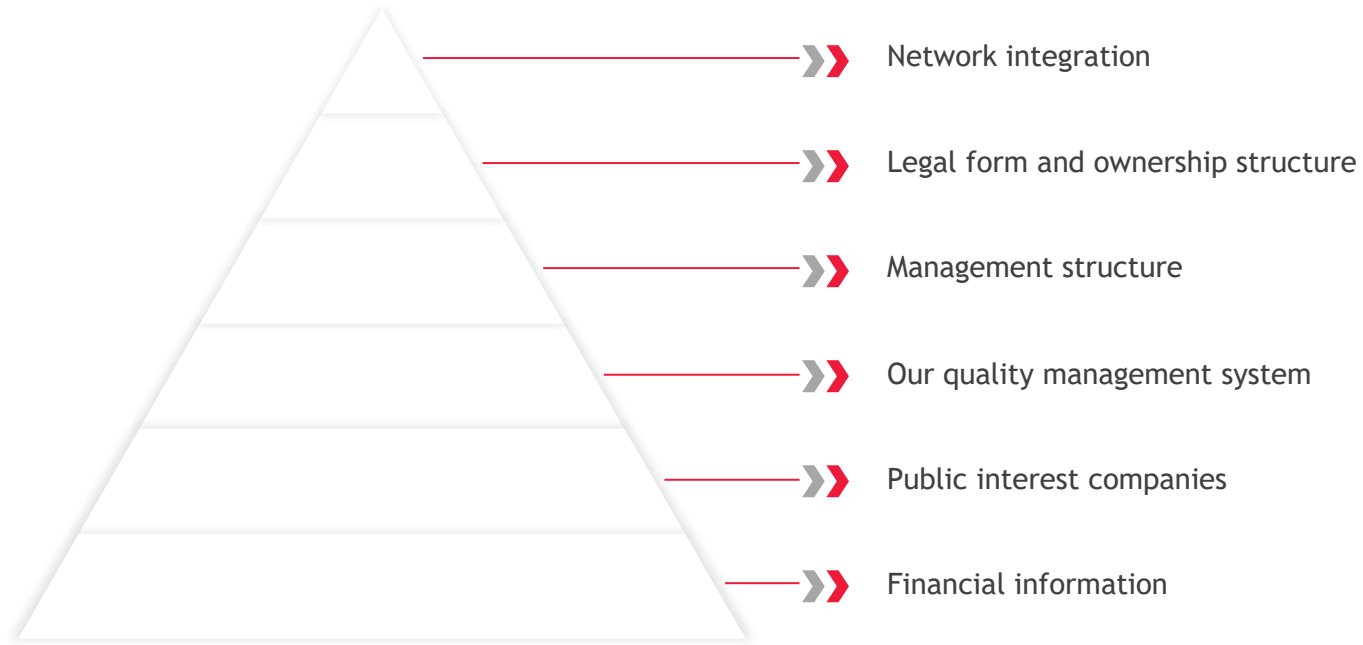
BDO (Liechtenstein) AG

- Globally networked - locally anchored

BDO (Liechtenstein) AG, based in Vaduz, is one of the leading auditing and consulting firms in the Principality of Liechtenstein. We are a legally independent and autonomous member firm of the international BDO network. The combination of local roots and an international network enables us to offer our clients ideal, tailor-made support. BDO member firms are represented in 166 countries, with over 119,600 employees working in more than 1,800 offices. The fee income of the member firms of the BDO network, including the members of their exclusive alliances, amounted to USD 15 billion as of September 30, 2024. As a member of BDO's global network, we can meet the needs of clients who are growing and operating internationally.

At BDO, proximity and expertise are considered important prerequisites for successful and sustainable client relationships. BDO audits and advises companies from industry and service reports, including SMEs, public administrations, and non-profit organizations.

Content



NETWORK INTEGRATION

Description of the network

The BDO network is an international network of independent auditing, tax consulting, and management consulting firms that are members of BDO International Limited and provide professional services under the BDO name and brand. BDO is the brand name for the BDO network and for all BDO members.

Legal and organizational structure of the network

Each BDO member firm is a member of BDO International Limited, a UK limited liability partnership, either as a voting member (one per country) or as a non-voting member. BDO International Limited is the coordinating entity of the BDO network and sets out the membership obligations of BDO member firms in a set of rules.

The governing bodies of the BDO network are the Council, the Global Board, and the Global Leadership Team of BDO International Limited.

The Council consists of one representative from each voting member and represents the member firms of BDO International Limited at the General Meeting.

The Council approves the central budget, appoints the members of the Global Board, and approves all amendments to the Articles of Association and the rules and regulations.

The Global Board represents the management of BDO International Limited and consists of one representative from each of the seven largest member firms of the BDO network, whose appointment is approved by the Council for a term of three years. The Global Board sets priorities for the BDO network and oversees the work of the Global Leadership Team. The Global Board meets at least four times a year.



NETWORK INTEGRATION

The Global Leadership Team coordinates the activities of the BDO network. It is led by the Global CEO and consists of the Chief Operating Officer, the Global Heads of Audit & Assurance, Tax, HR & Development, Business Development & Marketing, IT, Transformation, the CEO EMEA, the CEO Americas, the CEO Asia Pacific, and the Head of Legal, Global Office.

The Global Leadership Team is supported by the Global Office of Brussels Worldwide Services BVBA. Brussels Worldwide Services BVBA, a Belgian limited liability company, provides services to support the coordination of the BDO network.

BDO International Limited and Brussels Worldwide Services BVBA do not provide services to clients. These are provided exclusively by the individual BDO member firms in their own name and on their own account.

BDO International Limited, Brussels Worldwide Services BVBA, and the BDO member firms are each independent, separate legal entities and are not liable for the acts or omissions of the other companies. Nothing in the agreements or regulations of BDO establishes or implies an agency, representation, or partnership relationship between BDO International Limited, Brussels Worldwide Services BVBA, and/or the BDO member firms.



Member firms

- BDO (Liechtenstein) AG, Vaduz
- BDO Consulting AG, Vaduz
- Audita Revisions-Aktiengesellschaft, Vaduz
- PFI Holding AG, Vaduz
- PFI WP Holding AG, Vaduz
- Pro Finance International Trust & Consulting AG, Zurich

Countries / Registered offices of the companies

The companies are based in Liechtenstein and Switzerland and provide their services in these countries.



LEGAL FORM AND OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE

BDO (Liechtenstein) AG is operated as a public limited company. It is based in 9490 Vaduz, Liechtenstein.

The share capital amounts to a nominal value of CHF 200,000 (200 registered shares at CHF 1,000 each). The shares are mainly held by partners, 60% of which are held directly by an auditing company, which in turn is majority-owned by partners of the company. There is no majority shareholder and no person or group of persons who can exercise a controlling influence over the company.

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

PARTNER COMMITTEE



Martin
Hörndlinger*



Bernd
Lochner*



Christian
Wolf*



Roger Züger*



Nedim
Halilovic



Anja
Wieland



Thomas
Hasler

BDO's remuneration structure for its partners is based on a market-standard base salary and takes into account the company's annual results for the respective financial year.

*Equity Partner

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Martin
Hörndlinger

The Board of Directors performs the duties prescribed by law.



OUR QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

The member firms of the BDO network are united by their membership. Each member firm remains a separate and independent legal entity. As part of the BDO network, all member firms are required to follow certain risk and quality guidelines and implement appropriate assurance standards.

The guidelines of BDO (Liechtenstein) AG are based on these global guidelines and are supplemented accordingly to meet local professional standards and regulatory requirements. We have a quality assurance system based on professional standards, which is documented in the Quality Assurance Manual.

Quality management

- Management responsibility for quality

- Relevant professional conduct requirements

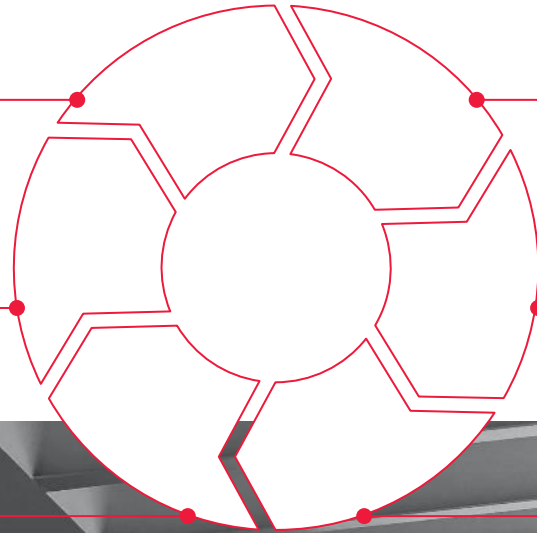
- Employees

- Risk management

- Order execution

- Supervision

- Independence





MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR QUALITY

The partner committee is responsible for overall quality assurance.

In line with professional ethics and the associated requirement for independence, the management of BDO (Liechtenstein) AG is committed to high audit quality. The detailed guidelines issued for this purpose ensure that high quality requirements are an integral part of the corporate culture.



RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT REQUIREMENTS

Our success is based on our employees—their integrity and objectivity have shaped the history of BDO (Liechtenstein) AG.

By adopting the quality guidelines, all team members commit themselves to upholding professional ethical values and providing dedicated, personal support to our clients.

With regard to professional practice and regulatory issues, the provisions specified by the BDO network regarding independence and compliance are adopted and supplemented by local requirements. The requirement for independence is continuously monitored.

Ensuring our independence as the basis for the reliability and trust of our clients and the public in our activities is of crucial importance to us.



EMPLOYEES

The personal and professional suitability of our employees is regularly reviewed on the basis of internal performance and value guidelines. The aim is to recruit only highly qualified employees. The quality of the performance of new and existing employees is continuously monitored and assessed as part of internal reviews and the dual control principle.

The training and further education of our employees is of central importance to us in terms of implementing our corporate strategy. With the dynamically changing requirements of our clients, our range of training and further education courses is also constantly evolving.

Our employees are characterized by a high level of competence appropriate to their level. We support our employees and require them to engage in continuous training and development (in accordance with the WPV training guidelines and Art. 29 WPG). Training and development at all employee levels is ongoing and targeted. We comply with the guidelines of Expertsuisse. The basis for training and continuing education agreements is the BDO training regulations. Further general information on the employment relationship can be found in the employee regulations.



RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk assessment is an essential element of quality management. As a key management tool, the Partner Committee has issued corresponding guidelines. The flat hierarchy and the resulting high-quality consultation culture promote efficient and professional risk assessment. The operational team is supported in its decision-making by the senior auditors.



ORDER FULFILLMENT

ORDER PROCESSING

Audit engagements are primarily processed using the IT audit tool "APT NG." In the interests of efficient, quality-assured project management, we have developed digital tools and other aids for processing audit engagements and use third-party tools that are geared toward various process steps. Depending on the type of order, the development of an appropriate audit strategy is based on the principle of materiality, audit risk, and the principle of criteria consideration.

As part of order processing, the work of the audit team members is continuously monitored through various stages of critical review. The auditor primarily responsible for the execution of the order is involved in a timely and direct manner in accordance with professional regulations, so that he or she can make an independent audit judgment.

For complex technical issues, specialists are consulted or called in to ensure quality, depending on the subject area, so that the respective engagement is performed in accordance with professional standards and in compliance with the relevant regulatory and legal requirements.



ORDER EXECUTION

QUALITY ASSURANCE DURING THE ENGAGEMENT

For all audits of financial statements of public interest entities and companies listed on the open market, as well as other engagements involving specific risks, an experienced auditor performs engagement quality assurance (aQS/EQR) in parallel with the engagement. The process-independent quality assurance reviewer is involved in the audit from the engagement acceptance phase onwards and ensures compliance with professional and technical standards in key issues.

CONSULTATION

By offering the option of consulting specialists, we ensure that our audit teams can draw on the professional resources available within BDO to arrive at appropriate solutions. For certain technically complex issues, a standardized consultation process is initiated to ensure that the quality of our work results remains high at all times.



ORDER EXECUTION

CONTINUITY AND ROTATION - INTERNAL ROTATION

When auditing public-interest entities, we are required by the EU Audit Regulation to appoint a new lead audit partner after seven years and to establish a gradual rotation system for the management personnel involved in the audit. In addition to the responsible audit partners, the rotation requirements may also apply to auditors who act as audit managers (management function) for public-interest entities. With regard to specialist staff who are not subject to the mandatory rotation requirements, we strive to ensure the highest possible continuity in the audit team in order to guarantee audit quality and in the interests of our clients. When the time for rotation approaches, we involve the new auditor primarily responsible for the engagement at an early stage.



MONITORING

BDO (Liechtenstein) AG is responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the quality guidelines. A key component of this is the specially developed quality assurance process, which is carried out by the quality assurance manager and by BDO Global. The aim is to conduct a truthful assessment of adequacy and effectiveness and, if necessary, to implement improvement measures.

EXTERNAL QUALITY CONTROL

We are subject to regular quality controls by external quality control auditors (peer review). We carefully evaluate the results of the external quality controls to identify areas where we can further improve our quality assurance system.



INDEPENDENCE

We are committed to maintaining the internal and external independence of our practice and our professional staff in accordance with the relevant professional conduct requirements. We are also committed to complying with the requirements of the professional association (WPV).

Ensuring our independence as the basis for the reliability and trust of our clients and the public in our activities is of crucial importance to us. We have therefore implemented comprehensive processes and regulations to ensure this central professional principle, which is intended to guarantee our independence in all relevant aspects.

In addition to checking for any relevant company- and employee-related financial and personal relationships, we observe the requirements relating in particular to the prohibition of self-review, the permissibility of non-audit services that we provide for our audit clients, and the relevant rotation rules, and we maintain internal monitoring measures to ensure compliance with these requirements. Accordingly, all system, process, and regulatory requirements of our quality assurance system also take into account the respective aspects of ensuring our independence.

One of the most important aspects when accepting a new audit engagement is that we are independent when accepting the engagement and remain independent during the engagement, and that there are no conflicts of interest. Compliance with independence requirements is therefore monitored continuously during the engagement until its completion.



INDEPENDENCE

BDO has a database of restricted entities for all network companies, including capital market-oriented companies and other companies of public interest. This database serves to prevent the provision of services or investments prohibited to auditors. The database is continuously updated.

Before accepting an engagement, the database must be consulted by those responsible for the engagement. Before accepting a new client or engagement, our engagement managers carry out a national and, where relevant, international search using a software solution to identify any potential conflicts of interest and threats to our independence.

Our engagement acceptance process for services to public interest entities and their parent or subsidiary companies includes approval of the service provision by the audit partner to ensure that the audit partner is informed of any potential service to the aforementioned entities and can identify and address threats to independence as an auditor or conflicts of interest at an early stage.

If responsible audit partners identify threats to our independence or impartiality, they identify and implement available safeguards that are sufficient to eliminate the threat or reduce it to an acceptable level.

If safeguards cannot reduce the threat to an acceptable level, we decline to accept the engagement or terminate the engagement within the limits of the law.

Our systems for ensuring independence are subject to ongoing review by our internal audit department and by external quality control, and we are continuously working to further develop these systems.

We can therefore confirm that we comply with the required independence regulations.



QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEW

The quality assurance review pursuant to Art. 50 ff WPG is the responsibility of the Liechtenstein Financial Market Authority (FMA). The FMA exercises professional and due diligence supervision over auditors and auditing companies.

The FMA conducted a quality assurance review in November 2024.

In June 2022, BDO Global conducted a quality assurance review, followed by a follow-up review in July 2024.



PUBLIC INTEREST COMPANIES

- DDA ETP AG, Vaduz
- VanEck ETP AG, Triesen

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Sales type meeting	Total revenue in TCHF*
Revenue from the audit of the annual financial statements and consolidated financial statements of public-interest entities and entities belonging to a group whose parent company is a public-interest entity	38
Revenue from the audit of the annual financial statements and consolidated financial statements of other companies	1,262
Revenue from permitted non-audit services for companies audited by the auditor or the audit firm	261
Revenue from non-audit services for other companies	4,732

*Total revenue of all member firms of the PFI Group (see page 6)