

Center for Family Business



University of St.Gallen

# FAMILY FIRM AND INNOVATION

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FiD – Familienunternehmen im Dialog 2018  
Kompass für Pioniere

15./16. Juni 2018 in St.Gallen



CFB-HSG

# Workshop-Content

## «Fail fast – never be afraid of making mistakes.» Teresa Kemppi-Vasama

Family firms are often said to be innovation laggards, especially in later generation family firms, where business models become outdated and later generation family members are less hungry about rejuvenation and risk taking. In this workshop we will meet a third generation family business owner and executive chairwoman who proves this saying wrong. But what does it take to remain an innovation leader over long periods of time? How to remain hungry for change and innovation inside the owning family and the business? What advantages do family firms have with regard to innovation, and how to put them into practice? The workshop by Teresa Kemppi-Vasama and Thomas Zellweger will seek to solve these questions, by building on the unique case of Kemppi Oy, a Finnish family business dedicated to welding excellence, with a global footprint.

## Speakers



Prof. Dr. Thomas Zellweger  
Chairman of Center for Family Business (CFB-HSG)  
University of St.Gallen



Teresa Kemppi-Vasama  
Executive Chairman of the Board  
Kemppi Oy

# Thomas Zellweger

## Chairman Center for Family Business (CFB-HSG)

**Prof. Dr. Thomas Zellweger** holds the Chair in Family Business at the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland where he is also the Director of the Swiss Institute for Small and Entrepreneurship and of the Center for Family Business. After two years in investment banking at Derivative in Brussels, he completed his PhD at the University of St. Gallen. He was a research fellow at Babson College, a visiting professor at the University of British Columbia, and is a permanent visiting professor at the University of Witten/Herdecke. Thomas serves on several editorial boards of academic journals and his research has been published in Academy of Management Journal, Strategic Management Journal or Organization Science, amongst others. His research has also received several international awards and has been discussed in the international media such in The Economist, Forbes, and the New York Times.

Thomas is a member of supervisory boards of family firms and advises family firm owners on governance and strategic questions.

# Teresa Kempppi-Vasama

## Executive Chairman of the Board, Kempppi Oy

**Teresa Kempppi-Vasama** is the executive chairman of the board at Kempppi Oy since March 2014 and a third generation owner in the 67 years old family business. Kempppi Oy is a company dedicated to welding excellence providing its customers globally with arc welding solutions that consist of equipment, software and services. Kempppi has always been part of Teresa's life and she has worked in operational roles in the company responsible for e.g. strategy, business development and customer understanding. Prior to that she has also worked for the Finnish Red Cross and Accenture.

Teresa received the Finland 100 years medal by the Finnish Chamber of Commerce as one of the 10 influencers in Finland last year. She was also nominated as the Veuve Clicquot Business Woman of the Year in 2015. Kempppi Group was rewarded with the Family Business Award in 2014.

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