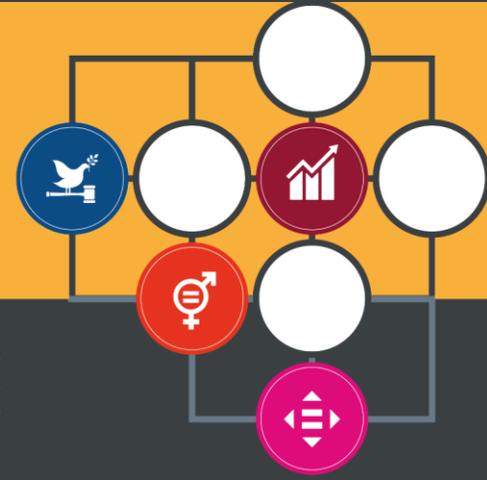


Student Challenge Competition in the Arab Region



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



Sultanate of Oman سلطنة عُمان
وزارة التجارة والصناعة وترويج الاستثمار
Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) intends to collaborate with the *Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Oman* to organize and implement a student challenge initiative between Omani undergraduate and graduate students of economics-related studies in light of their participation in the 3rd Arab Competition Forum.

1. Background and objectives of the challenge

Over the past decade, the rise of digital technologies has made the online market become a core tissue of the global economic fabric. Especially after the Covid-19 mobility restrictions, many businesses have been forced to shift online, accelerating the growing trend of e-commerce and digitalization. As such, the global market has recently undergone many structural transformations that have raised concerns in many issues surrounding the competitive environment in which businesses operate.

The topic of competition in the online market is relatively new. As such, there is a lack of studies in the region that provide an overview and analysis of the issues underlying the competitive environment in the Arab region. Hence, this challenge provides an opportunity for universities to dig into the yet limited explored field in the Arab region, laying the foundation for advocacy and interest in the pressing research topic. Therefore, the Arab Competition Forum Student Challenge offers a unique opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to wade into the field of competition.

For the 3rd Annual Competition Forum special event, university students majoring in economics-related studies in the Arab region are challenged to present an **original case study paper involving anti-competitive behaviors from digital platforms/enterprises**. The winning groups of the challenge will have the opportunity to attend the forum and receive the award in a special event scheduled on the first day.

The objectives of the challenge include:

- Increasing awareness and understanding of the field of competition for students, especially under the online market
- Engage students in the dialogue and research of the pressing topics of competition in the Arab region
- Build relationships between researchers, academics, and competition authorities
- Add to the literature of studies on competition and the online market

2. Who is the target participant?

Graduate and undergraduate Omani university students majoring in economics and business-related studies

3. What is the expected outcome?

Any original case study paper involving anti-competitive behaviors from digital platforms/enterprises. Students can submit their projects in teams of a maximum of **5 members**.

The language of the paper must be in **Arabic**.

A project submission template will be given with specific guidelines on the format.

4. Why should you participate?

- The winning teams will get recognition for the innovative research paper. The winning papers will be published on the Arab Competition Forum event site, followed by a short biography of the winners.
- The winners will have 5-7 minutes speech to welcome the award and briefly introduce the winning case study before the rest of the participants at the Arab Forum on Competition. Each member from the winning group gets the chance to invite 2 of their friends or family in person to attend the ceremony.
- The winners will have the opportunity to meet and engage with high-level experts in competition, ministers, and competition authorities. They will be able to participate in the plenary sessions of the forum.
- The winners may opt for an internship position at the ministries of trade and commerce, at the competition authorities, or at ESCWA

5. Register for the competition

Students can register by filling out the [registration form](#).

Registration will open on **March 1, 2022**, and end on **March 10, 2022**.

6. Handing over papers

Students will be able to submit their papers during the period **24-28 April 2022** on the Arab Competition Forum [website](#) or by contacting khaled@un.org.

7. Evaluation of papers

A pre-screening of the papers submitted will be done by ESCWA's team, who will select the best 7 papers. The best 7 papers will be then assessed by the panel of 4 judges who will select 3 winners (Gold, Silver, and Bronze Award) before the deadline of **13 May**.

The panel of judges will be composed of 1 academic with expertise on competition from an Omani University, 1 representative from Oman's competition authority, 1 Economic officer from ESCWA, 1 competition expert from OECD.

8. Announcement of winners

Winners will be contacted by email. Their papers and a small biography of the winners will be posted on the Arab Competition Forum Award