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ARAB COMPETITION FORUM

RIYADH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA 23-24 May 2023



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الهيئة العامة للمنافسة
General Authority for Competition



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Arab Youth in Competition - Student Competition Challenge

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in collaboration with the General Authority for Competition in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, is organizing and implementing the Student Competition Challenge initiative targeting university students majoring in economics, law studies and business in the Kingdom, in light of the Fourth Arab Competition Forum, hosted by the Kingdom on May 23 and 24, 2023 in Riyadh.

1. Overview of the Challenge and its Objectives

Mergers and acquisitions refer to the consolidation of companies or their major business assets through financial transactions between companies. These processes have a direct impact on the structure of markets, and therefore on competition in these markets. Therefore, monitoring and accepting mergers and acquisitions is one of the most important tasks undertaken by competition authorities around the world.

These tasks that the competition authorities carry out with the aim of controlling mergers and acquisitions are of great importance in regulating markets and controlling anti-competitive practices. These tasks are also considered one of the main principles in effective competition law and policy and their enforcement. However, awareness about the importance of such interventions is still limited in the Arab region, especially in academia and among consumers. Therefore, this challenge provides an opportunity for universities to conduct research in the field that needs more focus in the Arab region. The Student Competition Challenge in the Arab Region offers a unique opportunity for college students to enter the field of competition.

The Fourth Arab Competition Forum provides an opportunity for university students majoring in studies related to economics, business, and law to participate in the challenge by submitting a research paper that includes a case study before the deadline set in April 2023. The paper, which will be produced in the **Arabic language**, presents case studies on mergers and acquisitions from the Arab region and/or outside the region, with an explanation of the impact on competition resulting from these operations. The paper will also present the interventions of and the roles of competition authorities, in addition to presenting recommendations, solutions, and innovative methodologies to protect competition and ensure the effective enforcement of competition policies in this regard. Winning students will have the opportunity to attend the Forum and attend the ceremony in a special event on the first day of the Forum.



It is worth noting that this is the second edition of the Challenge after the first edition was held in the Sultanate of Oman, as part of the activities of the Third Arab Competition Forum.

Challenge objectives:

- Increasing students' awareness and understanding of the field of competition, especially mergers and acquisitions
- Engaging students in dialogue and research on competition issues in the Arab region
- Building relationships between researchers, academics, competition bodies, and authorities
- Contributing to the studies on competition and mergers and acquisitions

2. Target Group

College and university students in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, majoring in economics, business administration, and law.

3. Expected Results

A research paper, **submitted in Arabic**, which includes one or more case study on mergers and acquisitions from and/or outside the Arab region. Participating students can work in teams, provided that each team does not exceed five students.

A guideline for developing the paper, with specific instructions on the format and content, will be provided to participating students.

4. Incentives for participants

- The winning teams will benefit from the dissemination of their research paper, as the winning papers will be published on the Arab Competition Forum website, followed by a short biography of the winners.
- The winners will deliver a presentation of up to 5 minutes when receiving the award and will provide a summary of the winning case study to the participants of the Fourth Arab Competition Forum.
- The winners will have the opportunity to meet and interact with high-level competition experts and competition authorities and will be able to participate in the sessions of the Forum.



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5. Implementation and deadlines

First stage: Communication with universities to introduce the Challenge (26 January 2023)

ESCWA, in cooperation with the General Authority for Competition in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, will communicate with the universities to introduce the Challenge. Universities must confirm their participation before the deadline.

Second stage: Challenge dissemination and participant registration (09 March 2023)

Participating universities will be responsible for disseminating the Challenge among their students. This includes posting necessary information about the Challenge on their website, and/or redirecting students to register and checking all information related to the Challenge on the Forum website. Participating universities will have an opportunity to display their logo on the Forum web page.

Students can register through this [link](#) on the website of the Fourth Competition Forum.

Registration deadline: 09 March 2023.

Third stage: Holding information sessions for participating students (March - April 2023)

ESCWA and the General Authority for Competition will organize information session(s) for students to provide information and guidance on the Challenge and on preparing research papers. ESCWA will answer all students' inquiries.

Fourth stage: Paper submission (20 April 2023)

Students are required to submit their papers before the final deadline on April 20, 2023. Submission will be made via the website of the Fourth Arab Competition Forum.

Fifth stage: Evaluation of papers (13 May 2023)

The ESCWA team will screen the submitted papers, and the team will select 7 papers to be qualified to the jury (according to the evaluation matrix criteria). The qualifying 7 papers will then be evaluated by a jury of 4 members who will then select 3 winners before the deadline of 13 May 2023.

The jury consists of:

- An expert from the General Authority for Competition in the Kingdom
- An academic professor from one of the universities in the Kingdom



- Two experts on international organizations

The judges will evaluate the papers based on the following evaluation matrix:

Table: Evaluation Matrix

	Weak (One point)	Moderate (2 points)	Strong (3 points)	Very strong (4 points)
Originality of ideas	Missing some insight	OK – but suggests only the obvious	Generally good, solid reasoning	Original with unusual insights
Organization and writing style	Difficult to follow	Clear, but with a few errors	Clear and interesting with no errors	Stimulating and has no errors
Identification of the issues	Vague problem definition	Part of the problem not identified	Generally accurate but not concise and specific	Clear, specific, concise and accurate
Analysis of the issues	Omits important issues	Overlooks some issues	Includes most important issues	Comprehensive. No omission of issues
Recommendations	Vague problem definition	Solves only a part of the problem	Solves the problem in a general sense only	Clearly resolves the problem
				Total sum (score): ____/20

Sixth stage: Announcing the winners (18 May 2023)

The winners of the award will be announced. They will be contacted by e-mail, and their papers and biographies will be published.

For any inquiries, please feel free to contact Nathalie Khaled: khaled@un.org or Hiba Alsharif: hsharif@gac.gov.sa.