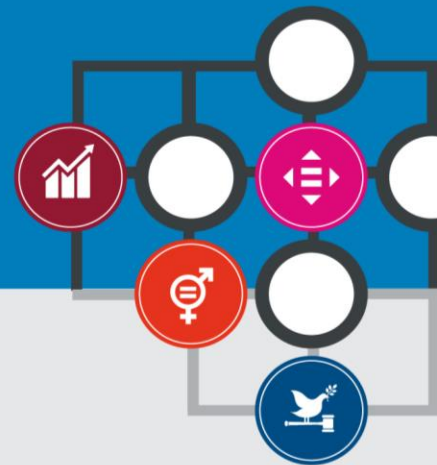


Sixth ARAB COMPETITION FORUM (ACF)

28-29 May 2025
Baghdad, Iraq



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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 Iraqi Competition and Antitrust Council, is organizing and implementing the Student Competition Challenge initiative targeting university students majoring in economics, law studies, and business in Iraq, in light of the Sixth Arab Competition Forum, hosted by Iraq on May 28 and 29, 2025 in Baghdad.

1. Overview of the Challenge and its Objectives

Competition law enforcement plays a fundamental role in ensuring that markets remain fair, dynamic, and open to all players. It involves the application of competition laws to prevent anti-competitive practices such as cartels, monopolistic behavior, and abusive dominance, fostering an economic environment that encourages efficiency, innovation, and consumer welfare. Effective enforcement mechanisms are essential to detecting, investigating, and addressing competition infringements through legal frameworks, judicial decisions, and regulatory actions.

The Sixth Arab Competition Forum invites university students specializing in economics, business, and law to participate in the Student Challenge by submitting a research paper featuring a case study before the deadline in May 2025. The paper, written in **Arabic**, should explore real-world cases of competition law enforcement from the Arab region or beyond, highlighting successful instances from competition agencies, governmental bodies, or civil society that illustrate tangible outcomes of competition law enforcement. Case studies should focus on successful enforcement actions, landmark rulings, or regulatory interventions that have contributed to more competitive markets.

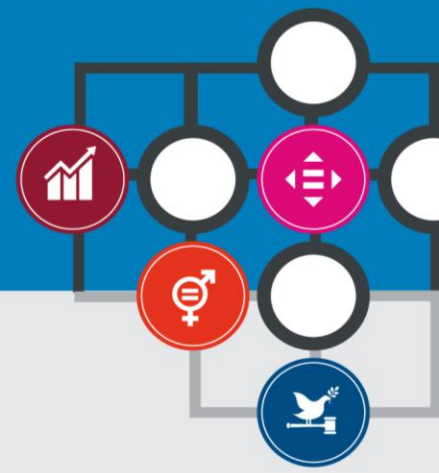
This initiative provides university students with an opportunity to engage in academic research in competition law enforcement, emphasizing its significance in shaping competitive markets across the Arab region. The Student Challenge within the Arab Competition Forum serves as a unique platform for students to actively contribute to the discussion on competition policy, gaining practical insights into enforcement mechanisms and their impact on economic development.

The scope of competition law enforcement focuses on key areas that ensure fair market competition and prevent anti-competitive behavior. This year, the challenge will center on one critical aspect: abuse of dominance cases, allowing for in-depth analysis of enforcement actions and their impact on markets.

Case studies can highlight how competition authorities assess cases of abuse of dominance. The research may also examine examples of exclusionary or exploitative practices that have hindered the entry of new competitors and negatively impacted consumer choices.

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The research should focus on real-world enforcement actions, particularly in strategic sectors such as telecommunications, energy, pharmaceuticals, and others, where regulatory interventions have played a crucial role in shaping competitive dynamics.

Through these focused topics, students will gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and significance of competition law enforcement in fostering fair and dynamic markets.

Successful students will be granted the opportunity to attend the Forum, participate in a special event on the first day, including an awards ceremony.

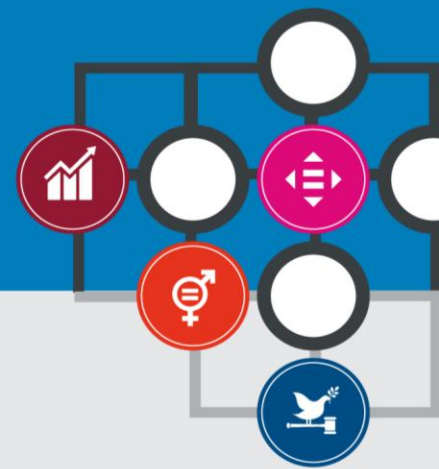
It is worth noting that this is the fourth edition of the Challenge after the first edition and second, and third editions which were held in the previous Arab Competition Forums.

Challenge Objectives:

- Enhancing students' understanding of competition law enforcement and its practical implications.
- Encouraging research and discussion on competition enforcement challenges and successes in the Arab region.
- Building connections between students, researchers, competition authorities, and experts in the field.
- Contributing to the development of academic and policy-oriented research on competition law enforcement, and competition policy.

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2. Target Group

College and university students in Iraq, majoring in economics, business administration, and law.

3. Expected Results

A research paper, **submitted in Arabic**, addressing a case study on competition law enforcement in guaranteeing a competitive marketplace. Students entering the competition have the option to collaborate in groups, with the condition that each team comprises no more than five participants.

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

4. Incentives for participants

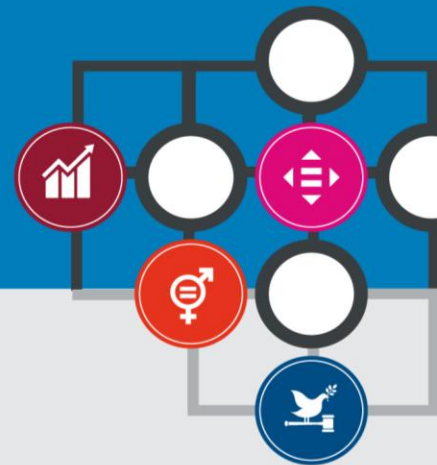
- The winning teams will benefit from the dissemination of their research paper, as the winning papers will be published on the Arab Competition Forum website, followed by a short biography of the winners.
- The winners will deliver a presentation of up to 5 minutes when receiving the award and will provide a summary of the winning study to the participants of the Sixth 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 (17 February 2025)

ESCWA, in cooperation with the **Iraqi Competition and Antitrust Council**, will communicate with the universities to introduce the Challenge. Universities must confirm their participation before the deadline.

Second stage: Challenge dissemination and participant registration (17 March 2025)

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 Sixth Arab Competition Forum. Registration

Deadline: 17 March 2025.

Third stage: Holding information sessions for participating students (21 March & 7 April 2025)

ESCWA and the **Iraqi Competition and Antitrust Council**, 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 (02 May 2025)

Students are required to submit their papers before the final deadline on May 02, 2025. Submission will be made via the website of the Sixth Arab Competition Forum.

Fifth stage: Evaluation of papers (14 May 2025)

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

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be evaluated by a jury of 6 members who will then select 3 winners before the deadline of 14 May 2025.

The jury consists of:

- One/Two experts from the Iraqi Competition and Antitrust Council.
- Academic from Iraq
- Three experts from 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				

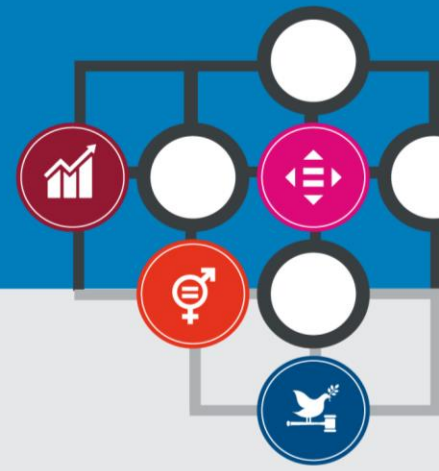
Sixth stage: Announcing the winners (19 May 2025)

The selected research papers will be announced, and their authors will be contacted via email to invite them to attend the forum.



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For any inquiries, please feel free to contact Nathalie Khaled: khaled@un.org