ESCWA Digital Arabic Content Award for Sustainable Development 2022-2023

Rules and Conditions

The below ESCWA Award Rules and Conditions[i] apply for the 2022 call for participation in the ESCWA Digital Arabic Content (DAC) Award for Sustainable Development.

Please get in touch with ESCWA for questions regarding the terms and conditions for the 2022 Call.

OBJECTIVE

The aim of this Award is to recognize the best digital Arabic content products in the Arab region that focus on sustainable development. It also aims at highlighting the benefits of digital technologies and its platforms for advancing sustainable development and accelerating progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Through this Award, ESCWA seeks to contribute to bridging the digital content gaps and supporting the development of the information and knowledge society in the Arab region.

1 | GENERAL CONTEST RULES

- The ESCWA DAC Award focuses on digital Arabic content applications with a strong impact on the 2030 development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). All submissions will be evaluated based on the award's evaluation criteria (see section 9).
- All submitters to the ESCWA DAC Award have to abide by the rules and regulations mentioned in the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights. Submissions therefore which encourage war, the exercise of violence, fraud, racism or discrimination will be eliminated. Similarly, submissions that violate international copyright provisions will be excluded.
- ESCWA cannot be held liable for accepted submissions and their contents and rights.

2 | WHO CAN APPLY?

- ESCWA DAC Award has two categories and is open to institutions and young entrepreneurs from the Arab countries.
    1. The **Institutions** category is dedicated to public and private institutions, academia and non-governmental organizations from the Arab region.
    2. The **Young Entrepreneurs** category is dedicated to start-ups, teams of young people, and individuals who are younger than 35 years. Participation in this category is for any entrepreneur, company, student group or project team, where **at least one of the founding members and the majority of the team is under the age of 35** from any Arab country.

3 | APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION OF PROJECTS TO THE ESCWA AWARD

- Registration, including submitting project information, must be completed online via the ESCWA Award WSA web application.
- Submitting a product to the award evaluation and selection process does by no means entitle a producer to any benefits.
- Submission is subject to the discretion of the screening committee. There is no way of challenging this decision legally.
- Only submitted and fully filled in applications will be considered by the ESCWA Award evaluation process.
- Submission is free of charge.

4 | WHICH PROJECTS ARE SUITABLE FOR ESCWA AWARD?

- Submissions for the ESCWA Award can contain digital Arabic content applications with a clear impact on sustainable development, such as: apps, webpages, portal, e-services, sms-based products, mobile games and mobile applications. There is no limitation regarding the platforms or channels the projects work with.
- All submissions have to be launched products. No drafts, prototypes, demonstrations or unfinished projects can be accepted. The solution needs to prove that it is a working product and demonstrate its impact at the national, regional or international level.
- All submitted products must have been completed after Jan. 1, 2015. For a project or product completed earlier, the submitters have to indicate the significant improvements and updates that have been made in the period thereafter.
- A product can be submitted for one or more SDGs and the application should specify the main goal(s) addressed and explain the linkage with these goals.
- In case of multiple submissions by the same Institution or Entrepreneur, each product requires a separate application.
- Products that were submitted to this Award in 2021 and were not selected as winners, can be re-submitted this year. Applicants should specify the new features/updates, if any, in the new submission for 2022.

5 | ESCWA USE RIGHTS AND COPYRIGHTS

- By submitting a project to the ESCWA Award, producers provide ESCWA with the rights to use the submitted content, of videos, pictures and other content for non-commercial purposes and for the promotion of the nominated product(s), whether presented in print, broad-cast and/or any other forms of media, as well as for different events.
- The producer must own the copyright of all pictures, sounds, and all contents related to the production of the submitted product. All software used must be licensed.
- ESCWA has the right to share promotional material and information about the submitted products with potential investors and sponsoring partners.

6 | ESCWA CONTEST LANGUAGE AND PREFERENCES

- The Arabic language is the main language for the submitted products, yet the Award process accepts products in other languages, provided that they serve/support the Arab community and region.
- All submissions and product information in the Award's application must be either in English or in Arabic.
- It is desirable that the products have implemented selected accessibility features in line with the international standards of Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) developed by the World Wide Web consortium (W3C).
- Preference is for products that respect data privacy and personal data protection acts.

7 | EXCLUSION AND DISQUALIFICATION OF SUBMISSIONS FROM THE AWARD PROCESS

- Incomplete submissions and those not following the ESCWA Award rules and conditions will be withdrawn from the selection process without notice. There is no legal recourse possible against the decision of disqualification for the below reasons. The screening committee of the ESCWA DAC Award have the right to reject submissions/entries without providing any further reason and notice.
- Incomplete or non-operational products during the time of evaluation might lead to disqualification. Submitters are held responsible to make sure their products are accessible and functioning for Jury and evaluation process.

- Further reasons for exclusion or withdrawal include lack of ownership of creative rights or infringement of copyrights of others, false registration information, and non-confirmation to the rules of the contest guidelines.

8 | WINNERS SELECTION

- The winners will be selected from among the submissions in each category through the evaluation process. No legal recourse is possible against the Jury decision(s).
- Prior to the selection of winners, a short list of best submissions will be identified and announced on the ESCWA Award websites/portals.

9 | ESCWA DAC AWARD CRITERIA

Two Strategic Criteria – social/ societal

- **IMPACT** | Local impact on community and society in the Arab region.
- **VALUE** | Addressing the United Nations SDGs, narrowing digital divide, and promoting digital inclusion for sustainable development.

Five Technical Criteria

- **CONTENT** | Quality and comprehensiveness.
- **FUNCTIONALITY** | Ease of use, user experience, appropriate interactivity.
- **DESIGN** | Navigation/ orientation and visual appeal.
- **TECHNOLOGY** | State of the art in technology and quality of technical realization.
- **INNOVATION** | Originality and newness to targeted users, business model society and market.

10 | ESCWA Award Timelines

The ESCWA DAC Award for Sustainable Development was launched in March 2021 during the [Arab Forum for Sustainable Development (AFSD)](#), and the announcement of winners of the first round was during the [AFSD-2022](#).

The timeline of the 2022-2023 ESCWA DAC Award for Sustainable Development is as follows:
- Mid July 2022: **Call for Applications.**
- Mid October 2022: **Web applications closes**.
- Mid October-December 2022: **Evaluation process** to select a short-list of products and Winners.
- January 2022: **Endorsement of the evaluation results** by the Steering Committee.
- End of January 2022: **Announcement of short-listed products.**
- March 2023: **Announcement of Winners** during AFSD-2023.

11 | PRIZES

Each of the **winners in both categories** will receive a Trophy and Travel and Accommodation in the city where the 2023 [Arab Forum for Sustainable Development](#) takes place.

Additionally, **winners in the Young Entrepreneurs category** will be sponsored to attend the 2023 WSA global congress and will benefit from training and mentoring programmes offered by ESCWA and WSA.

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[i] Based on and adapted from the [WSA rules and conditions](#).

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