



ازدهارُ البلدان كرامةُ الإنسان



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الاسكوا

ESCWA

COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ESCWA'S WORK FOR 2021 AND 2022

MS. NATALIE KHALED, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OFFICER,
ESCWA



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Shared Prosperity **Dignified Life**



2021 ACTIVITIES

WORKING PAPER ON COMPETITION AND TRADE

Reality and prospects for a competitive Arab market



ESCWA issued a study examining the competition provisions in force in regional and differential trade agreements that include Arab countries

Content



- The paper assesses the compatibility of these provisions with national competition policies and measures the level of market power in certain sectors and countries in the region with the aim of demonstrating the impact of current practices on them.
- Evidence-based quantitative analysis using econometric models in the Arab region is used to advocate for strengthening the relationship between trade and competition policies and how they both affect trade and regional integration in the Arab region.



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EGM ON DRAFT COMPETITION AND TRADE REPORT



With the participation of 29 experts in Arab competition and trade from the Arab world, an expert group meeting was held to review the results of the work paper on trade and competition in the Arab region



Experts discussed ways to modernize Arab trade integration schemes, both between Arab countries and with the rest of the world, through the inclusion of specific provisions on competition that promote development in national legislation related to competition in the region.

Experts shared their comments about the study and its findings.



BACKGROUND PAPER (INFOGRAPHIC) FOR THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COMPETITION IN PREPARATION FOR THE FORUM

Content

- It sheds light on developments in the business environment and competition laws in Arab countries.
- Link the effectiveness of competition policies and exemptions to market dominance and ease of doing business.
- Disparities appear in the regulation of markets and the informal economy.



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Arab Business Legislative Framework

ESCWA launches a report on legislative frameworks for the business environment in the Arab countries

It provides a baseline assessment of the current legislative climate for the business environment in the region, focusing on four axes:

- Competition - 55 indicators
- Anti-corruption - 37 indicators
- Foreign Direct Investment - 30 Indicators
- Consumer Protection - 34 indicators



Provides an analysis of gaps in existing legislative, regulatory, institutional and enforcement mechanisms

Recommends actions that can remedy and/or narrow these gaps



Arab Business Legislative Framework



ARAB LEGISLATIVE PORTAL **ALP**



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Content



- The portal provides more than 510 laws and legislative documents related to competition, foreign direct investment, consumer protection and anti-corruption for the countries of the Arab world.
- Summary of the legislative situation in 22 Arab countries
- Dashboard to view the rating of legislation

Goals

- Facilitate access to legislation via the Internet
- Provide an evaluation methodology based on best practices
- Assess current laws and identify legislative gaps in the Arab region



[Arab Legislative Portal](#)



2022 ACTIVITIES



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TECHNICAL PAPER ON COMPETITION REFORMS USING CGE MODELS



The general used in this study will focus on evaluating the effects of changing levels of market power in productive sectors resulting from weak competitiveness and answer mainly the following specific questions:

- The paper assesses the compatibility of these provisions with national competition policies and measures the level of market power in certain sectors and countries in the region with the aim of demonstrating the impact of current practices on them.
- It uses evidence-based quantitative analysis using econometric models in the Arab region to advocate for strengthening the relationship between trade and competition policies and how they together affect trade and regional integration in the Arab region.



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UPDATE THE ARAB BUSINESS LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS

- ESCWA will develop a tracking tool to keep track of all updates on business environment legislation, especially competition.
- The Arab Business Legislative Frameworks Report will expand to include more legislative areas related to business operations.



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COMPETITION FORUM FOR THE ARAB REGION

In partnership with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

2019

Signing the letter of understanding to unify expertise to support the main Arab entities in developing effective competition frameworks

2020

Holding the first competition forum for the Arab region, hosted by ESCWA in Beirut

2021

The establishment of the second competition forum for the Arab region, hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt

2022

The establishment of the third competition forum for the Arab region, hosted by the Sultanate of Oman



ANNUAL COMPETITION FORUM FOR THE ARAB REGION

In partnership with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

- Brings together high-level competition officials, policy makers, regulators and the broader competition community
- A regional platform that meets annually to provide Arab countries with the opportunity to share knowledge about competition laws and related policies



- It is hosted by ESCWA member states alternately and annually



- It issues recommendations that form a roadmap for future activities and projects related to member states





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THE SECOND COMPETITION FORUM

In partnership with the Organization for Economic
Cooperation and Development and the United Nations
Conference on Trade and Development



THE SECOND COMPETITION FORUM



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The second competition forum

- The second competition forum for the Arab region was held virtually in March 2021



- International best practices shared by:
 - Albania
 - United State
 - South Africa
 - Turkey
 - Mexico
 - Brazil
 - Canada

SECOND COMPETITION FORUM FOR THE ARAB REGION

The second competition forum

To ensure that recommendations are issued in a participatory manner, ESCWA prepared a questionnaire to know the aspirations and concerns of countries for the next stage

Based on the results of the survey, the most prominent recommendations of the forum came as follows:

- Work to establish a regional network of Arab competition authorities
- Providing technical assistance to Arab countries from ESCWA, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and UNCTAD
- Translating existing literature, guidelines and university courses into Arabic
- Determine the topics of Arab competition dialogues

REGIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE



between UNCTAD and ESCWA



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ESCWA and UNCTAD held a webinar on 8 April 2021 under the title “Regional Dialogue: The Role of Competition Policy in Supporting MSMEs Economic Recovery in the Post COVID-19 Crisis”.

The webinar focused on discussing the report's recommendations and presenting it to Member States.

The webinar also focused on the impact of the pandemic and on recommendations to promote recovery.



WEBINAR ON COMPETITIVE NEUTRALITY



Within the Arab Competition Dialogues, ESCWA organized on November 24, 2021 a webinar on competitive neutrality

- This webinar was held in partnership with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- Member states participated in the webinar, and the most prominent experiences of Arab countries were presented in this context, with the aim of sharing experiences and encouraging peer learning



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FUTURE ACTIVITIES FOR 2022



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THE THIRD COMPETITION FORUM FOR THE ARAB REGION

In partnership with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development



SHORT ONLINE VIDEOS ABOUT COMPETITION ONLINE

In partnership with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

ESCWA will publish short videos about the competition on its web pages



The goal of the videos is to spread knowledge and raise awareness about competition-related topics in a simple manner

- Videos are published in Arabic
- Video topics:
 - competitive neutrality
 - Bid tampering policy
 - Antitrust obligations



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E-TRAINING COURSE

About Anti-bidding in Public Procurement

Based on the recommendations of the first competition forum for the Arab region, a comprehensive online course is being prepared to disseminate information on bid rigging in public procurement, in partnership with the OECD and UNCTAD

The course is aimed at stakeholders involved in public procurement in the Arab region, such as public procurement officials, competition authorities, legislators, the private sector, as well as students and anyone else who would like to learn about this material.

The course aims to:

- Increased awareness and knowledge of relevant stakeholders regarding the risks in the public procurement process and the benefits of the competitive environment in the public procurement market
- Strengthen the capabilities of stakeholders in designing an effective public procurement process by providing them with relevant knowledge and practical methods

The course will be available in Arabic, English and French



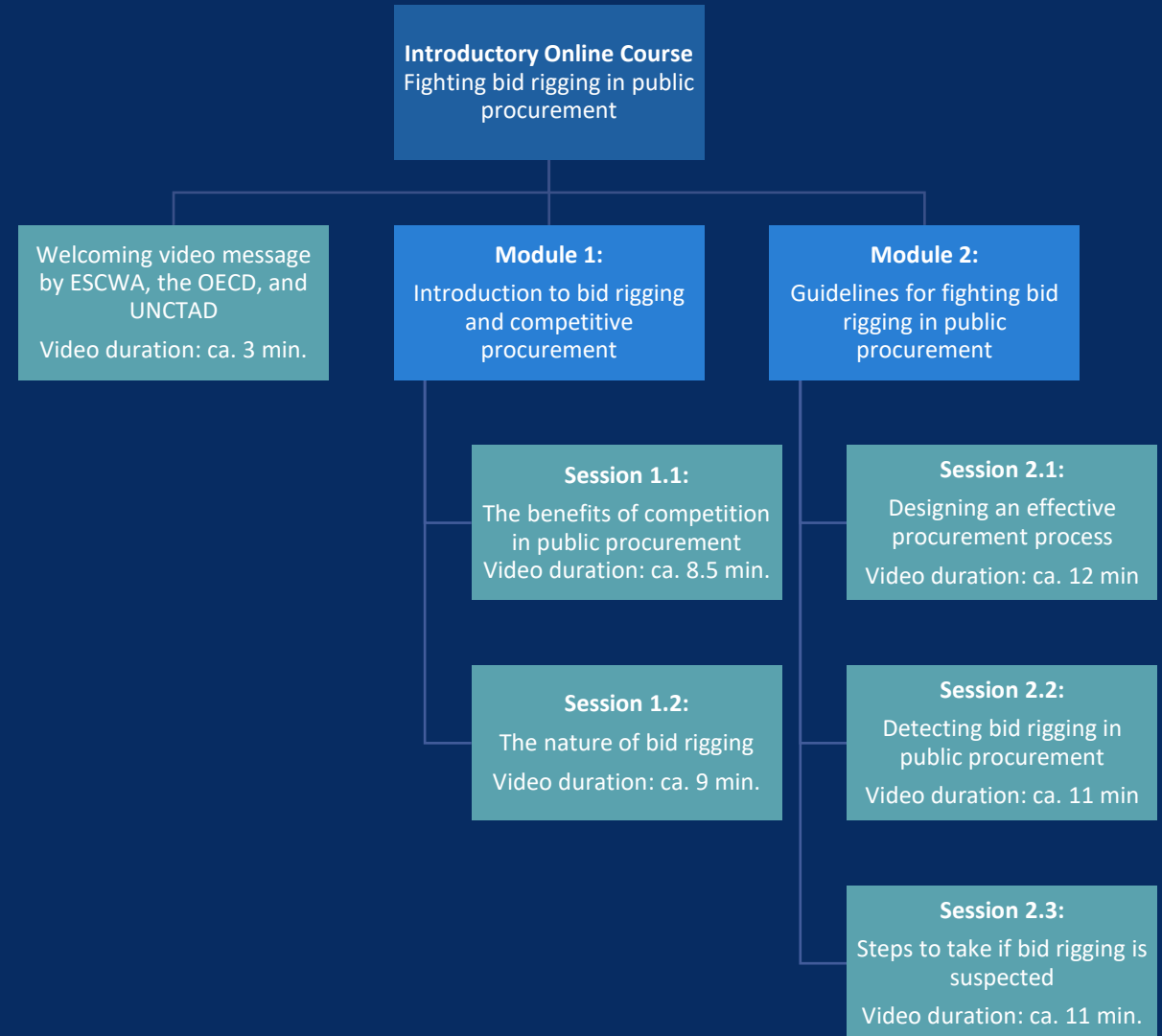
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E-TRAINING COURSE

About Anti-bidding in Public Procurement

- The course will be available on the ESCWA learning platform
- The course consists of two modules, each module contains learning sessions
- The first module introduces the topic of combating fraud in public procurement and defines the importance of competition in enhancing the effectiveness of procurement procedures
- Module 2 provides guidelines for combating bid-rigging in public procurement



E-PROCUREMENT FRAMEWORK FOR THE ARAB REGION



In cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, ESCWA is developing a program aimed at the effective implementation of an electronic procurement system for Arab countries



The overall objective of the program is to increase transparency, competitiveness and efficiency in procurement procedures, and through this, facilitate the re-emergence of MSMEs and enhance their resilience in light of the current COVID-19 crisis by enhancing their access to the public procurement market.

The program consists of three main components:

- Development and implementation of a prototype for the electronic procurement system in the Arab countries
- Introducing a comprehensive framework to ensure effective implementation of the prototype
- Conduct capacity building activities for pilot countries to support the transition to e-procurement



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POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR THE NEXT FORUM

POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR CAPACITY BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE





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THANK YOU
