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Update on ESCWA's activities related to competition policy

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2022 ACTIVITIES



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Policy Brief on Competition in Lebanon



- Based on the request of the Ministry of Economy and Trade in Lebanon, a policy brief on competition in Lebanon was produced.
- It highlights the benefits of effective enforcement of the Lebanese competition law on various economic and social topics.
- It also provides recommendations on the imperative steps needed in the areas of enforcement and institutionalization to reap the gains of the law.

3rd Arab Competition Forum

An Important platform where competition authorities share knowledge and learn from the best practices of their Arab and international counterparts

A common channel facilitating coordination and collaboration at the national, regional, and international levels


 Participants

200 

 Member States

20 

 Experts

27 

This May, the Forum was hosted by the Competition Protection & Monopoly Prevention Centre at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry & Investment Promotion in the Sultanate of Oman



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



[3rd Arab Competition Forum](#)

Youth Competition Challenge

University students majoring in economics in Oman were challenged to present research papers involving anti-competitive behaviors from digital platforms.

This challenge provides an opportunity for universities and students to research a relatively new field in the Arab region.

Participating Students



33

Student Groups



16

Submitted Papers



16

Qualified Papers



7

Winning Papers



3



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Parliamentary Document on Market competition challenges in the Arab region

- The document examines the main challenges that impede effective market competition and adequate competition law and policy implementation.
- It first provides an overview of the market structure in Arab economies, then zooms in on the gaps and strengths of the current competition laws in Arab countries and highlights the interlinkage of competition, anti-corruption, and good governance.
- It finally provides policy recommendations to enhance competition in the region.

Project: SME resurgence and the role of competition policy post COVID-19

- Contribution to UNCTAD paper on Competition Policies To Enhance MSME Access To Markets and Competitiveness in the Post-Covid Era
- UNCTAD-ESCWA Regional Policy Dialogue on the Role of Competition Policy in supporting the economic recovery of MSMEs post-COVID-19: 7-8 April 2021
- UNCTAD Global Policy Dialogue (GPD): "Post COVID-19 Resurgence of MSMEs and Competition Policy" In partnership with ESCAP & ECLAC & ESCWA: 1-3 December 2021
- Launch of The Recommendations for Digital Platforms (RDP) MSMEs and Competition: 1 June 2022
- The Contribution of Competition Policy to the Resurgence of MSMEs post-COVID-19, Bangkok, 27-28 June 2022



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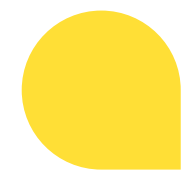


■ OECD Informative Competition videos in Arabic

Translation of informative videos covering 5 topics in competition:

- [Abuse of dominance](#)
- [Antitrust commitments](#)
- [Bid rigging](#)
- [Competitive neutrality](#)
- [Effective market studies on competition issues](#)





Parliamentary Document on Competition and Foreign Direct Investment and the Trade Policies in the Arab Region

- This paper looks at the relationship between trade policies and the legislative frameworks of competition and foreign direct investment, shedding light on the situation of these two legislative fields in the Arab region according to ESCWA's recent assessment.
- The paper also stresses the importance and relevance of integrating competition provisions to advance trade at the regional level.
- It finally provides policy recommendations to enhance competition in the region.



■ National Competition Conference in Kuwait

Objectives of the Conference:

- Increased awareness of CPA's key role in promoting competition and addressing the most pressing economic challenges facing Kuwait today.
- Enhanced knowledge of the provisions of the Competition Act and the benefits of its application to all parts of society from consumers to all parties involved in economic activities
- Highlight the importance of other government agencies' role in protecting and enforcing competition law.



■ ABLF: One-Year Review

A study providing a dynamic assessment model on business legislative frameworks that can be regularly implemented and updated to help establish more coherent and region-wide recognized measures of business legislation and their developments over time

The study assesses 4 pillars: Competition, Foreign Direct Investment, Anti-corruption, Consumer Protection

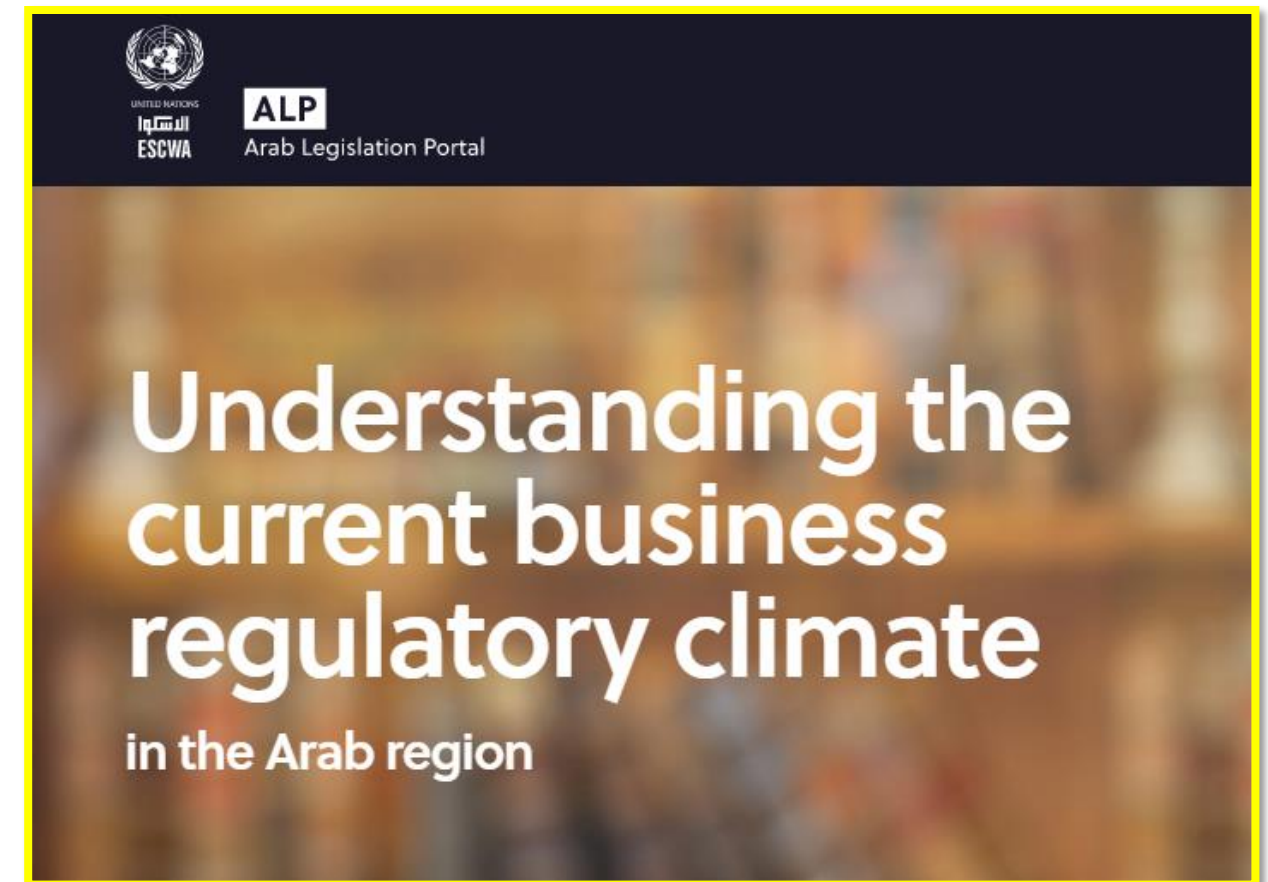
A one-year review of newly passed laws and amendments to existing laws across the four pillars is being conducted

ESCWA will publish 88 country profiles related to the 4 pillars

Arab Legislation Portal: One-Year Review

The ALP is a repository of regulatory frameworks in the region pertaining to the business environment.

Following the revision of the ABLF, the newly enacted laws and amendments and the new pillar will be added to the portal.





Recommendations of the 3rd ACF

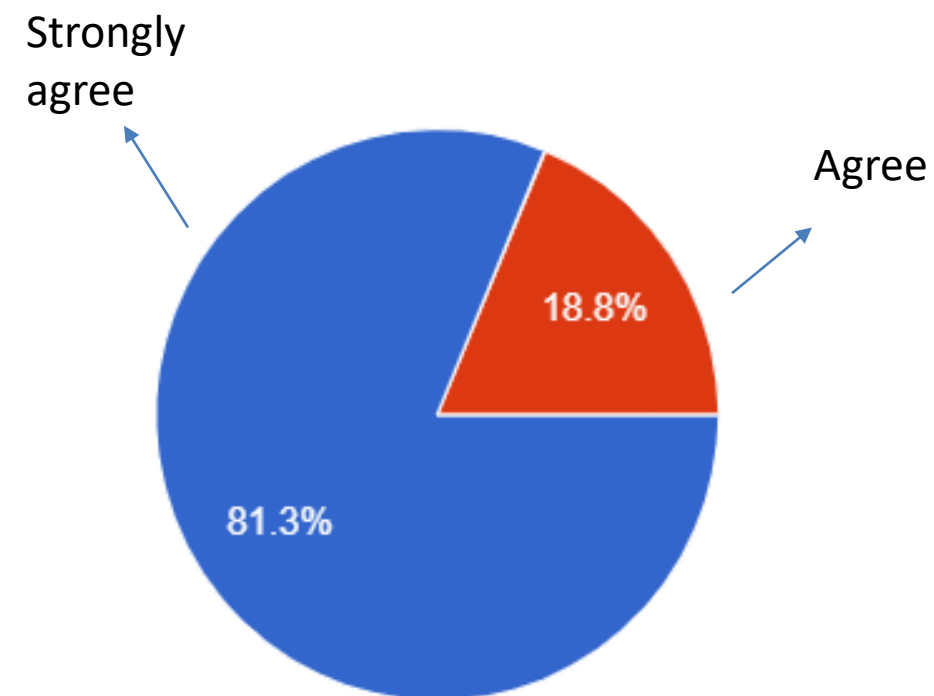


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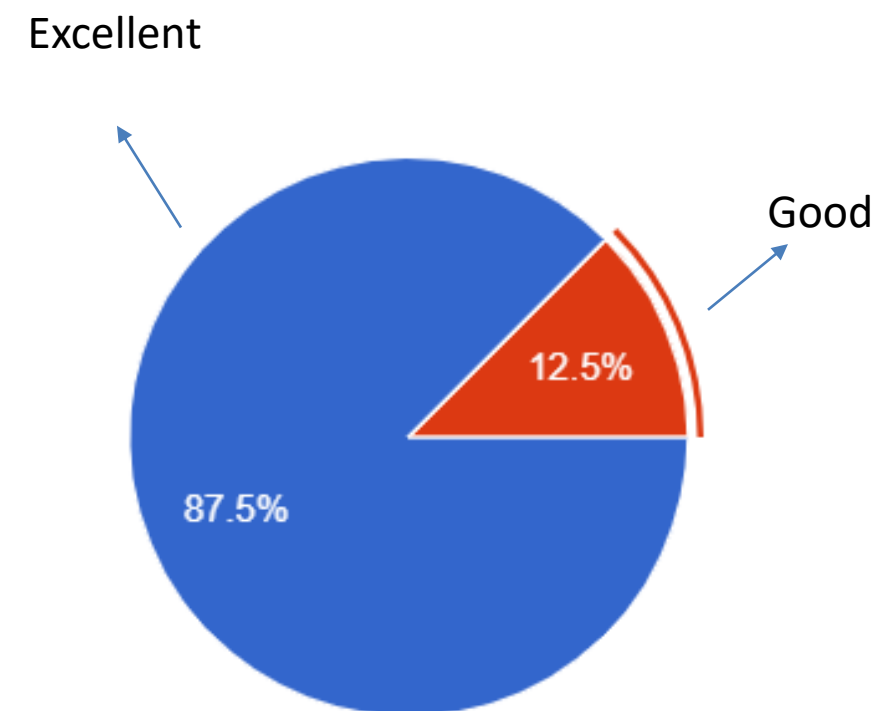
Evaluation of the 3rd ACF

The desired objectives of this forum were achieved



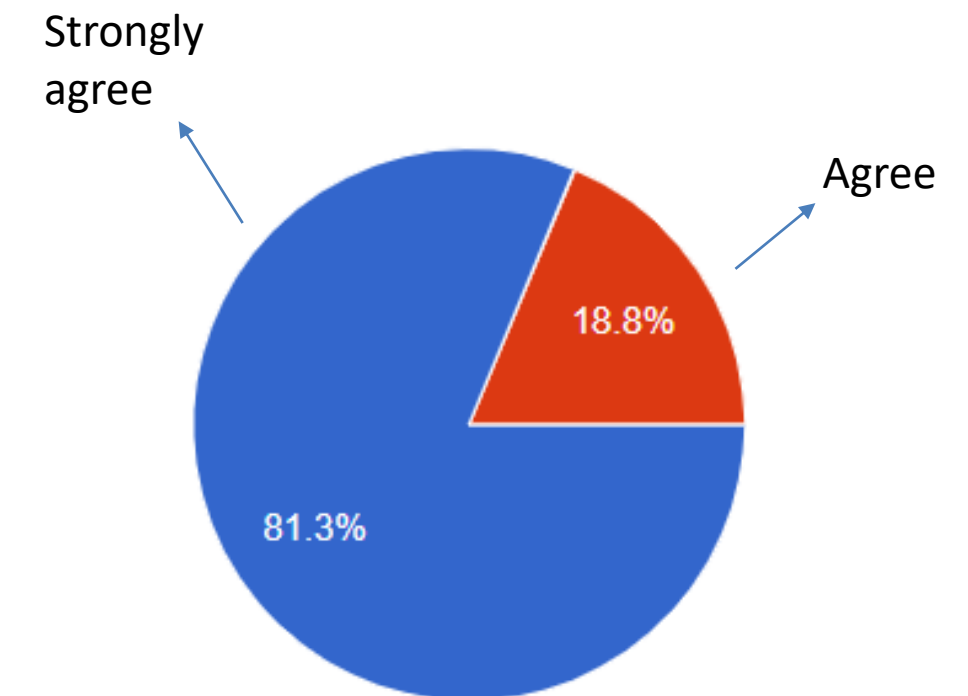
- The forum enhanced the interaction between Arab Competition Authorities

The interventions and presentations made by the experts during the forum were



- Presentations and interventions were excellent and will be a good reference for the tracker on all aspects of competition policy
- There wasn't enough time to ask questions and discuss the topics of the sessions

The content was well-presented in clear language

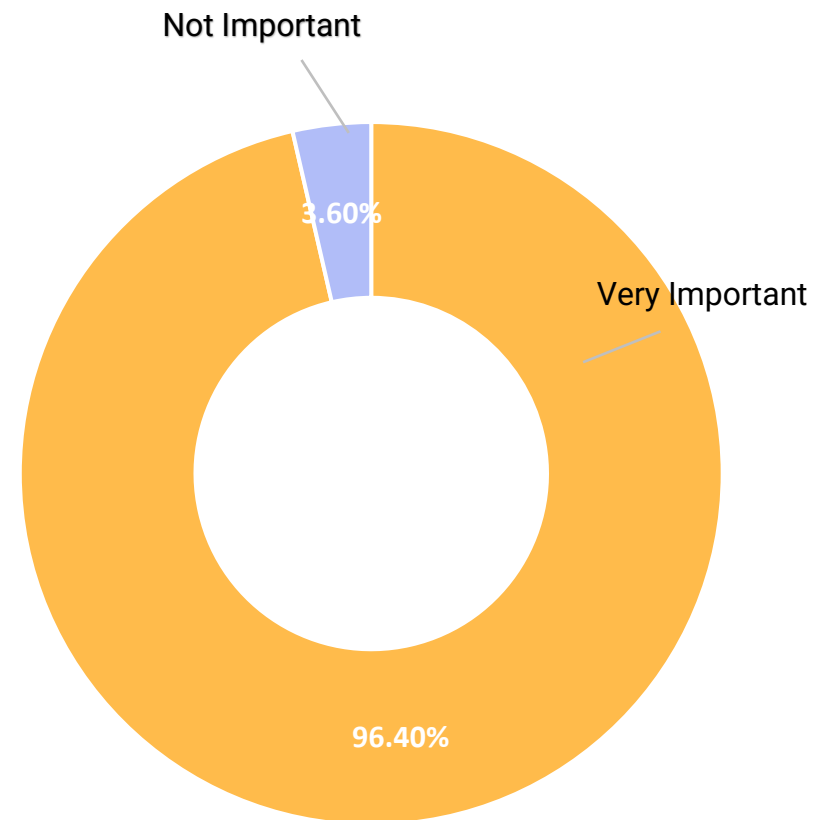


- Sessions were informative and understandable

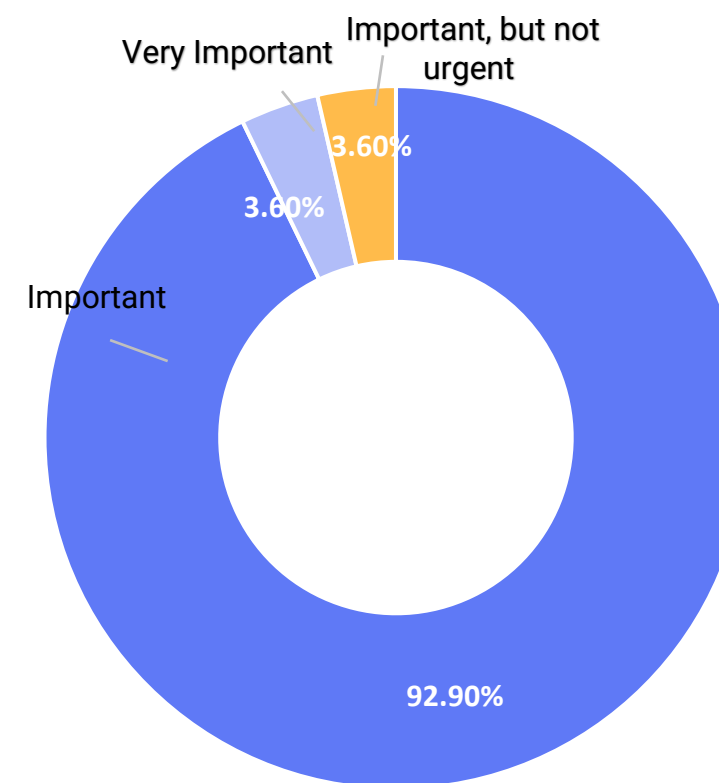
Recommendations of the 3rd ACF



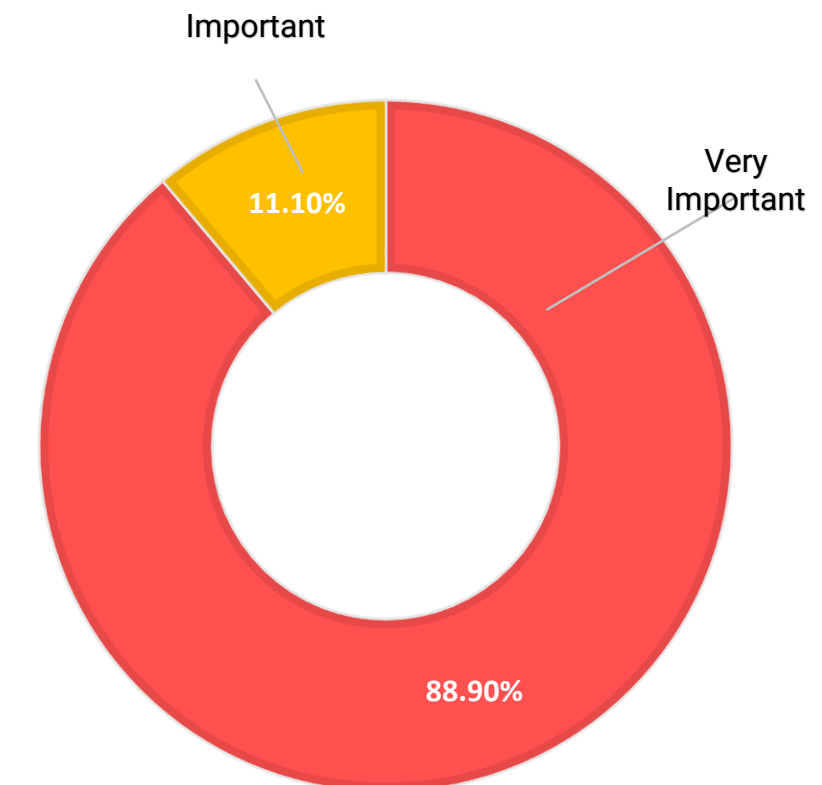
Conducting Research and Studies



Regional exchange of experiences and peer-learning



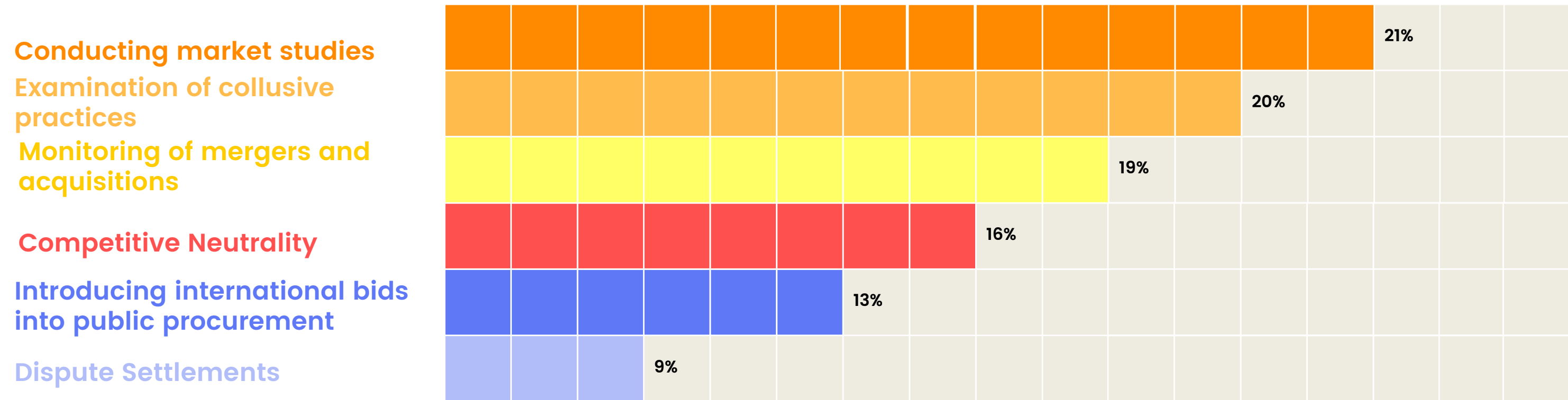
Cooperation between regional and international organizations



Recommendations of the 3rd ACF



Topics for Capacity Building

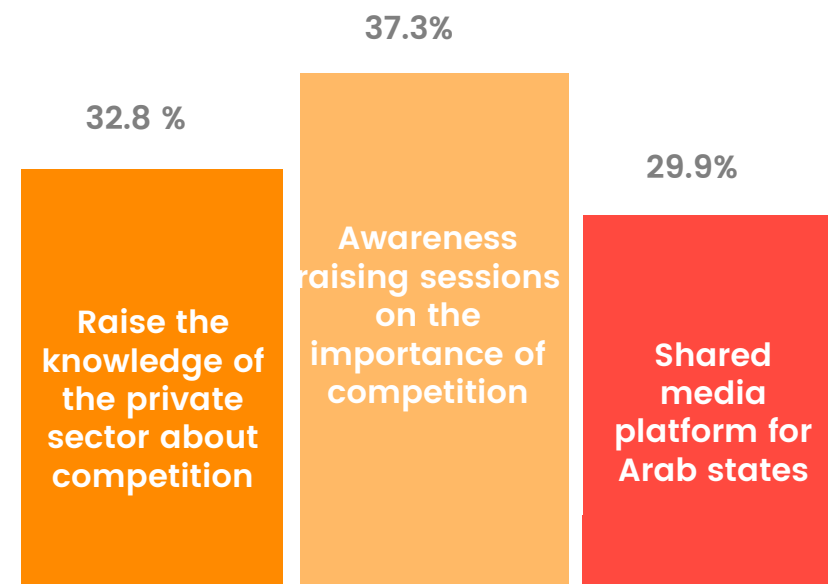


Competition authorities voted on the topics for the capacity building based on the most pressing needs and gaps in the Arab region



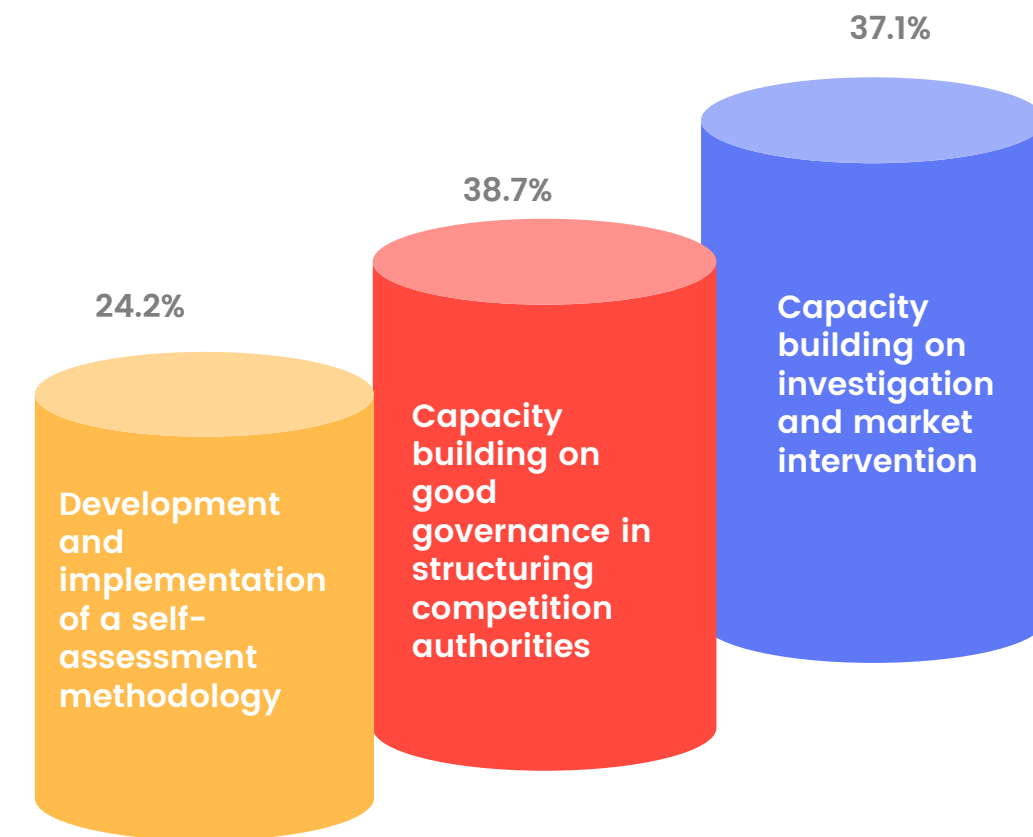
Recommendations of the 3rd ACF

Additional Recommendations



To raise the awareness of society on the importance of competition, the above activities were recommended.

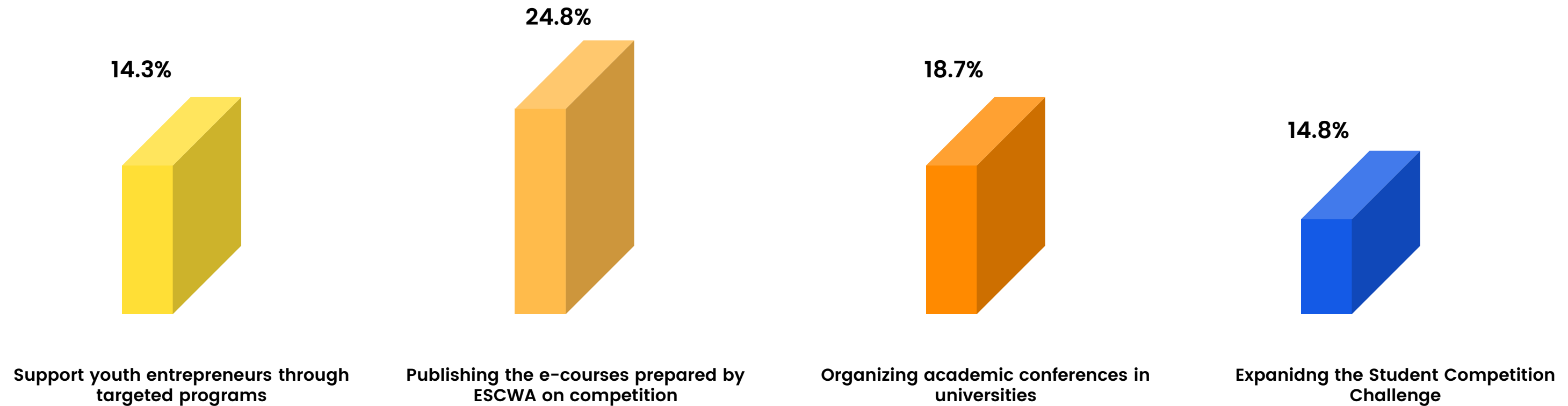
The following measures were suggested to strengthen the independence of competition authorities:



Recommendations of the 3rd ACF



Partnerships and Cooperation with Academia



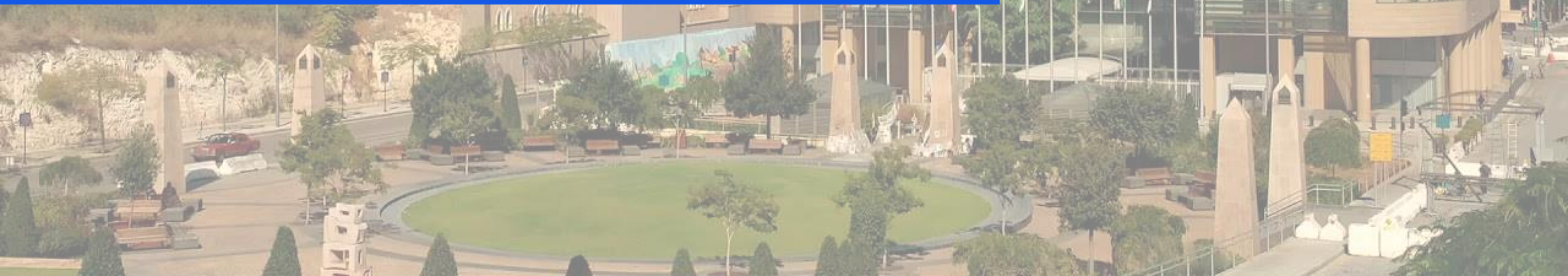
With the aim of building capacities and raising awareness among young people in the field of competition, the following activities with academic institutions were suggested



Future Initiatives and Activities



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Fourth Arab Competition Forum

- Hosted by the General Authority for Competition in KSA

Objectives of the Fourth Arab Competition Forum:

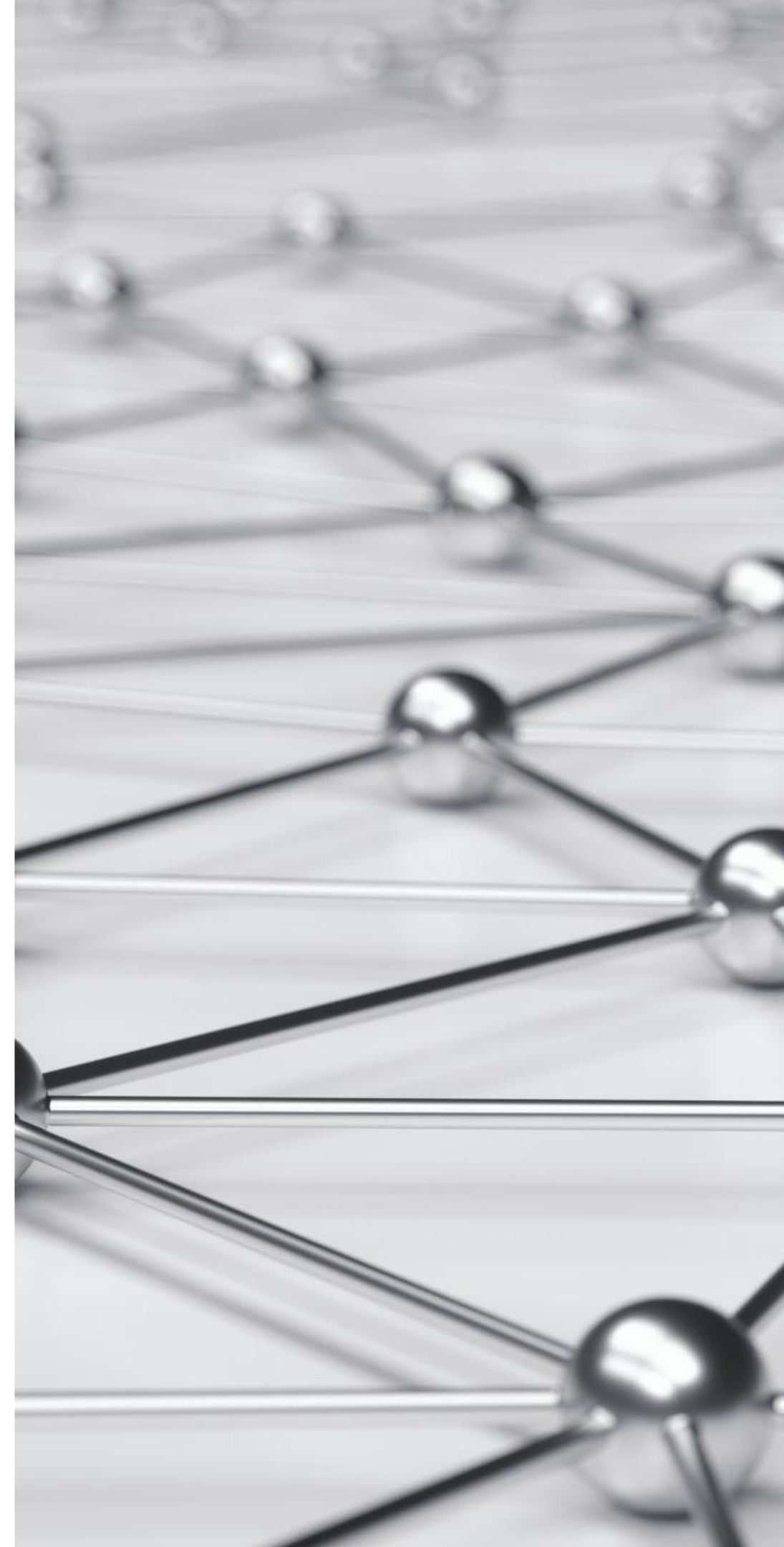
- Provide a substantive contribution towards improving economic growth and governance in the Arab region, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Strengthen collaboration and coordination between competition authorities in ESCWA member States.
- Inform competition policymaking and enforcement in the Arab region, guided by international best practices.
- Collect concrete recommendations on future activities



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الهيئة العامة للمنافسة
General Authority for Competition





- Capacity building
- Technical Support to member countries



Thank You



UNITED NATIONS

الأمم المتحدة
ESCWA

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