

ESCWA Digital Arabic Content Award for Sustainable Development 2024-2025

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Please find below a few questions and answers related to the Award and grouped by topic.

TIMELINE

What is the due date for submissions to the ESCWA DAC Award?

The due date for submitting a web application is **10 Oct 2024**.

What is the timeline of the Award process?

- Early July 2024: **Call for Applications**.
- Mid-Oct 2024: **Web applications close**.
- Mid-Oct - end-Dec 2024: **Evaluation process** to select a short-list of projects and Winners.
- End-Dec 2024: **Endorsement of the evaluation results** by the Steering Committee.
- Mid-Jan 2025: **Announcement of Short-listed projects**.
- Apr 2025: **Announcement of Winners** during AFSD-2025.

PARTICIPATION

Is it the same as WSA awards, and can I participate in it if I have participated in WSA's?

The ESCWA DAC Award is not the same as the global Awards of WSA, and you can participate in it even if you have participated in the WSA or other competitions.

Who can apply to the Award and in which category?

ESCWA DAC Award is open to all people and institutions living or serving the Arab society, and submissions can be made in two categories - institutions and young entrepreneurs. Institutions can be public or private, academic, or non-governmental; and Young Entrepreneurs can be individuals who are younger than 35 years, and teams of young people, students and start-ups who have at least one of the founding members and the majority of the team is under the age of 35.

Can I submit more than one application?

Yes, after registration, you can submit more than one digital product from the start page. Yet, each product should be submitted in a separate application.

What is the link for participating in the Award and submitting digital products?

For participating in the Award, submissions of digital products can be made through the [Award applications platform](#).

Where can I find information on the current cycle of the Award?

Information and documents on the Award cycle 2024-2025 are available through its event page: <https://www.unescwa.org/events/escwa-digital-arabic-content-award-2024-2025>

EVALUATION PROCESS

How does the Award process work?

1. A Steering Committee is formed to update/set the rules and conditions and evaluation criteria and govern the overall process.
2. The coordination team between the ESCWA and WSA collaborate to create/update the WSA web applications platform, to enable submissions and evaluations.
3. Web applications start with a call for applications (invitation to participate), and users can choose either English or Arabic before registration to be directed to the web form in the language of their choice. After registration, users can submit digital products in two categories - institutions and young entrepreneurs, using one application for each product.
4. During the applications period, a Jury Committee is formed from experts who have either participated in previous awards or newly invited to contribute to the evaluation process of the Award.
5. After the web applications close on the set due date, the Jury committees work on the evaluation of applications, held in two rounds that include the selection of a shortlist of products that meet the evaluation criteria, and the selection of winners.
6. The results of the Jury evaluations get endorsed by the Award Steering Committee.
7. Announcement of results include the announcement of shortlisted products, and the official announcement of winners during AFSD-2025.

What do the Award winners get?

Each winner receives a Trophy during the 2025 [Arab Forum for Sustainable Development](#) and the travel and accommodation needed to participate in the forum. Furthermore, winners in the Young Entrepreneurs category will be sponsored to attend the 2025 Arab SME Summit.

What are the evaluation criteria, and how is the evaluation process is conducted?

1. The evaluation criteria include 2 strategic criteria and 5 technical criteria, and each is given a weight and incorporated in the web applications platform for evaluation. The strategic criteria cover the impact on society and the value in targeting the SDGs and inclusion and reducing the digital divide. The technical criteria cover content, functionality, design, technology and innovation.
2. The evaluation process is conducted in two rounds within the web applications platform. For having a common understanding on the different criteria and weights, the Jury committees meet to discuss the evaluation process. Before the start of evaluation, a screening committee identifies the submissions that are complete and in line with the Award rules to be evaluated by the Jury committee.
3. The Jury evaluation gets conducted in two rounds, for (1) Selecting an extended short list of products, and (2) Selecting a number of winners from the extended short list of products. The first round of evaluation is conducted individually by Jurors through the platform where each gives scores according to the specified criteria, and the overall score gets generated based on the weights of each criterion and leads to having a weighted average for each product that help in generating the rankings of products and an extended shortlist of products. The second round of evaluation is also conducted through the platform, yet it also involves a participatory approach where the jury members meet to discuss the scores of the shortlisted products and convey their impressions from the testing of each product. Also, the Jury invites the shortlisted products in the Young Entrepreneurs category for a pitching exercise that involves giving scores and further help in identifying the winner products in this category.

How are the winners selected?

After the two rounds of evaluation – Jury evaluation, discussions and pitching exercise (for young entrepreneurs category only), the Jurors agree on the shortlist of potential winners in each category and

select the winners that meet the criteria, have high scores, and have received the best scores and assessments of the Jury members. The results of Jury evaluation get submitted to the Steering Committee for endorsed before announcement.

LANGUAGE

Can the product be in other languages than Arabic?

Yes, the product can be in other languages than Arabic, yet the product should serve/support the Arab people.

How to submit an application in Arabic?

To apply using the Arabic application form, users can choose the Arabic language interface before making the initial profile registration in the web applications platform.

How to change the language from English to Arabic after registration?

The language should be chosen before registration to access the related form inside the Award web application database. Once users register without selecting Arabic from the bottom of the landing page, access would be to the form in English; however, to access the form in Arabic, users can request to delete their registration in order to start a new one after choosing Arabic language.

How to delete a submitted registration or submitted products?

- To delete the registration profile, users can send an email to office@wsa-global.org to ask to delete the record in order to start a new one using the same email.
- To delete a project application, users can click "Delete my project" available in the **start page** of web applications, which prompts sending an email to office@wsa-global.org to ask for deleting the product.

Is the content of Award applications available in word form?

Yes, the content of web applications is also available in word files, in both English and Arabic and for both categories, to help prepare the content before making the submission on-line. The word forms are available on the event page: <https://www.unescwa.org/events/escwa-digital-arabic-content-award-2024-2025>

PRODUCT TYPE

Can the digital product be an account on social media that has digital content?

Yes, submissions can be web pages, and there is no limitation on the platform or channel used for the product.

MORE INFORMATION

Where to find more information about the ESCWA DAC Award?

- **Current cycle of the Award 2024-2025** ([English](#) / [Arabic](#)).
- **About the Award** ([English](#) / [Arabic](#)), and its previous cycles: **1st cycle** 2021-2022 ([English](#) / [Arabic](#)); **2nd cycle** 2022-2023 ([English](#) / [Arabic](#)); and **3rd cycle** 2023-2024 ([English](#) / [Arabic](#)).

How to contact ESCWA DAC Award team?

Email ESCWA Team at escwa-dac@un.org.

Email WSA Team at office@wsa-global.org.