

# ESCWA Digital Arabic Content Award for Sustainable Development 2023-2024

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Please find below 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 15 Oct 2023.

#### What is the timeline of the Award process?

- End July 2023: **Call for Applications.**
- Mid October 2023: **Web applications closes.**
- Mid-October - December 2023: **Evaluation process** to select a short-list of products and Winners.
- January 2024: **Endorsement of the evaluation results** by the Steering Committee.
- End of January 2024: **Announcement of short-listed products.**
- March 2024: **Announcement of Winners** during AFSD-2024.

### 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 WSA [Award applications platform](#).

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

Information and documents on the Award 2023-2024 cycle are available through its event page:

<https://www.unescwa.org/events/escwa-digital-arabic-content-award-2023-2024>

## 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, 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 committee work on the evaluation of applications, held in two phases 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 shortlisted products, and the official announcement of winners during AFSD-2024.

### What do the Award winners get?

Each winner receives a Trophy during the 2024 [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 2024 WSA global congress and benefit from training and mentoring programmes.

### 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 phases within the WSA Web Application database. For having a common understanding on the different criteria and weights, the Jury committee meet to discuss the evaluation process. Before the start of Jury evaluation, a screening committee identifies the complete submissions and products that can 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 through the platform where each of the judges give 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, the Jury evaluation, discussions and pitching exercise (for young entrepreneurs category only), the Jury agrees 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 application form in Arabic, users can choose Arabic language before registering in the web applications platform to access the content of web applications in Arabic.

### 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 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, users can send an email to [office@wsa-global.org](mailto:office@wsa-global.org) to ask to delete the record in order to start a new one after choosing Arabic language from the landing page.
- To delete a product, users can click "Delete my project" available in the **start page** of web applications, which prompts sending an email to [office@wsa-global.org](mailto: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, but submission should be filled on-line. The word forms are available on the event page: <https://www.unescwa.org/events/escwa-digital-arabic-content-award-2023-2024>

## 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?

- About the Award process (in [English](#) or [Arabic](#)).
- First cycle of the Award 2021-2022 (in [English](#) or [Arabic](#)).
- Second cycle of the Award 2022-2023 (in [English](#) or [Arabic](#)).
- **Third (current) cycle** of the Award 2023-2024 (in [English](#) or [Arabic](#)), which includes the Award **Rules and Conditions** (En/Ar) and **Guidelines** on the Award (En).

### How to contact ESCWA DAC Award team?

Email ESCWA Team at [escwa-dac@un.org](mailto:escwa-dac@un.org).

Email WSA Team at [office@wsa-global.org](mailto:office@wsa-global.org).