



For an equitable future bringing our communities forward

First Annual Arab Entrepreneurship Award

There are major social disparities throughout the Arab region. Many people live in wealth and privilege, while others have little access to adequate education, good jobs or basic services. Equal opportunities are still a distant dream in many Arab countries.

We advocate for positive change towards a more equal future for all. Policymakers have a considerable role to play, but sustainable change can start in small ways. We are looking for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to drive social change. This can be through a social product or service, through a company's defined values, or by giving preference to people from marginalized backgrounds when hiring (affirmative action).

Apply now for the First Annual Arab Entrepreneurship Award. Tell us about your organization's successes and goals and how you are making a lasting impact on your communities.



Shared Prosperity **Dignified Life**



عمان، 30 تشرين الأول/أكتوبر - 1 تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر 2022 | Amman, 30 October - 1 November 2022



Who can participate?

All SMEs in the Arab region (headquarters must be in one of the 22 Arab countries) that have a direct positive impact on their communities and drive social change can participate. The prerequisite is that the company must already be established, i.e. founded before 2023, and in operation.



How can you participate?

To nominate your business, register for this challenge and click "Submit." Present your business in the form of a PowerPoint presentation or a short video (max. 6 min). Please provide evidence of your business operations and of your social impact. It is up to you to decide what this evidence should look like; the important thing is that it is traceable and substantiates the information you have provided. Ensure you provide your contact details and name a contact person in the company. You can upload your submission as a single file in the next step.

You will be able to edit your submission until the final submission deadline. Submissions will not only be considered on the strength of their content, but also on how professionally and creatively the company is presented.



What happens if you win?

If you win, your company will receive a sponsored invitation to attend the second Arab SMEs Summit in Morocco in the fall of 2023. During the closing event of the summit, the winner of the Award will be publicly announced. The winner will have the opportunity to present themselves in front of a large number of representatives from the fields of entrepreneurship, business, innovation, research and politics. Throughout the summit, you will have the opportunity to network with other SMEs and potential investors.

We will also feature the winner on DEPAR, showcasing your company to many more entrepreneurs and innovators from across the Arab region.

What criteria will be used to select the winner?

The winning company will be selected by a jury consisting of representatives from DEPAR, ESCWA and external reviewers. The basis of the decision will be the following criteria:

- Measurable impact on the respective community
- Innovation and uniqueness
- Practical feasibility of services offered
- Sustainability
- Financial independence of the company (profit margins)
- Partnerships of the company with other companies, organizations and institutions
- Accessibility of the largest possible target group
- Comprehensiveness of the presentation of the company
- Internet visibility of the company (website, social media)
- Advanced stage of the company
- Verifiability of the information (Internet presence, reporting, etc.)



Phases and timeline

- **March–May 2023:** Application from your company (the application period ends 30 May 2023 at 23:59 Jordanian time, GMT +03:00).
- **June– July 2023:** Evaluation of the applications and selection of the winning company.
- **31 August 2023:** Announcement of the winning company through DEPAR.
- **October/November 2023:** Presentation and awarding of the winning company at the second Arab SMEs Summit in Morocco.

What is social impact?



Social impact refers to any form of positive change that addresses social challenges. Regarding the “For an equitable future: bringing our communities forward” award, we focus on promoting equal opportunities for all. The goal is a just and sustainable society for the world of tomorrow. At the corporate level, social impact can be achieved through, for example, a product or service aimed at providing equal opportunities to disadvantaged groups (e.g. women, seniors, refugees, minorities, persons with disabilities). A company may also have anchored the principles of social impact in its corporate philosophy and proactively promote and implement this through, for example, affirmative action.



Background

In 2022, the first Arab SMEs Summit was held in Jordan, where the winning idea for the Restoring Hope Challenge was selected. The Arab Entrepreneurship Award will be presented annually at the Arab SMEs Summit by DEPAR and the ESCWA Technology Centre. The first award will be presented at the upcoming 2023 summit in Morocco. A new theme and focus for the award are developed every year. If your company does not have a direct social impact, perhaps you will be a fit for the 2024 award.



Still have questions?

Contact us at escwa-depar@un.org