

UNESCWA'S WORK PROGRAMME ON COMPETITION POLICY

First Joint ESCWA-UNCTAD-OECD Competition Forum for the Arab
Region, 23 and 24 January 2020, UN House Beirut

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



UNITED NATIONS

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ESCWA

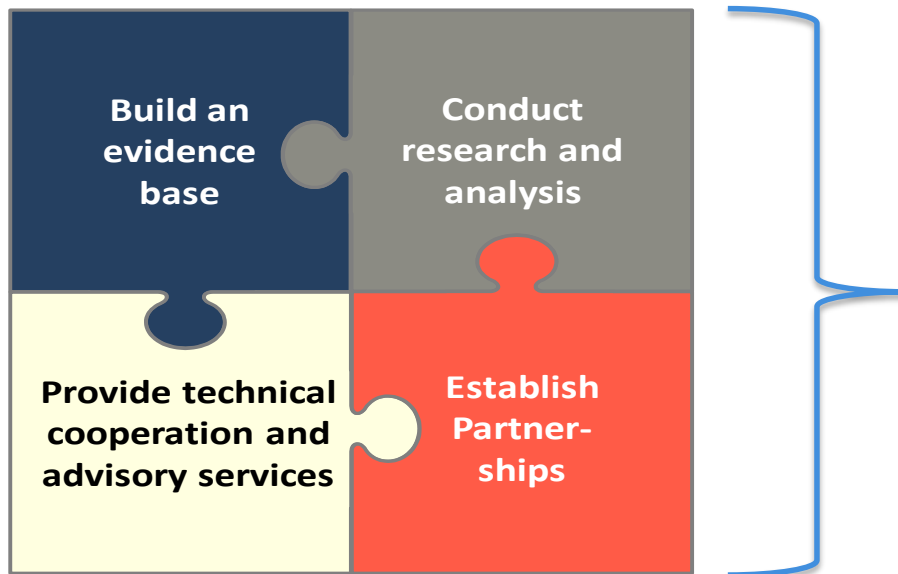
Ms. Denise Sumpf

Acting Chief, Economic Governance and Planning Section/EDID

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION DIVISION

A voice, an advisor and a think tank

Our mission: To support Member Countries in their efforts to improve economic governance and effective national development planning and to enable effective country-level implementation of Agenda 2030



- **Means of Implementation:** RB, XB, RPTC resources, in-kind contributions
- **Partnerships for development:** across institutions within and beyond the UN (e.g. government, private sector, civil society, academia)
- **Our approach:** Promoting policy coherence, consistency, coordination and partnerships

Promoting policy coherence, consistency, coordination and regional partnerships - Sustaining initiatives

- Our work programme on “**Competition Policy and Regulation in the Arab region**” started in 2015 recognises the importance of effective antitrust and competition laws as well as the need for well functioning market regulators to enhance business environment, foster investments, improve economic performance and drive inclusive growth.
- It takes into consideration that the issues of competition and regulation are linked and that shortcomings in the past aggravated economic challenges associated with inefficient market structures and governance systems, for example: heavily concentrated markets and inefficient economies, collusion, centralization of economic power among a few elites as well as, in general, rent-seeking behaviour.
- While some countries have advanced competition legislation and enforcement practices (GCC), others have none (Lebanon), thus within the framework of the SDG’s our work programme promotes a dialogue to exchange of best practices as well as regional partnerships on competition policy and regulation (involving stakeholders from the public sector, private sector and civil society).

Objectives for 2019-2020: (1) Establishment of a regional policy dialogue on competition and regulation that translates into project proposals addressing policy gaps (implementation, enforcement, etc.) in response to national and regional needs; (2) Partnership between ESCWA, UNCTAD and OECD to leverage expertise to the benefit of Arab countries

Related ESCWA /EDID/EGPS publications



- **2018: Economic Governance for Entrepreneurs in the MENA Region: Prioritizing Policy Challenges**

<https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/publications/files/gouvernance-entrepreneurs-mena-region-english.pdf>

- **2016: The Strength of Competition Policy and Regulation in the Arab Region – Application of OECD Indicators to selected Arab Countries in 2015**

<https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/publications/files/escwa-competition-policy-survey-2016-english.pdf>

- **2015: Competition and Regulation in the Arab Region**

<https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/publications/files/economic-governance-series-2015.pdf>



Questions?



For more information, please contact:

Ms. Denise Sumpf, Chief (a.i),
 Economic Governance and Planning Section, EDID
sumpf@un.org



Annex: Other areas of our work

Development Account Project - “Towards the Arab Horizon 2030: Enhancing Integrated National Development Planning in the Arab Region” (2018-2020)

➤ Regional project in cooperation with ECLAC:

- *Objective:* ‘To strengthen the planning process of ESCWA member States to support more integrated, strategic and better coordinated development planning, towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda’ through (1) Enhanced awareness and engagement of policymakers with the integrated development planning approach; and (2) Strengthened capacity of policymakers in target countries to design integrated and implementable national development plans in their countries.
- *Methodology:* Regional conferences, pilot country engagement, workshops, inter-regional study tours and so on
- *Sustainability:* Reflective of country ownership and leadership to enhance national development planning initiatives, the project is expected to achieve commitment from member states to establish a permanent consultative process of national planning institutions of Arab States hosted by ESCWA.

Regular programme of technical cooperation (RPTC) – Examples of country projects

- **EGYPT - Training programme on “Regulatory Reform” (Pilot implemented in Egypt in August 2018)**
 - *Objective:* Develop a complete course version in response to the training objectives as established by UNESCWA/EDID/EGPS and the Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation in Egypt, including accompanying materials such as participant guides, trainer guides, PowerPoint slides, workshop discussion topics/case studies, etc. that support repetition of the course at a later stage and facilitated by the Egyptian administration.
 - *Methodology:* Use participatory adult education techniques to convey clearly identified training objectives. Training material should include up-to-date information and new tools with practical examples and case studies that will aid the trainees in increasing their awareness to best practices of regulatory reform.
 - *Sustainability:* Replication to other country contexts
- **BAHRAIN - Workshop on “Economic Diversification and Competitiveness: From Policies to Implementation” in collaboration with UNDP RCO (completed March 2018)**
- **LEBANON - Advisory services on economic governance challenges in relation to the implementation of the Capital Investment Plan (planned)**