



EGYPT: YOUTH ESSAY COMPETITION



To engage youth in finding innovative solutions to **Youth Employment in Egypt**, the Economic Research Forum and the World Bank are pleased to announce the first Youth Essay Competition. The deadline for submission for youth-written essays is November 5, 2016.

Problem Statement: Youth unemployment has reached alarming levels in Egypt. As much as 26.7 percent of the young Egyptians between 18-29 years are unemployed (Central Agency for Mobilization and Statistics, CAPMAS), twice the unemployment rate for the overall population.

Sub-themes: The following sub-themes are suggested:

- **Youth Training**, which translates into enabling youth to acquire the necessary skills to enter the labor market and benefit from available opportunities. Possible areas for new initiatives include: education, training and health.
- **Job Creation**, which involves ways to expand job opportunities for all young people, especially to youth disproportionately affected by unemployment. Possible solution areas include: economic diversity and the nature of economic growth; the promotion of entrepreneurship; and formalization (i.e. registration of informal businesses).

Q1. Who can apply?

Any Egyptian up to 29 years old.

Q2. Are there requirements for Language, Format and Length?

The essay can be written in Arabic or English and has to be under 2,500 words. An abstract of up to 250 words is required. The essay needs to contain: (a) title; (b) abstract with a concise summary of key messages; (c) simple structure with introduction, argument, and conclusion; (d) clear list of recommendations; and (e) bibliography. Please acknowledge all references and add a complete bibliography, which is not part of the word count.

Q3. How will the Essay be evaluated?

The Essay will be reviewed by a panel of independent experts in two stages.

Stage 1: The panel will be evaluating all submissions according to three criteria: (1) the relevance and originality of your solutions; (2) the soundness of your argument, and whether your essay is well substantiated by the existing literature or experience; and (3) the feasibility of your policy recommendations.

Stage 2: The finalists will be invited to present their essays at an Award Ceremony in Cairo, where the winners will be selected. The final selection of the winners among the finalists will be based on the merit of their essay and the clarity of their presentation during the Award Ceremony.

Q4. *What is the timeline?*

An electronic copy of your individually written essay needs to be submitted online at www.cognitofirms.com/EgyptYouthEssay/Competition by November 5, 2016. The finalists will be notified by December 5, 2016. All finalists will be invited to present their essay at the Award Ceremony in Cairo on December 19, 2016.

Q5. *Are there prizes?*

The essay competition offers recognition and financial awards. In addition to a certificate of achievement to all finalists, you will be able to present your idea to an audience of policy makers, sector specialists and other stakeholders. The best three essays will be published online by the World Bank and by the Economic Research Forum on their websites. The author of the best essay will receive 20,000 Egyptian pounds. The second and third place winners will be awarded 15,000 and 10,000 Egyptian pounds, respectively.