



LEAR  
COMPETITION  
FESTIVAL 2025  
YTCA

## Young Talent Competition Award

As part of Lear Competition Festival, Lear has instituted the Young Talent Competition Award (YTCA) for young economists and lawyers in the field of antitrust and regulation.

The YTCA will award the best research proposal in the antitrust or regulation field. Economists/lawyers with the best three proposals will be invited to the **Lear Competition Festival** to present their work.

The winner will be awarded a prize of € 1,500 and will have the opportunity to attend the 2026 edition of the [Trento Summer School on Advanced EU Competition Law & Economics](#) (maximum two attendees) for free.

In addition to the above, the [GW Competition and Innovation lab](#) will award monetary prizes to the second and third place winners of the YTCA as follows:

- € 1,000.00 to the second-place winner
- € 500 to the third-place winner

The best research proposal will be selected by a committee of five outstanding academics and practitioners: Pinar Akman, Michele Carpagano, Joseph Harrington, William Kovacic and Tommaso Valletti.

Below you will find the rules to participate and further details on the award.

### Participants

Participation in the YTCA is open to:

- **Students** (post-graduate and PhD) and **academic researchers** who aspire to build a professional career in competition law, economics, policy assessment, and regulation.
- **Professionals under 35** who hold a PhD or are actively conducting research in competition law and economics.

Participation is open to both **economists and lawyers**.

### The research proposal

1. The research proposal can deal with any topic related to (i) competition law, (ii) competition economics, (iii) policy assessment, (iv) regulation (in any sector). Projects can be theoretical or empirical.
2. The proposal should discuss why the topic is relevant for the antitrust and regulation community and should clearly set out the methodology that will be adopted to conduct the research.
3. Currently, highly debated topics will be considered a plus. In case of empirical research, the preliminary definition of the sources of data and its costs will be considered a plus.
4. The research proposal should include no more than 12,000 characters (5 Word pages).
5. Participants should indicate the following in the cover of the proposal:

- name and surname;
  - whether he/she is an economist or lawyer;
  - Master's degree/PhD degree. In case the participant is completing the master/PhD, he/she should specify it;
  - current employment (if any);
  - contact details (phone number and email address).
6. The research proposal may have multiple authors. If such proposal is declared the winner, the prize will be divided among the authors evenly and a maximum of two persons will be admitted to the [Trento Summer School on Advanced EU Competition Law & Economics for free](#). At least one of the authors must fulfill the eligibility requirements.

### Submitting the proposal

7. The research proposal should be submitted in PDF and sent via email at [award@learcompetitionfestival.com](mailto:award@learcompetitionfestival.com);
8. The research proposal should be submitted no later than June 16, 2025. Submissions received after this date will not be considered.
9. Lear is not responsible for any technical errors that may interfere with or delay a submission.

### Selection of the best proposal

10. The research proposal will be evaluated by a scientific committee composed of five outstanding academics and practitioners: Pinar Akman, Michele Carpagano, Joseph Harrington, William Kovacic and Tommaso Valletti.
11. The Scientific Committee will prepare a ranking of the three best proposals.
12. The authors of the three best proposals will be notified at the latest on September 1, 2025. The announcement of the winner will take place during the Lear Competition Festival.
13. The selection criteria will be (i) novelty of the topic, (ii) relevance to the antitrust/regulation community, (iii) clarity of the approach set out to conduct the research.
14. Lear reserves the right to cancel, modify, or terminate the competition for any reason. Lear also reserves the right not to select a winning proposal.

### Award

15. The economist or lawyer submitting the best research proposal will be awarded a prize of € 1,500. In addition, the winner will be waved the fee to attend the 2026 edition of the [Trento Summer School on Advanced EU Competition Law & Economics](#) (maximum two attendees).
16. In addition to the above, the [GW Competition and Innovation lab](#) will award monetary prizes to the second and third place winners of the YTCA as follows:
- € 1,000.00 to the second-place winner
  - € 500.00 to the third-place winner
17. If a potential winner fails to respond to the Lear's efforts to contact them within 10 days, they will be considered to have forfeited any right to be declared as a winner or receive a prize and another winner may be declared.

### **Presentation of the proposals**

18. The three finalists will be invited to present their proposal during the Lear Competition Festival. They are also invited to prepare a Poster showing the main results of their research that will remain available for the entire duration of the festival in the exhibition area. The poster's structure must adhere to the specific guidelines provided on the LCF website's [Poster Session](#) page.
19. Expenses for the travel to Rome and accommodation will be reimbursed, but only for the people responsible of presenting the research proposal at the Lear Competition Festival.
20. Each presenter will have a slot of 15 minutes.