

**DIRECTORATE FOR FINANCIAL AND ENTERPRISE AFFAIRS
COMPETITION COMMITTEE**

Global Forum on Competition

DIGITAL CASE LAB

-- Session IV B -- Explanation and participation questionnaire

This document is an explanation and participation questionnaire for Session IV B of the Global Forum on Competition to be held on 5-6 December 2019. GFC participants are invited to submit their questionnaire by **1 October 2019** at the latest.

More information on this session can be found at:
www.oecd.org/competition/globalforum/digital-case-lab.htm.

JT03450038

TO ALL GLOBAL FORUM PARTICIPANTS

RE: Session on “Digital case lab”

18th Global Forum on Competition (5 and 6 December 2019)

Dear GFC participant,

In December 2019, the OECD Global Forum on Competition will experiment with an innovative new format to share its expertise directly with authorities seeking advice and information on digital issues. I am writing to you in order to provide you with guidance about this new practical “*Digital Case Lab*”, and to invite you to submit the related questionnaire in order to participate. Designed primarily with non-OECD authorities in mind, OECD members are, of course, welcome to participate.

Competition in major digital markets is different in some ways from competition in more traditional markets. This sector often includes platform-based business models, multi-sided markets, network effects and economies of scale which render competition issues more complex. Unlike in most economic sectors, as the digital economy becomes increasingly interconnected some co-ordination and co-operation between firms could be unavoidable, and may indeed be pro-competitive. Finally, digital markets are characterised by high rates of investment and innovation, which lead to rapid technological progress in the sector, and to increased disruptive innovation.

Since the impact of the digital sector extends beyond information goods and services to other areas of the economy, competition authorities are finding questions related to the digital economy to be increasingly significant for their work.

In 2016, the OECD Competition Committee decided to adopt as a long-term priority theme *Digital Economy, Innovation and Competition*. Annex 1 includes references to the work that has already been done as part of this long-term theme.

As a result of this work, in conjunction with the OECD’s extensive storehouse of knowledge on competition law and policy more generally, the OECD has accumulated a deep expertise in competition and the digital economy.

Many authorities are seeking resources to help them to understand better and address the challenges posed by the digital economy. While the OECD has made its expertise available through its website, navigating this storehouse, particularly on specific, or narrow issues can be complex, and time-consuming. Often the information sought may be buried within documents on related topics and thus can be particularly difficult to identify.

The *Digital Lab* was born out of desire to provide practical support to authorities seeking guidance on competition and the digital economy using OECD research. These authorities may be facing a challenging digital case; or contemplating taking one on. An authority may wish to deepen its understanding of a particular issue or need support on tools that can help in designing advocacy initiatives.

The OECD Secretariat has agreed to provide guidance on methodological and analytical tools to those agencies who are willing to participate in the Digital Lab. It can help identify relevant jurisprudence and jurisdictions who faced similar situations. It can also provide guidance on navigating the extensive library of OECD research. The Secretariat cannot, however, actually help an authority to solve a case: it can just provide the supporting tools and research.

Discussions will take place one-on-one: matching authorities with Secretariat staff. We will try our utmost to accommodate as many authorities as possible, however, this is the first *Digital Lab*, and therefore the format is untested.

In order for the Secretariat to prepare the *Digital Lab* meetings, delegations are asked to signal their interest in meeting with the Secretariat through a questionnaire, which will identify the issues/questions they would like to discuss and the information they are seeking.

The questionnaire is available both in Annex 2 and available online at: <https://survey2018.oecd.org/Survey.aspx?s=83f44a4788364dff858aef8bc3898f98>.

Authorities who the Secretariat can help will be informed of their participation in the *Digital Lab* before the GFC.

More information on this session can be found at www.oecd.org/competition/globalforum/digital-case-lab.htm and short URL oe.cd/2Fq.

To ensure an effective organisation of this session and to ensure that the Secretariat has time to prepare for the discussions, I would be grateful if you could complete the questionnaire **by 1 October 2019**. Unfortunately, the Secretariat cannot guarantee consideration of any questionnaires after that date.

All communications regarding the documentation for *Digital Lab* should be sent to Ms Angelique Servin (Email: Angelique.Servin@oecd.org). Please address all substantive queries relating to this discussion to Ms Cristina Volpin (Email: Cristina.Volpin@oecd.org).

ANNEX 1

Selected OECD Resources on Digital Economy, Innovation and Competition

- OECD work on Digital Economy, Innovation and Competition <http://www.oecd.org/daf/competition/digital-economy-innovation-and-competition.htm>
- Personalised Pricing in the Digital Era: <http://www.oecd.org/daf/competition/personalised-pricing-in-the-digital-era.htm>
- Blockchain and Competition Policy: <http://www.oecd.org/daf/competition/blockchain-and-competition-policy.htm>
- Tools for Multi-Sided Platforms: www.oecd.org/competition/rethinking-antitrust-tools-for-multi-sided-platforms.htm
- E-commerce: <http://www.oecd.org/daf/competition/e-commerce-implications-for-competition-policy.htm>
- Consumer-facing remedies: <http://www.oecd.org/daf/competition/consumer-facing-remedies.htm>
- Taxi, Ride-Sourcing and Ride Sharing Services: <http://www.oecd.org/daf/competition/taxis-and-ride-sharing-services.htm>
- Across platform parity agreements (APPAs): <http://www.oecd.org/daf/competition/competition-cross-platform-parity.htm>
- Zero Price Markets: <http://www.oecd.org/daf/competition/quality-considerations-in-the-zero-price-economy.htm> [https://one.oecd.org/document/DAF/COMP\(2018\)14/en/pdf](https://one.oecd.org/document/DAF/COMP(2018)14/en/pdf)
- Big data: <http://www.oecd.org/daf/competition/big-data-bringing-competition-policy-to-the-digital-era.htm>
- Algorithms and Collusion: www.oecd.org/competition/algorithms-collusion-competition-policy-in-the-digital-age.htm
- Non-price effects in merger control: <http://www.oecd.org/daf/competition/non-price-effects-of-mergers.htm>
- Disruptive innovation: <http://www.oecd.org/daf/competition/disruptive-innovations-and-competition.htm>
- Disruptive innovation in land transport: <http://www.oecd.org/daf/competition/competition-and-innovation-in-land-transport.htm>
- Disruptive innovation in legal services: <http://www.oecd.org/daf/competition/disruptive-innovations-in-legal-services.htm>
- Disruptive innovation in financial markets: <http://www.oecd.org/daf/competition/competition-and-disruptive-innovation-financial-markets.htm>

ANNEX 2 – Questionnaire to participate in the Digital Lab

OECD Global Forum on Competition QUESTIONNAIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DIGITAL LAB

NAME:

**COMPETITION
AUTHORITY:**

COUNTRY:

**HOW CAN WE CONTACT
YOU BEFORE AND
DURING THE GFC?**

Please explain what you hope to learn from a conversation with the OECD Secretariat on Digital Economy and Competition and how this information will be applied?

What questions or areas would you like to discuss with the Secretariat on OECD Secretariat on Digital Economy and Competition? Please be specific and ensure that key words are included in your questions. It may not be possible to address all questions during your appointment with the Secretariat.

QUESTION 1:

QUESTION 2:

QUESTION 3:

Please return the questionnaire to: Angelique Servin (Angelique.Servin@oecd.org) and Cristina Volpin (Email: Cristina.Volpin@oecd.org)