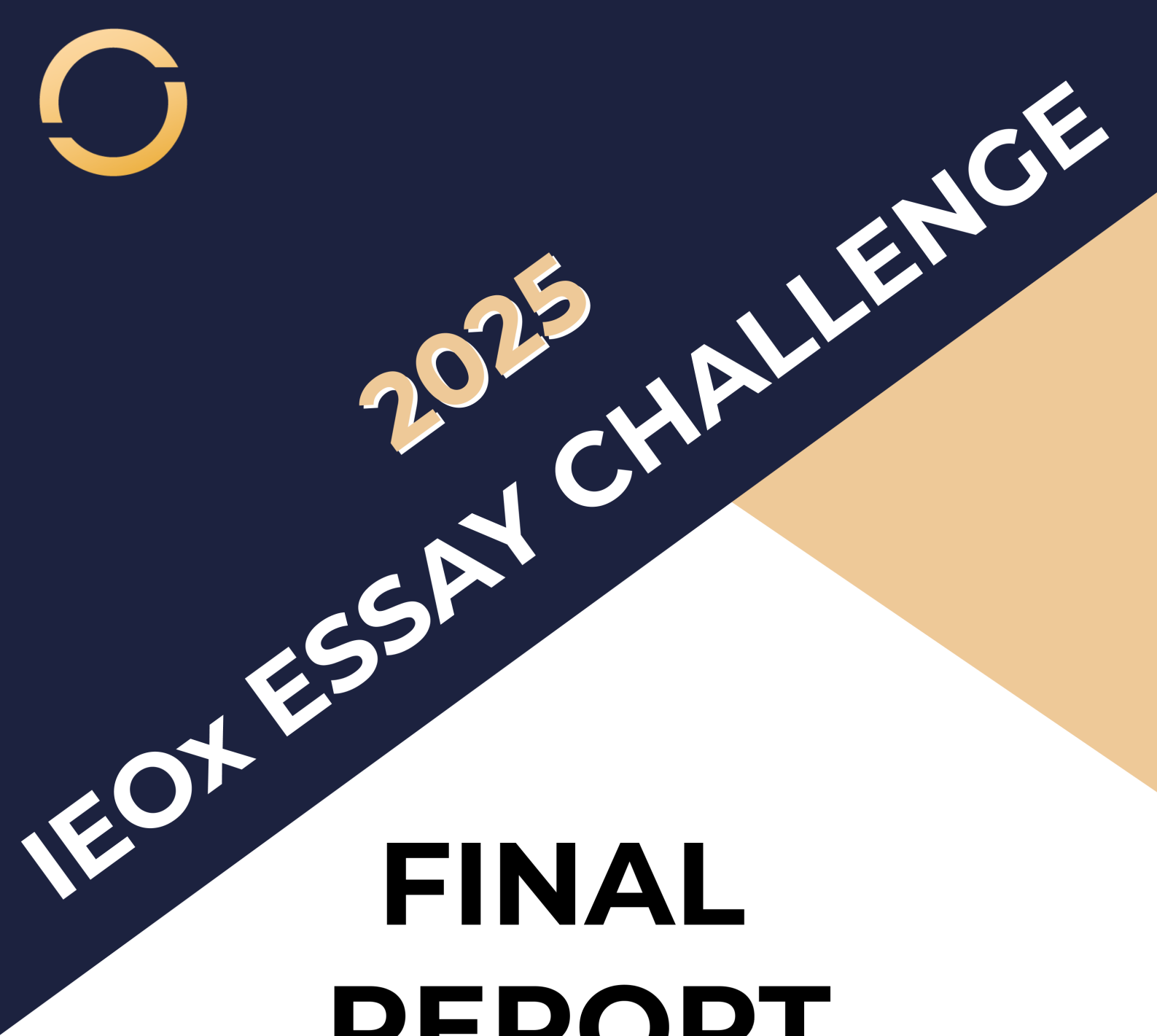




2025

IEOX ESSAY CHALLENGE

FINAL REPORT



1. About the IEOx EssayChallenge

The IEOx EssayChallenge (IEOx EsC) is an international competition open to individuals under 21, designed to foster intellectual growth and inspire innovative thinking. Organized by the IEOx Community and supported by the IEO Executive Board (EB), this platform empowers participants to explore economic theories, propose creative solutions, and engage in meaningful discussions on pressing global issues.

Bringing together diverse voices from around the world, the IEOx EssayChallenge provides students with the opportunity to expand their knowledge, develop their skills, and become active contributors to global economic discourse. Through this experience, participants not only gain valuable insights but also build lasting connections, collaborate across borders, and drive positive change on an international scale.

2. About the Participants

In the IEOx EsC 2024/25, 313 teams comprising 430 registrants from 46 countries eagerly joined the fray.

The participating countries were:

 Albania	 Australia	 Azerbaijan
 Bangladesh	 Belarus	 Brazil
 Cambodia	 Canada	 China
 Czechia	 Ethiopia	 France
 Georgia	 Ghana	 Greece
 Hong Kong SAR	 India	 Indonesia
 Japan	 Kazakhstan	 South Korea
 Kosovo	 Malaysia	 Mauritius
 Nepal	 New Zealand	 Nigeria
 North Macedonia	 Pakistan	 Peru
 Philippines	 Poland	 Romania
 Singapore	 Slovakia	 South Africa
 Spain	 Sri Lanka	 Taiwan

 Thailand

 Türkiye

 United Arab Emirates

 United Kingdom

 United States

 Vietnam

 Zimbabwe

Out of these, 116 teams diligently submitted their essays.

From this pool of talents, 40 teams emerged as first-round standouts in January 2025, advancing to the final selection phase. Ultimately, after rigorous deliberation in the same month, 25 teams were selected as the best, and from these, 5 teams were recognized with the Global Grand Prizes, showcasing excellence and innovation in economic discourse.

The IEOx EsC gathered students from 46 countries worldwide, fostering a diverse exchange of ideas and perspectives. From economic powerhouses to emerging markets, participants showcased their insights and solutions, reflecting the global relevance of economic principles and the universal quest for progress.

3. Instructors & Institutions

During the EsC 2024/25, we actively encouraged authors to assemble their teams prior to the event and seek guidance from instructors to enhance the quality of their essay submissions.

Additionally, several teams proudly identified themselves as representatives of their educational institutions. We firmly believe that this collaborative approach proved highly effective in fostering a conducive environment for knowledge sharing and academic growth.

4. Tasks & Results

4.1. Timeline

- September 8, 2024 – Start of registration and submission
- December 15, 2024 (23:59 UTC) – End of registration and submission
- January 6, 2025 – Announcement of preliminary judging results (top 20–40)
- January 20, 2025 – Announcement of final judging results (top 5–10)
- February 9, 2025 (14:00–16:00 UTC) – IEOx EsC Seminar with presentations from the top teams

4.2. Essay submission

The IEOx EssayChallenge provided a platform for young individuals aspiring to translate their economic insights into tangible impact. Open to participants worldwide, aged 20 and younger, either in teams of three or as individuals, the competition offered an opportunity for creative exploration and scholarly engagement.

Participants were invited to visit the competition website and complete a simple registration process, enabling them to submit their essays on topics spanning economics, finance, and business. Encouraged to draw inspiration from the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), entrants were prompted to think innovatively and critically about pressing global issues.

Following the submission deadline on December 15, 2024, essays underwent rigorous academic review, with 44 teams progressing to the next stage. From this pool, 20 teams were identified for their exceptional contributions and moved on to the final selection phase. Ultimately, five teams were recognized as exemplars of excellence, their works standing out amidst a field of formidable submissions.

This year's competition boasted approximately 313 teams, comprising around 430 individuals, underscoring the widespread interest and engagement in the field of economics and its practical applications. As participants navigated through the various stages of the challenge, they were invited to envision themselves as agents of change, shaping the future landscape of finance, business, and economics through their innovative ideas and research endeavors.

Rest assured, should attendees have had any remaining inquiries or points of discussion, an open forum was facilitated for questions from viewers, fostering a collaborative and enriching exchange of ideas.

4.3. Reviewing and Selection Criteria

Rigorous reviewing and selection for the IEOx EssayChallenge took place throughout January 2025. Following meticulous deliberation, five exemplary teams were chosen to advance to the next stage of the competition.

The selection criteria for the IEOx EssayChallenge are meticulously designed to ensure the identification of exemplary submissions that embody academic rigor, originality, and persuasive clarity. Essays are evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Originality

Judges assess the uniqueness and creativity of the chosen topic, the innovative approach taken by the author, and the distinctive personal voice conveyed throughout the essay.

2. Persuasive Effectiveness of Style and Rhetoric

The efficacy of the author's writing style and rhetoric in persuading the reader is scrutinized, emphasizing clarity, coherence, and the ability to engage and convince the audience.

3. Depth of Literature Synthesis and Original Analysis

The depth of the literature synthesis and the extent of original analysis presented in the essay are evaluated, highlighting the author's capacity to integrate existing knowledge with fresh insights.

4. Assessment of the Argument

Judges critically assess the strength of the argument presented, evaluating its persuasiveness and significance, as well as its overall contribution to the discourse.

5. Scholarly Professionalism

Attention is given to the essay's scholarly professionalism, including the adherence to formatting guidelines, accuracy of citations, and overall presentation quality.

By meticulously evaluating submissions against these criteria, the IEOx EssayChallenge ensures the recognition of essays that not only demonstrate intellectual prowess but also contribute meaningfully to the field of economics.

Hermiona, a US-based education group, was invited to participate in the evaluation process of the IEOx EssayChallenge. They rigorously assessed submissions using the five criteria outlined.

4.4. Awards

The best works selected in the IEOx EssayChallenge encompass a diverse array of topics, reflecting the depth and breadth of economic discourse among today's youth. Among the standout themes explored by participants are:

1. A country's technology sector impact on economic growth and talent distribution
2. Preservation and decline of historic pond ecosystems in a city amidst urban growth
3. Illegal rooftop additions in an urban environment
4. Application of technology to combat illegal logging in tropical rainforests
5. The impact of the international trade dispute on the electric vehicle (EV) industry

4.5. IEOx EsC Seminar

An invitation was extended to the 5 best teams to join the event, scheduled from 14:00 to 16:00 UTC on February 9, 2025.

During the seminar, participants had the opportunity to observe the selected teams present their findings, utilizing slides for visual aid through screen sharing. Following each presentation, attendees were encouraged to engage with the presenters by posing questions or offering feedback.

To ensure a smooth and structured session, each team was allocated a maximum of 20 minutes for their presentation, encompassing a precise 10-minute delivery, transition time, and allowance for any technical difficulties that may arise. As such, participating attendees were kindly requested to limit their interactions with the presenters to a maximum of 10 minutes.

5. Workgroup

The IEOx EsC Workgroup members were invited via the IEOx platform. In total, there were 4 workgroup members from 3 countries.

Name	Country	IEO status
Joseph Tsai (Project Lead)	Taiwan	IEO EB and Ambassador
Yulia Plotnikova	Russia	IEO Central Office
Anastasia Bobrova	Russia	IEO Central Office
Spyridon Terzis	Greece	IEO Alumni

6. Communications

To inform contestants of critical dates and other must-knows, the EsC Workgroup used various channels such as email, Telegram, WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram.

7. Conclusion

The creation of the IEOx EssayChallenge stemmed from the desire to provide aspiring economists with a platform to not only share their insights but also to translate them into practical solutions. Beyond this primary aim, the challenge also serves as a means to develop, test, and refine best practices within the field. Furthermore, the IEOx EssayChallenge plays a vital role in generating interest surrounding the International Economics Olympiad (IEO), facilitating the inclusion of new countries while strengthening the foundation in existing ones. By doing so, the challenge ensures that young students from all corners of the globe have the opportunity to participate in an IEO-like event, fostering international collaboration and knowledge exchange.

As the second year of the IEOx EssayChallenge, this edition was made especially remarkable with the collaboration of Hermiona, whose two-year partnership has greatly enhanced the evaluation process and the overall experience.