

**Greetings from Commissioner Johannes Hahn to the opening of European Business
Competence* Licence competition:**

Dear Participant,

It is my pleasure to send sincere regards and best wishes of success to all of you.

By being present here, you have already proved that you are one of the Europe's brightest talents in business and economics. You have demonstrated your thorough knowledge and excellent analytical capacities. Let me congratulate you to this achievement!

Yours is an important task. The prosperity of Europe is largely based on high level education and innovations in production and trade as well as on creativity in arts and culture. Thus, our future depends on our collective capacity to define problems, to find new solutions and putting them into practice. Strengthening the links between education, research and innovation in the "knowledge triangle" is therefore a vital pre-requisite.

But this is not an end in itself. At present, the global economy is developing towards a new 'multi-polar world'. Today, the sources of competitiveness such as technology and human capital are more evenly distributed than ever before. That's why we need you to unlock and promote entrepreneurial spirit and capacities in all regions in order to maintain and raise Europe's global competitiveness. Your knowledge and entrepreneurial spirit will be key to that.

I therefore wish all participants a success not only in today's exams but also in your future career.

Johannes Hahn
Commissioner of the Regional Policy