Call for Abstracts.

The 5th Education Evidence for Action Biennial Conference

Theme: Revitalizing the Evidence Community for Kenya's Education

29th and 30th November 2023 | Tom Mboya University (Homa Bay)

Introduction
The Education Evidence for Action (EE4A) brings together researchers, academics, policymakers and other producers and users of evidence to engage, elicit discourses in the education sector and utilize evidence for actionable and measurable planning and outcomes. The vision of the network is an education system in Kenya where research evidence informs education decisions. EE4A has two main objectives: facilitating an evidence-ecosystem in education and linking education evidence to inform policy and action. To achieve the objectives above, EE4A coordinates evidence producers and strengthens their intervention in translating data into evidence and making the evidence accessible to policymaking for improved learning outcomes, and sustained collaboration.

In the last seven years, EE4A has successfully organized four biennial conferences: 2015 in Nakuru, 2017 in Nyeri, 2019 in Machakos, and 2021 in Naivasha. These conferences attracted high-level participation from civil society, academia, and the government. EE4A uses the period between the convenings to consolidate evidence to drive the evidence-policy-action engagements.

The government of Kenya committed to reforming the education sector from basic to higher education – to improve efficiency in the system and address the challenges and concerns raised by stakeholders. The Presidential Working Party on Education Reforms is anticipated to make critical recommendations to inform the Government's priorities in education. In addition, the government is in the final stages of developing the National Education Sector Strategic Plan (NESSP) (2023-2027), and the revisions to the Basic Education Act, among other key education policies. The ongoing reforms in the sector motivate the 5th biennial conference, which offers an opportunity to re-examine existing evidence, connect evidence users and producers and activate the role of universities in evidence generation and use.

The 5th Biennial Conference
This is a call for abstracts for the 5th Biennial conference which aims at bringing evidence producers, academics, and researchers to share and discuss the body of evidence on education and revitalize connections and relationships among members of the evidence community in Kenya. This aim is articulated through the conference theme: Revitalizing the Evidence Community for Kenya's Education. The Conference theme puts to centrality the members of this community – government and those that need evidence to make decisions, the academia in and out of the University whose role is to avail evidence in accessible formats, and those that lie in-between, teachers and members of the civil society, including parents. In pursuit of this aim, this conference seeks to achieve four objectives:

1. Deepening understanding of the political economy of evidence use.
2. Applying evidence to inform policy formulation, review, and implementation.
3. Applying evidence to explore and showcase solutions to the challenges of education in practice.
4. Strengthening collaboration with universities as core drivers of the evidence community in Kenya.

EE4A secretariat and organizers, therefore, invite presentations that highlight policy-relevant evidence situated in ways likely to provide research evidence to the MoE and various actors including the county and community leaders in education with a focus on any of the following four sub-themes:

1. **Higher Education**: Positioning higher education for transforming education and training.
2. **Competency Based Curriculum (CBC)**: Examining CBC implementation, assessment, and transitions in Kenya.
3. **Education Technology (EdTech)**: The potential of technology in education to ensure equitable, equal, and quality education for all.
4. **Partnerships**: Optimizing Partnerships for successful education reforms and delivery in Kenya.

**Guidelines for submission of abstracts**

The abstract should be submitted in a Word document (Calibri body, font size 11) and not exceeding 300 words by 31st August 2023, 11.59pm EAT to ee4a@ziziafrique.org. It should describe:  
(i) a brief background stating how it aligns with the sub-theme,  
(ii) objectives or main questions addressed by your presentation;  
(iii) methodology and/or approaches;  
(iv) key results or findings;  
(v) policy implications and/or message(s); and  
(vi) three keywords or descriptors. Abstracts should clearly articulate the evidence presented, and the policy issues it addresses, and consider equity issues such as gender, residence, social economic status, and special needs status as cross-cutting. Abstracts based on evidence synthesis on the sub-themes and or drawn from a reasonable scale of studies needed to inform policy are highly encouraged.

The abstract should indicate the title of the abstract, the sub-theme, the author’s full name(s), title(s), and email address(es). The email subject line **MUST** be one of the conference sub-themes under which your abstract falls.

**Important deadlines**

- Deadline for submission of abstracts: 31st August 2023, 11.59 pm EAT.
- Deadline for submission of extended abstracts and presentations: 30th October 2023.
- Deadline for submission of final research papers and presentations at the conference –12th November 2023.
- Final Conference program by 3rd November 2023. The draft program will be available from 1st October 2023.
- Information about registration for the conference will be shared on 30th September 2023.

**Conference Venue and Dates**

Unlike the previous convenings, this biennial conference will be co-hosted by Tom Mboya University, in Homa Bay County and hope to activate collaboration of not only Universities but also County Governments. The conference is planned to take place on the 29th and 30th of November 2023. This year, however, it will be preceded by pre-conferences and a public lecture on the 28th of November 2023.