**CALL FOR RESEARCH ABSTRACTS-13TH ANNUAL ECONOMIC RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

**Conference Theme: Advancing Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Transformation: Evidence, Innovation and Policy Pathways for Rwanda**

**Dates:** 24–25 June 2027
**Venue:** Lemigo Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda
**Organizer:** Economic Policy Research Network (EPRN) Rwanda, in collaboration with partners

## 1. Background and Rationale

Rwanda continues to pursue ambitious development objectives aimed at accelerating economic transformation, reducing poverty and inequality, strengthening resilience, and improving the well-being of its population. Achieving these objectives requires evidence-informed policies, innovation, effective institutions, and strong partnerships among government, development partners, the private sector, academia, and civil society.

The evolving global and regional economic environment presents both opportunities and challenges for Rwanda's development agenda. These include changing patterns of development financing, technological advancement, climate-related risks, food and nutrition security, employment challenges, regional trade integration, and inequalities in access to economic opportunities.

Against this background, the Economic Policy Research Network (EPRN) Rwanda is organizing the **13th Annual Economic Research Conference** under the theme ***"Advancing Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Transformation: Evidence, Innovation and Policy Pathways for Rwanda."***

The conference will provide a platform for researchers, academics, policymakers, development partners, private-sector representatives, and development practitioners to present research findings, exchange knowledge, and discuss practical policy solutions to emerging economic and development challenges.

EPRN therefore invites researchers, academics, postgraduate students, policymakers, independent consultants, and institutions to submit abstracts for consideration and presentation at the conference.

## 2. Conference Objectives

The overall objective is to facilitate evidence-based policy dialogue and strengthen partnerships that contribute to inclusive, resilient, and sustainable economic transformation in Rwanda.

Specifically, the conference aims to:

i. Provide a platform for presenting research findings and policy analyses on emerging economic and development issues.
ii. Facilitate dialogue among policymakers, researchers, development partners, the private sector, and civil society.
iii. Identify innovative policy and institutional approaches to inclusive and sustainable economic transformation.
iv. Strengthen collaboration and knowledge exchange across sectors and institutions.
v. Generate practical recommendations to inform development policies, programmes, and investment priorities.

## 3. Conference Thematic Areas and Suggested Research Areas

Researchers are invited to submit abstracts addressing any of the following four thematic areas. The suggested research areas are indicative, and relevant interdisciplinary research contributions are also welcome.

### Theme 1: Climate-Resilient Agriculture, Food Systems and Green Economic Transformation

This session will examine the contribution of agriculture, food systems, environmental sustainability, and green investment to inclusive economic transformation, with particular attention to agricultural productivity, food security, rural livelihoods, climate resilience, and the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

**Suggested research areas:**

a. Agricultural productivity, commercialization, and value-chain development in Rwanda.
b. Climate-smart agriculture, climate adaptation, and resilience of farming households.
c. Food and nutrition security, agricultural diversification, and rural livelihoods.
d. Agricultural finance, investment, and the role of cooperatives in transforming smallholder agriculture.
e. Green investment, sustainable land management, and climate-resilient food systems, including CAADP implementation.

### Theme 2: Macroeconomic Resilience, Economic Governance and Regional Integration

This session will explore macroeconomic and institutional approaches to strengthening economic stability, improving economic governance, promoting economic diversification, and enhancing regional integration. Particular attention will be given to fiscal and monetary policies, domestic

resource mobilization, debt sustainability, and opportunities under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

**Suggested research areas:**

a. Macroeconomic stability, fiscal policy, and economic transformation in Rwanda.
b. Domestic resource mobilization, public expenditure effectiveness, and public debt sustainability.
c. Economic governance, institutional effectiveness, and public-sector accountability.
d. Opportunities and challenges associated with the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
e. Regional trade integration, competitiveness, and development of regional value chains.

**Theme 3: Productive Employment, Youth and Private Sector Transformation**

This session will focus on strategies for expanding productive, dignified, and fulfilling employment opportunities, particularly for young people, women, and other groups facing barriers to economic participation. Discussions will examine skills development, entrepreneurship, access to finance, private-sector competitiveness, and sustainable job creation.

**Suggested research areas:**

a. Youth unemployment, underemployment, and labour-market dynamics in Rwanda.
b. Skills development, technical and vocational education, and alignment with labour-market needs.
c. Entrepreneurship, access to finance, and growth of youth- and women-led enterprises.
d. The role of small and medium-sized enterprises in employment creation and economic transformation.
e. Digital employment, informal-sector transformation, and opportunities for productive and decent work.

**Theme 4: Digital Transformation, Innovation and Inclusive Human Capital Development**

This session will examine how digital technologies, innovation, education, and human capital development can accelerate productivity, improve service delivery, and promote inclusive economic participation. Particular attention will be given to digital transformation, emerging technologies, digital skills, and the contribution of human capital to sustainable development.

**Suggested research areas:**

a. Digital transformation, technology adoption, and productivity growth in Rwanda.
b. Digital financial services, financial inclusion, and economic empowerment.

c. Artificial intelligence, innovation, and technology-driven entrepreneurship.
d. Digital skills development, education quality, and youth employability.
e. Human capital development, digital inclusion, and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**4. Who Should Submit?**

EPRN welcomes abstract submissions from:

- University lecturers, researchers, and academics.
- Independent researchers and consultants.
- Master's and PhD students.
- Government ministries, departments, and agencies.
- Development partners and international organizations.
- Research institutions and policy think tanks.
- Private-sector organizations and financial institutions.
- Civil society organizations and development practitioners.
- Youth- and women-led organizations.

Submissions from early-career researchers and young scholars are particularly encouraged.

**5. Abstract Submission Guidelines**

Interested researchers should submit abstracts presenting original research, empirical findings, policy analyses, case studies, or practical experiences relevant to the conference theme.

Each abstract should:

- Contain **300–500 words**, excluding the title, author information, and keywords.
- Be written in English or French.
- Clearly present the research problem and objectives.
- Briefly describe the methodology and data sources, where applicable.
- Highlight the main findings or key arguments.
- Indicate the policy implications and contribution to economic and development discourse.
- Identify the relevant conference thematic area.
- Include three to five keywords.

**Author information:** Each submission should include the full names of the author(s), institutional affiliation(s), corresponding author's email address and telephone number, country, and a short biography of the corresponding author (100–150 words).

**Formatting requirements:**

- Font: Times New Roman, size 12.
- Line spacing: 1.5.
- Paper size: A4.
- Submission format: Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx).

## 6. Abstract Review and Selection

All submitted abstracts will undergo a technical review coordinated by EPRN and the conference review team. Submissions will be assessed based on:

| Evaluation criterion | Description |
|---|---|
| Relevance to the conference theme | Alignment with the overall conference theme and at least one thematic session. |
| Research problem and objectives | Clarity of the research problem, objectives, and questions. |
| Methodological rigor | Appropriateness and clarity of the proposed research design and analytical approach. |
| Originality and contribution | Novelty, relevance, and contribution to existing knowledge and development discourse. |
| Evidence and analytical value | Strength of the empirical evidence, analysis, or conceptual arguments presented. |
| Policy relevance | Potential to inform policy formulation, institutional practice, investment decisions, or programme implementation. |
| Clarity and presentation | Organization, coherence, and quality of academic and professional writing. |

Successful authors will receive formal notification and further guidance on preparing their conference full papers. Selection of an abstract does not automatically guarantee publication in a journal or other publication outlet.

## 7. Conference Participation and Opportunities

Selected researchers will be invited to present their work during the conference's thematic sessions and engage with policymakers, academics, development partners, private-sector representatives, and other stakeholders.

The conference will provide opportunities to:

- ✓ Disseminate research findings and increase their visibility.
- ✓ Receive feedback from researchers and development practitioners.
- ✓ Contribute evidence to policy discussions and development priorities.

- ✓ Establish professional networks and explore research collaborations.
- ✓ Identify opportunities for further research and policy engagement.

EPRN will explore opportunities to disseminate selected research contributions through conference documentation and other knowledge-sharing platforms, subject to editorial review and available resources.

**8. Submission Procedure and Key Dates**

Abstracts should be submitted electronically to:

**Email:** info@eprnrwanda.org or conference2027@eprnrwanda.org

**Email subject:** Abstract Submission – 13th Annual Economic Research Conference 2027

**Submission documents:**

- Research abstract in Microsoft Word format.
- Author information and institutional affiliation.
- Short biography of the corresponding author.
- Preferred thematic area.

**Proposed submission schedule**

| **Activity** | **Timeline** |
|---|---|
| Launch of the Call for Abstracts | November 2026 |
| Abstract submission deadline | January 30, 2027 |
| Abstract review and selection | February 12-18, 2027 |
| Notification of successful authors and request to develop full papers | February 19, 2027 |
| Submission of full research papers | May 21, 2027 |
| Comments from reviewers | May 27, 2027 |
| Submission of full research papers after comments | May 31, 2027 |
| Notification of successful authors to make presentations during the conference | June 11, 2027 |
| Submission of presentation materials, where requested | June 18, 2027 |
| Conference dates | June 24-25, 2027 |

**9. Contact Information and where to submit**

The 13th Annual Economic Research Conference is organized by the Economic Policy Research Network (EPRN) Rwanda in collaboration with partners.

For inquiries regarding abstract submissions, conference participation, and other related matters, please contact:

**Economic Policy Research Network (EPRN) Rwanda**

Contact Person: Mr. Jayjay Sylvester Blessing, Conference Coordinator
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Email: info@eprnrwanda.org or conference2027@eprnrwanda.org
Website: www.eprnrwanda.org
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**10. Invitation**

EPRN warmly invites researchers, academics, policymakers, postgraduate students, development practitioners, and institutions to contribute to the 13th Annual Economic Research Conference.

By bringing together diverse research perspectives and practical experiences, the conference seeks to strengthen evidence-based policymaking, promote innovation, and identify actionable solutions to Rwanda's emerging economic and development challenges.

**We look forward to receiving your abstracts and welcoming you to Kigali on 24–25 June 2027!**

**Economic Policy Research Network (EPRN) Rwanda**

*Advancing evidence-based policy dialogue for inclusive and sustainable development.*

Done at Kigali, November 17, 2026




**Mr. Seth Kwizera**
**Executive Director**