



The ATU Africa Innovation Challenge 2021

In Partnership with ITU

Pre-selection and Selection Criteria



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A. Introduction

This guidance has been developed to provide you with information about the qualification and selection process as well as information on how to apply for the ATU Africa Innovation Challenge 2021 (in partnership with ITU).

B. Who Can Apply?

The ATU Africa Innovation Challenge 2021 (in partnership with ITU) is open to ALL ecosystem stakeholders such as; regulatory authorities, entrepreneurial support organizations, incubators, accelerators, or any institution (schools, colleges or universities) from AFRICA, with programmes and policies that focus on creating an enabling environment for youth ICT innovations to thrive.

C. How to Apply

The ecosystem stakeholder will be required to submit:

- i. A unique practice that creates an enabling environment for youth ICT innovations to thrive. The practice **MUST** be an **ORIGINAL** idea/concept developed by the ecosystem stakeholders and **MUST** have been successfully implemented (and running) for a minimum of one year. It can be in the form of a policy, an initiative/programme supporting youth in technology; and
- ii. Information about two innovators (who **MUST** be below 35 years old) that have benefitted from this practice.



The practice submitted alongside the innovations' story (as provided for in the submission form) should reflect ANY of the following topical issues:

1. **Policies and regulations:** Policies or regulatory guidance that creates an enabling environment for technology-driven youth innovation.
2. **Socioeconomic empowerment:** Initiatives, platforms, or programmes that enable access to jobs and opportunities, mitigate community and social vulnerabilities among youth, and empower youth to be problem solvers in their communities.
3. **Lifelong skills readiness:** Initiatives, platforms, or programmes building lifelong skills to unlock young people's potential to innovate and thrive in the digital economy.

Registration for the ATU Africa Innovation Challenge 2021 will be done exclusively online via the <https://www.atuuat.africa/> website. Participants will be required to fill the registration form available in the ATU website and submit it. The deadline for application is 31st July 2021.

D. Competition Terms and Conditions

Every participant will be required to be responsive to ALL of the following terms and conditions as a minimum to be able to take part in the Challenge:

- i. The competition is open to all ICT ecosystem stakeholders whose organizations and institutions are registered and operate within Africa.
- ii. The candidate participating in Challenge must be a legal entity (an organization or institution) registered and operating in Africa.
- iii. Only candidates who have completed and submitted the registration form will be approved as participants.
- iv. Each candidate can only submit one (1) practice for the Challenge and the success story of only two (2) innovators (and their innovations) who are beneficiaries of the practice.
- v. The practice submitted for evaluation by the legal entity must fall under any of the topical issues in (C) above.
- vi. The submission phase of the Challenge will run from 15th June to 31st July 2021. All entries must be submitted within these dates.
- vii. Entries will be judged by a panel of judges according to the set guidelines, theme of the competition, novelty/ originality of the entry as well as the pragmatic promise of the entry.

- viii. All submissions must be the participant's own work.
- ix. All winning participants as outlined on the category of winners must agree to the subsequent use of their submitted entries for non-profit reference and promotional use for ATU and ITU communication and engagements.
- x. All participants retain full rights of their entries with the exception that they will surrender ONLY the right to the subsequent use of their entries for non-profit reference and promotional use for ATU and ITU communication and engagements.
- xi. There is no fee to enter the competition.
- xii. The practice submitted by the ecosystem stakeholder for evaluation should be ongoing for at least for 1 year.
- xiii. The practice submitted by the ecosystem stakeholder for evaluation should be designed to create an enabling environment for youth ICT innovations to thrive.
- xiv. The information submitted of the two innovators (and their innovations) who are beneficiaries of the practice should clearly demonstrate how the practice has enabled the innovators to thrive.
- xv. The information shared alongside the practice about the two innovators (and their innovations) who are beneficiaries of the practice must be authentic.
- xvi. The information shared alongside the practice about the two innovators (and their innovations) who are beneficiaries of the practice must be accompanied by proof of existence of both the innovators and their innovations.
- xvii. The information shared alongside the practice about the two innovators (and their innovations) who are beneficiaries of the practice must show proof of success/impact of the innovators and their innovation.
- xviii. The information shared alongside the practice about the two innovators (and their innovations) who are beneficiaries of the practice must be accompanied by proof that the innovators are indeed beneficiaries of the specific practice submitted for evaluation.



E. Pre-selection Criteria

1. Pre-selection will take place after the deadline of the submission of the entries and will run up-to 15th August 2021. During this phase, the panel of judges will assess each submitted entry against the pre-selection award criteria and based on the following guidelines:
 - i. The participant fully responds to the terms and conditions outlined.
 - ii. The practice submitted for evaluation has been implemented by the ecosystem stakeholder in Africa for at least one year.
 - iii. That the information submitted about the two innovators and their innovations who are beneficiaries of the practice is authentic, verifiable and impactful.
 - iv. The candidate has certified, by ticking the relevant boxes in the registration form, that the concept of their entries is original, and copyrights have not been violated.
 - v. The participant agrees to surrender ONLY the right to the subsequent use of their entries for non-profit reference and promotional use only for ATU and ITU communication and engagements.
 - vi. The participant has read and agrees with these terms.
2. All participants who will have been pre-selected will be notified of the results of the pre-selection of the challenge they took part in.



F. The Selection Process

The preselected team will proceed to the second phase of judgment that will be held from 15th August 2021 to 15th September 2021.

G. Evaluation and Selection Criteria

Every entry will be evaluated based on the following criteria concepts:

- Adherence to the set guidelines
- Response to the theme of the competition (the entry expresses or interprets coherently the competition theme)
- Novelty/ originality of the practice and information on the two beneficiaries and their innovation (originality of the concept, innovative approach to implementation).
- Impact of the practice in enabling youth ICT innovation to thrive in Africa.
- Overall impression.

Awarding will be based on the following awards criteria.

Category	Final Selection Criteria	Maximum Number of Points
1	Relevance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance to the challenge. • Relevance to the African set-up • Clear ICT objective that is relevant to one or several of the topical issues in C above • Relevance to any of the topical issues in C above • Impact of the practice 	20
2	Potency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic and social potential. • Novelty. • Scalability. • Sustainability plan 	20
3	Solution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear problem definition. • Solution offered by the practice that has benefitted Youth ICT innovators in Africa. 	10
4	Excellence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree of practice implementation by the ICT innovation ecosystem in Africa • Interoperability to other data sources (linking potential). 	20
5	Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide evidence that the practice has improved the ecosystem for youth ICT innovation to thrive 	30

H. The Pitch

At the end of the second stage, the members of Jury will meet and after deliberation, the ten best practices will be invited for a virtual pitch.

The list of shortlisted candidates will be broadcasted on the ATU website and social media platforms.

Candidates will then be invited to make a presentation of their respective practices and the success stories of two beneficiaries of the specific practice under evaluation.

Each candidate will have 15 minutes for the presentation and 15 minutes for a question-and-answer session.

The members of Jury will assess each candidate based on the evaluation and selection criteria in (G) below and will proceed to rank them starting from the winner, the 1st and 2nd runners up.

I. What Happens After Proposal Submission?

Once the participant has submitted their application, the judges will evaluate the proposals according to the selection criteria outlined above. The African Telecommunications Union will then communicate the outcome to all participants by 15th August 2021. The final selection of winners will take place on 15th September 2021 and the award ceremony is slated for 28th September 2021. These dates may change at the discretion of event organizers.

J. Competition Timeline

Step 1 — Launch of competition: 15 June 2021

Step 2 — Deadline for submission of entries: 31 July 2021

Step 3 — Notification of shortlisted participants: 15 August 2021

Step 4 — Final selection of the winners: 15 September 2021

Step 5 — Awards ceremony: 28 September 2021

K. Exclusions

Innovators cannot directly participate in this competition. Information on the two innovators and their innovations who are the beneficiaries of the practice will be submitted alongside the practice by the ecosystem stakeholder for evaluation as part of the entry and not by the innovator.

Any false, incomplete, or fraudulent declaration of the participant will result in the disqualification of the participant.

Lack of proof of existence and impact of both the practice as well as the beneficiaries and their innovation will result in the disqualification of the participant.

L. Cancellation

The African Telecommunications Union reserves the right to terminate the Challenge before the final awarding ceremony without any obligation to indemnify the teams.

M. Contact

For any additional inquiries, contact us at:

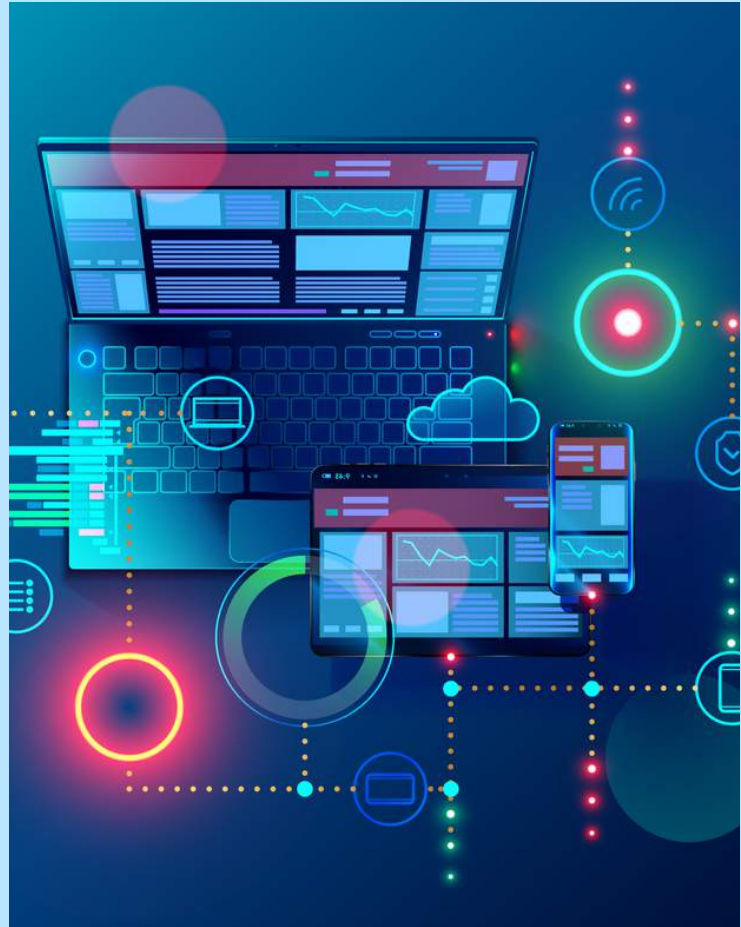
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The inquiries will typically be addressed within 24 hours of a working day.







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