



Harnessing Entrepreneurship and Innovation to Tackle Youth Unemployment

2025 Africa Regional Conference & Exhibition on Education and Skills Development
(ARC-EDS)

5th - 7th August 2025, Accra International Conference Centre, Accra

Concept Note

Background

Africa's youth population is growing rapidly, yet unemployment and underemployment persist at alarming rates. Traditional education systems are increasingly disconnected from the demands of today's economy. To address this challenge, ARC-EDS 2025 brings together educators, technical universities, policymakers, development partners, and youth leaders to forge new pathways that link education with entrepreneurship, innovation, and employment.

Building on the success of ARC-EDS 2024, which engaged over 300 delegates from 23 African countries, the 2025 edition will deepen pan-African collaboration, spotlight youth-led solutions, and promote sustainable job creation through educational reform, industry partnerships, and technology integration.

This year's edition is also Africa's flagship platform for the **United Nations-declared International Year of Quantum Science and Technology (IYQ2025)**. In collaboration with UNESCO and the IYQ International Committee, ARC-EDS will host a dedicated track to explore quantum science education and frontier technologies as levers for future skills, innovation, and inclusion.

Key Objectives

- Promote entrepreneurship education by integrating innovation and enterprise into curricula across Technical and STEM institutions.
- Facilitate cross-sector collaboration among academia, government, and industry for job creation and youth empowerment.
- Showcase African-led innovations and startups tackling youth unemployment.
- Advance Africa's readiness for emerging fields, especially quantum science and frontier technologies.
- Inform policy and practice through high-level dialogue, technical sessions, and actionable recommendations.

Key Features of ARC-EDS 2025

- Plenary & Parallel Sessions: On education reform, innovation ecosystems, quantum skills, green entrepreneurship, and youth employment.
- Continental Exhibition: Featuring Technical Universities, startups, STEM institutions, and student innovators.
- Special IYQ Segment: Includes the launch of the F.K.A. Allotey Lecture Series, an Africa Quantum Pavilion, and roundtables with global experts.
- Networking & Partner Forums: Connecting institutions with development agencies, investors, and policy actors.

Target Participants

- Technical and STEM-focused Universities across Africa
- Ministries of Education, Employment, and Industry
- Youth-led startups and innovation hubs
- Multilateral agencies (e.g. UNESCO, UNDP, ECOWAS)
- Private sector and Professional Associations
- Educators, Researchers, and student groups

Expected Outcomes

- Institutional partnerships to scale innovation and entrepreneurship training
- Increased visibility for youth-led projects and startups
- Enhanced preparedness of African institutions for emerging technologies
- Policy briefs and communiqués to shape national and regional education strategies
- A Pan-African platform for joint projects and knowledge exchange beyond 2025

For further information or coordination, kindly contact:

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We invite your institution and network to join this transformative dialogue to shape Africa's education and employment future.