

## The Fifth EPRN Students' Conference

*Educated youth, a trigger for sustainable development*



*Theme: "Youth and Covid-19: Challenges and emerging Opportunities"*

**Venue: Kigali – Rwanda, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021**

**Concept Note**

## 1. Background

The coronavirus pandemic, which started in China in December 2019, has not only created challenges on the health system, but it has had a very big impact on youth globally. School dropouts, mental health problems, unemployment, home based sexual violence and early pregnancies... those are some of many challenges facing youth and specifically university students due the Covid-19 pandemic. On another hand, Covid-19 generated some opportunities to youth including but not limited to getting jobs by the time classes were closed mostly those related to e-services; undertaking hands-on income generating activities like from construction, mining, masonry, etc. According to the NISR Labor Force Survey (2020); the number of students combining studies and employment increased from 123,100 in February 2020 to 324,084 in August 2020. In the same way, the share of employed students in the total employment increased to 8.8 in August 2020 from 3.4 in February 2020 and from 3.0 percent in August 2019. Furthermore, the share of unemployed students in the total unemployment abnormally increased to 15.5 percent in August 2020 as compared to 5.8 and 6.2 percent of February 2020 and August 2019 respectively. The 5<sup>th</sup> Students Conference aims to assess challenges facing youth during Covid-19 and opportunities brought by Covid-19 in Rwanda and empowering the youth with the culture of reading and writing.

### **About EPRN Rwanda**

Economic Policy Research Network (EPRN Rwanda) is a Research and Training Institution with a mission to contribute to the evidence-based economic policymaking by providing high-quality research, building capacities and creating networking opportunities. The Students Chapter is a flagship project of EPRN, which aims to develop young researchers, provide opportunities for university students such as debate competition, networking, youth seminars, study trips, research conferences. So far, four student conferences in 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 have been organized with more than 14 papers presented and awarded. EPRN website: [www.eprnrwanda.org](http://www.eprnrwanda.org).

## 2. About the Conference

Every year, EPRN and partners prepare a research conference for university students at bachelor level; who write papers and participate in debate competition on selected topics. Interested university students from both public and private universities write good quality research papers; or attend debate sessions around one or more of the following subtopics:

- *Education and human capital development*
- *Digital economy*
- *Labor market*
- *Gender and GBV*
- *Green economy*

The main objective of this Conference is to brainstorm challenges facing youth during covid-19 and point out opportunities following the coming of covid-19. Specifically, the conference seeks to:

- Assess challenges facing youth during covid-19 and suggest recommendations to contain the challenges
- To point out opportunities which resulted from covid-19 and policy actions to enhance them
- To improve the culture of reading and writing in youth
- Creating a platform, which gives opportunity of exchange and networking for youth, students, young researchers, and learn from best practices across the country.

### *3. About the Competition*

The competition will be held in two categories: Quiz competition and paper writing competition

#### **3.1. Quiz competition**

Interested will form groups of three members. The preliminary selections of the groups to participate in the group quiz will be done under each university's student chapter. The first round of competition will be held at provincial level, and winners from provinces will compete at national level during student conference. Three winning groups will be rewarded. Current awards are as follows: **500,000 (1<sup>st</sup> group); 300,000 Rwf (2<sup>nd</sup> group) and 100,000 (3<sup>rd</sup> group)**; but may change depending on secured partners going forward.

#### **3.2. Paper writing competition**

EPRN advertise a call for abstracts and interested students respond by submitting abstracts around one of the suggested subtopics. Authors of the selected abstracts are trained in Research methodology and are assigned with supervisors to help them come up with quality papers.

The best three papers are presented sign the conference and awarded as follows: **300,000 Rwf (1<sup>st</sup> paper ; ) 100,000 Rwf (2<sup>nd</sup> paper) and 50,000Rwf (3<sup>rd</sup> paper)**. This may also change depending on secured partners going forward.

### *4. Important Dates*

- Deadline to submit abstracts and register competition groups is due on 24/09/2021.
- Provincial Pre-selections (Quiz competition):
  - **Kigali:** 9/11/2021
  - **North:** 11/11/2021
  - **East:** 15/11/2021
  - **West:** 17/11/2021
  - **South:** 19/11/2021
- National Level competitions and Conference Day: 03/12/2021 in Kigali

## 5. Budget and Partnership arrangement

The total budgets for this conference is 10,150,000 Rwf to be provided by EPRN and partners.

Is your company /institution interested in supporting and unleashing the potential of youth? Kindly join hands with EPRN to make this conference successful. Partners will contribute to activities' budget and take part in their implementation towards achievement of conference objectives, and at the same time widen the visibility of partners' brands.

### Key benefits to partners/sponsors

- Logos will be displayed in all events (at provincial level and national levels) through banners, T-shirts, fliers, etc
- Sponsors' banners and fliers will be displayed through conference promotion (website and media)
- Sponsors' names and key services will be mentioned in-between presentations and sessions by the moderator
- During the conference at national level, each sponsor will be given 5-10 minutes to explain to students and other participants about keys services the institution offers.

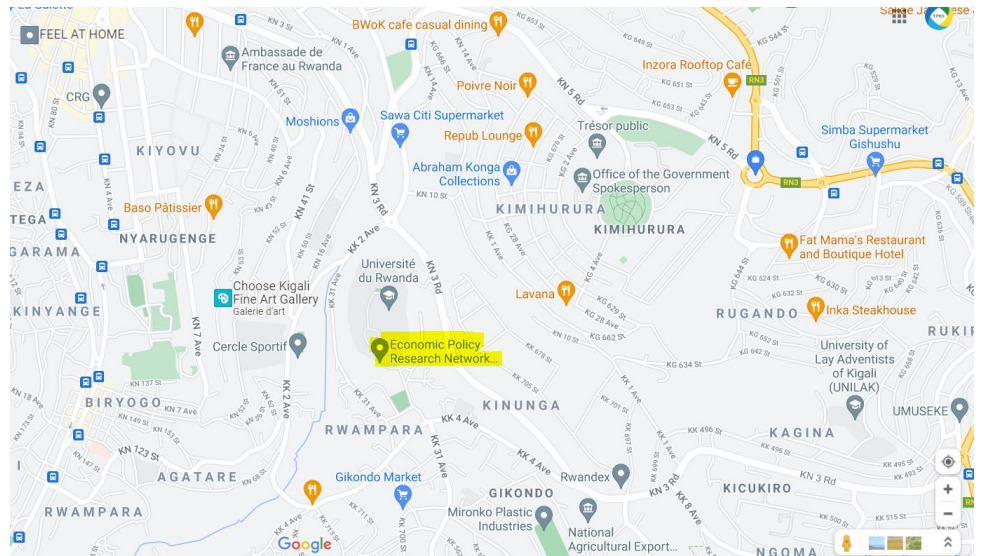
## 6. More information about this conference

For further clarifications, kindly write to us through [info@eprnrwanda.org](mailto:info@eprnrwanda.org) with a copy to [ed@eprnrwanda.org](mailto:ed@eprnrwanda.org) or call **0789648172 / 0788615859**.

## 7. Address

### Economic Policy Research Network:

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- Tel: +250788357648
- [www.eprnrwanda.org](http://www.eprnrwanda.org)
- P.O. Box 7375 Kigali, Rwanda



## Annex: Detailed Conference Budget

| <b>Budget for the Youth/University Students Conference 2021</b>                   |      |        |                   |                   |
|---|------|--------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Theme: Youth and Covid-19: Challenges and Emerging Opportunities in Rwanda</b> |      |        |                   |                   |
| <b>NB: The budget is in RWF</b>   |      |        |                   |                   |
| <b>A. Provincial level</b>  |      |        |                   |                   |
| Item  | Unit | PU     | PT Per Province   | PT in 5 Provinces |
| Refreshments  | 300  | 1000   | 300,000           | 1,500,000         |
| Promotional material (T-shirts, banners, fliers, hats.....)                       | 300  | 600    | 180,000           | 900,000           |
| Transport and periderm (EPRN and Partners)  | 4    | 100000 | 400,000           | 2,000,000         |
| Media   | 3    | 10000  | 30,000            | 150,000           |
| Facilitation to judges  | 3    | 50000  | 150,000           | 750,000           |
| <b>Sub Total A</b>  |      |        | <b>1,060,000</b>  | <b>5,300,000</b>  |
| <b>B. National Level</b>  |      |        |                   |                   |
|   |      |        | Tot               |                   |
| Item  | Unit | PU     | PT Per Province   |                   |
| Venue and Refreshments  | 500  | 3000   | 1500000           |                   |
| Promotional material (T-shirts, banners, fliers, hats.....)                       | 500  | 600    | 300000            |                   |
| Media   | 5    | 10000  | 50000             |                   |
| Facilitation to judges  | 3    | 50000  | 150000            |                   |
| Mentorship for paper writing  | 1    | 400000 | 400000            |                   |
| Awards  | ff   | ff     | 1450000           |                   |
| <b>Sub Total B</b>  |      |        | <b>3,850,000</b>  |                   |
| <b>C. Coordination</b>  |      |        |                   |                   |
| Overheads (communication, unpredicted)  | ff   | ff     | 1,000,000         |                   |
| <b>Sub Total C</b>  |      |        | <b>1,000,000</b>  |                   |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL (A+B+C)</b>  |      |        |                   |                   |
|   |      |        | <b>10,150,000</b> |                   |
| <b>Source of budget</b>   |      |        |                   |                   |
| EPRN contribution (30%)   |      |        | 3,045,000         |                   |
| Partners (70%)  |      |        | 7,105,000         |                   |