



Evidence 2023 content submission guidelines

We are delighted to announce that we are now open for submission of content for Evidence 2023, taking place in Entebbe, Uganda – 13-15 September 2023.

Theme of Evidence series events is *Engage, Understand, Impact*.

The theme for Evidence 2023 is coming together to build a knowledge base for evidence-informed decision making (EIDM) practice.

THEMATIC COVERAGE OF CONTENT TO SUBMIT

As with EVIDENCE 2020, Evidence 2023 will work along three work streams: namely,

- i) Enhancing evidence capacities,
- ii) Making connections and building collaborations, and
- iii) Advancing the art and science of evidence-use in Africa.

Content submitters (authors) are advised to see [event concept note](#) for more details on the work streams, and structure content to reflect interests within thematic areas of these work streams.

Authors are further advised to check that content reflects inclusivity and diversity interests of the Africa Evidence Network (AEN), which are summarised in these six broad dimensions which may;

- i) focus on countries in Africa;
- ii) reflect different sectors across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the AU's Agenda 2063;
- iii) include practice within or across domains that include government, academia, civil society, and intermediaries;
- iv) represent the diversity of roles within the different domains ranging from politicians to programme managers and researchers;
- v) represent different elements of the evidence production and use cycle, from the generation of evidence to its integration into policy and implementation; and
- vi) include any combination of evidence types, from administrative data and evaluations of all kinds to experimental research, citizen experiences and systematic syntheses of primary studies.

Content may also touch on identifiable organisational and systemic issues confronting EIDM practice within the African ecosystem, including;

- relationship between EIDM practice and public reform programmes;
- political economy dynamics (including culture & religion) for EIDM practice;
- historical antecedents to evidence use (national, sectorial, or organisational);

- (sustainable and unsustainable) funding mechanisms for EIDM interventions (in-country government, private sector and not-for-profit);
- facilitating inclusion of marginalised groups, languages, and concepts (e.g., indigenous knowledge);
- inclusion in the mix of evidence types for decision-making (avoiding idealistic silos);
- conceptualising evidence-use and its relationship with human development or welfare;
- co-creation, collaborations and improving relationships within EIDM groups, networks, communities;
- facilitating work (productivity) within smaller working groups;
- mechanisms for enhancing communication of evidence (engaging, storytelling, inclusion of critical and marginalised actors, multimedia [e.g., Tiktok]);
- dynamics of capacity development for improving (or professionalising) EIDM capacities;
- (successful and unsuccessful) mechanisms for institutionalising a culture of evidence-use (flexibility, timeliness, responsiveness, legislation, trust, and credibility);
- incentivising actors for improved EIDM practice (production, intermediation, and use);
- targeting actors for EIDM capacity development interventions;
- influence of information technologies in EIDM practice;
- enhancing visibility of the AEN and its initiatives;
- managing EIDM interventions in (navigating) hostile environments (extreme/volatile political environments, high staff turnovers, war/conflict zones, etc.); or
- (successful or failed) joint projects across organisations, sectors, and countries.

TYPES OF CONTENT TO SUBMIT

Content to be submitted for Evidence 2023 shall be any of the following types ([see details in the table on page 4-5](#)):

- an analytical scholarly article of 1500-3000 words;
- a descriptive, critical or persuasive concept paper of 1000-1500 words;
- a personal blog post of not more than 800-1000 words; or
- a multimedia poster designed for A3 printing (portrait or landscape oriented);

Prior to the tendering of these content types, authors are requested to submit an abstract (of not more than 300 words) that provide adequate insight into the main content to be submitted.

In line with the event concept, submissions may be in English or French. But where available, translations into the alternative languages may be added.

Authors of all selected abstracts shall also be requested to submit a 3–5-minute video summarising submitted content for display on the [event website](#) and in [AEN’s knowledge repository](#). The AEN will make efforts to provide French and English subtitles for all video submissions.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION AND EVALUATION

Step 1: Details for content submission

You will be required to complete the following fields for different types of submissions i.e.:

- I. Work stream with content
- II. Submission type/format
- III. Policy domains as represented by the SDGs and/or AU Agenda 2063
- IV. Has the same work been published or presented (as talk) elsewhere?

- V. Submission title
- VI. Full names of author(s)
- VII. Author's mobile number
- VIII. Author's work number
- IX. Social media (Twitter and LinkedIn) handles of authors (where available)
- X. Organisations in which authors work
- XI. Social media (Twitter and LinkedIn) handles of author(s)' organisations
- XII. Picture associating blog post
- XIII. Short bio of author (150 words)
- XIV. E-mail address for nominated author (for reader queries and correspondence)
- XV. Content text as per the guidelines above

Step 2: Review and evaluation of content submitted

All details provided by authors in the submission process will be processed to support verification and selection.

A content review committee shall be duly constituted to evaluate all content submitted for Evidence 2023. Members shall however remain anonymous in guarantee of their independence.

Committee members shall however work using the following guidelines;

- relevance to the six broad inclusivity and diversity dimensions of the AEN;
- relevance to thematic work streams dedicated to Evidence 2023;
- originality and quality of content within respective categories.

IT IS NOT GUARANTEED that all qualified content shall be included in the 3-day programme for Evidence 2023. Approved content that is not selected for the main programme may be showcased online.

IMPORTANT TIMELINES FOR CONTENT SUBMISSIONS:

- Invitation for content submissions – **Tuesday 28 February 2023**
- Deadline for final submission of full content – **Tuesday 28 March 2023 by 23:59 (SAST)**

To submit content, [click here](#).

For more information about Evidence 2023, [click here](#).

Directions for the different stages of submission (after abstracts) will be provided through email communication with authors.

For more information please contact:

E-mail: info@africaevidencenetwork.org

Email: info@confsa.co.za

The on-line submission system is user friendly.

See different types of content that can be submitted for review by Evidence 2023 committee:

Type of content	Abstracts	Analytical papers	Descriptive, critical, or persuasive concept papers
<p>Submission Guidelines</p>	<p>Please draft your submissions of not more than 300 words in total according to the headings listed below. You may draft your submission in text format only using a word processing software i.e., MS Word and then copy and paste the text in the abstract submission box.</p> <p><i>*Note that no graphic images, tables, graphs, or columns should be submitted with your abstract.</i></p> <p>Please follow instructions as shown on the Evidence 2023 webpage.</p> <p>The abstract should reflect the headings relevant to the full content to be submitted and contain the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Background ▪ Objective(s) ▪ Method(s) ▪ Analysis or discussion of result(s) ▪ Conclusion(s) ▪ Recommendations, implications, or next steps. 	<p>Please draft your analytical papers, and submit them according to the guidelines listed below, ranging between 1500-3000 words in total (excluding references).</p> <p>Envisaged in the form of scholarly articles, these papers may typically present opportunities for authors to share research and findings from analytical works with the EIDM community in Africa and beyond.</p> <p>These may detail the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Background: The description of the problem or hypothesis, and study objectives ▪ Methods: Study methods used, or approaches taken ▪ Results: Specific results in summarised form ▪ Conclusions: Statement about main outcomes. 	<p>The African evidence ecosystem is brimming with examples of stories on EIDM in action. In addition to analytic works that share mostly findings from methodologically structured projects, content is equally invited on evolving concepts and experiences of different experts within the community.</p> <p>Apart from the general thematic areas listed above, these may also take the form of mapping of the evidence ecosystem and/or the policy-making environment within their own countries, sectors, or areas of work.</p> <p>For this content type, (1000-1500 words), valuable details should provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Background: Short statement summarising the issue(s) addressed by the abstract ▪ Methods: A brief description of the project, experience, programme, or research ▪ Results: A brief description of the results or lessons learned ▪ Conclusions: A brief statement of next steps / recommendations.
<p>Type of content</p>	<p>Blogs</p>	<p>Posters</p>	<p>Video</p>
<p>Submission Guidelines</p>	<p>A blog post is an article, news piece, or guide. Please draft your blog submission according to the guidelines listed below, being 800-1000 words in total, and should be accompanied by an image.</p>	<p>Please submit posters according to the relevant guidelines provided for abstracts.</p>	<p>Authors whose abstracts are accepted will be requested to submit a 3–5-minute video, as an African EIDM practitioner or organisation sharing experiences aligned to a work stream.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Blogs may address either the theme of a relevant work stream or aspects of the listed organisational and systemic issues confronting EIDM practice in Africa; ▪ Blogs can be submitted in English or French; ▪ All submitted blogs require an image depicting the blog content (please ensure that you have permission to use this image); ▪ All submitted blogs require a picture of the author(s) (please ensure that you have permission to use these images); <p>Please browse through the AEN website to view examples: https://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/en/learning-space/article/</p>	<p>These must be produced in legible fonts, aesthetically appealing (and interlaced with graphics), aiming to be printed on A4 sheets of paper.</p> <p>Selected posters will be printed for in-person presentation. These will also be available online, clustered with their associated short video-recorded narratives.</p>	<p>Video recording requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High Definition (HD): 720p or Full High Definition (FHD): 1920p; ▪ When using a phone, kindly make the video in landscape mode; ▪ Send the unedited video; ▪ Send an image or images that depict your evidence experience. This will be used in support of any editorial works on the video; ▪ Please ensure that you have permission to use any video or image(s) submitted.
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