

2026 Manifesto Innovation Challenge

Application Guide

Purpose of the Application

The Manifesto Innovation Challenge seeks to recognise innovative and efficient applications of the AEN Manifesto on Capacity Development for Evidence-Informed Decision-Making (EIDM) in Africa.

This application is designed to be:

- Light-touch
- Narrative-based
- Reflective rather than technical
- Accessible to individuals, collectives, and institutions

We are not assessing writing style, academic language, or scale of funding. We are interested in practice, alignment, learning, and context.

Who Can Apply

We encourage submissions from:

- AEN members (individual or institutional)
- African-led initiatives or partnerships
- Initiatives implemented within the last 12-18 months
- Submissions may cover formal or informal practices

Applications may be submitted by individuals, teams, networks, or organisations.

What We Are Looking For

We are looking for initiatives that:

- Demonstrate meaningful alignment with the Manifesto's principles
- Show creative and contextual adaptation
- Use resources thoughtfully and responsibly
- Strengthen African leadership and agency
- Offer learning that others can apply

Innovation does not need to involve new technology or large budgets.

Application Questions

Applicants should respond to the following (max 1,200 words total or 5-minute video equivalent):

A. Context (200 words)

- What challenge or opportunity were you responding to?
- What context (institutional, community, sectoral) shaped your approach?

B. What You Did (300 words)

- Describe your initiative or practice.
- What makes your approach innovative in your context?

C. Alignment with the Manifesto (250 words)

- Which Manifesto principles did your work embody?
- How did you operationalise them in practice?

D. Efficiency & Resource Use (200 words)

- How did you use available resources creatively or strategically?
- What constraints shaped your approach?

E. Learning & Change (250 words)

- What changed as a result of this work?
- What did you learn?
- What might others adapt from your experience?

Optional: Submissions may also include a short video, infographic, or supporting material.

Submission Format

Submissions may be made in either of the following formats:

- Written submission (max 1,200 words), OR
- 5-minute video submission, OR
- Hybrid (written + visual)

Submissions may be made in either English or French (with consideration for additional language summaries where feasible).

Application Form

To submit your application, click on [this form](#).

Contacts

For any assistance or correspondence in relation to this Challenge, kindly reach out to:

Charity Chisoro, Programme Officer (Capacities), AEN info@africaevidencenetwork.org

You may also follow public announcements on the Challenge via our Social Media channels on:

- [Twitter \(now X\)](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [TikTok](#)
- [YouTube](#)