



Pan-African Policy Taskforce

Unlocking Insights for Action: AEEI Reflections, 2025 Highlights and What's Next

Introducing Our New Logo and Evolving Identity

We are excited to share the soft launch of the Pan-African Policy Taskforce's new visual identity, a vibrant symbol of our growth, continental reach, and collaborative spirit.

Inspired by **brown, gold, and green**, the new logo reflects the warmth of our community, the energy driving Africa's entrepreneurship landscape, and a proudly African visual identity.

In keeping with the entrepreneurial spirit of our members, we recognise that evolution is essential. As the Taskforce grows and our work expands, so too must the way we show up visually. Our refreshed identity signals forward momentum, renewed focus, and a bold step into the next phase of our journey.

Look out for the full brand rollout in early 2026.

Key Insights from the October General Meeting



Our final gathering of 2025 brought together policymakers, researchers, ecosystem leaders, and entrepreneurs from across the continent to explore the **Africa Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Index (AEEI)**. This tool is the first evidence-based framework designed to help policymakers, researchers, and ecosystem builders understand the conditions that enable productive entrepreneurship in Africa.

Why the AEEI Matters

During the session, **Dr Phumlani Nkontwana** and **Mr Rafiki Murenzi** from the **Allan Gray Centre for Africa Entrepreneurship (AGCAE)**, one of the Taskforce's core partners, guided participants through the structure and purpose of the AEEI. They demonstrated how its seven dimensions, from governance and culture to finance and human capital, allow countries to diagnose ecosystem strengths, identify gaps, and prioritise areas for reform.

By bringing fragmented datasets into one coherent framework, the AEEI offers countries a **shared language and comparable metrics** that make it easier to analyse and strengthen entrepreneurial environments across Africa.

A Real-World Application: Cabo Verde Case Study

To showcase the Index in action, **Mr Blaise Bayuo**, representing i4Policy, presented a case study on Cabo Verde. He illustrated how the country used its AEEI results to spot opportunities for ecosystem improvement. These ranged from improving entrepreneurial culture to broadening access to finance, demonstrating the Index's potential for policymakers seeking to benchmark their countries against peers or design targeted interventions.

Leaders Who Joined the Dialogue

The session also drew strong participation from prominent ecosystem leaders, including **Mr Matt Smith** of the **Global Entrepreneurship Network** and **Dr Nontobeko Mabizela**, CEO of the **Allan Gray Orbis Foundation**, who contributed to the dialogue and reflected on the role of evidence in shaping Africa's entrepreneurial future.

Watch the Session and Catch Up Anytime

If you missed the meeting or want to take a deeper look at the AEEI framework, you can watch the full recording below.

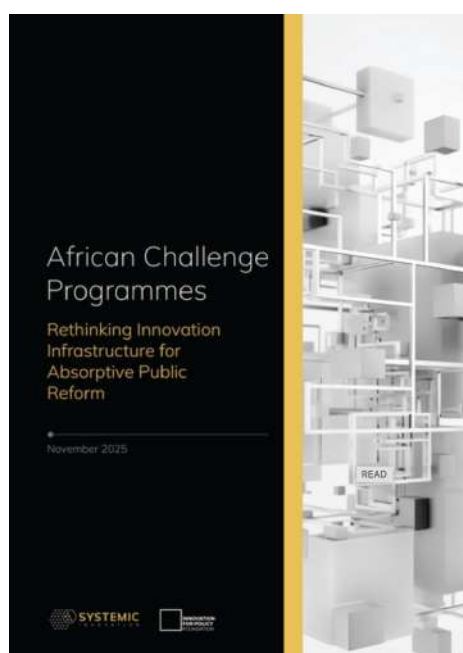
[Watch the recap](#)

Stay tuned to our newsletter for first access to future events, insights, and opportunities to engage.

2025 Year in Review

This was a defining year for the Taskforce and its partners. The growing recognition of evidence-based ecosystem development, coupled with new collaborations across the continent, strengthened our collective work. Here are some of the standout moments from the year.

Release of *REPORT: African Challenge Programmes: Rethinking Innovation Infrastructure for Absorptive Public Reform*



Across Africa, Challenge Programmes have become a standard way to talk about reform. Ministries launch GovTech calls, climate innovation challenges, and startup prizes. Donors fund rounds designed to “scale what works.” Intermediaries run accelerators and bootcamps to prepare applicants.

The surface story is one of momentum. But just beneath it sits a more uncomfortable pattern: very few of these pilots ever make it into policy, budgets, or routine public service delivery. The ideas are often sound. The

problem is what happens when they collide with real systems.

The report *African Challenge Programmes: Rethinking Innovation Infrastructure for Absorptive Public Reform* argues that the binding constraint is not creativity but absorptive capacity, the ability of public institutions to recognise, integrate, and sustain new solutions. Challenge programmes are being asked to deliver institutional change in systems that are not ready to absorb it.

[Read more](#)

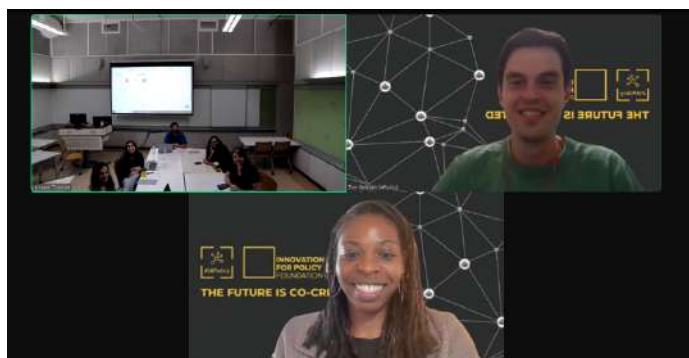
Global Recognition at the GEN Compass Awards



The Allan Gray Centre for Africa Entrepreneurship and i4Policy, both core Taskforce partners, were honoured at the 2025 GEN Compass Awards for excellence in research, policy innovation, and ecosystem collaboration. Their achievements, including work on the AEEI, reinforced Africa's growing leadership in evidence-led entrepreneurship policy.

[Read more.](#)

i4Policy and the American University in Cairo: Bringing Real-World Policy into the Classroom



In May, i4Policy partnered with the **American University in Cairo (AUC)** to test a new approach to applied learning. The collaboration integrated the Taskforce's online [Entrepreneurship Policy Learning Series](#) into AUC's Masters-level course, *ECON*

5251: Economic Setting of Development. Guest lecturers Professor Erik Stam, Tim Gelissen, and Aniya Hamilton offered students a practical, real-world introduction to entrepreneurial ecosystem development, blending academic and practitioner insights. [Read more.](#)

ABSA x AGCAE Youth Entrepreneurship Dialogue

In February, Belinda Baah of i4Policy joined the ABSA x AGCAE Youth Entrepreneurship Dialogue in Johannesburg, which convened



entrepreneurs, investors, policymakers, and ecosystem builders to advance actionable solutions. Although hosted in South Africa, the dialogue reflected a Pan-African outlook, with ABSA highlighting initiatives that expand access to finance and business development across markets such as South Africa, Ghana, and Kenya.

[Read more](#)

Looking Ahead

As we move into 2026, the Taskforce will continue to grow its activities and deepen its impact across the continent. We will explore new ways to apply emerging insights, strengthen peer learning, and support evidence-informed policy development. Members can look forward to expanded learning opportunities, broader collaboration across regions, and more spaces to share and showcase work happening within the community.

Stay tuned for updates in early 2026 as we roll out the next phase of our journey together.

Stay Connected

Visit the Taskforce website: <https://taskforce.ecosystem.build>

View previous newsletters: <https://taskforce.ecosystem.build/#news>

Have any queries or insights for our next issue? Contact:

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**Warm regards,
The Pan-African Policy Taskforce Steering Committee**