

# THE ELDORET NATIONAL POLYTECHNIC (TENP)



## THE 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RESEARCH, INNOVATIONS, HACKATHON COMPETITION, AND EXPO

### CIRIS 2026 HACKATHON GUIDE

**Conference Theme:**

“Competencies in Applied Research, Science, and Innovations for  
Sustainable Development (CIRIS 2026)”

**14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

**The Eldoret National Polytechnic, Main Campus - Eldoret, Kenya**

## HACKATHON REQUIREMENTS

The CIRIS 2026 Hackathon challenges participants to develop innovative, technology-driven solutions to real-world problems aligned with the conference's thematic areas. It is an intensive, collaborative, and solution-focused competition open to trainees, young professionals, and teams fielded by TENP's partner institutions.

### 1. Overview

Detail	Information
Registration Deadline	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2026
Challenge Brief Release	22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2026
Duration	Specific schedule communicated to registered teams
Competition and Judging	14 <sup>th</sup> October 2026
Awards	15 <sup>th</sup> October 2026 (CIRIS 2026)
Team Size	5 persons per team

#### 1.1 Problem Statement and Scope

Hackathon problem statements will be released to all registered teams no later than 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2026. Teams are required to develop a working prototype, proof of concept, or detailed solution design that:

1. Addresses a clearly identified, real-world challenge
2. Is technically feasible within the available timeframe and resources
3. Demonstrates awareness of the local context (Kenya/East Africa/TVET sector)
4. Has a credible pathway to implementation or scale
5. Considers sustainability across economic, social, and environmental dimensions

## 1.2 Hackathon Phases and Deliverables

Phase	Activity	Deliverable
<b>Phase 1:</b> Problem Definition	Teams identify the problem, conduct rapid user research, and define the target population.	Problem Statement Document (max 1 page; submitted Day 1)
<b>Phase 2:</b> Ideation and Design	Brainstorm solutions; create wireframes, sketches, or system diagrams	Solution Architecture or Design Concept
<b>Phase 3:</b> Build or Prototype	Develop a minimum viable product (MVP): software, hardware, or service model.	Working prototype or proof of concept
<b>Phase 4:</b> Test and Iterate	Test the prototype with simulated or real users; collect feedback; refine	Test report with evidence of iteration
<b>Phase 5:</b> Pitch	Present the solution to a panel of judges in a structured 5 - minute pitch	Pitch deck (max 12 slides) + live demo

## 1.3 Pitch Presentation Requirements

Each team's final pitch must be exactly 5 minutes, followed by 5 minutes of questions and answers from the judges. The pitch must cover:

1. Problem statement: what problem are you solving, who is affected, and how many (1 minute)
2. Solution description: what did you build and how does it work (1 minute)
3. Live demonstration or prototype walkthrough (2 minutes)
4. Impact and sustainability: how will it scale, and what is the business or social model (1 minute)

Pitch deck specifications:

1. Maximum 12 slides, including the title and references slide
2. Slide format: 16:9 widescreen (PowerPoint .pptx or Google Slides link, submitted by close of Day 1)
3. Font minimum 24 pt, legible from 8 metres
4. No videos embedded in slides; live demos are conducted separately

## 2. Judging Criteria

Criterion	Description	Weight
Innovation and Creativity	Originality of the idea; novelty of approach; creative problem-solving	20%
Technical Feasibility	Quality of prototype; soundness of technical design; use of appropriate technology	20%
Impact and Relevance	Alignment with CIRIS thematic areas; potential for positive social, economic, or environmental impact	20%
User-Centeredness	Evidence of user research; solution designed with the target user in mind; accessibility	15%
Sustainability and Scalability	Viability of the solution beyond the hackathon; pathway to commercialization or adoption	15%
Presentation Quality	Clarity and organization of the pitch; quality of the demo; ability to respond to questions	10%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

Alignment Note: This judging panel and criteria satisfy TENP's MoU commitment to constitute an independent Hackathon panel and communicate judging criteria to all participating institutions in advance of the competition.

### 2.1 Team Conduct and Rules

1. All team members must be registered participants. Late additions after 15<sup>th</sup> September 2026 are not permitted.
2. Teams must work independently; collaboration across teams on solution development is not allowed.
3. Open-source tools, APIs, and publicly available datasets are permitted and encouraged.
4. All code, designs, and materials produced during the hackathon must be original. Pre-existing proprietary codebases are not permitted.
5. Teams retain intellectual property over their innovations. TENP reserves the right to showcase winning solutions for promotional purposes with attribution, consistent with the intellectual property terms in the applicable partner MoU.
6. Use of AI tools, such as Copilot, ChatGPT, or Gemini, is permitted for coding assistance and drafting, and must be disclosed in the final submission.

7. Unsportsmanlike conduct, plagiarism, or circumvention of rules will result in immediate disqualification.

## **2.2 Resources Provided**

1. Dedicated workspace at The Eldoret National Polytechnic for the duration of the event
2. Wi-Fi internet access
3. Mentors assigned to each team from industry and academia
4. Access to prototyping tools and maker-space facilities, where available and subject to prior arrangement
5. Meals and refreshments during the event
6. Certificate of participation for all registered team members
7. A dedicated pre-hackathon orientation session on format, judging criteria, and team preparation, delivered ahead of the challenge brief release date

## **2.3 Registration Process for the Hackathon**

1. Complete the CIRIS 2026 online registration form, selecting 'Hackathon' as the participation category.
2. Submit the team profile, comprising the team's name, member names, affiliations, and a brief bio of each member, by 15<sup>th</sup> September 2026.