

eLearning Africa - German Development Cooperation provides answers

Among all continents, Africa has the highest percentage of people living in absolute poverty and infected with HIV. Education and knowledge play a crucial role for its economic and social development.

In September 2000, the UN member states pledged to reduce world poverty, secure peace, protect the environment and make globalisation equitable and sustainable. Germany's strategy for meeting these commitments is embodied in the Programme of Action 2015. This programme, which involves several ministries, is the German contribution to achieving the goals of the international community.

The Programme of Action 2015, under the leadership of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), is a call to action for society as a whole. It aims at promoting development in line with the principles of sustainability. Promoting education is a key priority in this.

Education – basic education, training and upgrading - is essential to enable the poor to take part in economic and social life. Information and communication technologies can support this process. On the one hand, the use of information and communication technologies enables broad sections of the population to exchange information quickly and on the other, it affords new earning and job opportunities.

Besides creating the necessary infrastructure capacities, the aim of German Development Cooperation is to provide appropriate training and upgrading opportunities for handling ICT. Technology-assisted learning and teaching, eLearning, plays a very special role here. To be successful, eLearning courses in the different regions must be designed to meet diverse needs and preconditions.



The advantages afforded by using modern learning technologies in training and upgrading are learning independently of time and place, the rapid provision of localised, updated course content and the timely conduct of courses with participants from different regions. The use of new media, though, is not the only key to a successful educational outcome; a quality technology-assisted education project can only work when the organisational structure, pedagogy, methodology and content are professionally adapted and implemented.

At eLearning Africa 2007 German Development Cooperation will present its joint efforts at promoting the use of eLearning for sustainable development. Together with partners from Africa, staff from Capacity Building International, Germany (InWEnt), the German Development Service (DED) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH will report on their experience.

Under the heading "Capacity Development for eLearning in Africa", we present how project work has managed to rise to the challenges of eLearning.

At their exhibition stand, BMZ, DED, GTZ and InWEnt will also present current developments, strategies and approaches for establishing eLearning capacities in cooperation with partner countries of German Development Cooperation.

The **Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)** defines the guidelines and strategies for German development policy. It sets out the long-term strategies for cooperation with the various actors and defines rules for their implementation. Joint projects are subsequently developed with partner countries on this basis. BMZ is the main client of the German organizations InWEnt, DED and GTZ.

InWEnt – Capacity Building International, Germany - is committed to human resource and organizational development in international cooperation. Global Campus 21* is a knowledge portal for international further education and cooperation. Here, more than 20.000 experts and management staff from all over the world have an opportunity to continue their education beyond national frontiers. That is why, Capacity and Institution Building with regard to e-learning, e-training and e-service providers is one of InWEnt's focus areas.

The **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GTZ)** is an international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development with worldwide operations. It provides viable, forward-looking solutions for political, economic and social development in a globalised world. The transnational project Crystal – ICT-based vocational qualification, offers comprehensive consultancy on developing eLearning schemes in partner countries of German Development Cooperation.

Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst - German Development Service (DED) - is one of Europe's leading personnel secondment services. DED is active in programmes and projects in over 40 countries worldwide which contribute to the improvement of living conditions and the reduction of poverty. E-learning plays a particular role in DED's vocational training and skills development programmes in Southern and Eastern Africa.

Key dates:

Pre-Conference Workshop: 28 May 2007, 10:00 – 13:00

Further information is available on our websites:

www.bmz.de

www.globalcampus21.org

www.crystal-eLearning.net

www.ded.de

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