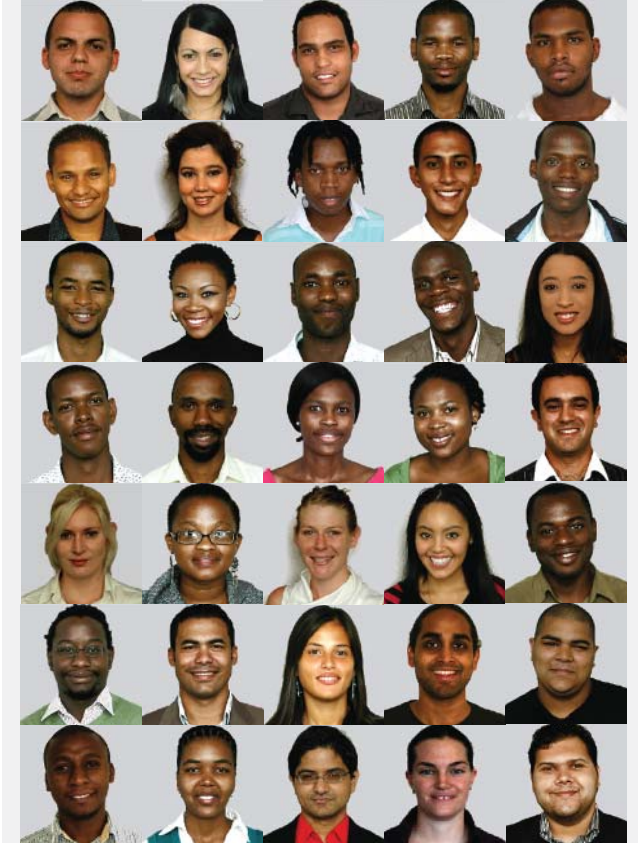


March 2012



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The e-Skills Institute is a national catalyst, facilitator and responsive change agent in the development of SA, within the globally evolving information and knowledge-based environment, by leading the creation of key e-skills development strategy, solutions, practises and the implementation thereof, to benefit the total population. The e-Skills Institute focuses primarily on three components: research, teaching and learning, and innovation.

Towards the development of a national e-skills teaching and learning curriculum

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page 1

The e-Skills Institute (e-SI) of the Department of Communications hosted and facilitated a two-day national e-skills teaching and learning curriculum workshop from 8-9 March 2012 at Farm Inn, Pretoria, South Africa. The workshop was co-facilitated by Dr Carlos Villanueva, Director of the Virtual University at Tec de Monterrey in Mexico.

Workshop objectives

There were two core objectives:

- To look at developing a national approach for setting up smart community knowledge production and coordination centres
- To start the process of developing a national e-skills curriculum framework for teaching and learning and to set the basic instructional design characteristics for the e-skills courses (given the needs identified).

Contextualising international benchmarks

International benchmarks were provided by Dr Villanueva from Tec de Monterrey, Mexico and Johnny Parkes, Chairman of Learning Technology Centre, Ireland. (Mr Parkes was instrumental in the development of the Learning Pathway in Ireland.)

The intention was to contextualise the learnings from these international environments into a South African developmental context and to ensure an impact on a number of our national strategic priorities (including the MSTF 2009-2014 goals).

Outcomes from the workshop

Based on the international experience and the work done to date by the national e-skills teaching and learning curriculum development group, the workshop identified key challenges and recommended needs for the development of an e-skills teaching and learning curriculum framework.

An action plan – for the establishment of dedicated smart community knowledge production and coordination centres – was also proposed. These centres will build e-skills capacity, particularly targeting those sectors of the economy that don't have sufficient opportunities to acquire such skills at an appropriate level. A detailed report of the workshop is available.

Multi-stakeholder partnership visitation

In 2011 the Department of Communications, through the e-SI, led a multi-stakeholder partnership visitation to Tec de Monterrey. The intention was to gain an understanding of its model that impacts the lives of Mexicans, especially those residing in rural areas.

What is the Learning Technology Centre?

Based in Ireland, the Learning Technology Centre (LTC) is a government-funded centre of excellence in learning technology that collaborates between industry and academia. A focus is supporting collaborative international projects.



Delegates at the national e-skills teaching and learning curriculum workshop

Who attended?

The workshop was a multi-stakeholder partnership collaboration and was attended by over 40 delegates, drawing on the experience from government, education, business and civil society. Individuals came from the:

- Department of Higher Education and Training
- Department of Communications
- International Computer Driving License (ICDL)
- Siyafunda CTC (community technology centres)
- United Nations Development Programme
- RIM (Blackberry)
- Cisco IBSG and Cisco SA
- Nemisa
- South African Local Government Organisation (SALGA)

In addition, delegates included organisations that make up the e-Skills Institute such as representatives from the Research Network for e-Skills (ResNES) and the provincial e-Skills Knowledge Production and Coordination Hubs in:

- the Eastern Cape (Walter Sisulu University)
- the Western Cape (University of the Western Cape)
- Gauteng (University of Pretoria)
- Northern Cape/Southern Gauteng (Vaal University of Technology)
- KwaZulu-Natal (Durban University of Technology)

What is Tec de Monterrey?

This privately-funded non-profit university that reaches over 100 000 students.

It comprises of a bricks-and-mortar university with 31 campuses in Mexico and a virtual University that spans 23 countries. (Tec de Monterrey also includes TecMilenio and TecSalud.)

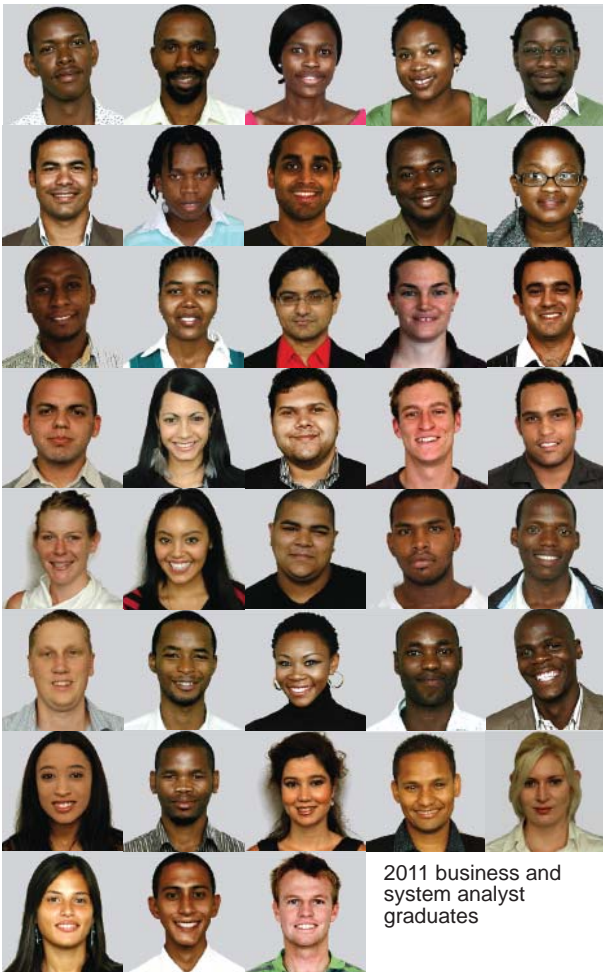
The objective of the virtual university is extending education without geographic limitations. Tec de Monterrey offers education through community learning centres (in rural areas) and social incubators (in urban areas).



Dr Carlos Villanueva, Director of the Virtual University at Tec de Monterrey in Mexico

Business and system analyst graduates increase e-skills for SA - towards global competitiveness and wealth equity

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2011 business and system analyst graduates

About BA SA

Addressing critical shortages: The Business Analysis & Systems Analysis (BA SA) programme addresses the critical shortage of graduate-level business analysts and systems analysts in the insurance and IT industries.

Growing e-skills: The programme is part of the CapaCITi 1000 programme which aims to grow the e-skills capacity for the region and the country.

IT qualification for those not qualified in the field: BA SA offers opportunities in the business analyst career path to graduates who have an interest in IT but are not qualified in the field.

Integrated formal qualification: The programme provides a formal qualification (at NQF Level 8) in business and systems analysis together with hands-on mentoring and coaching within work experience learnerships.

Targeted assistance with finding employment: While employment is not guaranteed, interns who are not offered employment by the host company are assisted in sourcing employment. The aim is that a minimum of 70% of the interns are employed within six months of completing the programme.

The e-Skills Institute of the Department of Communications was a key partner in the 2011 multi-stakeholder partnership of CapaCITi 1000 Business Analysis & Systems Analysis (BA SA) post-graduate training and internship pilot programme. The graduation ceremony was held on 20 March 2012 in Cape Town.

Multi-stakeholder partnership programme

The CapaCITi 1000 programme is a provincial industry-demand led multi-stakeholder partnership programme.

It was initiated by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism of the Western Cape Government and implemented by the Cape IT Initiative (CITi). The programme is run in collaboration with industry, academia, relevant SETAs and the e-Skills Institute of the Department of Communications.

The aim of the CapaCITi 1000 programme is to add, up-skill or re-skill 1000 people with IT skills in critical short supply in the next five years.

National roll-out

The longer-term aim of the CapaCITi 1000 programme is to grow the e-skills component for the Western Cape region.

It uses a learning model which includes recruitment, 'speed-pitching', an intern support group and monthly meetings between industry, academia and the host companies, as well as research and tracking of the graduates for five years after the programme.

The programme now includes software development and IT management.)

97.5% employment success

On the 2011 programme, 40 interns started. Two of the interns took full-time employment offered by their host companies and dropped out of the training in the first week.

The 38 remaining interns all completed the 12-month programme. Of these, 36 interns graduated from UCT in December 2011. The other two interns still have outstanding work and may still graduate.

A total of 39 of the initial 40 interns have been employed as a result of the programme.

Key benefits

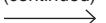
The CapaCITi 1000 programme is designed to:

- Increase graduate employability
- Address critical skills shortages, that undermine competitiveness, through an industry-demand driven model
- Increase knowledge sharing between stakeholders
- Use a multi-stakeholder partnership model
- Enable multi-stakeholder partnership support of graduates entering the workplace

Future plans

Due to fundraising and timing constraints, there were only 40 candidates that could be accommodated in 2012. However, it is envisaged that 80 graduates will be trained in 2013.

(continued)



Business and system analyst graduates increase e-skills for SA - towards global competitiveness and wealth equity [continued]

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Western Cape e-SKPCH contributes

The programme was coordinated through the Western Cape e-Skills Knowledge Production and Coordination Hub (e-SKPCH) based at the University of the Western Cape.

The e-Skill Institute of the Department of Communications, through the Western Cape e-SKPCH, is in the process of monitoring and evaluating the pilot programme. The intention is to gain an understanding of lessons learnt and the impact of the pilot programme (with regards to curriculum, new skills, certification, internship etc). This is within the context of what is required for an emerging 21st knowledge-based economy.

The monitoring and evaluation process is currently in progress. The outcome of the pilot will be considered by the e-Skill Institute for national replication.

Lessons learnt so far

Following are some of the lessons learnt from the programme:

- Host companies have followed the path of least resistance and actively tried to recruit candidates most in line with their expectations of what type of graduates make good business analysts (such as BCom IS, BSc Computer Science or Engineering graduates). Results showed that among the mix of degrees, individuals from the social sciences did much better.
- Interns at small companies did not fare as well as interns at big companies due to the lack of mentors/other business analysts in the organisation.
- Interns who were alone at host companies struggled more than interns in groups.
- More funding is required for the vetting of interns up front to ensure that the most genuinely deserving candidates get access to this opportunity.
- More soft skills are required such as business writing and general life coaching.
- More attention needs to be given to a detailed briefing of host companies, particularly line managers, in order to adequately prepare them for the interns on this programme.
- A key challenge has been aligning the multiple goals of the different stakeholders, particularly where recruitment of interns and programme desired results are concerned. There are key differences between the aims and objectives of funders, CITi, UCT, the host companies and the interns themselves.

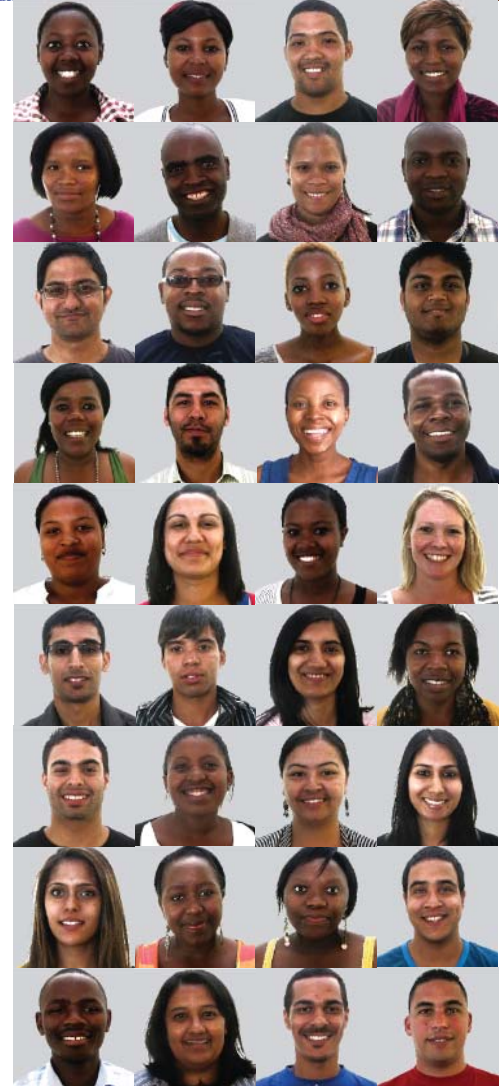
Speakers at the graduation event

Speakers included:

- Danny Naidoo, Innovation Director, Old Mutual
- Mymoena Sharif, Chief Director, e-Skills Institute
- Minister Alan Winde, MEC of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism
- Professor, Kosheek Sewchurran, Information Systems HOD, UCT
- Sandra Dunne, CEO of the Insurance SETA



2012
business
and system
analysis
training
interns



Guests at the BA SA graduation event

What is CITi?

The Cape IT Initiative (CITi) is a non-profit organisation that develops and supports the ICT industry in the Western Cape. It also focuses on ICT-related skills needs in all ICT-enabled industries.

Professional Development Programme for FET college ICT lecturers

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At the end of January 2012, the Eastern Cape e-Skills Production and Coordination Hub (e-SKPCH), based at Walter Sisulu University, embarked upon a Professional Development Programme for Further Education and Training (FET) college ICT lecturers.

The FET colleges

There are four FET colleges involved and the range of colleges ensured that the needs of both urban and rural colleges were catered for:

- Eastern Cape Midlands, Port Elizabeth
- Buffalo City College, East London
- Ikhala College, Queenstown
- King Sabata Dalindyebo College, Mthatha

Programme goal

The overall programme goal is for trained FET ICT lecturers:

- to be able to demonstrate that they have acquired the e-skills, as well as the teaching and learning skills that they need, to deliver the NCV: ICT course successfully
- to have fostered e-skills and ICT knowledge in a range of students who can then also show demonstrable evidence of improvement in levels of attainment after assessment

Equipping with critical skills

The programme equips the participants with the background, theory and principles of education which are critical for success in further education and training. However, it is also designed to be hands-on and firmly grounded in the ICT field.

The programme helps ICT lecturers in FET to engage critically with their teaching practices, continuously evaluating and developing these in order to strengthen the quality of teaching and learning. This aligns with the national goals of strengthening the skills and human resource base.

Skills needed for the 21st century – the ability to collaborate, use constructivist thinking, work through technology and solve problems – are embedded in the teaching and training through blended delivery and multi-modal authentic learning.

Multi-stakeholder partnership collaboration

The programme is a collaboration between the e-Skills Institute of the Department of Communications – along with its e-SKPCH in the Eastern Cape – the Department of Higher Education and Training and Cisco. The curriculum is also a collaborative effort between the Centre for Learning and Teaching and the Department of Information Technology (both at Walter Sisulu University), and includes input from Cisco.

Innovative thinking

Innovative thinking was key throughout the programme. It included using a blended learning framework of face-to-face and online approaches, as well as providing a model of practice for lecturers. (Lecturers, while giving the training, could see how to use this blended approach in their own classrooms.) The responsive curriculum engaged learners who then participated in the shaping of the curriculum allowing for a negotiated and innovative solution.



Delegates at the Professional Development Programme for FET college ICT lecturers

Certification

The programme has been registered with Walter Sisulu University with the intention of it becoming one of the new Higher certificates the DHET is planning for FET lecturers.

Alice Small Town Regeneration Project: e-skills for development and social inclusion

An upcoming project will see the Eastern Cape e-SKPCH engaged in the Alice Small Town Regeneration Project. This project involves a multi-stakeholder partner approach to breathing new life into Alice, the town in which the historically-significant University of Fort Hare has its main campus.

Innovative model

The model is multi-stakeholder, responsive to developmental environment needs and is the first of its kind.

Infrastructure and training

A proposed development for a mature ICT infrastructure will see the community trained in e-skills, enabling individuals to develop the systemic competitiveness that would lead to the regeneration of Alice. The Eastern Cape e-SKPCH will assist in facilitating the transfer of these skills. It is also an opportunity to involve the University of Fort Hare Computer Science and Information Systems students in the training.

If the multi-stakeholder partnership is successful, the model could be applied to other similar small towns in SA.

Digital Inclusion and social innovation: e-Centre Management training programme

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A key target area for the e-Skills Institute of the Department of Communications is to develop and expand the network of e-centres in South Africa. Part of this strategy is responding to the need for developing existing and future e-centre managers to enable better use of the e-centres.

It is essential to apply innovative thinking to what skills are needed to encourage development. Training not only develops the individuals but creates an expanded role where they can assist the broader community to gain e-skills. This is particularly important within the developmental context of South Africa.

First training group

From the middle of March 2012, the first group was trained in the interactive, blended Digital Inclusion: e-Centre Management training programme at the Western Cape e-Skills Knowledge Production and Coordination Hub (e-SKPCH).

Participants were selected from 16 e-centres, mainly rural areas in the Western and Northern Cape regions, where e-skills are particularly needed in terms of employment opportunities and becoming part of an engaged society.

Type of programme

The accredited programme entailed a one-week face-to-face component and four weeks online. It's a blended programme that aligns:

- content (fundamentals of e-centre management)
- e-tools
- planning and facilitation skills
- various modes of delivery and access (face-to-face, online, CD-ROM and mobile)

The programme was developed from Telecentre.org materials which were then adapted to the South African context.

Programme alignment

This programme is aligned to the main objective of the Western Cape e-SKPCH – to work towards digital inclusion through various e-skills initiatives, at the same time coordinating existing initiatives and producing new knowledge.

Multi-stakeholder collaborative engagement

A multi-stakeholder group engaged in the selection process:

- the e-Skills Institute of the Department of Communications
- Provincial Government of the Western Cape
- the Department of Rural Development
- the City of Cape Town
- Cisco
- civil society organisations such as ICDL, telecentre.org and USAASA.

The e-centre selection criteria entailed political, organisational, locational and technical elements.

Enabling e-centre managers

The programme enables e-centre managers to:

- Attain a specific set of skills which enables them to become self-directed, independent learners and knowledge intermediaries through the engagement of an interactive training programme
- Attain a specific set of e-skills in order for them to present to their communities information flows relating to their e-centres
- Create marketing material about their basket of services
- Communicate through asynchronous and synchronous collaborative e-tools in order for them to create lifelong learning communities of practice
- Engage in collaborative tasks in order to provide their immediate communities with the necessary updated information regarding formal and informal educational resources
- Present and share the value and role of an e-centre manager's profile within their respective communities

Delegates at the e-Centre Management training programme



e-Entrepreneurship (creative industries): e-entrepreneurship pilot project

March 2012
page 6



Graduates of the e-entrepreneurship pilot course

Why the focus on entrepreneurship?

The Gauteng e-SKPCH, based at the University of Pretoria, conducted an environmental scan of all e-skills activities in the province. They identified entrepreneurship as having the most relevant impact in terms of advancing e-skills and ICT within Gauteng.

Gauteng is South Africa's economic hub, encompassing large, medium and small businesses. However, most of these businesses have not identified how ICT can be leveraged to make their business more productive. Greater productivity leads to increased employment and improved livelihoods for many families.

Consequently, the Gauteng e-SKPCH has set out to equip new and existing entrepreneurs with complementary ICT and/or entrepreneurship skills. These skills will enable entrepreneurs to grow financially, increase employment and make meaningful contributions to their communities.

The Gauteng e-SKPCH's aims and focus areas are in alignment with the key government national priorities of increased employment opportunities, employment readiness and business and socio-economic development.

The initial focus of the Gauteng e-SKPCH will be on entrepreneurs in the creative industries and on mobile application development and innovation.

On the 16 March 2012, the Gauteng e-Skills Knowledge Production and Coordination Hub (e-SKPCH) held the graduation ceremony of its e-entrepreneurship pilot project.

Speakers at the event included

- Prof Jurie van Vuuren (University of Pretoria), course leader of the entrepreneur course
- Michael Onyango, Vice-chairman of the Creative Content Task Force, Ministry of Information and Communication, Kenya
- Dr Joseph Sevilla, Director, @iLabAfrica, Kenya and Senior Lecturer, Strathmore University
- Dr Harold Wesso, acting CEO, e-Skills Institute
- Mymoena Sharif, Chief Director, e-Skills Institute

e-Entrepreneurship pilot project

The Gauteng e-SKPCH started a pilot project training 20 new entrepreneurs from a rural community in Mpumalanga, Siyabuswa, on 1 August 2011 (For the pilot, the University of Pretoria leveraged its long-standing relationship with this community.) The pilot project emerged out of the provincial e-skills environmental scan that was commissioned by the e-Skills Institute.

The course approach? The course was developed with a learner-centred approach and embedding appropriate technology. After five days of face-to-face training, there was a 10-week mentorship programme. Key competencies included that of general entrepreneurship training and the utilising of technology to support business development.

Course success? This first group of entrepreneurs has already recorded considerable success measured by increased business revenue. One individual is now considering a multi-million proposal for his business, triggered by ideas generated during the Gauteng e-SKPCH pilot.

Intention of research? Evidence-based research is still ongoing with regard to the e-entrepreneurship pilot project. The intention is to better understand entrepreneurs' processes in adopting ICT to make their business more productive, as well as refining methodologies and course content.

Outcomes of the research will be fed into: new e-skills curriculum development, new policies required to promote entrepreneur usage and uptake of ICT, and the development of locally relevant applications that support e-entrepreneurship growth in the country especially those residing in rural and peri-urban communities.

Delegates training at the e-entrepreneurship pilot project



(From L to R) Dr Joseph Sevilla, Director, @iLabAfrica, Kenya and Michael Onyango, Vice-chairman of the Creative Content Task Force, Ministry of Information and Communication, Kenya



e-Entrepreneurship (creative industries)

Virtual launch of the Gauteng e-Skills Hub

The Gauteng e-SKPCH was launched by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Pretoria, Prof Cheryl de la Rey, emphasising the importance and commitment of the University of Pretoria to the e-skills initiative.

The launch, on 26 October 2011, was attended the Acting CEO of the e-Skills Institute and Deputy Director General in the Department of Communications, Dr Harold Wesso. There was multi-stakeholder representation from civil society, government, education, business and technology participated in the launch. Multi-stakeholder partnership collaboration is an innovative response to achieving a common goal that crosses national and local requirements.

A workshop was conducted with all the invited stakeholders representing the three content areas of entrepreneurship, creative industries and mobile applications development. The discussions were based in a developmental context with the focus on local needs. They revolved around three areas of strategic implementation:

- on how the Gauteng e-SKPCH should progress
- strategy and policy
- operational and technical

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Pretoria, Prof Cheryl de la Rey.



Research publications and students

Five papers from the Gauteng e-SKPCH were published in the proceedings of the Research Network for e-Skills (ReSNES) Colloquium held in November 2011 in East London. The papers contribute to relevant policy creation to ensure that e-skilling the nation is done within a developmental context and in response to real needs.

The hub has one PhD and one Masters student who are focusing their research on the impact and the role of e-skills on entrepreneurs. This is an essential focus in terms of transforming South Africa's economy.

There are still greater opportunities for more postgraduate students.

Collaboration opportunities

The Gauteng e-SKPCH is based on a collaborative network architecture that harnesses the willing interest and energy of all stakeholder working groups to focus activity beyond output and into impact. It is the abiding interest of the leaders across business, government, education and civil society in South Africa to collaborate in such an effort.

The Hub recognises that it provides a local physical presence that allows all stakeholder working groups to relate and be a part of national collaborative issues. At the core of the hub is the establishment of a distributed network architecture that provides a structure for effective engagement of all stakeholders across government, business, education and civil society in a targeted and integrated local effort that is linked to national policy.

If you wish to engage with the Gauteng e-SKPCH, please contact: Dr Hossana Twinomurinzi: twinoh@up.ac.za

e-Literacy and e-business

Provincial collaboration

The Northern Cape/Southern Gauteng e-Skills Knowledge Production and Coordination Hub (e-SKPCH) is strengthening collaboration in the Northern Cape. With the e-Skills Institute central office, the hub has started engaging around the capacitating of e-skills interventions in the province.

Focus areas

The NC/SG e-SKPCH has e-literacy and e-business as focus areas. The intention is to mobilise the broader population, including the unemployed, low income levels and broad community structures into the socio-economic mainstream to make them competitive, employable, entrepreneurial and self-sustaining.



Emblem for the
Northern Cape
Provincial
government

Defining e-skills
For South Africa, 'e-skills' means **the ability to use and develop ICTs** within the context of an emerging South African information society and global knowledge economy, and **associated competencies that enable individuals to actively participate in the world** in which ICT is a requirement for advancement in general.

e-Skills for e-government enablement

The KZN e-Skills Knowledge Production and Coordination Hub (e-SKPCH) - based at the Durban University of Technology - has embarked on a process to increase awareness of its availability and to focus on the need to embed technology in education (e-education). It met several surrounding municipalities in the Natal Midlands, such as Ladysmith, Escort, Bergville and Newcastle. This was done on the 3, 13 and 23 of February 2012.

The meetings were well received and the municipalities have provided a full needs analysis for the next financial year. This is a milestone achievement as it demonstrates a full commitment to e-skill the region.

The KZN e-SKPCH has commenced an engagement with SITA, and the provincial government to discuss several workshops on e-government and how to roll out such training.

Information on the 'e-Skills Enablement for Government Services' indaba

The KZN e-SKPCH's intends to have an indaba around 'e-Skills Enablement for Government Services'. This is in support of the Provincial Government of KwaZulu Natal's e-government strategy.

Date? June 2012

Planning? The Hub is currently busy with plans and stakeholder engagement to attract the appropriate international experts along with provincial government, the e-Skills Institute (Department of Communications) international partners, the UNDP, CISCO, other universities and appropriate local experts.

Want to know more? For more information or stakeholders that wish to be involved, please contact Colin Thakur at thakur@dut.ac.za.

National Research Networks for e-Skills (ReSNES)

www.resnes.co.za

The National Research Networks for e-Skills (ReSNES) is a platform for multi-stakeholder partner collaborations on research to support the national e-skills drive.

The e-skills agenda is aimed at e-skilling South Africa for wealthy equity and global competitiveness. It is a new approach to research, policy development and relevance in developing employment in knowledge societies.

ReSNES is creating a network of researchers across the higher education sector, the private sector, government, civil society and other role players to provide the research-based essential intelligence needed for e-skilling South Africa.

The objectives

ReSNES' main objectives are:

- thought leadership
- research classification
- research working groups
- develop integrated approaches for policy development
- research and evaluation of e-skills impacts

Main functions

The main functions of ReSNES include:

- coordination of analysis, research, policy development and evaluation within such contexts as the MTSF, MDGs and WSIS
- research, policy development and service delivery within and across all the provincial e-SPCHs
- integrated research that aligns effort in the e-skills arena with priority impact areas
- research colloquia

The need for a new research architecture

ICT application is dominating in the emergence of a knowledge society. The consequent increasing inequity in e-skills requires an alignment between research and national and global societal goals.

Current research approaches don't work

While best efforts have been made by discipline-based research, there are large gaps in meeting the challenges that universities, governments, business and civil society face in addressing society's needs. These include:

- Large gaps in trans-disciplinary approaches across government, business, education and civil society.
- Few well-articulated pathways between research outputs and societal impact.
- Few - if any - adequately defined frameworks for aligning research inputs with outputs and impacts within the societal strategic construct.
- Few - if any - formalised pathways to move easily between business, government, education and civil society.
- No substantive forward planning certainty for multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder approaches to address the real socio-economic problems and opportunities that face developing nations.

Creating collaborative architectures

There is a rapidly emerging confluence of need, interest and applicability across government, business, education and civil society. This is in the area of building capacity for equitable prosperity and global competitiveness in the emerging socio-economic space.

Hence, as part of the national e-skills agenda being driven by the e-Skills Institute of the Department of Communications, the role of ReSNES is to lead in the development of suitable collaborative architectures for research that is demonstrably and visibly linked to impact.

Contact details for ReSNES

Coordinator: Prof Phinda Songca, +27 (0)43 709 4069,
spsongca@wsu.ac.za

Innovation Application Factories

The Makana Application Development Factory

The EC Hub has forged links with the Makana Application Development Factory (MAF) based at Rhodes University. The MAF will become the hub's associated e-skills innovation application factory, providing a unique collaboration between different expertise in the areas of media content production and computer science.

How the innovation application factory started

The MAF started as an initiative where Computer Science students at Rhodes University (and based at a Telkom Centre of Excellence at the university) implemented wireless technology at Dwesa on the Wild Coast.



This was done using TeleWeaver, an e-service and telecommunication system for under-served areas which breaks down silos and integrates different applications serving marginalised communities, municipal e-governance and SMMEs. The initiative was funded by SAFIPA

The 'Grahamstown Now' portal

The MAF has also developed an innovative community-oriented journalism portal called 'Grahamstown Now' (www.ghtnow.co.za). It is a collaboration between the Rhodes University Computer Science and Journalism departments, Grahamstown community newspaper Grocott's Mail newspaper and Radio Grahamstown.

The portal enables citizen journalism using mobile applications (particularly cell phones). The focus is not only community news but engaging people within the community about their needs, such as support for entrepreneurs.



Grahamstown Now incorporates Grahamstown, an urban area, as well as Rini, a peri-urban township. The intention is that this will grow in terms of its developmental focus to the rest of the Eastern Cape.

The model also allows for student training and development.

Growing the innovation application factory

The e-Skills Institute of the Department of Communications, through the Eastern Cape e-Skills Knowledge Production and Coordination Hub (e-SKPCH), is operating as an enabler and catalyst to grow a small initiative into an innovation application factory with a wider focus. It is anticipated that the MAF will lead to entrepreneurial activity and innovation which will result in job creation in the province.

RIM (Blackberry) CEO visits

On 31 January 2012, Robert Bose CEO of RIM EMEA visited the RIM Innovation Application Factory (apps factory) that is being established at the Gauteng e-Skills Knowledge Production and Coordination Hub (e-SKPCH).

An apps factory is a place to create innovative applications that are local and relevant to South Africa. It provides an opportunity to create new job opportunities for individuals in South Africa.

It is a collaborative space where students, entrepreneurs and the community have a forum for mutual support, skills development, idea sharing, product development and networking.

The function of the RIM Innovation Application Factory will be to:

- enhance skills in Blackberry mobile apps development
- to research and develop locally relevant new Blackberry mobile technologies that respond both to a rural and urban context
- to increase the penetration of mobile app use in South Africa

Opportunities

The disruptive nature of mobile applications means that there is little material available from which new developers can easily learn. The creation of the RIM apps factory is an opportunity to create such material and learn from strategic mobile technology partners in creating relevant curricula.

This engagement, with RIM (Blackberry) will promote economic growth and strengthen the skills and human resource base.



Enhancing the e-Skills Institute (Department of Communications)

Innovation Application Factories enhance the e-Skills Institute (Department of Communications) programme by:

- Bringing partners in education, business, civil society and government together to share resources to address real problems facing South Africa.
- Raising the awareness of the benefits of mobile applications and local developers talent in the information society and knowledge-based economy.
- Being a focal point for e-entrepreneurial activity, networking between students and key partners in education, business, civil society and government.
- Developing innovative applications for local impact to increase social appropriation of ICT and embed ICTs for the growth of South Africa.
- Creating a local environment for students to embrace new challenges and enjoy creating new products and services for business, government, education and communities in general.

e-SKPCH events

KZN e-SKPCH events

April 2012

- Monthly Stakeholders Forum on the fourth Wednesday

May 2012

- Monthly Stakeholders Forum on the fourth Wednesday

June 2012

- Monthly Stakeholders Forum on the fourth Wednesday
- e-Skills Enablement for Government Services iNdaba

July 2012

- Monthly Stakeholders Forum on the fourth Wednesday

August 2012

- Monthly Stakeholders Forum on the fourth Wednesday

September 2012

- Monthly Stakeholders Forum on the fourth Wednesday

October 2012

- Monthly Stakeholders Forum on the fourth Wednesday

November 2012

- Monthly Stakeholders Forum on the fourth Wednesday

Western Cape e-SKPCH events

March - April 2012

- 12-16 March: e-Skills workshop – cohort 1 – face-to-face
- 19 March-13 April: cohort 1 – online phase

August - September 2012

- 13-17 Aug: e-Skills workshop – cohort 2 – face-to-face
- 20 Aug-14 Sep: cohort 2 – online phase

October - November 2012

- 8-12 Oct: e-Skills workshop – cohort 3 – face-to-face
- 15 Oct-9 November: cohort 3 – online phase

Contact details for the e-Skills Institute

- Mymoena Sharif, mymoena@doc.gov.za

Eastern Cape e-SKPCH events

March 2012

- 26-28 March: Second contact training session of the FET Professional Development Programme

April 2012

- 11 April: E-skills research meeting
- 25 April: E-skills research meeting

May 2012

- 9 May: E-skills research meeting
- 10 May: First multi-stakeholder board meeting
- 18 May: Fourth multi-stakeholder forum meeting
- 25 May: E-skills research meeting

Gauteng e-SKPCH events

February - June 2012

- Incorporating multimedia Blackberry mobile apps course

March, July and October 2012

- Gauteng e-SKPCH stakeholder meetings

April - December 2012

- Regular presentation of e-skills courses for entrepreneurs and in the creative industries

May 2012

- Submit a curriculum for a Postgraduate Diploma for e-Entrepreneurship to SAQA

July - December 2012

- Incorporate Blackberry mobile apps development as part of a BCom (Honours) Informatics course and in Usability Testing

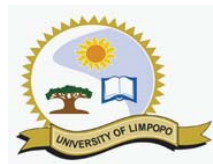
July - August 2012

- Host a distinguished international academic as a visiting professor

partners in the Department of Communication's e-Skills Institute multi-stakeholder partnership collaboration



education



government/South Africa



civil society



business



global developmental
partners

Please note that this list will be extended as there are Memorandums of Understanding in progress across all sectors.

The e-Skills Institute is a national catalyst, facilitator and responsive change agent in the development of SA, within the globally evolving information and knowledge-based environment, by leading the creation of key e-skills development strategy, solutions, practises and the implementation thereof, to benefit the total population. The e-Skills Institute focuses primarily on three components: research, teaching and learning, and innovation.