

e-skills institute newsletter

Edition 8, October 2012

Global ICT Forum on Human Capital Development 2012

South African national e-Skills Summit 2012

Hosted by The South African Government's
Department of Communications through
its e-Skills Institute



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innovative
responsive
developmental
enabler
collaborative

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, practices and the implementation thereof, to benefit the total population. The e-Skills Institute focuses primarily on four components: research, teaching and learning, innovation and a monitoring and evaluation framework.

Be a part of developing the second National e-Skills Plan of Action 2012

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Building e-skills capacity is essential to addressing South Africa's skill challenges and falling e-readiness rankings. It is especially important in the face of an unprecedented escalation in the power, mobility, affordability and applicability of ICT to impact on every sphere of life – across the full socio-economic spectrum.

It is widely recognised that there can simply be no sustainable approach to developing equitable prosperity, creating employment, creating social cohesion, creating a participative and educated society suited to the economic needs of South Africa, without the effective appropriation of ICT tools in everyday life across the nation.

The e-Skills Summit 2012

The e-Skills Summit 2012, as part of the international Telecommunications Union's (ITU) Global ICT Forum on Human Capital Development, will focus on the importance of capacity building in driving the e-skills agenda, as well as identifying strategies that move capacity building forward for an Information Society and for knowledge-based economies.

The event is being held on 22-25 October 2012 at the Southern Sun's Cape Sun, Cape Town.

NeSPA 2010

The first national e-Skills Summit in 2010 produced the National e-Skills Plan of Action (NeSPA 2010) as a working document to align efforts of all stakeholder groups to national priorities.

It was designed to:

- Reflect a national consensus in terms of e-skills priorities with input from all stakeholder groups.
- Provide a coordinating framework for effective implementation of current and future e-skills initiatives matching the developmental, economic and societal needs of South Africa.
- Leverage local, national and international benchmarks and good practices for adaptation, replication and scaling across South Africa, and share them with the rest of Africa.
- Provide for a framework of relevant coordinated pedagogy development and delivery across the e-skills enhancement environment (including the informal sector).
- Propose fully-costed solutions, owned by key stakeholder groups, to match current and future skills gaps for key sectors identified in the MTSF and IPAP as national priorities.
- Specify performance metrics to facilitate measurement and evaluation.
- Address political, economic, social, technological, environmental and legal considerations and identify current public sector constraints that need to be addressed.
- Prepare an e-skills requirements map, displaying the skills paths and needs from beginner to expert, for MTSF priority areas for economic growth and social development.
- Define an appropriate 'enabling environment' for e-skills development.

Live streaming and social media

There will be live streaming of the e-Skills Summit. Go to <http://livestreamsa.co.za/eSkillsSummit2012>.

e-Skills Summit FaceBook page: www.facebook.com/pages/e-Skills-Summit-2012/484870148202029

e-Skills Summit Twitter feed: <https://twitter.com/eSkillsSummit12>

New trends

During the past two years, a number of milestones have been reached requiring renewed thinking, innovative planning and greater urgency to respond to the national needs.

Lessons are continuing to be learnt: South Africa has gained important experiences at the local (provincial e-skills hub and e-centre) level. Several developing countries have taken the challenge and are moving ahead to e-readiness and e-skills.

Social innovation and social astuteness: Innovation has moved from the boardrooms and planning sessions into our everyday lives and our social structures and functionalities. Social astuteness has become an important part of the appropriation of ICT, especially in terms of increasing self reliance.

Affordable internet and increased uptake: All of Africa's major cities, town and villages will be connected to affordable Internet (broadband) by 2020 facilitating the continent's mass entry into the knowledge and information economy. New international data cables arrived in the country, which will lead to lower prices and higher uptake of the technology by deep rural, rural and peri-urban areas.

Opportunities with increased mobile penetration and convergence: Mobile penetration in the country and the continent provides an enormous opportunity in the mobile software applications development industry, thus generating new job opportunities and developing solutions for Africans by Africans. It has also brought new instruments for e-skilling and capacitating users. Technological convergence is happening at more and more levels (multi-media, internet, and connectivity) that are becoming instruments to e-skilling.

Increased need for skills and increasing unemployment: The skills need in SA have become even greater and more urgent (and a good percentage of these are related to technical, ICT and e-skills). The issue of unemployment, especially for youth, continues to grow despite the efforts of the national government.

The current trends (in the impact of ICT deployment) demonstrate that aggregation of both supply and demand into increasingly large economies of scale and lost leader time frames across much of business, education and government service delivery are well beyond the capacity

[continued] Be a part of developing the second National e-Skills Plan of Action 2012

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of traditional concepts of market competition within nation states to operate in the national interest.

Only a national approach built on effective collaboration across and within the stakeholder groups has the potential to address the immediate and future needs of South Africa in an emerging world pervasively impacted by ICT across all spheres of life.

The intention of the second e-Skills Summit

- evaluate progress of the 2010 NeSPA document
- take stock of all the lessons learned during the first two years of NeSPA
- align current initiatives and identify gaps to impact the South African national strategic developmental goals
- develop an updated and integrated action plan for the next 24 months (NeSPA 2) which will target e-skills enhancement in South Africa and provide linkages to efforts across the African continent

NeSPA 2 will need to be aligned with the South African government development strategies (National Development Plan – Vision 2030, the Medium Term Strategic Framework) and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Plan of Action, NEPAD, and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Objectives include further developing an internationally-recognised South African coordinating platform that engages government, education, business and civil society in addressing the lack of e-skills.

However, to be successful, such an effort needs to understand and be responsive to international trends, stakeholder needs, and the developmental agenda and be demonstrably aligned with the national strategies in ways that best position South Africa in a continental context.

Hosted by The South African Government's Department of Communications through its e-Skills Institute



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Global ICT Forum on Human Capital Development
22-25 October 2012

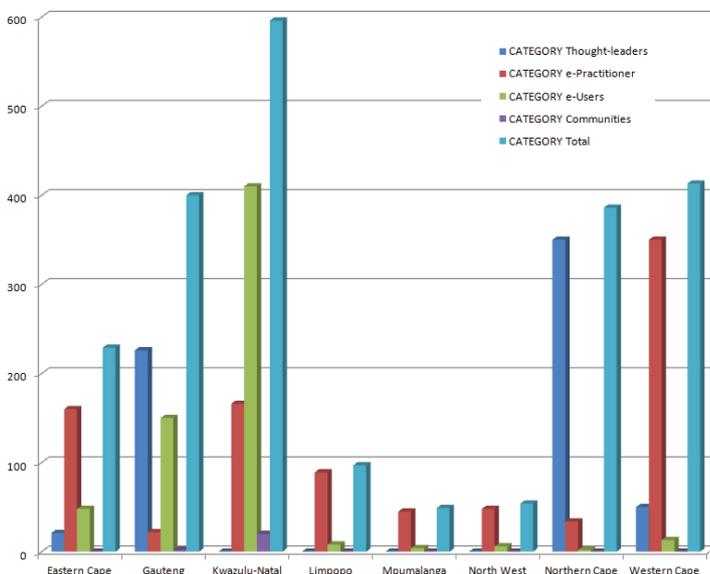
For more information on attending the conference, go to <http://academy.itu.int/>. This conference is essential for developing South Africa's National e-Skills Plan of Action 2 (NeSPA 2). Stakeholders are urged to attend.

How to register

South African delegates to go to www.itu.int/net3/ITU-D/meetings/registration/?eventid=4000134 and to use the following to register:
Username: 1102979 Password: Nykolay

International delegates to go to <http://academy.itu.int/> to register.

Aggregation for impact



One of the fundamental principles of impact is coordination and collaboration. The graphic representation shows the collective impact of the e-Skills Institute (e-SI) over 2011. Through establishing a decentralised architecture (that includes five provincial e-skills knowledge production and coordination hubs), the outputs of the e-SI multi-stakeholder collaborative network could be channeled on local, provincial and national levels.

The National e-Skills Plan of Action (NeSPA 2010) provided the impetus for creating a skills requirement map that caters to identified e-skills groups, from beginner to expert. These groups were identified as: thought leaders, e-practitioners, e-users and communities.

The graphic shows South African provinces and the impact that the e-SI and its hubs have had in each of the e-skills groups, as well as the collective impact.

Of innovation, social appropriation of ICT for local benefit and the e-Skills Institute – a ministerial perspective

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The Honourable Minister of Communications, Ms Dina Pule, addressed the Innovation Africa Summit, held from 5-7 October 2012 in Cape Town. She focused on innovation, new approaches and the key principles that the e-Skills Institute follows.



Harnessing innovation

Minister Pule noted that “innovation is at the centre of engendering successful change in addressing major issues, whether they are societal, technical, scientific or commercial”. The question is how to channel and harness innovation to address South Africa’s major challenges,

particularly around creating equity on various levels.

Ms Pule explained that the right environment is key and that includes putting in place structures that support innovation and that cater for innovators outside of formal education. She said that it is clear “that success in addressing equity in the 21st century will involve the social appropriation of ICT for local benefit”.

New approaches with social and cultural aspects

With new technology revolutionising Africa, particularly mobile technology, Ms Pule noted that there is a need to respond with new approaches “that recognise that social and cultural aspects are vital to dealing with inequity, prosperity, new forms of developing a creative economy and building a more self-reliant and resilient socio-economic base”.

The e-Skills Institute

She pointed to the work of the e-Skills Institute as following key principles that are necessary to achieve success with these new approaches. These include creating the paradigm of ‘doing with’, recognising the need to aggregate policy across traditional Government service departments, education, business, civil society and organised labour, and establishing a collaborative aggregation framework at

the community level to achieve a positive impact against national and global goals.

“[The processes above are] designed to ensure that new technology is best fitted to local culture, local circumstances and local needs whilst being directly linked to the global environment and its innovation,” said Minister Pule.

She further added that initial feedback and evaluation across the multi-stakeholder bodies “has been more than encouraging” with stakeholders desiring government to provide strategic leadership and legitimacy.

“A very positive aspect is that whilst Government is providing leadership everybody welcomes the ‘hands off’ but ‘vitaly interested’ approach by Government, which ensures that all stakeholder groups can meet their own targets within the mandate of the South African Government’s strategic priorities,” said Minister Pule.

[Key principles... include creating the paradigm of ‘doing with’, recognising the need to aggregate policy across traditional Government service departments, education, business, civil society and organised labour, and establishing a collaborative aggregation framework

Building closer collaboration between business and public sector

Organised by AfricanBrains and hosted by the University of the Western Cape, the Innovation Africa Summit was held from 5-7 October 2012 in Cape Town. The focus was on fulfilling the need and opportunity for greater public-private partnerships in education, science and research in sub-Saharan Africa by bringing together key decision-makers from both government and industry.

The Summit included two days of keynote presentations with one-on-one meetings (between governments, educational institutions, civil society and industry) where potential collaboration could be discussed.

The e-Skills Institute presented at the Summit and hosted a table for the meetings. A number of potential collaborations have been identified and further discussions will follow. The first day also involved a visit to the Western Cape e-Skills Knowledge Production and Coordination Hub based at the University of the Western Cape.

AfricanBrains’ overall aim is to promote greater investment into education in Africa and stimulate key sectors for information, communications, technology, innovation, scientific research and e-business. Central to this strategy is the development of long-term multi-stakeholder partnerships and the encouragement of private sector technology transfer. See <http://africanbrains.net/>.



Creative Industries workshop and postgraduate colloquium

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We live in a society that places greater emphasis on using ICTs to creatively generate new ideas, concepts, products and services to derive greater efficiencies and economies of scale from existing production. Skilled and well-trained people (and the ICTs they use) will be the central resource attracting investment because knowledge is produced, stored and applied primarily by humans.

The convergence of media (text, video, voice and images) and the rapid advancement in the power of technology and communications infrastructure to generate, transmit and distribute the media at faster speeds – and yet at a lower cost – amplifies the demand to have a creative and knowledge competitive labour market.

Such a labour market should have the ability to innovate the readily and easily available knowledge, scientific and technological for social and economic gain.

A creative and knowledge economy

Creative Industries looks at industries that have their origin in individual creativity, skill and talent and which have a potential for wealth and job creation through the generation and exploitation of intellectual property. The underlying principle behind creative industries is creativity and innovation.

Some of the traditional fields of study which touch on the creative industries include:

- communications and media studies
- business, economics and regional policy
- creative arts (music, visual arts, performing arts)
- media production (film, TV, digital)
- design (fashion, architecture, interactive design, graphic design)
- information and communications technology
- law (copyright and intellectual property)

- education (for a creative workforce)

ReSNES focuses on creative industries

The national Research Network for e-Skills (ResNeS) will be holding a Creative Industries Postgraduate Colloquium and Workshop following the upcoming national e-Skills Summit.

Postgraduate Colloquium: This ReSNES 2012 Postgraduate Colloquium, at the University of Western Cape, offers students a week of interdisciplinary study, collaboration and social interaction in the broad area of creative industries, entrepreneurial studies and innovation research. It will be drawing on some of Australia's best expertise in media, cultural and communication studies, economics, education, policy and law, in relation to the creative economy.

For further information and to register, go to:

www.resnes.co.za/colloquium/2012-pg-colloquium.

Creative Industries Workshop: The purpose of the workshop is to develop curricula and skills capacity for the Creative Industries with an emphasis on the role of ICT and mobile apps development. Stakeholders who will benefit include those from the education sector, Government (particularly the Department of Arts and Culture and the Department of Higher Education and Training), creative Industry companies and technology companies.

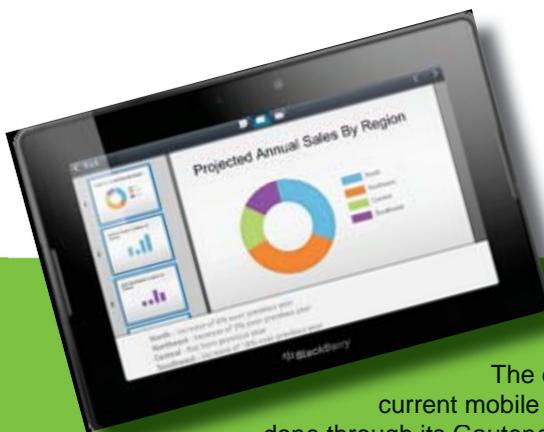
Date: 26-27 October 2012

Time: 09:00 to 16:00

Venue: University of Western Cape, Cape Town

For further information and to register, go to:

www.resnes.co.za/workshops/2012-creative-industries.



Quick registration

To register for the workshop and colloquium, you can also go directly to this link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/5043533849428740352>

Gaining an understanding of mobile applications development in South Africa

The e-Skills Institute (e-SI) is working to gain a better understanding of the current mobile applications development landscape in South Africa. This is being done through its Gauteng Knowledge Production and Coordination Hub which focuses on the national thematic area of creative industries. Multi-stakeholder collaborators include Cisco, RIM, Apple (Core Group), UNDP/UNCTAD, Kenya, Rwanda and the Queensland University of Technology (Australia).

The e-SI is calling for organisations and individuals to participate in an online survey to assist with the research. Whether you are a user, developer or trainer, please go to www.get-apped.co.za and complete the survey. It will take 15 minutes of your time.

Collaboration promotes shared understanding and an aligned future

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Collaboration doesn't only allow for concerted, aligned and strategic input, it creates a level of measurement as well. With each stakeholder representing a group, moving forward is continuously aligned with the interests and needs of these groups. This allows for initiatives to be continuously measured against a collaborative approach. While this does not eliminate the need monitoring and assessment of outputs post implementation, it does create the context for increasingly-aligned initiatives to effectively fulfill the various objectives.

Creating shared understanding

The e-Skills Institute's Western Cape e-Skills Knowledge Production and Coordination Hub (based at the University of the Western Cape) has held two stakeholder workshops with the intention of progressing the hub and its activities within a shared vision.

On the 16 August 2012, the objective of the stakeholder workshop was to clearly define what is meant by 'digital inclusion' and 'social innovation' for a shared understanding. (These two themes are the primary foci of the Western Cape Hub.)

Stakeholders included the City of Cape Town, business, Apple, various directorates from provincial Government, ICDL and various departments from the University of the Western Cape.

Digital inclusion

ICT for inclusion, empowerment and participation needs a holistic approach that includes multilevel policy integration, a multi-stakeholder approach (including the city/town, public agencies, non-profit community-based organisations, the business community and residents), and community capacity building in various areas (such as ICT culture, knowledge sharing, digital literacy). There also needs to be a shift from a consumer mindset to that of a producer.

Focus areas around digital inclusion include:

- Identifying the barriers and actions needed for access, content and training
- Considering the quality of access (infrastructure, connectivity, availability, affordability, speed and download limits, and the various places of access such as home, work and public spaces)
- Considering policy-driven solutions for greater social, civic, educational and economic participation

Social innovation

Social Innovation can be viewed as a "novel solution to a social problem that is more effective, efficient, sustainable or just, than existing solutions..." (Phills, Deiglmeier & Miller, 2008). The benefit of social innovation can be to society as a whole, to segments of society to individuals, or to any combination of these.

Social innovation fulfills needs that would not otherwise be met and creates value that would otherwise not be



Stakeholders from the Western Cape's e-Skills Knowledge and Production Hub

created, and it produces social capital. ICT can be a powerful instrument or carrier of social innovation, even more so in the case of the new mobile technologies.

Some typical elements of social Innovation:

- It leads to new forms of participation and social integration and new social relationships or collaborations (social inclusion)
- The process is typically participative, involving a number of stakeholders
- The innovations are often directed towards vulnerable groups
- The 'newness' of the innovation can be in the ideas, the models, the products, the services
- There can be a significant overlap between social innovation and business innovation (social entrepreneurship)
- The beneficiaries are empowered
- Learning and the development of skills are central

Other objectives

The two stakeholder meetings also looked at developing a model around the e-centre manager training so that it can be rolled out provincially and nationally, as well as other initiatives. These were covered within the context of the hub's core themes.

'Demystifying e-skills' colloquium

The second stakeholder meeting on the 18 September further identified the need to demystify the notion of 'e-skills' as many people still view this as high-level technology skills. Consequently, the Western Cape Hub will host a colloquium on 23 November 2012 to unpack the notion of e-skills and explain its relevance for government, business, academia and civil society. The intention is to focus on non-IT people including representatives from government and academia.

Developing for employment readiness

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There are various ways that ICTs and the skills associated with them can be used to address national priorities. A rising trend in the ICT developer world is the hackathon – an event where developers meet to do collaborative programming in order to develop solutions to given problems within a specific time. A further trend has been the focus on social challenges.

From the 15 -16 September 2012, developers from the e-Skills Institute Innovation Application Factory, based at the Gauteng e-Skills Knowledge Production and Coordination Hub, University of Pretoria, participated in a global m2work Hackathon.

The hackathon was hosted by mLab South Africa along with four other countries, mLab Kenya, mLab Armenia, mLab Vietnam and mHub Nepal. The intention was to use ICTs to increase employment readiness and to eliminate the global socio-economic issue of unemployment.

The developers involved in the m2work Hackathon only had 24 hours in which to come up with an idea and develop it.

Developers had to apply their minds and talents to solving unemployment in their respective countries through developing concepts and applications for mobile micro workers. The m2work challenges were categorised into five categories:

- Best m2work application
- Best m2work service
- most impact & targeted m2work application
- best virtual hacker
- best individual hacker

Developing ICT skills

The Gauteng Hub's Innovation Applications Factory (sponsored by BlackBerry) focuses on mobile application development, which lies within the hub's focus area of creative industries and entrepreneurship. The Gauteng e-Skills Hub shared the same goals as mLab in creating awareness and encouraging the need for ICT skills in South Africa's job market through developing mobile applications.

'Translate 4 Me' a team from the Gauteng Hub's Innovation Applications Factory won the Best m2Work application. They developed an innovative application that allows anyone who can speak at least two of South Africa's

11 official languages to register as micro translators.

Users download an application where they can input a phrase or term for translation, select the language and send it out to the relevant micro workers for translation. The solution comes complete with a rating system to improve the translator vetting and allow the best translators to get more work.

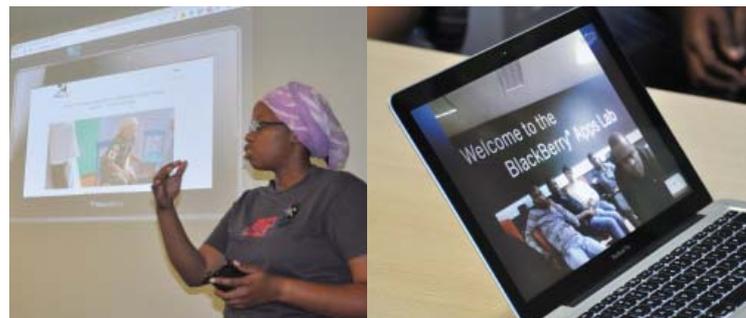
Blessing Mohlalela from Gauteng Hub won the best Individual Hacker. He created a web and SMS-based service for matching up jobs (both formal and informal) with potential candidates. Unlike a traditional job and CV registry, this service was developed to enable employers of micro workers to read the SMS job posting or skill submission and interpret it while also allowing them to source and match the best candidate for the job.

About mLabsa

mLab Southern Africa (SA) is a mobile solutions laboratory and startup accelerator that provides entrepreneurs and mobile developers with the support they need to develop innovative mobile applications and services.

mLabSA is based at The Innovation Hub in Tshwane, South Africa, with virtual programmes throughout southern Africa and plans to expand labs to most major hubs in the region. mLab Southern Africa is hosted by: CSIR Meraka Institute, The Innovation Hub and Ungana-Afrika. This consortium has strong existing relationships with business, the public sector, civil society and academia throughout southern Africa.

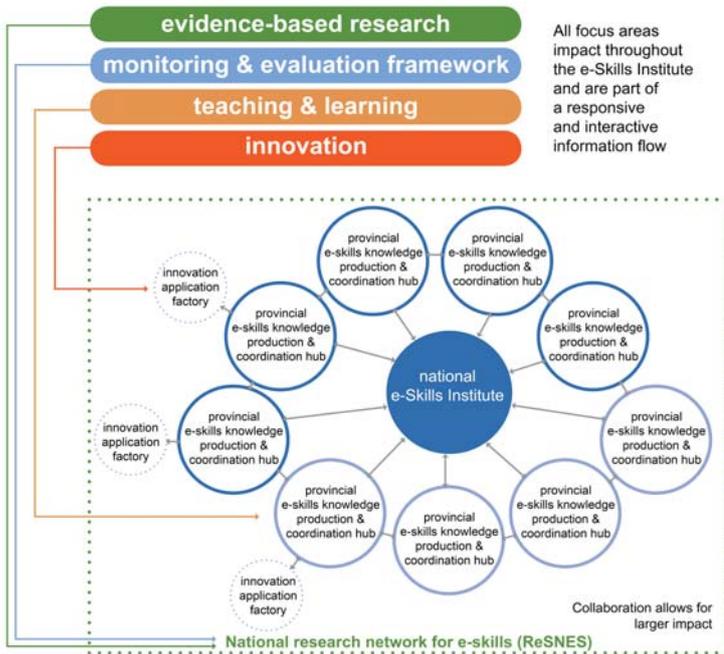
Developers participating in the mLabsa hackathon





e-skilling the nation

4 primary focus areas



The e-Skills Institute (e-SI) leads in the creation of key e-skills development strategies, solutions and practices within South Africa. It is a national catalyst, collaborative partner and disseminator of change agents in the development of e-SI within the context of national goals and within a worldwide e-skilling information and knowledge-based environment. The intention is to benefit the total population by harnessing ICT for equitable prosperity and global competitiveness. The e-SI focuses primarily on four components: evidence-based research, teaching and learning, innovation, and a worldwide operational framework.

The e-Skills knowledge production and coordination hubs are the e-Skills Institute presence at a provincial level, coordinating e-skills interventions, developing a skills curriculum, promoting innovation and building capacity in terms of the e-Skills research agenda.

e-SKPCH events

Western Cape e-SKPCH events

October - November 2012

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

Gauteng e-SKPCH events

October 2012

- There will be a Stakeholder Meeting on the 22 November 2012. A number of stakeholders will present on their organisations and activities, such as mLab, SIDET, Lesedi la Batho and AGMED. It will be held at the University of Pretoria in the Tswelopele lab (IT Building) from 9am to 12pm.

April - December 2012

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

July – December 2012

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

KZN e-SKPCH events

October 2012

- Monthly Stakeholders Forum on the fourth Wednesday

November 2012

- Monthly Stakeholders Forum on the fourth Wednesday

Contact details for the e-Skills Institute

- Mymoena Sharif,
mymoena@doc.gov.za

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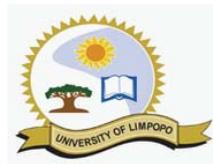
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partners in the Department of Communication's e-Skills Institute multi-stakeholder collaboration

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.

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