



INDEHELA-ICI: Institutional Collaboration Instrument for Informatics Development for Health in Africa

Summary

INDEHELA (Informatics Development for Health in Africa) is a long-term initiative to strengthen the capacity of the participating African higher education institutions to contribute to the socio-economic and human development in their countries, particularly in the scientific field of Health Informatics (HI) and the practice of e-health.

The most recent part of the initiative, the INDEHELA-ICI (Institutional Collaboration Instrument for Informatics Development for Health in Africa) project, is funded by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) within the new Higher Education Institutions Institutional Collaboration Instrument (HEI ICI) programme. The project focuses on developing the capacities of three African HEIs in HI and e-health education.

The **African partners** are:

- Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CScE), Ile-Ife, Nigeria; Abimbola Soriyan (hasoriyan@yahoo.com)
- Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM), Department of Mathematics and Informatics (DMI), Maputo, Mozambique; Emilio Mosse (emiliomosse@yahoo.com)
- Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), IT Department (ITD), Cape Town, South Africa; Retha de la Harpe (delaharper@cput.ac.za)

The **Finnish partners** are:

- University of Eastern Finland (UEF), School of Computing (coordinator) and Department of Social and Health Management, Kuopio, Finland; Mikko Korpela (mikko.korpela@uef.fi)
- Savonia University of Applied Sciences, Health Unit, Kuopio, Finland; Pirkko Kouri (pirkko.kouri@savonia.fi);

The **long-term general objective** of the African HEIs in the INDEHELA initiative is to better contribute to socio-economic and human development, particularly health, in their countries; this is in accordance with Finnish HEIs' societal responsibility / social impact mandate ("kolmas tehtävä").

The **specific objective** of the INDEHELA-ICI collaboration is to develop the capacities of OAU, UEM and CPUT in HI and e-health in three specific areas: 1) Staff development; 2) Educational capacity development; 3) Administrative capacity development.

The long-term objectives are set for the timeframe of 3-5 years (two funding periods), to achieve a sustainable status. The results targets of the first funding phase are set for the timeframe of 18 months for three result areas as follows.

1) Staff development: The core groups of 6-10 junior and 3-5 senior staff have been identified, each junior staff member with a feasible postgraduate degree plan / proposal approved; supervisors appointed and African-Finnish co-supervision / mentoring groups established.

2) Educational capacity development: Each African partner HEI has the curriculum and a timed plan for implementing its Masters and/or certificate programme, the first modules have



been designed, the teaching / learning methods set, and at least one pilot module implemented in each African partner HEI.

3) Administrative capacity development: Project Coordinator with good organizing skills has been identified and employed in each African partner HEI, legal and financial project administration practices created within each HEI and at the international level, personal development plans approved for each project manager.

The core activities required to achieve the results are workshops at all African partner HEIs. In staff development workshops, senior experts from both African and European partner HEIs provide lectures, group supervision and personal supervision to the junior staff selected to the staff development activity. In educational development workshops, senior experts from all partner HEIs work hands-on together to develop the curricula, plans, methods and materials adjusted to each African partner HEI's requirements.

Other activities include planning, preparation, reporting and writing tasks by the Project Coordinators group and the senior experts, using internet-based facilities, as well as infrastructure development to enable the African partner HEIs to implement the substantive objectives.

Project implementation period: 01.07.2011 - 31.12.2012 (funding from 11.05.2011)