

4FRONT

SAFIPA SOUTH AFRICA FINLAND KNOWLEDGE  
PARTNERSHIP IN ICT 2008-2011

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# OVERVIEW



- In country technical assistance – Chief Technical Advisor and National Programme Coordinator, Project officer and Project manager  
Diverse project portfolio management (spanning 25 projects supported externally and 76 implementation partners) - deployment in nine provinces in SA (high representation in Gauteng and Western Cape)
- **Programme design:** Based on National ICT R&D Policy - Focus on building the information society in a systemic way and not only project grant support
- **Investment:** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Finland provided funding of €3 million and the Department of Science and Technology in South Africa provided ZAR 9 million for the three year programme.
- **Governance:** SVB oversight and SC management of programme

# INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

## **Key objective: Strengthened institutional capacity**

- to enable the South African information society and generation of new knowledge, to perform applied research and to make information more accessible to the primary beneficiaries of SAFIPA, especially marginalized groups.

## **Implementation activities**

- Mentoring
- Meraka Institutional Capacity Building
- Academic Knowledge Exchange
- Foresight in ICT sector (ICT in Health and ICT in Education)
- Leading Research and Innovation in Expert Organisations
- Strategy support for Meraka Restructuring
- Treasure Map Training – empowerment of Community ICT practitioners
- ICT & Mobile Business Building programme

## 2: INNOVATIVE IS APPLICATIONS & NEW SOLUTIONS FOR END USERS

**Key objective:** The identification and successful implementation of projects which result in **innovations for the benefit of the marginalized groups and poor rural communities.**

### **Implementation mechanisms**

- Grant making process and evaluation of proposals at PMO and SC.
- Roadshows in inception phase, open calls for proposals, calls left open for a year. Collaboration encouraged but not forced. TA provided to strengthen proposals.
- Restricted second round of funding to strengthen 12 projects in second phase.
- Projects grouped under themes: eHealth, eLearning, Rural development, Accessibility, Innovation & Entrepreneurship
- Project support range from ZAR 125,000 to ZAR3,500 000, stage gate review.
- Mixed beneficiary base – schools, universities, NGOs, SMMEs, research institutes, corporate sector, local public sector
- Support at different stages of ICT Innovation Pipeline –from proof of concept, technology demonstrator, pilots for replication and scaling up to commercialisation locally and internationally
- 25 projects funded, Estimated over 5000 individuals impacted by programme outputs

## 3: NETWORK CREATION AND DISSEMINATION

**Key objective:** To share and increase knowledge for developing **new projects, applications** or **R&D initiatives** and to effectively **disseminate** the new knowledge. The aim is to strengthen **cooperation between research institutions** both locally and globally as well as to support **Public-Private partnership** in the service delivery process.

### **Implementation Mechanisms**

- Knowledge Exchange visits 2009-2010
- Thematic workshops – ICT and Education, Mobility Futures, Disruptive Innovation, Open Innovation -2008-2011
- SAFIPA Annual Conference 2009 , 2010 (with IST Africa), 2011
- Project partner meetings and outreach 2009-2011
- Communications – blogging website, Finnish journalists, projects on the web
- Quarterly Newsletter 2010-2011
- SAFIPA Case study publication – Practical Approach to ICT for Development

## KEY LESSONS (PERSONAL OPINIONS)

- 3 years is too short time to catalyze permanent change
- There is never enough communications, networking and collaboration
- Much of the capacity building value comes from the stakeholders interacting with each other
- SME's want to solve problems in government, government procurement systems don't allow them to buy from SME's
- Challenge: focus on areas with is critical mass, or try to do a little bit with everyone?