

FOSSFA and InWEnt launching first regional course on Business and Open Source in Johannesburg, South Africa



"How can Southern African IT-businesses make money with Free and Open Source Software?" - this was one of the questions discussed at the regional course on "Advanced African Business Models with Free and Open Source Software (FOSS)". The two-week event started on July 13 at University of Witwatersrand, (Wits) in Johannesburg and is the first in a series of training-of-trainer (ToT) events in Southern and East Africa. The courses are organized by the pan-African Open Source federation [FOSSFA](#) as well as "[InWEnt – Capacity Building International](#), Germany". Main training and facilitator partners are the Advanced Information Technology Institute of the [Ghana-India Kofi Annan Center for Excellence in ICT \(AITI-KACE\)](#) and the [United Nations University, UNU-MERIT](#) of The Netherlands.

The first course will be followed by three more regional trainings on the subject:

- 2nd ToT in Kampala, Uganda from 31st August to 11th September 2009
- 3rd ToT in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 14th-25th September 2009
- 4th ToT in Maputo, Mozambique from 19th-30th October 2009

The advanced courses bring together experts from universities, training institutions and private sector in Southern and East Africa. The main goal is to form a corps of trainers and advocates who are equipped to spread the word on Free and Open Source and its potential for IT-companies in Africa. The course inter alia builds on more than eight practical case studies of African IT companies, who use FOSS to generate income drive innovation, add local value and provide legal, low-cost and high quality software solutions to businesses and administrations in their countries.

The regional Advanced African FOSS Business Models courses are part of the multi-year [ict@innovation](#) programme, which builds capacities in African small and medium ICT enterprises to make a business with Free and Open Source Software (FOSS). [ict@innovation](#) aims to encourage the growth of African ICT industries and private sector development, particularly in Southern and East Africa, through three main actions: spreading FOSS business models for enterprises in Africa, fostering FOSS certification and supporting innovative local FOSS applications for social and economic development. [ict@innovation](#) is a partnership of [FOSSFA \(Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa\)](#) and [InWEnt - Capacity Building International](#), Germany. Funding partners are the [German Ministry Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development \(BMZ\)](#) and the [Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa \(OSISA\)](#).

The programme focuses on Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) as a key technology to drive innovation, add local value and create sustainable and affordable ICT-solutions. ict@innovation aims to enhance regional networking and to strengthen consulting capacities of regional and national ICT associations and training institutions as well as of other relevant change agents.

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