

Short news item on ICT@Innovation

All over Africa information and communication technologies (ICT) are gaining increasing importance and businesses realize the need for a secure and efficient ICT infrastructure. Although many businesses still rely on proprietary software solutions, often without the necessary licenses, the demand for Free/Libre Open Source Software (FLOSS) solutions and support thereof is



constantly on the rise. As FLOSS solutions are becoming more mature and often provide the same functionality as their proprietary counterparts, albeit being free of licensing costs, these solutions are very attractive for the African market.

This is where ICT@Innovation comes in. Through the establishment of a training programme that is focused on the African market specifically, InWent and all the partners

involved seek to enable African businesses and private people to take the opportunity to address the demand for support and training of FLOSS solutions. The training of trainers (ToT) gives them the tools to establish themselves in a growing market, in times where vendor lock-in and expensive license agreements become increasingly apparent. Relying on collaborative efforts – the Content Creation Community- in the establishment of the training material has been an important ingredient in making sure that the content would address certain aspects that are distinct in African businesses and further helped in assuring sustainability of the content. The ict@innovation.org platform in this respect is the central place for cooperative work on the training material and for further dissemination thereof.

The ToTs consist of six modules, which together give the participants a coherent skill-set that covers the practical aspects of giving a training just as much as technical and economic topics that are essential for the understanding of FLOSS.



The six modules are:

Module 1: Introduction to Emerging FLOSS Business Models

Module 2: African Business Models – Case Studies

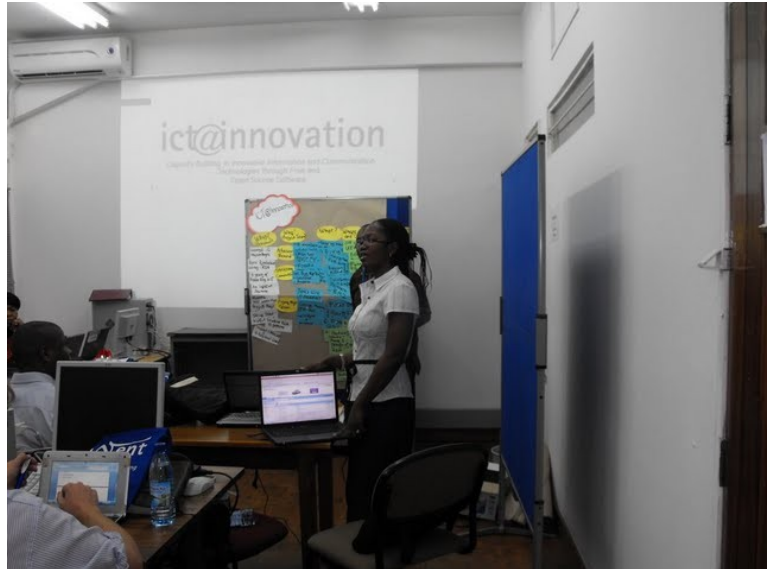
Module 3: Communicating FLOSS

Module 4: Introduction to General Business Skills

Module 5: FLOSS Specific Business Knowledge and Skills

Module 6: FLOSS Training

The ToTs were held in South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania and Mozambique. In all of these countries the participants in all trainings showed great enthusiasm and interest in the topic. The variety of backgrounds of the participants always contributed to lively discussions within the groups, which on the one hand facilitated the group's understanding of the topic, and on the other hand illustrated the importance of certain aspects of the training. The feedback that the participants provided after the trainings was therefore invaluable for the improvement of future training material. It also gave a fair indication that the ToTs indeed had made an impact, as most participants expressed their willingness to offer trainings themselves in the future.



Link to the project website: <http://www.ict-innovation.fosdfa.net/>