



Founded by the UN ICT Task Force

## GUIDE FOR PARTICIPANTS

### WORKSHOP

### **PERSPECTIVES:** NORTH / SOUTH RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS ICT IN EDUCATION

21<sup>st</sup> April 2009  
Irish Aid Centre, Dublin, Ireland



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## Perspectives on North/South Research Partnerships for ICT in Education

### **Research Partnerships for ICT in Education**

Throughout the world, governments, institutions and practitioners are exploring the potential of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for effective learning and increasing education outreach. ICT in education presents countries with great opportunities, and at the same time considerable challenges with regard to cost, sustainability, optimal use and making teaching and learning meaningful for students.

Many policy makers, planners, managers, and practitioners still lack experience, knowledge, and judgment capabilities in the systems, methods, and media involved in what is essentially an emerging field particularly with regard to the integration of the newer ICT technologies into education systems. Many ICT initiatives are experimental, problematic, or new to the providers.

Research is critically important to provide systematic, comprehensive, rigorous and on-going inquiry into the opportunities and pre-conditions which could facilitate the effective integration and use of ICT in education systems, as well as the challenges and barriers which could inhibit or jeopardise effective implementation.

The perspectives on north/south research partnerships workshop will gather more than 50 ICT-in-education representatives from research partnerships, networks, associations and funding agencies that are linked to GeSCI's donor and partner countries.

### **Objectives**

The strategic objective of the workshop will be to examine existing experiences of partnerships in the area of ICT in Education research in general and the potential opportunities for developing / enhancing research efforts that are relevant to the issues and challenges of GeSCI's partner countries in the developing world.

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The specific objectives of the workshop are:

- To identify emerging issues, challenges and demand areas in ICT4E research in development contexts
- To share experiences on existing higher education and university partnership/ network research models/projects in ICT4E
- To initiate dialogue and reflection on the potential opportunities for north/south research partnership in ICT4E

### **Key Note Addresses**

09:30 – 10:00

#### **Moderator**

***Mr. Brendan Tuohy***

Chair, GeSCI

#### **Speakers**

***Mr. Thomas Tichelmann***

Education Officer, Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland

***Mr. Pertti Anttinen***

Director, Unit for Sector Policies, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

## Perspectives on North/South Research Partnerships for ICT in Education

### **Session 1: ICT in Education Research in a Development Context**

10:00 – 10:45

#### **Background**

##### **Global eSchools and Communities Initiative**

Since its establishment in 2004 by a UN ICT Task Force, the Global eSchools and Communities Initiative (GeSCI) has provided demand driven assistance to developing countries seeking to harness the potential of ICT to increase access to, and to improve, the quality and effectiveness of their education systems. GeSCI's core vision is that of a 'knowledge society for all' and the processes of building knowledge and research underpin all GeSCI's programmes - supporting the strategic advisory services provided to partners, while informing advocacy strategies at global, regional and national levels.

Research is essential for understanding and tackling the issues and challenges of ICT integration in education systems. Multi-faceted research initiatives can not only improve the knowledge and choices available to development partners but can contribute to generating new knowledge, insights and evidence and to stimulating discussions on key issues.

##### **GeSCI's Thematic Workstreams**

GeSCI has developed five thematic areas that are the foundation for its knowledge building and research activities and they are:

- Educational Management and ICT
- Infrastructure, Connectivity and Accessibility
- Integration of ICT into Teaching and Learning
- Teacher Education and ICT
- Educational content and ICT

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## **Presentations**

### **Moderator**

***Ms. Mary Hooker,***

Coordinator Research, GeSCI Dublin – overview and introductions (5 minutes)

### **Speakers**

“ICT for Education and Development”

by ***Dr. Jyrki Pulkkinen,*** CEO, GeSCI Dublin (10 minutes)

“GeSCI’s thematic focus areas and meta-review of ICT in Education Research”

by ***Dr. Patti Swarts,*** Coordinator African Regional Programme, GeSCI Nairobi (20 minutes)

Questions and comments by participants (10 minutes)

## **Support Documentation**

Presentations

GeSCI Literature

# WORKSHOP

## Perspectives on North/South Research Partnerships for ICT in Education

### **Session 2: Identifying Research Needs in ICT4E in SSA**

11:00 – 12:00

#### **Discussion**

GeSCI's work is focused on developing countries and in particular on Sub-Saharan Africa

What are the major issues in ICT- education research in Sub-Saharan Africa?

What are the trends that are emerging?

What will be the opportunities for ICT integration in education systems over the next ten years?

Can research track and keep ahead of the 'unknowns' – issues that may take the field by surprise in years to come – such as the emergence in education settings of personal low cost digital devices?

How can research be used to predict and respond to future issues and needs for ICT Education and Development?

#### **Interactive Panel Discussion: Work Modality**

The moderator will introduce speakers and provide an overview of the discussion theme (5 minutes), followed by an intervention from each panel member (10 minutes). There will then be an open discussion for participants' comments and questions (20 minutes) and the moderator's concluding statement (5 minutes).

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## **Moderator**

### ***Dr. Margaret Farren***

Chair of the M.Sc. in Education and Training Management Programme (eLearning and Leadership strands), Dublin City University and founder of the DCU Action Research: Living Theory Initiative to enable practitioner-researchers to generate new knowledge through the use of ICT in their work practices.

## **Panel Composition**

### ***Dr. Pascal Hoba***

Research and Education Networking Unit, Association of African Universities (AAU), Ghana

### ***Professor Jane Grimson***

Trinity College Dublin and Co-chair Steering Committee of the Irish-African Partnership for Research Capacity Building (IAPRCB) Steering Committee, Ireland

### ***Professor Alain Senteni***

School of e-Education, Hamdan Bin Mohammed e-University, Dubai and Co-chair of the Education Commission, World Information Technology Forum (WITFOR)

## Perspectives on North/South Research Partnerships for ICT in Education

### **Session 3: Sharing ICT4E Research Models and Projects**

12:00 – 13:30

#### **Background**

Global, regional and national research partnerships and networks in ICT4E

Developing countries often find themselves in situations where there is pressure to acquire and adopt new technologies because of the claims of what these technologies could do to aid and leapfrog their development, without really understanding the potential and reach of the technologies, or without having analysed their environments and contexts for appropriateness, applicability and impact. The assumptions about ICT that underpin interventions are rarely (adequately) examined and “dangerous half-truths” are often uncritically accepted. Ongoing research into practice with digital technologies in teaching, learning and assessment is essential to build awareness of both the chronic problems and the exciting possibilities.

Strategic research partnerships offer the possibility of both enhanced research opportunities and improved quality of research output, increasing the capacity of research entities to assist decision makers and managers to make the right choices on the basis of the best local, regional and international knowledge and experience available. Partnerships can build confidence and capability especially for research communities working in tough conditions with poor access to resources.

#### **Presentations: Work Modality**

The moderator will introduce speakers and present an overview of the session (5 minutes), followed by speaker presentations (20 minutes), discussion (20 minutes) and the moderator’s concluding statement (5 minutes).

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## **Presentations**

### **Moderator**

#### ***Dr. Deirdre Butler***

St. Patrick's College Drumcondra, Dublin City University (SPD-DCU) and Senior Researcher of the 'Empowering Minds' Research Partnership Network of SPD-DCU, the National Centre for Technology in Education (NCTE), Ireland and Media Lab Europe

### **Panel Composition**

"Expansive School Transformation in the SADC Region using ICT"

by ***Dr. Ritva Engestrom*** and ***Dr. Paul Thabano Tapela Nleya***, Senior Researchers in the partnership network of the Universities of Helsinki/Cape Town/Botswana/Mauritius

"ICT Based In-service Education for Secondary School Teachers"

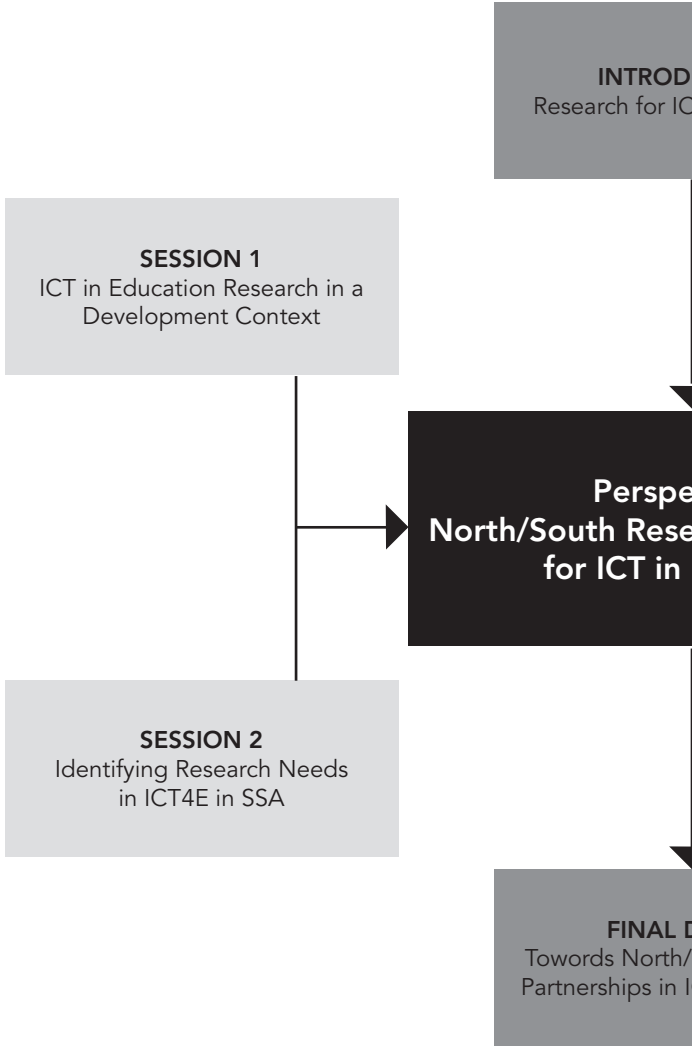
by ***Mr. Bengt Nykvist*** and ***Dr. Jabiri Bakiri***, Senior Researchers in the joint research collaboration between the Mid Sweden University (MSU), Open University Tanzania (OUT) and the University of Dar as Salaam

"Dissolving Boundaries through ICT"

by ***Mr. Nigel Metcalfe*** and ***Ms. Angela Rickard***, Senior Researchers in the north/ south research partnership network of the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, Southern Ireland, and the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland.

### **Support Documentation**

Paper: SADC Expansive School and Community Transformation using ICT Project: A Botswana Pilot



**SESSION 2**  
ICT in Education

**Objectives:**  
Research Partnerships  
Education

**SESSION 1**  
South Research  
ICT in Education

**SESSION 3**  
Sharing ICT4E Research  
Models and Projects

**SESSION 4**  
Interfacing ICT4E Research,  
Policy and Practice

## Perspectives on North/South Research Partnerships for ICT in Education

### **Session 4: Interfacing ICT4E Research, Policy and Practice**

14:30 – 15:30

#### **Discussion**

Interfacing ICT-education research, policy and practice

How can we enhance the dialogue between ICT4E research, policy and development of education practice?

How can we use cutting edge innovative research at 'classrooms' (micro) and institutional (meso) levels to inform and shape policy at national (macro) level in a way which will lead to sustained change?

Is the role of research networks adequately developed to support governments in monitoring ICT policy as it turns into action?

Are there adequate channels for communicating global, regional and local ICT research initiatives to those who need it?

What kind of support is needed to assist national governments, institutions and practitioners to access and make use of research findings?

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## **Interactive Panel Discussion**

### **Moderator**

#### ***Dr. Conor Galvin***

School of Education and Life Long Learning, University College Dublin and Policy and Research advisor, National Centre for Technology in Education (NCTE), Ireland

### **Panel Composition**

#### ***Mr. Jerome Morrissey***

Director, NCT E, Dublin City University, Ireland

#### ***Mr. Brendan Tuohy***

Chair, GeSCI

#### ***Mr. Matti Sinko***

UNIPID, Finnish University Partnership for International Development

#### ***Dr. Jacques Boilat***

ICT in Sciences, Swiss Universities for Applied Sciences

#### ***Ms. Ashish Garg***

Asia Regional Coordinator, GeSCI

## Perspectives on North/South Research Partnerships for ICT in Education

### **Session 5: Towards North/South research partnerships in ICT in Education**

15:45 – 16:45

#### **Discussion**

Towards the development/ enhancement of north/south research partnerships

What are the opportunities for developing/ enhancing north/south research partnerships?

Are there areas of shared interest to carry out research that is relevant to the issues and challenges of partner countries in the developing world?

How can we translate research ideas/proposals for north/south partnerships into actionable projects?

What are the bodies and networks for research and funding at international, regional and national levels relevant to building and strengthening north/south partnerships for ICT-education research?

What are the processes needed for innovative research partnership approaches to be developed, applied and diffused?

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## **Interactive Panel Discussion**

### **Moderator**

#### ***Mr. Brendan Tangney***

Centre for Research in I.T. in Education, Schools of Education and Computer Science and Statistics, Trinity College, Dublin

### **Panel Composition**

#### ***Dr. Paul Thabano Tapela Nleya***

University of Botswana and Co-chair of the Education Commission, WITFOR

#### ***Dr. Roger Austin***

University of Ulster, Coleraine, Northern Ireland

#### ***Professor Brian Hudson***

Umeå University and Network Convenor, European Educational Research Association (Didactics - Learning and Teaching)

#### ***Dr. Afzal Sher***

SPIDER, Swedish Programme for ICT in Developing Countries

### **Support Documentation**

Poster: Co-operation between the University of Helsinki (Finland) and the University of Botswana (UB)

# WORKSHOP

## Perspectives on North/South Research Partnerships for ICT in Education

### Summary and Closing Session

16:45 – 17:15

#### Background

##### GeSCI's Research Agenda

The integration of ICT in Education, and particularly computers and the internet, is a relatively recent phenomenon in many developing and even developed countries. As such, there is a limited body of knowledge relating to the effective acquisition, deployment, integration and impact of ICT in Education. Furthermore, technological development is very dynamic and fast-paced.

GeSCI intends to contribute to this dynamic and emergent field by filling identified gaps through knowledge building activities: research including critical analysis, experimentation and documentation of good and promising practices.

Research activities will be carried out in collaboration with national, regional and global research networks and directly with academic institutions in both our partner and donor countries.

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## Planning the way forward

### Moderator

**Ms. Niamh Brannigan,**  
Communications Manager, GeSCI Dublin

### GeSCI Team

Summary of workshop discussions (5 minutes)  
**Ms. Mary Hooker,** Coordinator Research, GeSCI Dublin

Agreement on future directions and tasks (10 minutes)  
**Mr. Alex Twinomugisha,**  
African Regional Director, GeSCI Nairobi

Closing Remarks (10 minutes)  
**Dr. Jyrki Pulkkinen,** CEO, GeSCI Dublin

### Support Documentation

Online publication: Workshop report, papers and poster presentations

*The 'learning society' or the 'knowledge based society' could indeed become a reality in the immediate future. Educational research should help to shape this future.*

Ferrer (1999:428)<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ferrer, F. 1999. Some Thoughts on trends in educational Research IN: Perez, S. and Dasen, P.R. (eds.) Prospects [Online]. XXIX, (3) September 1999. Available at:

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0012/001234/123423eb.pdf>

## Notes

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## Notes

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# General Info

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[irishaidcentre@dfa.ie](mailto:irishaidcentre@dfa.ie)

[www.irishaid.gov.ie/centre](http://www.irishaid.gov.ie/centre)

## **Taxi contact details:**

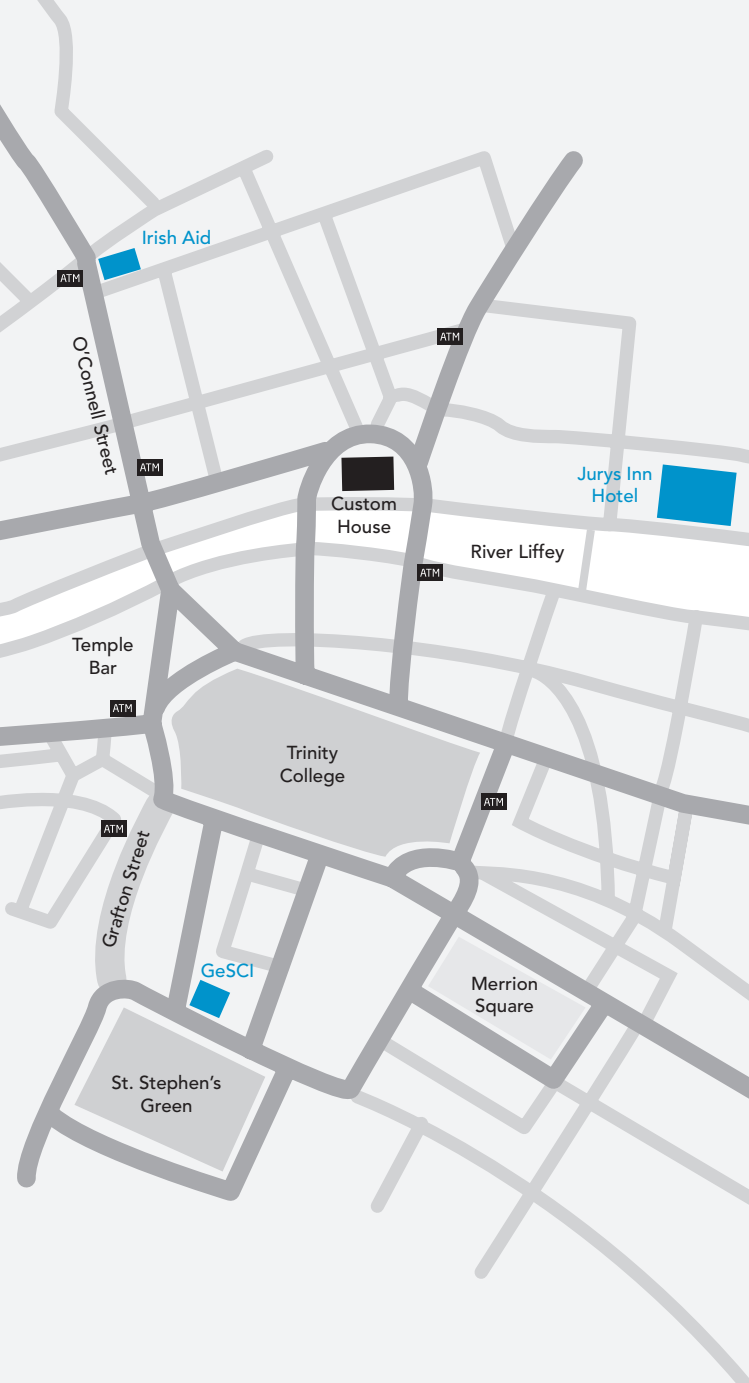
National Radio Cabs

Tel: (01) 677 2222

Express Taxi Cabs

Tel: (01) 8553333

# MAP OF DUBLIN CITY CENTRE



**PERSPECTIVES  
NORTH / SOUTH RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS  
ICT IN EDUCATION**

SESSION	TIME SCHEDULE
<b>Registration</b>	9:00 - 9:30
<b>Introduction</b> Research for ITC in Education	9:30 - 10:00
<b>Session 1</b> ICT4E Research in a development context	10:00 - 10:45
<b>Coffee Break</b>	10:45 - 11:00
<b>Session 2</b> Identifying Research Needs in ICT4E in SSA	11:00 - 12:00
<b>Session 3</b> Sharing ICT4E Research Models & Projects	12:00 - 13:30
<b>Lunch</b>	13:30 - 14:30
<b>Session 4</b> Interfacing ICT4E Research, Policy & Practice	14:30 - 15:30
<b>Session 5</b> Towards North/South Research Partnerships in ICT in Education	15:45 - 16:45
<b>Summary and Closing Session</b>	16:45 - 17:15
<b>Drinks Reception</b> Sponsored by the Embassy of Finland Remarks by HE Ambassador Seppo Kauppila	17:15