

**EU-AFRICAN R&D PROPOSAL IDEA****Personal Details**

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**Proposal****Title**

*Integrating ICT in education, College of Education, AAU*

**Proposal idea (max 500 words):**

Addis Ababa University is the first and largest university in the country. It was established in 1950 as a College and then gradually expanding opening new departments and programs. Presently, it provides courses from first degree up to PhD level. It has around 30, 000 students and around 700 academic staff.

**Like any other economic sectors, the impact of ICT in education is very high, especially with the development of the Internet technology. ICT is used to facilitate the teaching-learning process by improving access to wider sources of teaching and learning materials, facilitating communication and exchange of ideas among teachers and students, creating an environment for individualized learning and as a teaching aid to elaborate complex ideas using computer simulation.**

**The importance of ICT is well recognized in the University and huge amount of money is invested every year to develop the ICT capacity. Unfortunately, the University could not utilize the benefit of ICT purely for the lack practical applications of ICT to integrate in the classroom.**

### **Research Problem**

The main objective of this research project is to undertake a practical project that integrates ICT and Education and see how ICT can improve learning in the university context. Therefore the following research question will be addressed:

- How ICT is currently used to improve the teaching-learning process in the university?
- How other countries become successful to integrate ICT and education and what modalities and strategies they have developed and used or adopted?
- What are the major bottlenecks in implementing ICT related projects in the University
- What opportunities available to use ICT to improve the quality of education in the University?

### Methodology

In this project, the researcher will carry out a pilot project that integrates ICT and education. Two sections of students: one section from science subject such as chemistry or physics and the other section from English students.

Training will be given for six instructors to develop the skill to use computers and develop their lesson on a computer using software like MS Power Point. Students will be also trained to effectively use computers to search materials on Internet and prepare their assignments. Adequate classroom facilities with computers, internet connection and LCD projector will be arranged for the project.

Data will be collected both from teachers and students at the beginning, mid and end of the semester to gather problems encountered that obstructs the teaching-learning process and achievements obtained in the lesson as a result of using the ICT as teaching tool in the classroom. These formative and summative evaluation techniques are used in other countries and found appropriate to assess the success of ICT supported teaching projects.

### Expected Outputs

After investigating the above basic research questions, the researcher devise a system or roadmap that will be implemented phase by phase to integrate ICT and education in the university and bring some positive changes in the quality of education provided in the country at large.

**Short Description of Institution**

*A short description of the institution (between 200 and 300 words) to include the most recent relevant experience related to the proposal idea.*

The College of Education is responsible to educate high school teachers in different discipline. Recently ICT has become more popular as important teaching aids in the classroom and hence the College established the Computer Education Unit, later known as IT Education Unit established as a focus area in the Department of Business Education fill the severe shortage of IT teachers in Technical and Vocational Training Colleges and High schools. The graduates of the Unit are competent professionals to teach IT courses, manage IT resource centers and provide technical support services in the Institute where they are hired to serve. ICT is a fast changing field and the courses of the Unit are regularly updated in consultation with other institutions, target groups in this case TVTC and high schools, Ministry of Education and students.

The importance of integrating ICT and education has got momentum attention even in the African countries. In March 2004, the College, in collaboration with UNESCO-IICBA, launched the MEd-ICT distance program which is now coming to completion with an objective to form the core of ICT personnel at the school and teacher training college levels to serve as ICT managers, researchers, content producers, advisors, and curriculum designers for e-learning. The Program has been given to 13 staff of teacher education institutions in the country, out of which 5 are from College of Education.