

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

Gender:	Male
Title (e.g. Dr, Prof, etc.)	<input type="text" value="Mr."/>
Surname	<input type="text" value="Berhanu"/>
First Name(s)	<input type="text" value="Borena"/>
Company / Institution	<input type="text" value="Hawassa University/Debu University, Department of Computer Science"/>
Street or P.O. Box	<input type="text" value="05"/>
City	<input type="text" value="Awassa"/>
Zip / Postal Code	<input type="text"/>
Country	<input type="text" value="Ethiopia"/>
Telephone with area code	<input type="text" value="+251 911 457318"/>
Fax with area code	<input type="text"/>
E-Mail	<input type="text" value="birhanucbc@yahoo.com, berhanuborena@yahoo.com"/>

Proposal**Title**

e-Learning in Preparatory Classes of High School Education: The Challenge, Opportunities and Requirements

The title of your Proposal: please provide a maximum of 15 words that accurately reflect what your proposal is about.

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

Formal education is playing a key role in developing countries in eradicating poverty and serving as a tool to bring social, economic and political changes. Though the positive change is being scored because of education for the last century or so in Africa, different problems have hindered its horizon of coverage severely. This fact has prompted governments, aid agencies, intergovernmental organizations, civic organizations, community leaders, etc, to aggressively work on to expand the coverage of education, especially in primary education. An example for this is The Millennium Development Goal initiative. It is imperative that if we

intend to cover all potential targets at all level, to mobilizing and use effectively and efficiently all resources around us as the continent is lack of resources.

In this respect ICT plays a very crucial role. One of the major roles ICT plays is helping, facilitating and strengthening the teaching-learning process. This is mainly by facilitating exchange of knowledge, information and data; easy communication; presentation of knowledge using different tools and methodologies; prompt evaluation and reporting, etc. The service we can get as support or in place of the traditional class room based teaching-learning process is called eLearning. Comparative to the normal classroom teaching-learning, eLearning has many advantages and disadvantages, though.

In Ethiopia, education is being expanded at all level: primary, secondary and tertiary level. But due to the lack of capacity, expanding education at all level with the required level of quality might not be achieved. This is in the sense that required books, illustrators; etc to the required level is not yet available. This is a clear fact in most high schools particularly in preparatory classes. Consequently, it is having adverse effect on teaching and learning process.

Thus to alleviate this problem and add the values of e-learning , implementing e-learning system as support of the normal classroom based teaching is encouraged. But how it should be? What are the things required to implement such a system? What modalities need to be used? What negative impact potentially can it bring? What is the perception of each stake holders for the system? etc are crucial problems needed to be researched seriously before implementing the system for full achievement.

It is from this believe that this research proposal prepared. The objective of the research is to discover answers and directions for the above questions, and how to implement it, respectively, is the intention of the planned research.

Methodology

The research will be approached with prototype that will be either developed from scratch based on early and state-of-the-art experience and features or adopted system to the local demand, as an experiment model.

Using this experiment model that will be implemented as a support system of the normal classroom based teaching mode, test of preference, student Vs system interaction, communication of different people in the teaching learning process, evaluation, progress follow up, etc will be studied. Side by side content development, acceptance, access; etc of teachers will be studied.

The system will be implemented in selected high schools that represent public and private, rural and city high schools. From these high schools sampled courses, students, instructors and sections will have full access to the system.

Moreover, literatures and existing eLearning systems (implemented as well as non implemented) will be reviewed and visited respectively.

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.

Background of the University

University of Hawassa, formerly known as Debub University, is a young university comprising different colleges and faculties under it. One of this is The Faculty of Natural Sciences. The department of Computer Science belongs to this faculty. The department currently provides training to more than 400 students. When students complete their study they graduate with degree of Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. In this department side to the teaching, researches are being carried out. In cooperation with other organizations, in the near future there will be additional researches around the team of Natural Language Processing and Information Retrieval. Currently there is a research on eLearning system requirements and challenges in University of Hawassa.