



Fraunhofer

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Fig1. Researching and providing ICT solutions for developing countries

ICT4DCC

PROVIDING JOINTLY INCLUSIVE ICT INNOVATION FOR LOCAL DEMANDS

ICT for Development

The Information and Communication Technologies for Development Competence Center (ICT4DCC), at Fraunhofer AICOS, aims to study, research and develop the application of state-of-the-art ICT in developing countries, with an initial focus on the African sub-Saharan region, as well as to provide dedicated pre-commercial ICT mobile solutions for areas such as Agriculture, Health, and Citizens & Government, aiming to promote Very Small Enterprises in such countries.

Investigation is therefore carried out with African partners Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (South Africa) and Universidade Eduardo Mondlane

(Mozambique), as well as with European partners Fraunhofer FOKUS (Germany) and Faculdade de Economia do Porto (Portugal), through a joint development of locally relevant solutions, which could be incubated into new businesses.

A policy of knowledge transfer is then set to ensure a sustainable benefit for independent ICT industries in partners' countries, with wider and increasing economic and social benefits.

Through shared collaborative R&D procedures and methods, the ICT4DCC also ensures deep long-term partnerships between African and European partners.

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ICT4DCC

Its primary objective is to set up a team of international experts at Fraunhofer AICOS, working closely with international partners from South Africa, Mozambique, Germany, and Portugal, within each project's scope of activities.

Research Areas

- mAgriculture
- mHealth
- Citizens and mGovernment
- ICT for Very Small Enterprises (ICT4VSE)

ICT4DCC Website

ict4dcc.fraunhofer.pt

ICT4DCC Logo



Partners



Agriculture

mAgriculture research area aims to improve economic environment related to agricultural production, focusing mobile ICT solutions for both farmers and professional buyers. This, by enhancing efficiency and optimizing production, thus boosting local economic development, which is made possible through the ongoing Assistive Environment for Hydroponic Farming project, developed with Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

Health

mHealth research area rests on the idea of supporting and equipping healthcare professionals with smartphone based ICT solutions to allow them to carry out their work autonomously and efficiently in rural areas, where the existing medical services and facilities are scarce. Two of the projects on development are the Malaria Scope and the Epidemiologic Surveillance Platform.

Citizens & Government

Citizens & mGovernment research area aims to explore and research specific user requirements for the successful development and implementation of eGovernment apps and services. By investigating success factors and user requirements that could provide information for the development of mobile government user interfaces, it's intended to simplify the interaction between citizens and national authorities, with a special focus on citizens living in rural or remote areas.

As for currently developed projects under this research area, IZIDoc, OurMoz and ACP Street Libraries are among those.

Very Small Enterprises

ICT for Very Small Enterprises (ICT4VSE) research area focuses on increasing productivity and efficiency for very small enterprises by developing mobile ICT solutions addressed to the needs of VSE's workers and entrepreneurs. Aiming to help them manage their resources, finances and customer relations more efficiently, this research area currently comprehends the OurMoz project as well, which is currently developed with Universidade Eduardo Mondlane.

Enabling Technologies

The success of the ICT4DCC in all its research domains strongly relies on the ability to reach areas far beyond urban environments, where network coverage is sparse or mostly non-existent.

The effective implementation of its solutions among target users and contexts is a major challenge that demands the capability of providing adequate support mechanisms and technological infrastructures.

To address this specific need, and transversal to all research areas, the ICT4DCC, in cooperation with Fraunhofer FOKUS, currently focuses the development of enabling technologies, such as PostboxWeb and WIBACK projects.



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