“Advanced International School”

on

ICT for solving World Grand-challenges and the impact of these solutions for the socio economic development of Emerging Economies

Vision

Under the coordination and moderation of an international, multidisciplinary research consortium, a series of Workshops will be organized as an “Advanced International School” under the name of “ICT for Solving World Grand-Challenges and the impact of these solutions for the socio-economic development of Emerging Economies”. These Workshops will take place in Africa with African and international participation and have a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary focus.

The main grand-challenges of the world (climate, environment, health, scarce resources, education, etc.) are of such a dimension, of such a complexity and have such global, dramatic impact and implications, that they force the Developed and the Emerging Economies to bundle forces and finances to tackle them together, also because these problems have cross-boarders characteristics, requirements and constraints and require high investments. But this is not only a great challenge, but also a very big opportunity for the socio-economic development of Emerging Economies. One of the important questions in this context is: How can ICT be used as an enabling technology and as a tool in finding and in operating appropriate solutions for these problems?

First Workshop

The first workshop in this series of workshops run as an “International School” will address the following topic:

**Formal – informal economy linkages, exploitation of complementarities between both and how to improve the role of micro-enterprises in the process of socio-economic development**

Addressing the following issues:

- Formal vs. informal economies: differences, concepts and frameworks
- Facts and statistics about informal economies: analysis and evaluation
- Rethinking the informal economy: Linkages with the formal economy and the formal regulatory environment
- Conceptual frameworks and reference models
- The economics of the informal sector
- Implementation strategies for the development and growth of an informal economy
- The important role of Micro-Entrepreneurship
- Micro-enterprises and the need for ICT to support and improve their business models.
- Micro-Enterprises Software Systems and Platforms and their role in supporting the growth and competitiveness of the informal sector

Programme and Structure

The Advanced International School will be organized around the following basic structure:

- Technical Sessions: Presentations by international leading experts in the topic and focus chose. These sections will be multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary.
- Panels: Round table discussions on some of the problems and opportunities identified in the technical sessions
- Working Groups: A small number of these sessions will allow for student presentation of on-going student work (bachelor, master and doctoral thesis).