Hub for Education on ICT for Sustainability (HEdIS)

A collaborative project of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University - NMMU (Port Elizabeth, South Africa), University of Cape Town – UCT (Cape Town, South Africa) and Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg – UOL (Oldenburg, Germany)

Management / Executive Summary

With the adoption of the *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* in September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly and the national governments representatives took the historical decision to abide by a most ambitious and challenging agenda for the upcoming 15 years. Apart from the large number of goals and targets integrating development and environmental as well as justice issues, the SDGs call for greater efforts of in international collaboration and cooperation among states and their people.

Particularly universities as key actors in higher education, research as well as community engagement and drivers of innovation are expected to play a central role in the struggle against poverty, inequality and ecological degradation. Besides the external pressure, companies nowadays also want to integrate sustainability related issues to their activities and as this, it will be a major factor for upcoming graduates on the job market. The proposed *Hub for Education on ICT for Sustainability* seeks to bring together the practical demand as well as the research oriented activities on ICT for Sustainability, organized with the expertise of two highly experienced institutions to advance in this direction, namely the *Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University* as well as the *University of Cape Town* as comprehensive universities with strong links to the entire Sub-Saharan region and the *Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg* as an internationally recognized university from the Global North with a long-standing track record in sustainability research, teaching and community engagement. This project is based on a well-established and long-standing partnership between both universities involving numerous faculties and schools.

Within the Hub, six major sustainability topics are being structured and prepared for research-oriented as well as practice-related teaching, with strong regards to the South African context: Water Management, Waste Management, Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Mobility, Education on Sustainability and Sustainability Entrepreneurship. Each topic will be supplied with courses and course related offers for the students. Within project runtime teaching modules for above mentioned themes are developed.

HEdIS will be established and implemented at the Department of Computing Science at the NMMU and will get its full academic and infrastructural support. Besides its orientation towards the extension of existing study programmes at NMMU and UCT for students it will furthermore address vocational training activities for company participants.