ICT4D @ VU-(Informatics)

Research and Education

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Third International Symposium “Perspectives on ICT for Development (ICT4D)”
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Connecting the unconnected

ICT4D @ VU-Informatics

ICT4D Research

ICT4D Teaching
Why are we doing *ICT4D*?
Why are *we* doing *ICT4D*?
In which faculty should a multidisciplinary Master Track ICT4D be situated?

A: FEWEB
B: FEW
C: FSW
D: The VU should not do this at all.
ICT4D?
ICT4D for Empowerment

E.g.: our assumption is that... building openness into policies and technologies will result in greater opportunities for developing countries to transform into equitable and sustainable knowledge societies ... (Smith and Elder 2010)

... for ‘open data’ to have a meaningful and supportive impact on the poor and marginalized, direct intervention is required to ensure that elements currently absent in the local technology and social ecosystem are in fact, made available. (Gurstein 2011)
“direct intervention is required to ensure that elements currently absent in the local technology and social ecosystem are in fact, made available.”
Extend local technology
No old computers, 
but new Computer Science
ICT4D: a Master course

To raise awareness of:
• the **importance of ICTs for the developing world** and the unexpected way developing countries are leapfrogging into the information age
• The **opportunities and challenges** that exist for an information scientist in the area of 'development4development'
• The **influence of context** in a typical ICT4D project
• The **complexity of deploying** an ICT project within a development context, and how to tackle this.

To equip the students with initial project management, technological and programming skills specific to an ICT in developing countries.
What is specific ICT4D@VU?

ICT4D as a multidisciplinary course in core Computer Science
Start from use-cases gathered from fieldtrips

- Farming techniques
- Animal diseases
- Micro finances
- Fertilizing techniques
- Joint learning
- Market prices
- Temperature and rain
Overview

• Week 1: Social Background/Requirements
  ICT4D symposium

• Week 1+2: (CS1) Interaction Prototype (HCI4D)

• Week 3+4: (CS2) Functional Prototype (Small HW)

Testing in the field: Mali and Burkina Faso

• Week 6+7: (CS3) Production Prototype
  (justification for the Development Context)
ICT4D course

Graph with points:
- (0, 3)
- (1, 7)
- (2, 10)
- (3, 24)
- (4, 50)
- (5, 95)

Equation:
\[ y = 3.0465(1.988)^x \]
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