

# ICT4D @ VU-(Informatics)

*Research and Education*



**Romy Blankendaal & Gossa Lô & Stefan Schlobach**

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

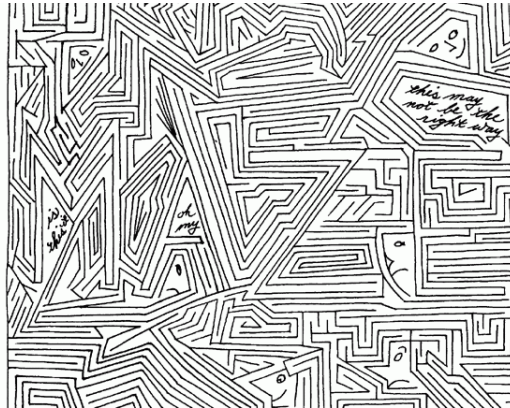
Amsterdam, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, 6 April 2016

# 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?

15	●	\$1,000,000
	●	
11	●	\$64,000
10	●	\$32,000
9	●	\$16,000
8	●	
4	●	\$500
3	●	\$300
2	●	\$200
1	●	\$100

50:50



**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

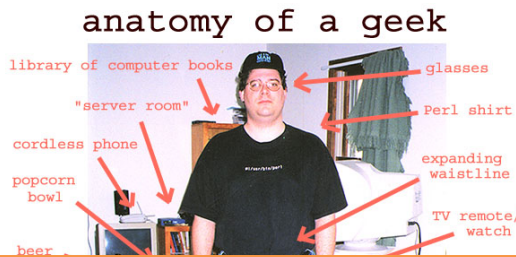


To raise awareness of

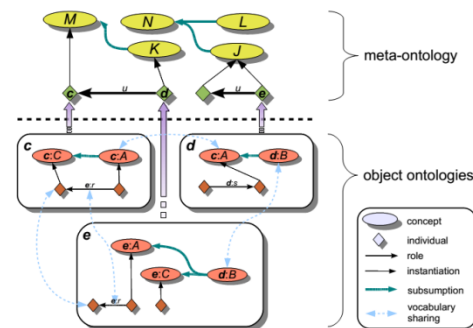
- the **importance of ICTs for the developing world** and the unexpected way developing countries are leapfrogging into the information age
- The **opportunities and challenges** that exist for an information scientist in the area of 'development4development'
- The **influence of context** in a typical 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



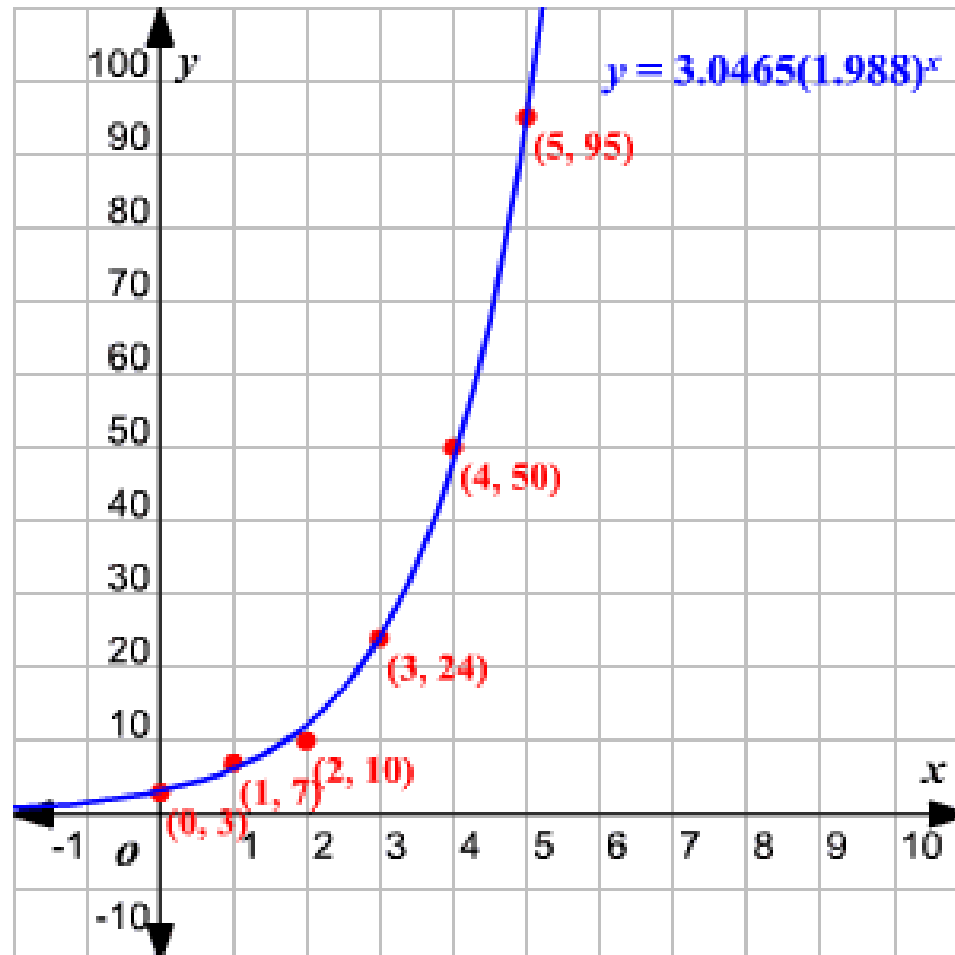
# Overview

- 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

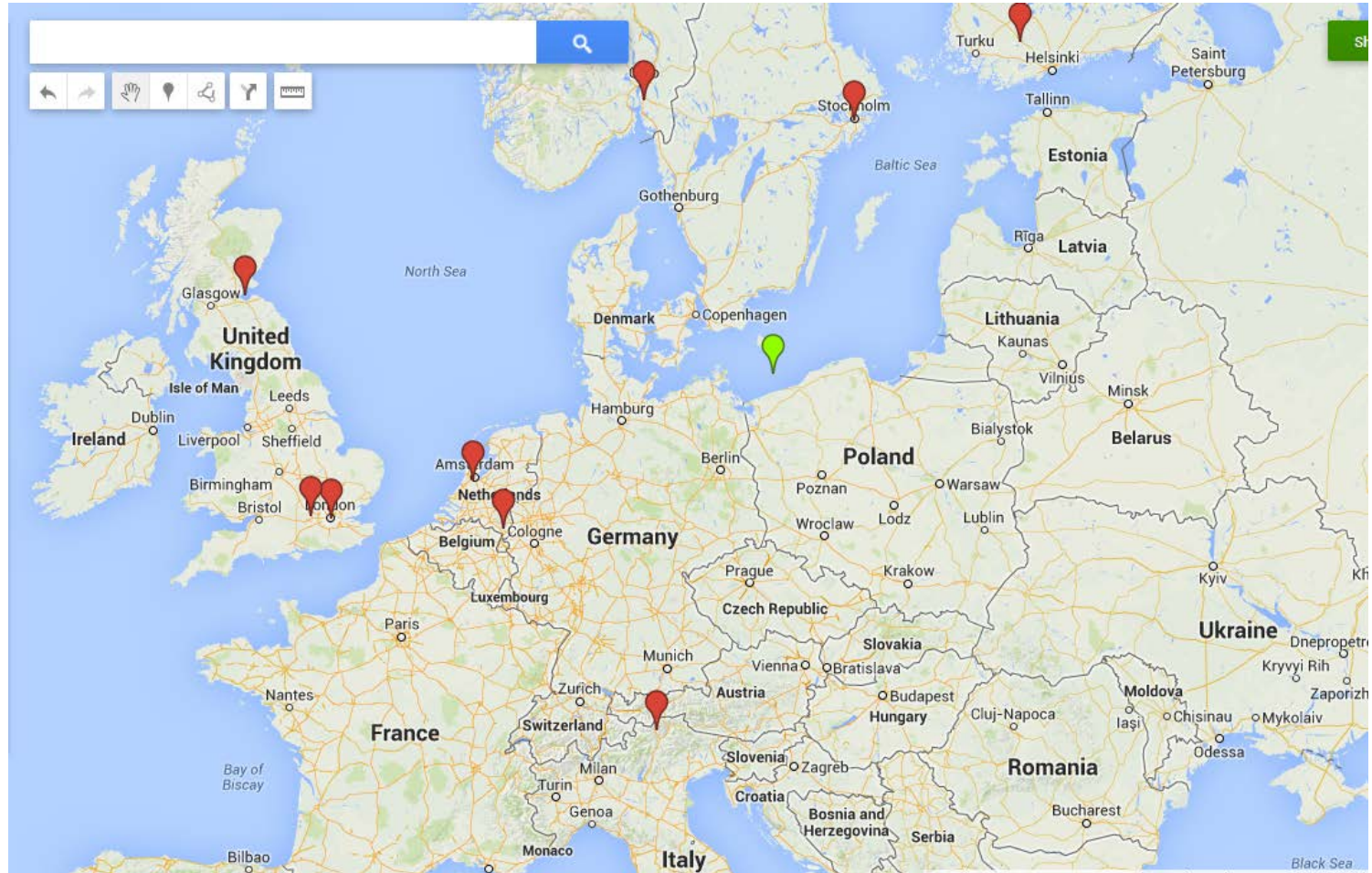
- Week 6+7: **(CS3) Production Prototype**  
*(justification for the Development Context)*

# ICT4D course





# ICT4D teaching in Europe



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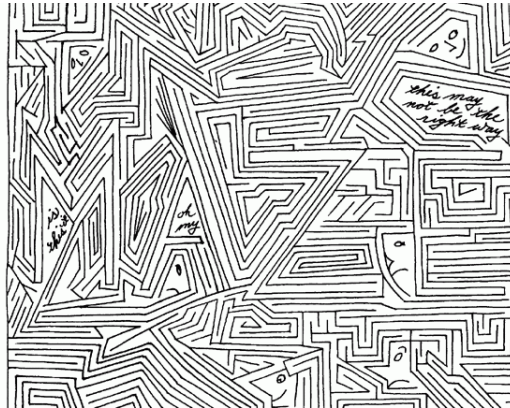
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