

eLEFANS – E-Learning Network on Food and Nutrition Security with partner universities in Eastern Africa and Europe



E-learning training, Makerere University, Uganda (June 2015).

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

December 2013 – June 2017

CONSORTIUM

- Ulm University, Germany
- Makerere University, Uganda
- Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya
- Hawassa University, Ethiopia
- Egerton University, Uganda
- Kenyatta University, Kenya
- Justus Liebig University Giessen, Centre for International Development and Environmental Research (ZEU), Germany

PROJECT CONTACT

Prof. Dr. med. M. Leichsenring
Dr. S. Dreschl-Bogale
University Ulm
Eythstraße 24
89075 Ulm
Germany
Tel: +49 731 500 57292
E-mail: michael.leichsenring@uniklinik-ulm.de
Susanne.Dreschl-Bogale@uniklinik-ulm.de

PROJECT WEBSITE

www.Elefans.org

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

A cooperation network between participating institutions and stakeholders in five e-learning centres was established, 15 specialised Food and Nutrition Security e-learning courses and modules were developed, backed up by five media databases, seven trainings for 33 staff members in designing and use of e-learning courses and an e-learning platform for sharing resources. The five e-centres have been equipped and academic staff has been trained in developing e-learning courses on a Moodle platform.

BACKGROUND

Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) is a highly complex issue requiring professionals to have a sound knowledge of the political, economic, social and cultural environment in which they work. They also require skills enabling them to carry out quick, accurate assessment and analysis of food insecure groups so that they can then select measures to mitigate food insecurity and improve the situation in the short and long term.

Given that the main problem at partner institutions is the lack of qualified staff, e-learning elements would be included in Bachelor's and Master's curricula in order to support and enhance the quality offered by the East African Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) based on national and international standards.

The fact that e-learning can be used by a large number of students spread across different locations (also for distance learning) makes it an efficient tool. Its relevance to the labour market was ensured by the involvement of stakeholders to oversee quality and continuity, and to organise appropriate training for all participants and beneficiaries so as to guarantee effective utilisation of the e-courses.

METHODOLOGY

Design of didactic curricular courses and Stakeholder meetings

To create awareness of e-learning, a needs assessment was conducted to prioritise courses to be developed and digitalised.

e-learning centres

Establishment of five e-learning centres, one in each of the participating HEI, including the procurement of software and equipment.

Trainings

FNS and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) experts were trained in the development of e-courses and pooling resources, to take advantage of each other's expertise. Students were trained in the use of e-learning content.

Development of e-courses, e-modules and databases

Authors from different institutions worked together to create high quality e-courses in the field of FSN. The e-content was reviewed in several steps by experts in specific subjects. The e-courses and modules were tested by students and their feedback was incorporated in the final versions.

e-learning Moodle platform

An e-learning platform (eLEFANS) was established for sharing teaching expertise and resources (five e-courses, 10 modules and five databases).

Resource sharing, courses transfer and academic (virtual) mobility

The exchange of information, knowledge and human resources (specialist experts) formed a basis for the development and testing of the e-courses, e-modules and databases.



RESULTS

→ Outputs

Capacity building

- 7 trainings for 33 university staff members, FNS experts and IT experts (16 female, 17 male) in designing and use of e-learning courses.
- 10 trainings for students on the use of Moodle for using e-courses / modules and databases.
- Formation of 20 groups for e-course, e-module and database development.

- 5 e-courses, 10 e-modules and 5 databases.

Platform

- 1 e-learning platform (elefans.org) with 40 discussion fora.

Facilities

- 5 e-learning centres, each equipped with electronic devices (21-23 computers, 2

tablets, 1 laptop, 1 scanner, 1 printer, 1 LCD projector, 1 video camcorder).

Network

- A network of stakeholders, FNS experts, IT experts and universities in East Africa and Germany.

↑ Outcomes

- Stakeholders aware of and co-operating to facilitate e-learning adapted to the needs of the labour market.
- University staff competent in the development and use of e-learning resources and

- in exploiting international co-operation.
- Students stimulated in the use of e-courses and e-modules.
- eLEFANS platform is well established with around 100 active members.

- African and EU HEIs and stakeholders sharing resources in an international network of FNS and IT experts.

🎯 Impacts

Usage

- The established e-learning programme will play a critical role in training and upgrading skills of teachers for use in the future, bridging the lecturer gap at institutions both in terms of quality and quantity. It enables experts in different areas of FNS to lecture at other institutions.

government policies to develop e-learning capacities as an efficient way to stimulate learner-centred education, increase student catchment areas and initiate multi-institutional collaboration and curriculum development.

- Experts able to conduct problem-focused research will contribute to national and regional policies and be involved in planning, designing and implementing development projects.

Sustainability

- A well-functioning network of experts and stakeholders is attracting more donors, thereby ensuring the continuity of the e-programme on FNS.
- Capacity has been enhanced to produce more competent FNS professionals to work as trainers, researchers and policy makers.

Policy implications

- The close co-operation of partners and stakeholders has ensured consistency with

TESTIMONIAL



Fikadu Reta Alemayehu,
Director, School of
Nutrition Food Sciences
and Technology, Hawassa
University, Ethiopia

“Electronic and internet technology has a huge potential to expand education, improve resource sharing and provide cost-effective and flexible teaching and learning. Thus, even if online learning has some current limitations, the opportunities are huge. The project has given me skills and exposure to online teaching and I am confident that e-learning will offer a more efficient and wider coverage of education to citizens in Ethiopia.”



Participants at launch of e-centre and e-training, Makerere University, Uganda (June 2015).