

Africa4All Parliamentary Initiative

Connecting African Parliaments & Citizens through innovative ICT

Tuesday, July 13, 2011

The Africa4All Parliamentary Initiative wishes to update you on its latest developments for the period of June 2010 – June 2011.

- The design of the Africa4All (A4A) platform has been improved in response to the specific local environment and needs (look and feel) of its users to ensure their participation;
- The content of the A4A platform is updated on a weekly basis offering visitors and users of the platform a great variety of the latest news and events pertinent to the thematic of the project which reflects the needs and priorities identified by the A4A partners;



- A4A is also expanding in the social media world! It has created its own profiles on the most favored and popular social media, such as Facebook and Twitter! The profiles are accessible via the project website;
- A brand new interactive online tool offered now by the platform is the GIS Map tool! The GIS map is a digital representation of a geographical map. Users can place pins to locate themselves and make comments to locations that concern them. At the same time they can also view the comments of other users on similar pins;
- A4A has also been updated with the integration of a wiki-tool! The specific state-of-the-art tool enables users to collaboratively create content on a specific thematic area of their interest, such as in the legislation area;
- Training is one of the most important elements of the project's implementation approach. A4A believes that the participating Parliaments need specialized personnel to moderate the platform tools provided by the A4A technical solution. Thus it becomes essential for the Parliamentary personnel to be trained so that the participating Parliaments have everything they need to easily and efficiently use the platform. A first face-to-face meeting took place in Durban, May 2010 with the participating parliamentarians and their administrative staff. Four online training sessions were provided in total by Gov2u staff as a follow through from the first face-to-face meeting in Durban, 2010. Three of the training sessions were for personnel from Tanzania and one for Lesotho which covered documentation/ manuals, demonstration and advice on how to use the system and its tools and how to maximize its use, as well as the objectives of the platform and best practices on dealing with users;
- In the case of Lesotho's training, emphasis was given on user and processes moderation. Training results in Lesotho indicated an increase of activity on the platform and the introduction of five new thematic areas in Lesotho's private working area as well as two new committees were created;
- Follow-up activities to the training have also been undertaken by on-the-spot training during the May – June 2011, by Gov2u partners in the African participating states;
- Currently, the Africa4All Parliamentary Initiative is happy to announce that it has 233 registered active users, experiencing the collaborative Africa4All platform.



About the Africa4All Parliamentary Initiative

Africa4all (FED 2009/216 126) is a project co funded under the 9th European Development Fund by ACP Group and EUROPAID. Africa4All is connecting citizens and 5 African Parliaments using ICT Innovative Technology. The Africa4All objective is to provide participating African countries with an innovative open-source software solution, methodology and training in order to help their Parliaments improve the quality, transparency and efficiency of their work and provide a mechanism for interaction with citizens. Simultaneously, the citizens will be provided with a means to become familiarized and involved with the everyday functioning of democratic decision making processes. The Africa4All technological solution is an online platform created through the customization of Gov2DemOSS, a platform that has already achieved international recognition and the support of the European Union. The project partners are: Kenya National Assembly, Parliament of Lesotho National Assembly, Parliament of Namibia, Parliament of Tanzania, Parliament of Uganda and the Project Coordinator Gov2U.

Be involved in the project!

We are very interested in your opinion and would like to include your involvement in the project. Do leave questions and comments for policy-makers via our website, regarding key development issues in your area!

Participate via the LIVE Platform: www.africa4all.net/

Keep updated via our social media profiles

Like us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Africa4All-Project/184541519202>

Follow us on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/africa4all>

How to reach us?

Do you have a question about the Africa4all project? Please feel free to contact us!

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