

Application

Preliminary Question

In which language are you submitting the application (check one)?

Please note that each country has the option of either submitting an application in English, or in their native language if they are unable to pay for translation into English. For applications submitted in the native language, OGP will pay for the translation into English before passing on to the judges.

- English
 Native language (please mention)

If you are submitting in your native language and it is non-Latin based language, you will have the option of uploading a PDF file at the end of this application. Please follow the questions and word limits mentioned in the application template.

A. THE TEAM

The following information is required to capture a basic understanding of those responsible for your initiative and any partnerships that have helped you to meet your goals.

INITIATIVE NAME (required)

Provide the name of the initiative that your team is submitting for consideration of the 2015 Open Government Awards. If the initiative is operating under one or more alternate name(s), provide the name that is most commonly recognized.

Ligbron e-Learning Project

THE NOMINATION (required)

Begin by describing how this initiative was selected. For example, mention any nomination or consultation process held with civil society partners or others when selecting the initiative.

[100 words]

The **CPSI** is an institution in the Ministry of Public Service and Administration (MPSA) established to identify, support, nurture, test and pilot innovative solutions in the public sector with a view to improve service delivery. The CPSI holds the Annual Public Sector Innovation Awards programme. The e-Learning project was the overall winner of CPSI Awards they have been working closely to replicate the project in Provinces across South Africa. CPSI in consultation with the MPSA nominated the project as the best to enter for the OGP Awards 2015, because it addresses the responds to a service delivery challenge through a partnership between government

Is this initiative included in your country's OGP National Action Plan?

(Applicants can choose initiatives from within OR outside their OGP National Action Plans)

- Yes No

GOVERNMENT POINT OF CONTACT (required)

Provide the name, title, phone number(s), email address(es) and mailing address of a single point of contact for the purposes of communicating with your team. The person should be the senior most individual responsible for overseeing the application requirements.

Please also provide the name and professional title of the government official responsible for implementing the initiative, if different from above.

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TYPE OF APPLICATION (required)

We strongly encourage applicants to submit a joint application from a government agency and a civil society organization. Only submit a joint application if a civil society organization was involved in either designing, implementing or monitoring the initiative jointly with the government.

Is this a joint application?

- Yes No

If yes, please fill out the "civil society point of contact" field below.

CIVIL SOCIETY POINT OF CONTACT

Please provide the name and title of a single point of contact at the organization. By providing these details you acknowledge that you are jointly applying with a civil society organization for the 2015 Open Government Awards.

Frans Kalp – Project Manager Ligbron e-Learning
 Tel nr: +27 17 811 3279
 Cell nr: 083 469 7819
 E-mail: tegnologie@ligbron.co.za

OTHER PARTNERSHIPS (optional)

If you are partnering with one or more other government agencies, private sector entities, media etc., please list each partner. In 250 words or less, provide a brief narrative of the partnership and the role each partner plays in your initiative.

Sponsors of the project over the years:

- Glencore: Sponsors projects in different towns and monitoring the project.
- Anglo Coal: Invests in projects in different towns and monitoring the project.
- South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC): Broadcast a programme of the project on "Mother of all Professions" and we were also on all the SABC channels NEWS as the MEC of Education named this project as the way to go forward with education.
- ELB: Helps financially with maintenance of project and on-going training of teachers
- Sonae Novobord: Sponsors schools in the project and help with maintenance of the project.
- Hermann Olthavem Trust: Sponsors schools to participate in our maths and science holiday schools as well as on-going training of teachers
- The CPSI has worked closely with the project team to link up with the private sector for further replication of the project in various schools across the South African Provinces including companies such as Capitec Bank, etc.

B. THE INITIATIVE

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is prepared to celebrate a range of successful applicants for the Open Government Awards. This year's theme is Improving Public Services through Open Government. Please visit here for more clarification on the theme. To qualify for recognition, we need to understand the various elements of success of your initiative and its sustainability over time. Please answer the following questions:

PROBLEM DEFINITION (required)

In 200 words or less, please identify the specific problem your initiative intended to solve. Why was this problem important to solve at a particular time and what were the challenges posed by your national (or local) economic or political context?

The Ligbron e-Learning Project started as a school community project where mathematics and science lessons are shared with rural, disadvantaged and underperforming schools by means of video conferencing and desktop sharing. The project uses 21st Century technology to uplift teaching standards and improve learning and results. As a technologically-based education outreach, the project is a first of its kind in Africa, where we grapple with challenges of finding sufficient resources to boost the quality of education- particularly in Maths and Science.

Three of the connective schools, Camden combined, Umzimvelo Agriculture and Masizakhe Secondary Schools are rural schools within 50km radius, while Ermelo Combined and Ithafa Secondary Schools are within a 10km radius of Ligbron. We transmit live lessons to all these schools at once and are totally interactive.

Economic challenges are overcome by finding sponsors for the project. No political challenges where experience.

Because of the success of this project, this model has been duplicated by Ligbron in several other towns and provinces in South Africa already and Ligbron continues to link up with the CPSI for further replication of the project across the country.

INITIATIVE DESIGN (required)

In 250 words or less, describe your initiative's goals and objectives. How did it aim to improve public service delivery, who was it intended to benefit (specify the target population), and why was it important to use open government approaches to achieve this goal? If your initiative was designed to improve access or services for disadvantaged or marginalized groups, provide details on this here. Describe any innovations in the design of the initiative.

Objectives of the project:

- To improve the Grade12 Mathematics & Science results in the underperforming schools
- To train Gr.12 mathematics & Science teachers to become specialist teachers
- To train teachers in the use of ICT in the classroom
- To upgrade classrooms in the township/rural schools
- To promote technology in former disadvantaged schools
- To upgrade classrooms in the township/rural schools
- To connect urban and rural schools by using interactive whiteboards and a wireless network
- To enable more Grade 12's to go to universities and follow a career of choice
- To promote maths and science in the schools because without that their career choices are very limited

Innovation:

Six different technologies are connected in a unique way to enable the schools, 5400 learners and 280 teachers to communicate with each other by means of video, sound and by writing on a smartboard.

The five schools are wirelessly connected to Ligbron School and use SMART Bridgit conferencing and live video to share their Mathematics and Science lessons. Each e-learning classroom has a SMART interactive whiteboard (IWB), a LCD screen with a digital camera, a sound system and wireless microphone that is connected to a pc to enable interactivity between the transmitting teacher and all the connected schools.

The LCD screen next to the IWB show the teachers at the linked schools, and the transmitting teacher is able to see all the learners of the connected schools and thus enabling them to actively take part in the lessons.

INITIATIVE OUTCOMES (required)

In 450 words or less, explain how your initiative was able to demonstrate one or more of the following results:

- Citizens have better access to information on the public services to which they are entitled, and/or information on the performance of public service providers
- Governments are better at asking for and responding to feedback or complaints by citizens on the quality of public services
- Citizens have ways to actively participate in the design and delivery of public services
- Citizens have mechanisms to monitor and oversee public works and services

Initiatives should also provide evidence if the initiative was able to expand access to public services to a larger population than before or if the quality and efficiency of public services has improved.

If there are any baseline indicators to measure the outcomes of the initiative, please describe them in detail. If the initiative was included in the OGP Action Plan, please describe how this did (or did not) contribute to the initiative's success.

How the project is solving the identified service delivery challenges:

As a technologically-based education outreach, the project is a first of its kind in Africa, where we grapple with challenges of finding sufficient resources to boost the quality of education- particularly in Maths and Science. We supply all schools with internet to give to access to more resources. Schools have access to our server with lesson notes that they print out for their learners before a transmission, these are used to make notes and keep in a file to use for exams. All lessons are recorded to enable teachers to play it afterwards if they couldn't attend the lesson, or had an electricity problem, or for revision before exams. We also put extra resources on the server like tests, exam papers and important notes for exams.

We are using wireless internet, as there is no delay on the transmission, three of the connective schools, Camden combined, Umzimvelo Agriculture and Masizakhe Secondary schools with five rural, disadvantaged and under-performing schools by means of Schools are rural schools within 50km radius, while Ermelo Combined and Ithafa Secondary Schools are within a 10km radius.

The Ligbron e-learning project is a school community project where mathematics and science lessons are video conferencing and desktop sharing. The project uses 21st Century technology to uplift teaching standard and improve learning and results. As a technologically-based education outreach tool, the project is a very impressive innovation - it is first of its kind to be utilised in the African continent, where we constantly contend with issues of finding sufficient resources to boost the quality of our education- especially in Maths and Science.

There are continual meetings held quarterly with the e-Learning schools, and these meetings help in informing the project managers which topics they (e-Learning schools) are struggling with and then we can focus on those problem areas. We also supply them with a calendar with transmission dates and topics and thus force them (the e-Learning Schools) to stay on the track with pacesetter of the Department of Education, which ensures that they will get through the syllabus.

Improvement in pass rate over the years:

e-LEARNING SCHOOLS - GRADE 12 PASS RATE

| SCHOOL | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|--------------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Masizakhe | 46.4% | >>> | >>> | >>> | >>> | >>> | >>> | 89.3% |
| Umzimvelo | 54.8% | >>> | >>> | >>> | >>> | >>> | >>> | 100% |
| Camden Comb | 60.3% | >>> | >>> | >>> | >>> | >>> | >>> | 80% |

E-LEARNING SCHOOLS - GRADE 12 BACHELOR DEGREES

| SCHOOL | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Masizakhe | 4 | >>> | >>> | >>> | >>> | >>> | 28 |
| Ithafa | 10 | >>> | >>> | >>> | >>> | >>> | 24 |
| Ermelo Comb | 6 | >>> | >>> | >>> | >>> | >>> | 8 |
| Camden Comb | 4 | >>> | >>> | >>> | >>> | >>> | 16 |

INITIATIVE SUSTAINABILITY (required)

In 200 words or less, please describe any plans for scaling up or sustaining the initiative. Base your description of the strategy on the information provided in the previous sections, such as how you intend to leverage your current success and increase your reach or capacity. Address any threats or operational challenges to your initiative and describe how you manage those risks on a regular basis.

The project has been running since 2008 to date and it has brought massive improvements over the years in Maths and Science rates in the different schools it has connectivity with. At first we only transmitted to Grade 12 learners but realized that a lot of the work are already done in Grade 11 and decided to start transmitting to Grade 11 and Grade 12's.

We already duplicated and replicated this same model to other towns and provinces because of its success rate.

By giving on-going training to teachers at rural schools we make sure that there are always trained teachers available to teach the learners at all times

Resources – New resources are constantly loaded on the server for the use of the e-Learning Schools

Maintenance - As part of the agreements we enter into with our partners and/or sponsors, we always try to get our sponsors to commit for maintenance money on the long term as well

Electricity – Because of a challenge of power outages, we always record all our lessons and if a certain school was without electricity at the time of the transmission, they can always watch the recorded video afterwards and question any uncertainties with our teacher(s).

VALIDATION OF CLAIMS (required)

While it is strongly encouraged that each initiative includes an implementing partner, such as a Civil Society Organization, private sector agency, media entity, etc., it is not a requirement. However, you are required to secure and upload documents from at least two credible nongovernmental actors, who can attest to the veracity of the claims made in your application.

You are only allowed to upload one file. If you have multiple documents, please zip them into a single file first. The file types that are allowed to be uploaded have an extension of .ZIP, .PDF, .DOC, .DOCX, .XLS or .XLSX.

E-Learning Validation OF CLAIMS question for OPG Awards.docx

C. THE PITCH

The following information allows each applicant to make their strongest (and final) case for consideration.

BEST CASE (required)

In 250 words or less, please present the most compelling facts for why your initiative should be recognized. This is an opportunity to distinguish your initiative, based on any factors that you have not had the opportunity to describe in the previous sections. What is your best argument for why your initiative has achieved a meaningful outcome? What elements of the initiative make it different and better than others that have been tried and tested? Be creative and concise.

Ligbron e-Learning continues to make a difference in the lives of lots of Grade 12 learners from rural and under-performing schools who desire and want to pass and take their education further by going to tertiary institutions such as universities and who want to break out of their poor/bad circumstances and build a better future for themselves and their families. E-Learning makes it possible by supplying them with extra resources in maths and science; lesson notes, recorded lessons, previous exam papers, live transmissions of maths and science lessons in Grade 11 and Grade 12 from a different teachers; specialists in their subjects.

As the project progresses, infrastructure was improved in e-Learning schools and the schools were equipped with 21st century technology that made it easier to teach the learners. E-Learning supplies learners with internet access which opens a whole new world of possibilities to them. Holiday schools are hosted yearly and summaries of all work done are given to them to ease their learning process. The learners are given the opportunity to apply for apprenticeships with companies that have adopted e-learning project.

Teachers at rural schools become specialist of their subject by learning from each other; they become computer literate and competent to use ICT through on-going training by the e-Learning staff. We know that there will probably never come a day that all Grade 12's will pass but through this project we are definitely making a difference in the lives of those who want to become leaders of tomorrow.

VIDEO SUBMISSION or ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS (optional*)

OGP does not offer a venue for applicants to meet our judges during the application process. In order to provide the opportunity for making a personal connection, you are encouraged to upload a short video to complement your application. You may also depict an individual participant in your initiative and describe his or her experience. We do not need to know actual names or personal details. Take this opportunity to tell a story, to connect with our panel of experts, so that they might better understand your attention to specific needs.

Video submissions should follow these guidelines:

Maximum length of 3-4 minutes.

Please focus on personal presentations; it's not necessary to develop a sophisticated or polished video.

Here are some logistical and technical suggestions:

Video cameras, digital cameras, and phones are easy ways to record a video.

Laptop and desktop computers can typically record video through Skype or other software.

If possible, set to a low resolution to reduce file size. This will enable an easier video uploading process.

If you are having difficulty uploading the video file, try logging out of the application and logging back in using another internet browser.

Here are general suggestions for delivering a high-quality video pitch:

Introduce yourself and your initiative. Focus on describing your intended benefits and/or services and how they have been effective. What is unique about your initiative, partners, or technical approach? Keep your description and language simple.

*** NOTE**

If the burden of developing a video presentation is either prohibitive or might not reflect the best characterization of your initiative, then you are not required to submit one, and the judges are instructed not to discount your application because it may not include a video. You may upload additional documents instead, such as proof of implementation and results if you wish. This could take the form of evaluation or audit reports, citizen surveys, media reports etc. that would provide additional validation for judges. We hope that this option offers a new and inventive way in which you can best express the results of your work.

You are only allowed to upload one file with a maximum of 3 pages. This file must be in English or in your native language. If you have multiple documents, please zip them into a single file first. The file types that are allowed to be uploaded have an extension of .ZIP, .PDF, .DOC, .DOCX, .XLS or .XLSX.

Full Submission Of non-Latin Based Native Language

If your language is Latin based, DO NOT use this upload field. Please use the application above.

You are only allowed to upload one file with an extension of .PDF