

Profile area:

ICT for Development, ICT4D

To strengthen democratic processes and improve the quality of lives

There has been a long tradition of ICT4D-related projects at DSV. DSV is also host to the Spider centre, which has a vast international network. This profile area brings structure and focus for the many projects now spread across different units. It is a way of mobilizing our efforts in ICT4D more strategically. It will make our activities more visible and facilitate the systematic build-up of long-term international partnerships. Also, the world has changed. Now the IT-infrastructure has reached a complete new level worldwide, and when hardware is there, let's make use of it!



We will coordinate current research activities at the department and create a community of researchers in this field. The ICT4D activities are today mutual in the sense that research, services and products developed “here” could be utilized “there” and vice versa. It is no longer a top down or one-sided approach in development projects.

Sustainability and new business models are essential for long-term impact. Some of the best ICT4D initiatives are research-based innovations, which generate increased quality of life and durable job opportunities.

We will look into joint ventures with multiparty stakeholders. In accordance with Sida policy, the ICT4D R&D should be result based. That is both academic results in the form of peer-reviewed scientific publications as well as real change for the target groups. It is research and development with a purpose. A participatory research approach involving all stakeholders is inevitable, both in terms of ethics and validity. In particular we will focus our research in ICT4D to strengthen democratic processes, increase educational opportunities, improve healthcare, empower girls and women, create jobs and reduce poverty. Broad collaboration with

governments, NGOs and communities are essential.

New business opportunities and life quality improvements will arise in the often over-looked areas of tourism, sport, art and music. We will approach our ICT4D research projects with thorough in depth pre-studies, establish the necessary networks and associate with key local organisations and people.

Communication is key. Currently we are investigating our in-house language skills. It is estimated that more than 40 languages are spoken at the department. Neil Armstrong said in 1969 when stepping out on the moon: “That’s one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind.” Let’s take some small ICT4D-steps on Earth and make a giant leap for mankind!

Organisation

The coordinator for ICT4D is associate professor Henrik Hansson. Approximately 35 researchers and PhD students are involved. Additionally a large number of Bachelor’s and Master’s students’ thesis topics will be focused on ICT4D-related projects. Together with our international partners, the ICT4D research group will exceed 50 persons already at the inception phase. Networking will further expand the people involved.

Contact

If you wish to learn more or discuss future cooperations please contact:

Henrik Hansson, coordinator
Henrik.Hansson@dsv.su.se

Management

Henrik Hansson, coordinator ICT4D profile area

Matti Tedre, Research design support

Naghmeh Aghaee, information manager

Center

SPIDER (Swedish Program for ICT in Developing Regions)