

## **Report on SAFIPA/LLiSA Provincial Event in KZN - Durban 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009**

Event took place at the Smart Exchange Building in Durban. From 9-12 July 2009. We had about 25 people in attendance mainly SMME's that were in the SmartXchange building and they were invited by Robynne Erwin who also hosted the event.

Robynne Erwin  
CEO  
SmartXChange  
[www.smartxchange.co.za](http://www.smartxchange.co.za)

Tel: +27 31 307 1988  
Fax: +27 31 307 1987  
Cel: +27 83 776 1143

Ashraf was able to the Safipa Presentation and then I completed the LLiSA presentation. Afterwards we had a Q/A Session.

Typically the questions asked were in keeping with SME questions around funding, but there were a couple of good suggestions from some companies for potential LL's.

This was underlined in our meeting we had with Jacqui Subban  
Head of Geographic Information & Policy Office  
Tel.: 311 3439/3458  
3rd floor  
Shell Hse.  
221 Smith Street Dbn.  
[subbanj@durban.gov.za](mailto:subbanj@durban.gov.za)

Jacqui is a go getter and has been involved in most of the innovation in ICT in the city. She was pleased to meet with us and particularly Ashraf who has access to funding which to a city is important.

She is a fan of the LL concept and underlined some of the initiatives discussed with us by the SME earlier. Those Initiatives are:

1. A city wide portal to bring the informal sector online.
2. Dbay – a city equivalent to Ebay
3. The Bangladeshmarket

I think these are interesting opportunities which allow for a full exploration of the Quadruple-Helix for a Living Lab.

## **LLiSA Provincial Visit to Limpopo 30 – 31st August**

Purpose for the trip was to evaluate Activities within the current LL's in the province and make comparison to Athlone LL in which Afrivate is intimately involved to understand the "inner-workings" of the LL's in Southern Africa so as to form information led conclusions.

Plan was to meet with

- LLL
- Moutse LL
- Walter Bohle

- Meet up with Jacqui Subban in Jhb re KZN opties

Plan meetings had to be juggled as Reuben Rammabuda had to make a trip to Cape Town.

The meeting with Jaqui was successful as we now have identified a perfect environment for us to initiate a new LL in KZN – one of the provinces which does not have a LL.

Meeting/Interview with Walter Bohle was positive. Walter was able to share ABSOLUTE knowledge from personal experience with Living labs in both Europe and Africa

Meeting with Henry Marnitz did not take place in Limpopo as planned but was reduced to a series of skype and telephonic interviews in which ideas were tested and exchanged. While this represented a cost savings not travelling to Limpopo it defeated the aim of the travel not seeing the LL and meeting the community.

However the information gleaned from the interviews and then the meeting with Jacqui Subban was highly desirable.

While the Southern African LL cannot be a European centric LL – there are key lessons ot be learnt and pitfalls to be avoided.

KZN represents a unique opportunity for LLISA to test a “virgin” LL in South Africa which can form the blue print for LLISA.

Finally the trip allowed for Interviews with Innovation companies who were able to cement the view that ICT needs to play a Binding role in making sure the innovation is wrapped in a technical/research framework which allows for “Science” top take place.

The output has been a simple 5 numbered questionnaire which has resulted in some good and interesting questions being answered and has given us actual input to measure against theoretical inputs which have driven past discussions.

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