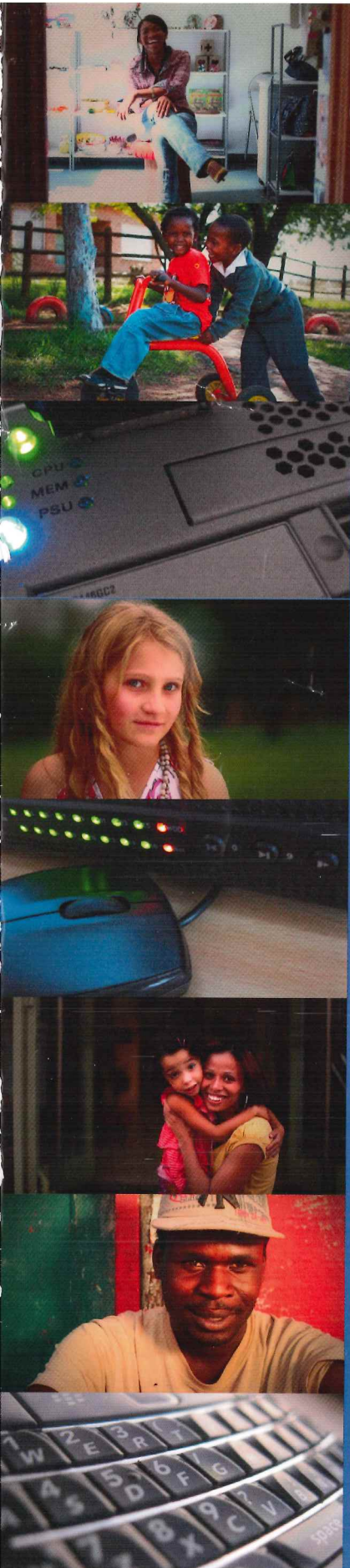


e-skilling the nation

The e-Skills Institute value proposition



The e-Skills Institute (e-SI)

The shortage of ICT-related skills (e-skills) has been identified as a serious problem and the Department of Communications (DoC) is mandated to drive the national e-skills agenda through its e-Skills Institute (e-SI). This follows the 2007 recommendations of the Presidential International Advisory Council on the national structural theme of Information Society and Development.

The e-SI is a national catalyst and responsive change agent. It impacts on national priorities within the context of a global information society and knowledge-based economy. It engages stakeholders (from government, business, education, civil society and organised labour) and conducts biennial e-Skills Summits to coordinate, measure, evaluate and plan e-skills efforts across South Africa.

The first national e-Skills Summit was held in July 2010 resulting in the National e-Skills Plan of Action (NeSPA). There have been a range of implementation activities since 2010 following on from NeSPA.

As a national catalyst, the e-SI aims to help:

- grow the human resource e-skills base for South Africa
- embed technology into people's lives
- provide the base for increasing equitable prosperity in South African society
- position South Africa to increase its global competitiveness

The e-SI will achieve its aims through:

- evidence-based research
- a monitoring and evaluation framework
- teaching and learning
- innovation



The core values of the e-SI are:

- responsiveness
- enabling the capacity of emerging talent
- collaboration
- innovation
- developmental approaches

The e-SI has established a substantive formalised multi-stakeholder collaborative network involving partners across government, business, government agencies and state-owned enterprises, global development partners and agencies, continental and international partners, community, organised labour and education (universities, FET colleges and schools).

In South Africa, the e-SI has established six provincial e-Skills Knowledge Production and Coordination Hubs in association with local universities. This allows for a coordinated effort across all stakeholder groups within each province. It also provides an operational platform to engage organised business, education, government, community, organised labour and international bodies across Africa and internationally. This distributed network will focus on a national effort as well as emerging key theme areas based on collectives of excellence.

The e-SI has established the National Research Network for e-Skills (ResNeS). It provides a professional platform for multi-stakeholder research collaborations to support the national e-skills drive. ResNeS is a formal evolving network body of researchers (across the higher education, private sector, government, civil society sectors and other national and international role players) that provides the necessary multi-disciplinary research base for the e-skills initiative.

Existing research approaches have not been able to address the huge e-skills capacity building needs of South Africa. ResNeS will commence the process of:

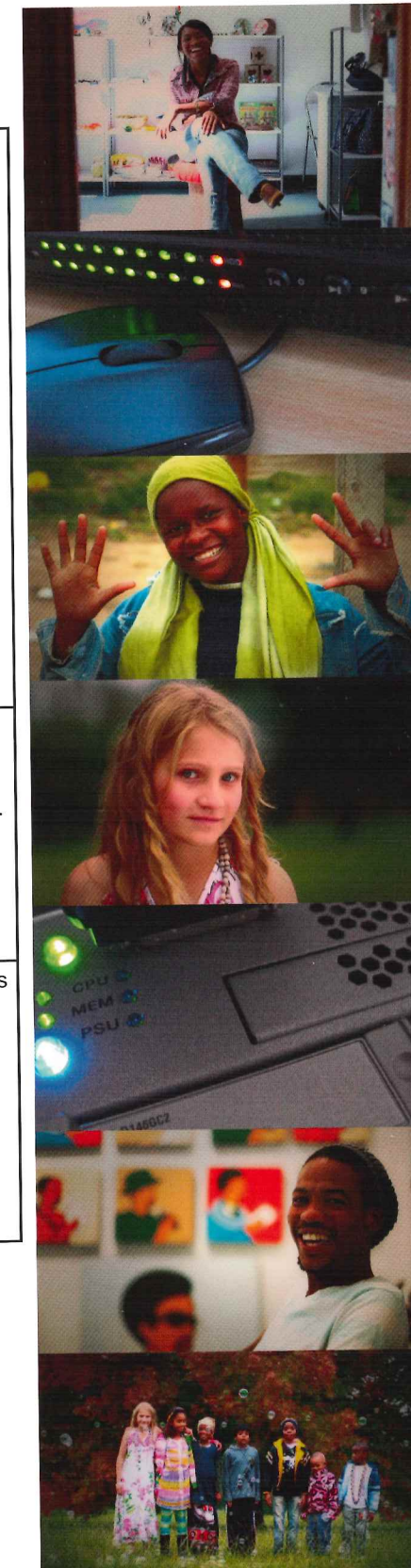
- building a relevant taxonomy
- providing a coordinating framework
- proactively aligning e-capacity research to national priorities, business needs, and emerging technology capabilities
- establishing a sound credible and active research collaboration body
- aggregating relevant existing data
- establishing a process for ongoing data collection that is more closely aligned to the needs of a broad-based national approach within South Africa's developmental needs

Through these processes, ResNeS will be able to inform and influence e-capacity building policy based on evidence-based research. Further, it will be able to identify South Africa's needs within its own cultural identity rather than the existing 'Western' paradigm.

The e-Skills Institute value proposition

Through its collaborative, catalytic and coordinating approach, the e-Skills Institute (e-SI) offers the following: (note that while these are categorised, the perspectives interlink with each other)

A government support perspective (including associated agencies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An integrated and coordinated approach to e-skilling South Africa. • Ability to refine policy settings within a more integrated approach to a subject matter that is innovating at rates that are difficult for government bodies to respond to within their planning, structural and accountability frameworks. • Ability to test new approaches to service delivery within a safe environment that has broad technical, praxis and policy support across business, service delivery agencies, education and local community. • A better and more focussed opportunity to be kept abreast of trends in technology application, service delivery, policy development, and evaluation and monitoring. • A platform that can more adequately assess gaps, overlaps and opportunities for collaborative approaches to service delivery. • A better opportunity to determine the impact of existing programmes in terms of national strategic objectives. • An opportunity to fund well-developed, sustainable and widely supported projects and programmes.
A government access perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With its initial formation within with the DoC, the e-SI has direct access to influence national departments on the use of ICTs in national plans and programmes to promote growth of the human resource e-skills base in South Africa. • A formal process to more effectively engage with government from a collective stakeholder stance around praxis, evaluation, policy development, research needs and new approaches.
A research perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The e-SI's research facilities provide a focus for continuous research in a cross-disciplinary manner to concentrate on new ways to embed technology into people's lives to improve business opportunities, access to government services and social cohesion. • The e-SI has a proactive approach to environmental scanning in a rapidly changing landscape through its national platform. It can more adequately assess gaps, overlaps and opportunities for collaborative approaches.



e-skilling the nation

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the e-Skills Institute purpose

Aimed at improving
the employment
figures for graduates
from tertiary
institutions and
shortening the time
from employment to
productivity.

Aimed at effective
use of ICT for service
delivery that is
developmental, agile,
competent and
citizen-centric.

employment
readiness

effective
e-governance and
service delivery

Using innovation and responsive mechanisms to
achieve the goals.

socio-economic
development

business
development

Aimed at increasing
national productivity
and competitiveness.

Aimed at providing
skills needed within
corporates and
SMMEs.

research and development,
aggregation, monitoring and evaluation
and innovation

Aimed at informing policy and curriculum
development, defining applications and
evaluating progress.

The e-Skills Institute (e-SI) leads in the creation of key e-skills development strategies, solutions and practices within South Africa. It is a national catalyst, collaborator, facilitator and responsive change agent in the development of SA – within the context of national goals and within a worldwide evolving information and knowledge-based environment. The intention is to benefit the total population by harnessing ICT for equitable prosperity and global competitiveness. The e-SI focuses primarily on four components: evidence-based research, teaching and learning, innovation, and a monitoring and evaluation framework.

The e-skills knowledge production and coordination hubs are the e-Skills Institute presence at a provincial level, coordinating e-skills interventions, developing e-skills curriculum, promoting innovation and building capacity in terms of the e-skills research agenda.

e-skilling the nation

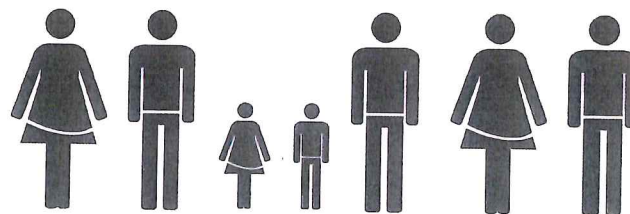
The e-Skills Institute aims to:

- to position South Africa for **global competitiveness**
- to provide the base for **increasing equitable prosperity** in our society
- to grow the **human resource e-skills base** for South Africa
- to **embed technology** into people's lives

community

national

global



impact

increased employment readiness

strengthen business development

enhance socio-economic development

strengthen effective e-governance and service delivery

build innovation, evidence-based research and development

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4 primary focus areas

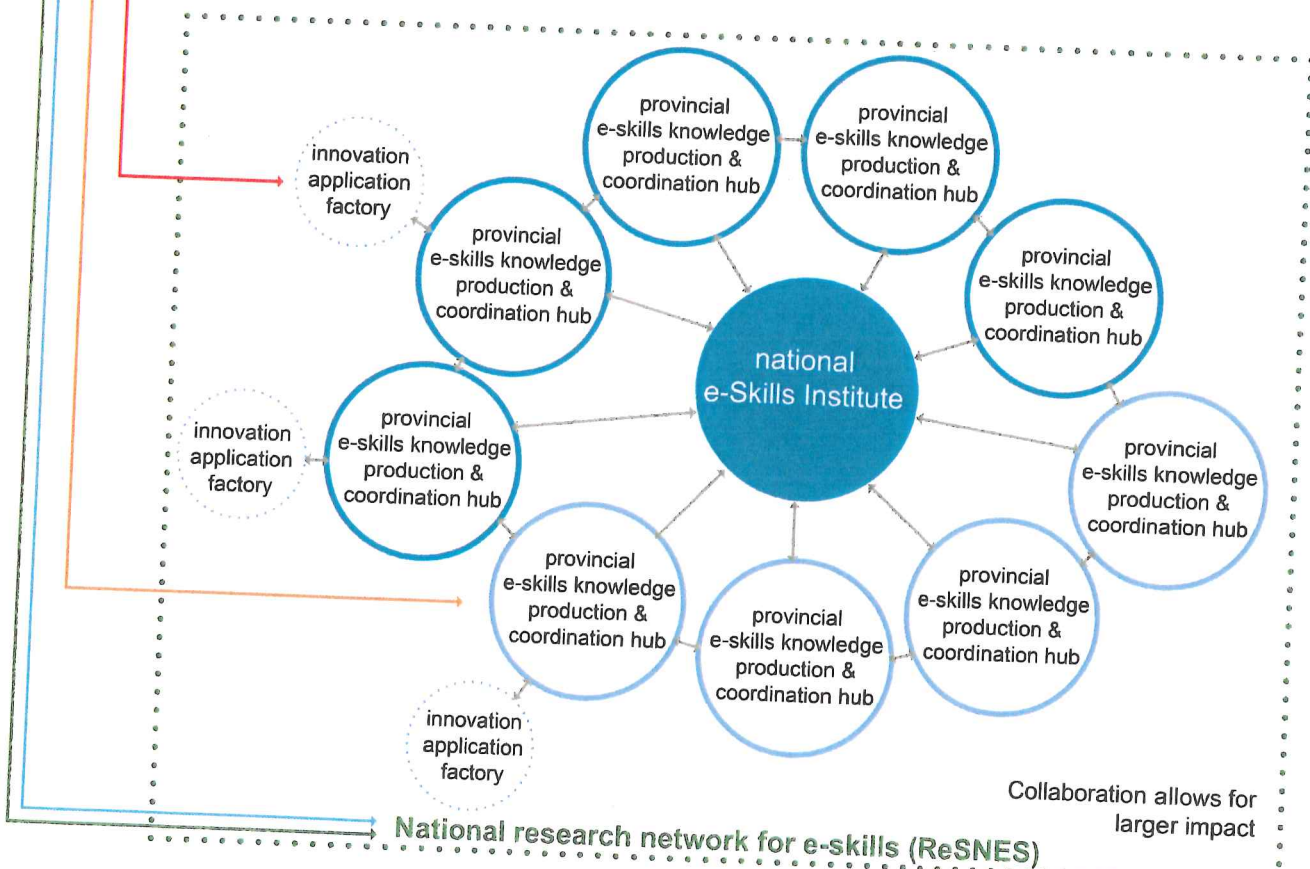
evidence-based research

monitoring & evaluation framework

teaching & learning

innovation

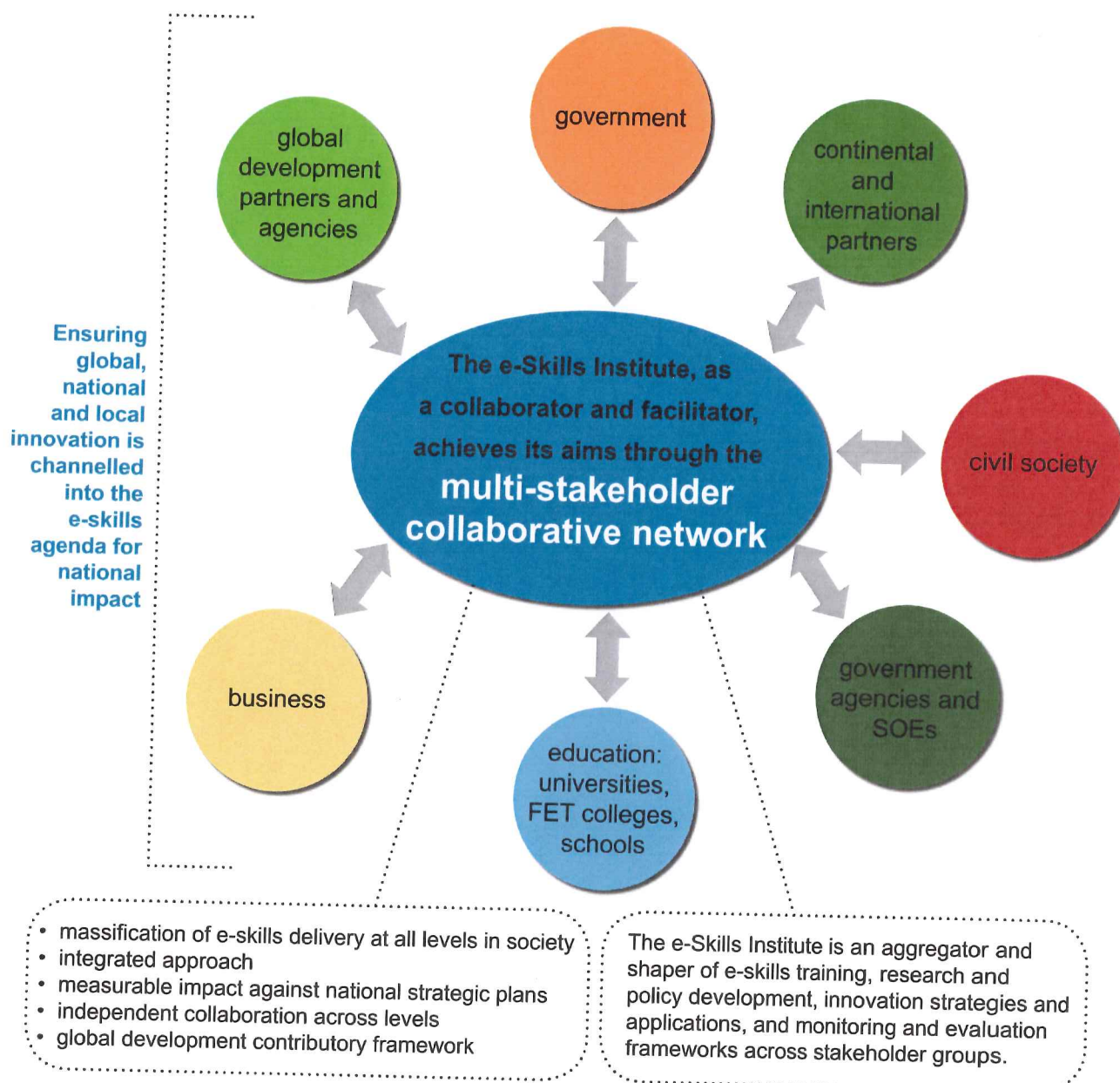
All focus areas
impact throughout
the e-Skills Institute
and are part of
a responsive
and interactive
information flow



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multi-stakeholder collaborative network



e-skilling the nation

National e-Skills Plan of Action 2013

executive summary

extract from the Second e-Skills
Summit held in Cape Town
from 22–25 October 2012

continuing to e-skill
the nation for equitable prosperity
and global competitiveness