Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities (EPIC Model) in Africa

Dr. Gilbert Siame
The Bonn and Cape Town training workshops

• Introduction of EPIC Model in Africa
• Importance of the Bonn training – Planting the seed
• Regional EPIC training workshop in Cape Town - Birth of a regional network.
Lusaka Progress: Urban conditions
Lusaka Initiatives - how we 'Just Started’

• City official and academic trained in Epic Model in Bonn
• Identification of ‘champions’ and working through institutionalisation processes
• Broader and strategic outreach- University and Municipality
• Start small using existing programmes- MSc in Spatial Planning
• Key to align initial efforts with existing programmes projects
Briefing Mayor Kalumba about EPIC Model
Politicians, communities, technocrats and academics- institutionalisation processes
The Lusaka EPIC site for 2018
Funding and symbolisms- agreed working agreement

• Municipality to contribute (US$ 25, 000) annually to support Lusaka EPIC Programme.

• Symbolic launch of Epic Zambia programme by Vice Chancellor and Mayor in April to May 2018

• Mutual respect and gain

• Structured as an open partnership, civil society to join
Formation and vision of Epic Africa

http://naturalsciences.unza.zm/epic/index.php/blog/
Founding members and leadership

• 6 African pairs trained in Bonn- May 2017
• 13 Africa pairs trained in Cape Town- November 2017
• Members have a shared understanding that Epic presents a New Model for Higher Education in Africa
• Appreciation of potential for Epic Model to create value for communities
• Regional Coordinators: Lusaka, Durban and Nairobi.
Distribution of existing pairs and EPIC Africa efforts, 18 cities
Reflections this far

• Start small with a committed band of participants, then grow.
• Rapid and unpredictable changes in local authorities
• This is new approach, some researchers are still sceptical and unsure about it
• Need for balanced investments in both in-country and regional initiatives
• Very limited resources from both Municipalities and Universities
• Champions need to be prepared for extra workload
Thank you

EPIC Africa website: http://naturalsciences.unza.zm/epic/

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