

SIEMENS | Stiftung



Joining forces to improve lives

www.empowering-people-network.org

empowering people. **Network**

Technologies for basic needs



The empowering people. Network

The *empowering people. Network* supports passionate inventors and entrepreneurs who are making a difference in the daily lives of people at the base of the pyramid. It focuses on individuals and organizations who have developed simple technical solutions with potential to eliminate deficits in basic services as they face formidable challenges to expanding their much-needed impact in developing regions. Our Network promotes these urgently needed solutions, initiates new partnerships, furthers knowledge and technology

transfer, and fosters entrepreneurial thinking for social development. Connecting social entities at different stages worldwide, our Network offers on- and offline activities that are tailored to the specific needs of social developers at various points along their entrepreneurial journey as they proceed to scale, replicate, increase capacity and develop viable internal structures. Siemens Stiftung also launches joint operational initiatives with selected projects of the Network to further enhance their positive impact.

Siemens Stiftung – Access to Basic Services

Our foundation promotes sustainable social development that is crucially dependent on access to basic services, quality education, and an understanding of culture. To this end, our project work supports individuals and organizations in taking the initiative to responsibly address current challenges. Together with international partners, we develop and implement solutions and programs to support this effort, with technical and social innovation playing a key role.

Besides developing and managing the manifold activities of the *empowering people. Network*, the Basic Services working area of Siemens Stiftung runs locally operated projects that combine appropriate technical innovations with applicable training programs. In this way, it equips people in developing regions with skills to build self-supporting structures that enable them to expand access to basic services on a sustainable basis.

Activities of the Network

- empowering people. Award (epAward)**
The international competition, held in 2012/2013 and 2015/2016, identifies low-tech innovations with potential for significant impact in critical areas of basic supply. Expert teams in technology, business and development evaluate the entries. Winners are awarded prizes of between €5,000 and €50,000 and receive access to the epNetwork activities.
- Solutions Database**
Award-winning solutions and positively evaluated best practice projects are showcased on the public online Database that includes facts and figures, functionality specifics and implementation examples, reaching potential supporters through intense press work and cross promotion with other international technology organizations and platforms.
- empowering people. Onsite training (epOnsite)**
Intense three-day training sessions offer hands-on skills, practical knowledge and advice to help social enterprises work more efficiently. Held regionally and tailored to their needs, these sessions enable Network members to work with local experts in local conditions, discuss day-to-day problems and interconnect.
- empowering people. Workshop (epWorkshop)**
Entrepreneurs, innovators, philanthropists, academics, social investors and intermediaries worldwide convene for this two-day session to focus on key intersecting areas in social entrepreneurship. The interactive workshop format provides expertise, insight and groundwork for cross-over networking and peer exchange.

Entrepreneurial Journey towards Increased Impact and Sustainability

»I have developed a water purification system in Uganda with social potential that could be of interest in other regions.«



»I work hard every day and I love what I do – but I often wish I could meet peers from other countries and sectors to gain new insights and share experiences.«



»I am not quite sure whether my company is on the right track or which areas I should be focusing on – but consultants are expensive.«



»My local team is highly motivated but often lacks specific knowledge and hands-on experience.«



»My company offers access to medical services in the Amazon region and would benefit a lot if I could only afford the support of an external expert now and then!«



- Online Training**
In online modules with videos, background reading and individual assignments, participants enhance their knowledge and skills on how to best develop and implement inclusive innovations. Experts answer questions, provide feedback and offer personal coaching sessions.
- Self Assessment Manual for Social Entrepreneurs (SAMforSE)**
This online tool helps identify strengths and highlights areas with room for improvement. An additional help & support section presents a selection of webinars, tutorials and useful contacts. (www.samforse.org)
- empowering people. Expert Service (epExpert Service)**
The program connects social enterprises with outside experts willing to volunteer their time and know-how to assist, train or educate social entrepreneurs and their organizations for a limited period.
- Coaching and Mentoring**
Individual coaching and mentoring to discuss strategies based on identified deficits or to tackle challenging situations are part of several Network opportunities. Entrepreneurs who have completed the SAMforSE can apply for a coaching voucher.
- Stories about us – how to tell your business narrative**
People ask for data, but believe in stories. Narratives can be a real asset for social entrepreneurs to use towards investors, customers, and other stakeholders, affording insights into the development of their business. A training tool shows how to work out the individual core story.



Our Team

(from left to right)

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