The power of empowering

One of the latest additions to the In The Field blog is a story about a student start-up that originated from a project at Kyambogo University in Uganda. The case study was produced in the form of a video by the AfricaConnect2 project specifically for the 5th African Union - European Union Summit of Heads of State and Government held last November in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire. Themed “Investing in youth for a sustainable future”, the Summit offered a great opportunity to showcase the impact of R&E networks on sustainable development and job creation.

The video tells the story of a group of students who, by utilising their software development and data management skills, created a suite of management software to optimise the day-to-day running and thus the student experience at Kyambogo University. On the back of that, a start-up company, ZeeNode, was founded to manage the software which is now being adopted by an ever growing number of institutions across Uganda.

RENU: key to the success

This is undoubtedly a success story of students who have created jobs and a future not only for themselves but also for the wider community. ZeeNode currently employs people in software development, engineering, finance, marketing and legal services. But this is also a success story of RENU, the Ugandan NREN. From the video you will find out how RENU was instrumental at every stage of ZeeNode’s development – from offering a cloud platform accessible to all its users to the uncapped traffic between members of the NREN which fosters local collaboration.

“...the role of NRENs is to serve as the catalyst for innovation, for education and for development...” – says Isaac Kasana, the CEO of RENU in the video and indeed the Kyambogo University case study is a living proof of that.

Joining forces

The beauty of R&E networks is that collaboration is happening on various levels. The video production brought together people at RENU, the UbuntuNet Alliance and GÉANT who joined forces to tell this success story and gained new skills and a deeper mutual understanding in the process.

Read the blog post written by RENU and watch the video at https://www.inthefieldstories.net/ugandan-students-enhance-university-services-and-create-jobs/