

Mobile Empowerment: Collaboration in a multi-country research project

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Miles and Trott (2008) emphasized that there are four core themes for successful collaborative working including the creation of a common purpose, using a whole system approach, share power and the use of service user's perspective to stimulate change. Collaboration between different countries poses different challenges and in our paper we investigate collaboration in a collaborative multi-country research project called MOSAIC2B.

MOSAIC 2B is a European research project aiming to develop and test a new framework that uses cloud-based applications, innovative low-cost internet delivery mechanisms (delay tolerant networks and opportunistic communications) and affordable mobile technologies to unlock new mobile business opportunities, especially in rural villages. A consortium of European and South African partners builds upon the use case of mobile digital cinemas to run real life experiments demonstrating and evaluating the technological and economic viability of according innovations (Steffens, 2014). The consortium consists of six partners from four different countries (Switzerland, Portugal, Germany and South Africa).

The project is currently in the second year of execution where the majority of the development has been completed. For this paper we collected data from eight participants in the project with different project roles. Open-ended interviews were conducted where the interviewer focused on the challenges experienced in the project. The interviews were recorded and transcribed using an Excel spreadsheet to capture the key characteristics and to identify themes from the codes captured.

Some of the challenges identified that align with the themes from Miles and Trott (2008) include the understanding of the project scope, responsibilities in the project and realities faced by the project partners that was not envisioned when the project definition was done. From these themes a list of best practices was compiled that could assist future project participants in multi-country research projects.

References:

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