



**In Partnership with**



**And in Collaboration with Women and ICT Directorate of the DTPS**



**telecommunications  
& postal services**

Department:  
Telecommunications and Postal Services  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

# Summary Report

## Digital Skills and Literacy for Unemployed Youth

(With a special focus on Women and Girls)

**December 2019**

### Project Background

SchoolNet SA in partnership with SYSPRO were contracted to provide Digital Skills and Literacy programmes to out of school youth and community members in December 2019. The Women and Girls Directorate within the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services collaborated on the project by providing a database of youth in communities of KwaZulu Natal, Limpopo, and Gauteng and coordinating the attendance of youth, with a particular focus on women and young girls as well as the logistical arrangements at the training locations.

A range of Digital Skills and Literacy programmes were offered and these were customised according to the out of school youths' previous engagement and experience of Digital skills and Literacy workshops. A total of two hundred and fifty four (254) beneficiaries were included in this SYSPRO initiative.

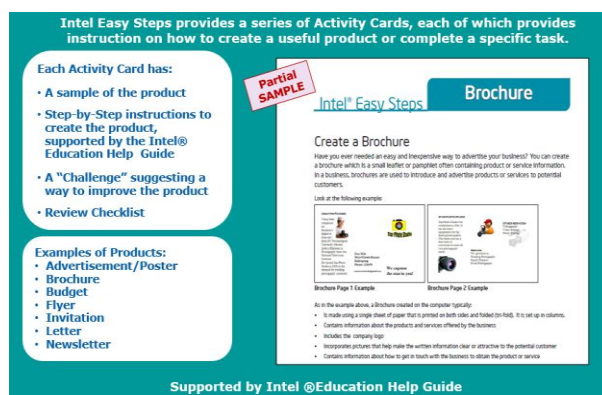
	Province	Town	Venue	Date	Attendance
1	Gauteng	Johannesburg	Yeoville Recreation Centre	10 - 12 December 2019	38
2	Gauteng	Johannesburg	Skeen Primary School	11 - 13 December 2019	23
3	Gauteng	Johannesburg	Dobsonville Community Hall	11 - 13 December 2019	22
4	Limpopo	Waterberg	Ga Seleka Hall	17-20 December 2019	77
5	KZN	Madadeni	Sekusile High School	17-20 December 2019	32
6	KZN	Eshowe	King Dinuzulu Community Hall	17-20 December 2019	62
7	Mpumalanga	Belfast	Khayalami High School	19 - 21 February 2020	26
<b>TOTAL ATTENDANCE</b>					<b>280</b>

## Overview of the Course materials

### Intel® Easy Steps

This course is designed to help with basic steps of how to use a computer effectively, and to apply computer skills to your every-day life. Computers have become an important part of everyday life. Many people use computers to keep records, do calculations, to search for information, store pictures and music, play games and communicate with others.

Computers have changed the way we work and live. Computer skills are also important for employment, and for running any size of business, large or small. In this course, you learn about the basics of how to use the computer in a series of easy lessons, get an introduction to how a computer operates, and basic software applications.



### Curriculum Objectives

The curriculum is arranged into fourteen modules, which will cover the use of different technology areas. Each module will help you learn new skills by developing products, which can be useful in your personal life or in business. During this course, you will be able to:

- Understand the basics of computers
- Understand social media and the potential cyber risks
  - Understand and use computer applications such as graphics, word processing, spreadsheets and multimedia applications
  - Understand and use some web-based applications such as Internet Search, Email, Instant Messaging and Collaborative Documents.

### Microsoft Deploying Technical Support Solutions(Digital Skills)

An abridged version of this course was provided to supplement the About a Computer module from the Intel Easy Steps course. The focus was on hardware components, software applications. These practical activities allowed participants to explore the physical components and see how they fit together within devices. This programme provides a sustainable plan for youth to consider entrepreneurial opportunities for providing technical support and maintenance for local communities.

## Coding and Computational Thinking

The Minecraft Tutorials and Scratch Programming provide an introduction to computational thinking and some basic coding principles. Scratch programming, is language developed with the aim to ease the activity of writing programs for the purpose of programming games, doing animations, and enhancing music. Scratch programming examples was initially designed to target children starting from the age of 10 years and older, and was developed to teach people about computational thought process and how a simple language can be a powerful building-block towards the approach of software development.

## Gauteng

### Yeoville Recreation Centre (Johannesburg City)



This workshop included The Intel Easy Steps Digital Literacy and the Microsoft Technical Support training programme at the Yeoville Recreation Centre between 10 - 12 December 2019. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Modise Malema who facilitated the Intel Easy Steps, with assistance from Mr Elias Macuacua who covered the Technical Support of the training.

The focus on the first day was on Introducing the Computer and Operating system modules. This highly interactive session started with participants being asked to identify the different types of computers and the different parts of the computer. Lively conversations were had about the timeline of computing and the various changes to hardware and software over time. and some discussions around it. Several multimedia were also played to give participants a richer experience and to foster engagement of different computers and their internal components. During the discussion, the trainers were able to show how each component functioned, and its purpose. The use of the Internet and email was also covered with many youth being encouraged to create professional digital profiles.

Thirty-eight participants attended the three day workshop with 10 males and 28 Females in attendance.



## Dobsonville Community Hall (Soweto)

This training was attended by 22 participants who engaged with the content of the Easy Steps programme with excitement and eagerness. Content that was covered included creating email addresses, using effective research techniques on the Internet, working with Word processors and Spreadsheet Software.





### Skeen Primary School (Alexandra)

The session took place on 11 - 13 December 2019 in Alexandra and was conducted by Mr. Klas Maluleke. Twenty-three participants attended the session which focussed on email, social media and then progressed to coding. Participants worked the Hour of Code tutorials and then moved onto Scratch programme. Whilst most participants were more senior in age, this did not stop their engagement with Programming and were able to very quickly gain confidence in using the Scratch programming platform and were able to create animations with sound.



## Limpopo

### Ga - Seleka Hall (Waterberg)



Training started on 18 - 20 December 2019 at Ga Seleka Community Hall with fifty-two participants. The youth of Ga-Seleka, deeply rural area enjoyed the three days of training which focussed on Digital Skills to foster and encourage entrepreneurship activities in the digital world. Seventy seven participants attended over the three days of development.

The training was facilitated by Brenda Mohale, Wilfred Molope and Mdu Mdebele, who are digital support specialists who joined SchoolNet in 2017 as unemployed youth and who were able to offer advice and motivation for the youth at Ga-Seleka to be self-seeking and independent in their pursuit of employment.

Training focused on Cyber security, technical skills, and digital literacy. The group was treated to a visit to the King's Court on the last day of training, with his Kingsman in attendance. Participants remarked that this was one of the best trainings and invited the trainers to come back for more sustained development programmes..

## KwaZulu Natal

### Eshowe ( King Dinuzulu Community Hall)

The Digital literacy training was held on 18 - 20 December 2019 at the King Dinuzulu Hall in Eshowe, and facilitated by Mr. Senzo Ngcobo. The workshop focussed on computer applications and in particular the use of a Word Processor, Spreadsheet, and Cybersecurity and keeping yourself safe online. Maintaining a healthy digital footprint is crucial in the search or creation of employment. The participants then shifted gear into computational thinking and using Scratch coding to create mini animations.



In addition, the trainer introduced the group to additional certification opportunities that are available on the internet through platforms such as Udacity, Udemy and Microsoft Online Communities. The facilitator remarked that kids kept increasing as the workshop continued and eventually reached 62 participants on the third day.



## Madadeni (Sekusile High School)

After a slow start, a total of twenty-nine participants attended the workshop which focussed on computer applications such as the Word processor and Spreadsheet. These applications have particular use for entrepreneurial thinkers who are exploring small business opportunities.

Participants had great fun exploring the various applications and even connected via skype to a live training session with Teachers in Polokwane at the Mastec Maths and Science Lab.



## Action in Autism School

SchoolNet SA's Technician Mr. Themba Mabaso visited the Action in Autism School on 6 February 2020 to Install MS Office 2013 in the 10 desktops.

The Computers at the lab were not connected to the internet yet which meant that Themba couldn't register the application but this would not stop the school from fully using it. The Installation was successful; Khayelihle Mkhwanazi, the manager at the school's Business hub , was shown how to register the software once the computers were online. She promised to do that and would call the technician if she had forgotten how to register them or experience any challenges.

ICT Training is scheduled for the teachers at the school to take place on 20 March 2020. The school has chosen a course that would be beneficial to them and the learners. The Microsoft Hour of Code and Sizanani were the courses that the school thought would be beneficial for them.



## Mpumalanga

### Belfast (Khayalami High School)

The group of trainees were exposed to the Helpdesk workshop conducted by SchoolNet SA Facilitator Mr. Thembakuye Mabaso. This programme is meant to assist trainees to solve basic technical problems and to conduct simple network installations.

The Helpdesk training was held on 19 - 21 February 2020 at Khayalami High School in Belfast, Mpumalanga Province. 26 participants attended the workshop, mostly out-of-school youth. The trainer started by introducing the trainees to technical knowledge which was meant to assist them to start their own businesses which could be fixing computers around this small town Belfast.

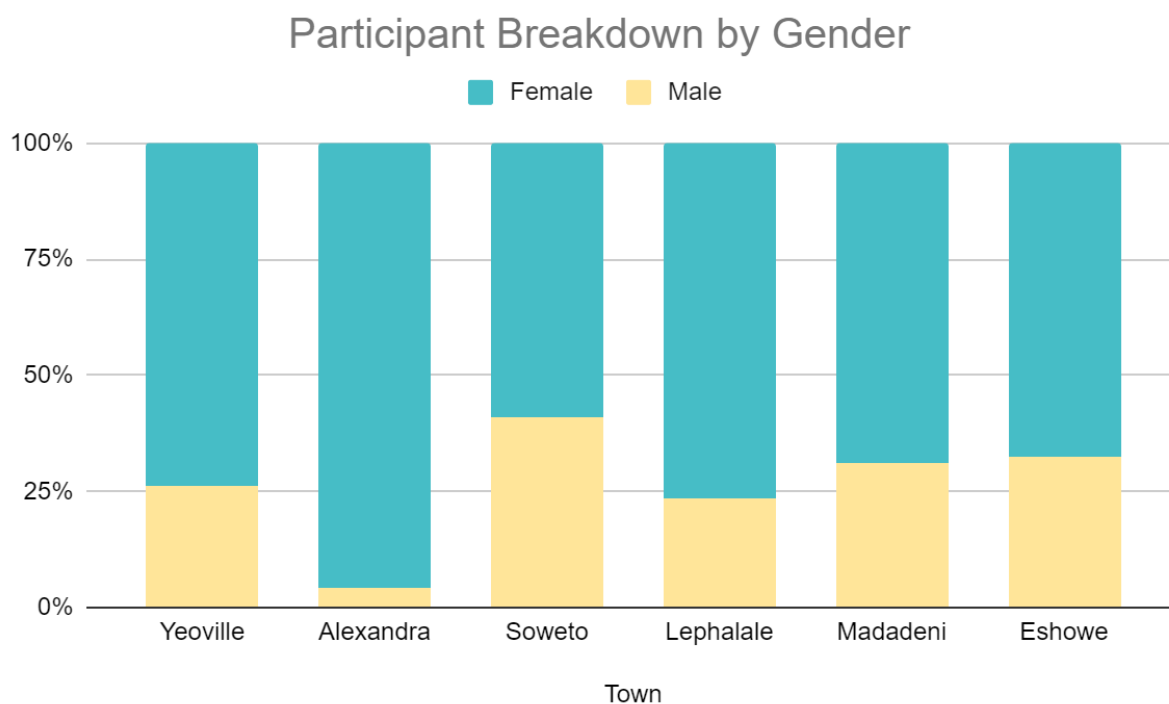
Trainees were also introduced to the installation of Operating System; Troubleshooting, Understanding and Supporting Hardware. The participants were enthusiastic and showed interest throughout the workshop.



## Action in Autism School

### Conclusion

This training was hugely successful with many participants asking for a more sustained programme throughout the year. A total of two hundred and fifty-four (254) participants attended the training with a gender breakdown ratio of 68:186



In the graph above, we see that the majority of participants were female with 73 % attendance in comparison to attendance by males of 27%. This contributes to the national priorities on gender equity and dispelling the notion that the “girl child” is not inclined toward digital learning, technical expertise and coding.

Please click the hyperlink alongside to access to additional [photos and videos](#)

All [attendance registers](#) are uploaded onto our Google Drive.

One of the participants from Ga-Seleka (Limpopo) had the following to

say: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1s\\_2-7INuhztN0PpsZLBb7F1VE4S1fJVV](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1s_2-7INuhztN0PpsZLBb7F1VE4S1fJVV)

The SYSPRO investment into youth digital literacy and digital skills has exceeded expectations of two hundred participants with over 200 youth attending workshops to bolster their skills and employability. Three provinces were earmarked for this initiative and six workshops have been completed; with one remaining workshop due to be scheduled in January 2020.

SchoolNet would like to thank SYSPRO for partnering with us on this worthy initiative.

[www.schoolnet.org.za](http://www.schoolnet.org.za)

December 2019