

Digital lifeline for technical, vocational climate students

• ABSALOM SHIGWEDHA

A NEW European Union-backed project will equip technical and vocational students and teachers in Namibia with digital tools for environmental monitoring and climate change mitigation.

The Sustain-IT project, with co-funding from the European Union (EU) Commission, will run from 2025 to 2027 and aims to raise sus-tainable awareness of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) teachers and students on the application of digital tools to observe, analyse and monitor the environment with a focus on solar energy, air and water quality for climate mitigation efforts, and aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It will be implemented in Namibia, Zimbabwe and Rwanda. In Namibia, the project will target the Clocknet Vocational Training Centre, and the Windhoek Vocational Training Centre.

The Sustain-IT project will be implemented by a consortium of three European partners, namely Politeknika Txorierri, Association Mundus (both from Spain) and Apro Formazione (Italy), as well as four partners from Africa, namely Don Bosco (Rwanda), the Harare Institute of Public Health, Simukai Vocational Skills Training Hub (both from Zimbabwe) and Apodissi (Namibia). According to a joint statement is-sued by the seven partners, Apodissi – a Namibian-based small and medium enterprise promoting technology adoption and knowledge transfer through various capacity building initiatives targeting young people in Africa – will play a vital role in the implementation of the project. The seven partners will together promote the adoption of digital tools such as the internet of things, sen-sor technologies and the Arduino dashboard to develop comprehen-sive modules that will support the pedagogical and environmental

monitoring analysis.

Next year, the Sustain-It project will launch its training modules on the Smart Step e-learning platform as a free, open source for TVET schools and students across sub-Saharan Af-rica and the broader continent. This multi-lingual platform is designed to be accessible and features a range of tools, including job listings for open opportunities.

Apodissi Managing Director Margherita Trestini s the company has so far

conducted design thinking sessions for vocational training centers in Na-mibia and Zimbabwe to understand their perception of climate change.

She says they have conducted a pilot study in Rwanda with partners from Europe and Africa.

“We have distributed online questionnaires. We are organising an online session with experts from Eu-rope and Africa on 26 June to discuss environmental education through digitalisation,” Suleiman says.

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– Margherita Trestini - Apodissi



Photo: Absalom Shigwedha

OBSERVATION ... The new Sustain-IT project, which is also to be implemented in Namibia, will provide teachers and students in techni-cal and vocational education and training institutions with the skills to observe, analyse and monitor the environment.