



First engagement footprint - E-MIS

CLOSE to 100 engagement projects have already been loaded onto NMMU's Engagement Management Information System (E-MIS), the first such system to be developed in-house in South African Higher Education.

However, there are many more projects that still need to be added to the system, says Academic Engagement's **Dr Belinda du Plooy** who manages the project.

E-MIS provides a way for NMMU's engagement footprint and effectiveness to be tracked.

The system holds many benefits in terms of institutional planning and quality control. For staff, the most obvious benefits would be a space to showcase what they are doing as project information can be tracked, reported on and planned and E-MIS can be used to compile summative reports as part of their personal portfolio for promotions, assessments, funding and award applications.

The system is also aligned with the Engagement

Conceptual Framework which categorises engagement activities in community interaction, service and outreach, professional/discipline-based service provision, teaching and learning and research and scholarship.

E-MIS is a collaborative development project between the Centre for Academic Engagement and Collaboration (CAEC) and ICT Services, and was implemented for the first time this year. The system was initially developed by BTEch in Information Technology student Brent Styles and implemented under the technical guidance of ICT Services' **Dierdre Els** and **Chenel Robey**.

"As a pilot project, it is an exciting development, with a lot of room for growth and input from staff members who are doing hands-on engagement work on a daily basis," says Dr Du Plooy.

This is the first-ever initiative to identify these projects and to create an institutional engagement database. To add projects to E-MIS, visit the CAEC web site