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# **First Innovation Lab School is launched in Tanzania**

**HASSELT, BELGIUM, December 11, 2018** – The Innovation Lab Schools Project is proud to announce the launch of its first Innovation Lab School in Pugu, Tanzania. This lab is the first of several schools to be launched across African countries and possibly other continents. Offering free quality education to local children in remote areas, the project will educate and change the lives of hundreds of thousands of students giving them hope for the future.

The Innovation Lab Schools Project is an exciting collaboration with Jane Goodall’s Roots & Shoots programme. This first lab will be at the Jane Goodall Institute’s lodge in Pugu which will be transformed into a place in which children will receive free education about sustainability in line with the three pillars of the Roots & Shoots methodology (Animals, People and the Environment, or APE). Dr. Jane Goodall: “The labs provides a curriculum developed in collaboration with local educators that offers more than simply knowledge gained from text books, it brings empathy and passion into the classroom.” Hear more from Dr. Goodall on the project in this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHxfzIya3Qo>

The lab schools aim to innovate education by equipping the labs with Internet connection, interactive whiteboards, dynamic chairs and educational resources that promote collaboration and learning by doing in spaces. In addition to a local teacher, a teacher from a global community of 1000 educators across more than 90 countries, teaches the students via Skype.

In just 10 lessons the students are at the centre of their learning process while focussing, brainstorming, discussing, creating, presenting, connecting and sharing global issues like climate change, gender equality, poverty, sustainability and innovation. They will also solve problems and take action.

“Our mission is to offer free education to African students focusing on a new curriculum based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals and STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts Math) in an en­vironment which stimulates authentic, technology enhanced and project based learning,” says Koen Timmers, Director Innovation Lab Schools Project.

PXL University College will do research by collecting quantitative and qualitative data to discover how the project is making impact on the students and teachers involved. Each lab is priced $10,000 USD and is funded by sponsors including I3 Technologies (Diest), PXL (Hasselt), Edukans (NL), Lego Education, Skype in the Classroom (USA), Empatico (USA) and Participate (USA).

The Innovation Lab Schools Project is endorsed by Charlize Theron, actress and founder of the Charlize Theron Africa Outreach Project, and Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and former UNDP Administrator. In Belgium, the project will be partly sponsored by Jane Goodall Institute Belgium and is endorsed by Alexander De Croo, Rudi Vranckx, Dixie Dansercoer and Dieter Coppens. It is also endorsed by by Art Rooijakkers in the Netherlands.

**About the Innovation Lab Schools Project**

The innovation lab schools HQ is located in Belgium, represented by Koen Timmers. It is a registered non-profit.

Website: <http://innovationsdglab.com>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SDGlabschools>

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