

RITI-Access Telecenters

ICT4U / Netpoints

Background

RITI-Access, together with the Regional Cisco Academy of Constanta and the School Inspectorate of Constanta, developed the ICT4U Telecenter Project.

ICT4U is a telecenter that provides important development activities/services as well as commercially-oriented services. Sustainability and positive community impact are fundamental to the ICT4U model. Profits are generally re-invested into the telecenter to expand services, add new staff, reach new clients, etc.

ICT4U provides the Constanta community with a range of important ICT and capacity building services. ICT4U works with Constanta's business community to offer training and consulting services specifically targeted to the development needs of businesses in Constanta. With expertise in IT, Human Resource Development, and Strategic Business planning, the project enhances the success of Constanta's business community.

In addition to establishing a telecenter in Constanta, the project established two Netpoints in smaller communities within 10 kilometers of Constanta. The Netpoints have been modeled after the goals of the ICT4U telecenter to serve the ICT needs of the community with an aim towards sustainability.

Netpoints differ from the ICT4U telecenter mainly in scale, offering more basic training services and fewer hours of operation. The two Netpoints have been established in the towns of Cumpana and Valul lui Traian.



ICT4U



Cumpana



ICT4U

Impacts

ICT4U seeks to achieve the following five goals:

- Enhance community information access and sharing by providing communications services such as: downloading, copying, faxing, telephone, email;
- Promote resources of NGOs active in the county;
- Encourage local participation in community sponsored events;
- Provide training and other capacity building activities to community ICT skills through customer service, education, and access to training at a reduced cost;
- Develop and support two Netpoints (ICT infrastructure for two additional communities currently experiencing limitations in ICT access).

Future steps...

By focusing on sustainability from the outset and taking a demand-driven approach, ICT4U expects to generate significant results to the local community and to create a model to be replicated at the local and national level.

