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## **PROJECT „INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE FOR MOLDOVAN SCHOOLS”**

### **Project coordinator:**

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### **Executive summary**

At the beginning of the XXI<sup>st</sup> the informational technology has a strong impact on the individual's personality development. Training process, assisted by computers, represents a modern dimension of education, raising considerably the level of educational system quality. Being a part of the training process, a computer allows students to develop their thinking, gather information from various fields; it can become as well the most accessible source of information and can ease young people's integration in the modern society.

### **Statement of Need**

Using new informational technology, young generation can open new ways of development for the country, a real chance of integration into global economy. Lacking rich natural resources, a sustainable industry and energetic resources, the Republic of Moldova can build its future on new informational technologies, which do not require big investments, vast energetic resources, transportation ways, etc. Having a high intellectual potential, a high standard educational system, the new generation has to be oriented towards new technology usage.

In 1998, the Ministry of Education, financed by a World Bank Project, managed to provide 800 schools with computers, creating computer classrooms with 11 computers on average in each room. The results were surprising – in the following next years the level of students' preparation in informatics has risen. Silver and bronze medals at International Informatics Contests have proven this fact too. However, the majority of those 1514 Moldovan schools, especially the ones in rural areas, were left out of this project.

# **Project Description**

## **Objectives**

Compudava Foundation is planning to implement a pilot project which would provide 200 good quality computers to Moldovan schools and 50 computers to disabled children, who are forced to stay home and don't follow schools. The donation will be made by a British charity organization Digital Links International (<http://www.digital-links.org>), specialized in free or at very small prices donations of second hand computers for schools and training centres from developing countries. The main goal of the project is to provide computers to schools with the most difficult financial situation, such as boarding schools, orphanages and other educational institutions, as well as to disabled children.

In this way, the project aims to help the most disadvantaged children, most of whom do not have parents, nor do they have financial resources to gain access to computer world. It will give them an opportunity to study for a profession and eventually get a job. These children will acquire computer skills, new information and communications technology and will have access to an infinite source of information. A computer is extremely important for deaf children as it can open a new world perspective for them.

The project will also provide computers for disabled children. A computer can change these children's lives offering them a chance to communicate and participate in community's life; it can give them the chance of learning at distance at any level, including higher education. In the future, it can give them a chance to get a job as well.

Students from rural areas could learn Informatics as a concrete subject, and not only in theory. It will open for them new future perspectives.

## **Implementing the Project**

### **Methods**

Compudava Foundation will announce a tender for schools that needs computers. Some of project selection criteria will be the lack of computers in schools, number of students, a teacher of Informatics in the school staff, schools or local authorities' ability to connect the computers to the Internet, safe place for computers, students' participation at national and international contests, etc.

The Foundation intends to cooperate with the Ministry of Education in order to establish selection criteria. Orphanages, boarding schools and disabled children will be favoured within this project.

Compudava Foundation will benefit from the support of British Software Company Brains Direct and a Moldovan Software Company Compudava.

Software Company Compudava will examine and repair, if needed, the computers arrived to Moldova.

Digital Links International (DLI) Company will ensure the donation, and the British Software Company Brains Direct Ltd and its associates is ready to partially cover transportation expenses.

Computdava Foundation will count as well on the volunteers within the company employees, as well as from the educational institutions of Moldova, to check, repair and install some components and the software.

The Foundation needs the support of the Ministry of Education to store, distribute and transport the computers to their beneficiaries.

## **Financial support**

### **1. *Computers acquisition:***

- Obtaining **250 computers** and their shipment to the Republic of Moldova – from humanitarian aid offered by charity companies or foreign commercial companies through Computdava Foundation;
- Clear Moldovan customs when the computers arrive – from Computdava SRL funds;
- Test and repair, if necessary, the computers – from Computdava SRL funds.

### **2. *Connecting computers into networks:***

- Provide network auxiliary items for the schools, including outlets, connectors, cable, patch panels – from the local authorities and beneficiary funds;
- Installation and cabling – from the local authorities and beneficiary funds.

### **3. *Training for teachers*** – from budgetary funds of the beneficiary.

## **Project duration**

The Project will be implemented during April – September 2004year:

### *Stage I*

Tender for schools selection is launched – *May - June 2004.*

### *Stage II*

Computers are shipped from the United Kingdom – *June 2004.*

### *Stage III*

Computers clear Moldovan customs – *June 2004.*

### *Stage IV*

Computers are checked and repaired – *June – July 2004.*

### *Stage V*

Computers are delivered to schools – *July 2004.*

### *Stage V*

Delivery and transportation of computers to schools winners – *July - August 2004.*

### *Stage VI*

Networks are created – *August - September 2004*

*Stage VII*

Project is evaluated – *October - December 2004.*

## **Expected results**

By implementing information and communication technology in schools, CompuDava Foundation intends to:

- ♣ Gain positive results in studying Informatics in schools;
- ♣ Use the computers in teaching other subjects in schools;
- ♣ Give access to Internet to a greater number of students;
- ♣ Provide information about subjects studied at school and general knowledge;
- ♣ Ease students' access to community life as well as to NGOs activity; to national and international contests;
- ♣ Provide access to computer skills for orphans, children from boarding schools and for disabled children.