

European e-Inclusion Awards 2008

ENTRY CRITERIA

The judges will present the Awards to the organisations that can best demonstrate a proven ability to deliver and impact upon the communities they serve through the innovative and effective use of digital technology.

The Awards are open to organisations from the following sectors: government or public, business or private, non-government or voluntary. An organisation can enter as many award categories as it wishes, however an individual project can only be entered once into a single selected category. Please refer to www.e-inclusionawards.eu for more information.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION

Please complete the entry form and return to us by email, fax or post. Supporting evidence such as a brochure or press cuttings etc may also be submitted. Please ensure that your final word count is between **1,300 – 1,500 words** (Questions 1-8).

DEADLINE: Noon (GMT) 12th September 2008

Award Category	Digital Literacy Award	
Entrant Details		
First Name	Loreta	Title: Mrs.
Last Name	Križinauskienė	
Job Title	Director	
Contact Address	Association "L A", Laisvės av. 3	
	Vilnius	
	Zip Code LT-04132	Country Lithuania
Telephone No.	+370 5 239 7813	Fax No. +370 5 239 7831
Mobile/Cellphone		
Email	info@langasiateiti.lt	
Organisation Details		
Please complete these details as you would wish them to appear on any publicity or literature		
Organisation Name	Association "L A" (Langas į ateitį)	
Address (if different from above)		
	Zip Code	Country
Website	www.langasiateiti.lt	
Sector of Organisation	Government or Public <input type="checkbox"/> Business or Private <input type="checkbox"/> Non-government or Voluntary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Registration No.	125715230	
Annual Turnover (euro)	€ 100.000	
Number of Employees	6	
Number of Volunteers		

1. Please describe your organisation, the field in which it operates and the communities it serves.

Lithuanian businesses companies such as leading banks, telecommunication and IT companies, came together and in 2002 formed alliance “Langas į ateitį” (Window to Future – W2F) aimed at business supporting the development of the information society in Lithuania. Today W2F associates 13 private companies and the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania. The mission of W2F is to participate in the development of the information society, increase an accessibility of internet and e-services in Lithuania by providing information, computer literacy and Internet training to Lithuanian adults, establishing public Internet access points/PIAPs and stimulating the growth of e-services countrywide. The key activities are intended to digitally excluded and geographically separated inhabitants, especially living in rural regions and being socially vulnerable, aged or disabled people.

2. Why do you feel this project deserves an Award?

W2F is the most successful social welfare developing initiative in Lithuania. According to the results of one of its “Computer Literacy Basics for a Lithuanian E–Citizen” project it is clear to penetrate the effect it has done to the citizens of Lithuania. This project could be considered being with the largest target group by now in Lithuania, directly reaching 50.400 inhabitants, who received certificates of graduating courses, as well as their surrounding environment – countless families, co-workers, friends, who became affected by the IT fever in the positive meaning. Being national, project reached all Lithuanian districts.

Ability to use Internet and its services increases inhabitants’ opportunity of integration into labour market, of better position or more qualified job. PC and Internet using skills will allow inhabitants to accommodate to business environment being quickly modernized as well as to use government e-services that are accessible today by Internet.

The use of Internet allows people to increase qualification, widen horizon, find new employment or communicate more widely not only in Lithuania but also abroad. Computer literacy is one of the most important factors decreasing digital exclusion that is relevant in Lithuania yet. The digital exclusion in Lithuania determines uneven development of regions and disunites society with limitation of several orders’ opportunities. Competence to use internet has positive impact into the state’s economical growth, development of private sector, quality of public services and dealing with social problems, accordingly.

3. Impact: What impact has your project made on the community it serves and how has that impact been measured?

The project “Computer Literacy Basics for a Lithuanian E–Citizen” has been implemented in 2006–2008 (duration - 30 months) countrywide and involved 50.400 inhabitants who have been trained basic computer, Internet and e–services skills. Computer literacy is one of the key elements of the information society and one of the most important factors in reducing the digital divide which still exists in Lithuania.

A considerable part of population does not feel comfortable today without ICT knowledge

Next to the Government activities private business adds to the development of Information Society in Lithuania. The results of this national wide project have shown that we reached mostly 40-59 age group (53%), females (77%), citizens of rural regions and small towns (72%) Positive evaluation of courses by training participants is above 96%. Among this big number of project participants we had 400 people with special physical needs.

The project results have been measured by questionnaires and special survey at the end of the project.

It is expected by the project implementers that the increasing number of internet users will extend the number of e-services, e-learning in particular, e-business and e-government services users. It is expected that 50,400 educated persons would spread the acquired knowledge in their environment and contribute to relatively illiterate social groups understanding the benefit of this knowledge and encouraging the need for learning

The implemented projects gave new opportunities to the inhabitants to improve overall social and business environment in Lithuania.

4. Innovation: How has your project used digital technology innovatively? What has been the direct benefit of this?

All project administrative staff as well as teachers and even participants have shared information and reported using a specially designed information system (IS). Using IS allowed to monitor the project progress in real-time, quickly react to the changes needed and ensure the quality of training services: to record available trainers and classrooms, schedule classes, register participants, help to follow the examination, enable to take final test, and help to coordinate public campaign as well as provide general statistical data. The supervisor institution using the same IS was able to monitor project running from the very beginning to the finish.

The success of every project greatly depends on ability to measure initial skills and acquirements of participants. The online knowledge measurement tool/test has been developed and used in the courses by every participant.

Four online e-learning courses for the project follow-up have been developed and started in April, 2008. Learning in this way is more accessible and cost-effective. Participants use their own or public PC in PIAPs.

5. Usability: How has your project facilitated greater accessibility or improved the user friendliness of digital technology for the communities it serves?

The syllabus and methodology of digital literacy training has been prepared following the computer literacy standard's minimal computer literacy qualification syllabus, approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, which corresponds to the last version of the e-Citizen syllabus. The training content has been oriented to both commercial and free software so participants have got ability to use the most affordable one. The acquirements allowed the aged, disabled and unemployed persons get services they needed, participate and communicate in the most convenient way. It should be noted that the project added to the better inclusion in labour market and developed initial skills for lifelong learning too.

An average age of new internet users exceeded 40 years. After the completion of the project the conducted survey of participants has shown that very 86% of course graduates then have using PC and browsing Internet on their own. 85% of them use PC and Internet at home. 75% of course graduates are browsing for information and 67% using internet for self-education. The numbers evidence to suggest that internet basics training gives opportunity and encouragement to Lithuanian inhabitants in further using Internet and browsing for necessary services self-determinedly.

6. Partnerships: How has your project created and used partnerships with other organisations and what have the benefits been?

W2F initiative was the first of this kind in the country. Business companies which started W2F became a stimulator to accumulate business as well as government, EU and other funds reaching the most important goal – a better standard of living of Lithuanian citizens after they acquire ICT knowledge. W2F is a good example of private – public partnership in Lithuania. Special attention is paid to the partnership with local municipalities which allow to reach directly those living in the regional centres and rural areas. Among other partners Labour of Exchange should be mentioned. The result of this 4 year partnership is 12 % of training courses participants.

The numerous subcontractors executing projects' certain tasks have obtained new experience and new viewpoint into society learning. W2F efforts to keep learning standards in PC training and schedule learning results have reached many learning organizations for adults.

7. Knowledge Transfer: How do you ensure that lessons learnt and knowledge gained is shared with other organisations in your country and across Europe?

The projects have been realized by W2F involving a lot of local partners and subcontractors. Good practice and experience sharing was crucial to achieve the required goals. The numerous presentations and publicity activities have been made during events locally and abroad: up to 35 national presenting events through out all the country including events at the Institution of the President of the Republic of Lithuania, 15 municipalities and international conferences with the topic of the IT matter organized by the Lithuanian Labour Exchange, Lithuanian Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance and other institutions. To ensure international spread of information of project proceeding, the W2F also participated in the Infobalt exhibitions, PIAP conferences, as well as abroad events: NGO workshop (E-skills and employability, Barcelona, 2006), Baltic Challenge Award ("The best IT project in Baltic Countries", Tallinn, 2007), Telecentre.org partners conference (Riga), 50th EU Anniversary Potsdam Conference (Potsdam, 2007), Grundtvig workshop (Toulouse, 2007), Word Summit Award (2007), ECDL Foundation Award (2007), Baltic IT&T Forum (Riga, 2007 and 2008) etc. To reach the target audience and attract more participants numerous articles and TV clips were published by the local media. It is important to mention that European Commission portal ePractice.eu selected the project "Computer Literacy Basics for a Lithuanian E-citizen" as the Editor's Week Choice 2007. W2F attends to increasing PIAPs' staff competency and keeps them informed by arranging events continuously.

8. Sustainability: What is the duration of your project and how does the funding model meet those commitments and obligations?

W2F activities and projects started in 2002 using socially responsible business funds. Recently W2F continuously performs its mission by accumulating government's and business companies' resources as well as foreign funds grants. The activities of Internet use accessibility and promotion as well as users training has been started in 2002 using financial resources provided by the founders - private companies and later joined by the Min of Interior with state funding. The results - 175 PIAPs have been established in 2002-2004. The idea of PIAP establishment has been continued by the Min of Interior using EU funding and today there are above 800 PIAPs in Lithuania mostly of them in remote areas. In 2003 the amount of 20.000 people has been familiarized with PC and internet services. W2F has moved its mission on promoting e-services use, then. Collaborative activities have been carried on internet security learning and e-signature propagation together with government institutions since 2005. In the 3rd chapter of this application we described a 2006-2008 year European Social Fund and W2F founders funded project of digital technologies training for 50.400 people. In 2008 W2F was granted a financial support by Microsoft Unlimited Potential Program for creating and providing e-learning courses intended for secure internet use, spreadsheets, presentation and communication learning which continues the 50 400 people project. By combining forces and various resources W2F continues its mission increasing e-literacy of Lithuanian citizens and takes an active part in the development of knowledge society in the country, and that encourages people to use IT even more intensively.

DECLARATION

I hereby certify that the information given in this entry form is correct.

Name: Loreta Križinauskienė

Position: Director

Signed:

Date: 28/08/2008

RULES OF ENTRY

1. Each entry must be submitted on a fully completed application form in English. (Please note: additional pages and supporting documents may also be attached, but the organisers take no responsibility for their safe-keeping and cannot return submissions).
2. The judges' decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into before or after the judging unless information has been requested by the organisers.
3. The entry must be received at the offices of Key20 Media in England by the closing date of Noon (GMT) on 12th September 2008
4. Key20 Media is not liable for any costs incurred by applicants during their judging process.
5. Once an organisation is announced as a finalist, it cannot withdraw from the competition.

All entries should be sent to:

European e-Inclusion Awards 2008
Key20 Media Limited
9 The Leathermarket
Weston Street
London SE1 3ER
United Kingdom

Fax: 44 (0) 20 7234 3536

Email: entries@e-inclusionawards.eu

The Awards ceremony will be held in:

Vienna on 1 December 2008

For further details of this event, please call the Entries Team on +44 (0) 207 234 3535

Your details will not be passed to any third party and will only be used to keep you informed of the European e-Inclusion Awards.

ENTRY & JUDGING PROCEDURE

The completed entry form with any supporting evidence should be sent to the organisers as set out above. Each entry will be read and evaluated by a panel of judges and collective scores combined. Two senior representatives from the five finalists in each category will be invited to the Awards Ceremony in Vienna, December 2008. Finalists have to commit to be present with their project at the exhibition of the Vienna Ministerial Conference on from 30 November to 2 December 2008 (financial support will be available subject to certain conditions).

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'Print data only for forms' should **not** be selected