



Real life impact of Public Access Computers' Centres in Global Libraries Romania

Marcel Chiranov¹

¹IREX Romania

After about five months of operations some of the Global Libraries Public Access Computers Centres started to show positive impact on people life. Building an Impact Assessment Framework and implementing it in an effective and efficient way is looking like a tough and rewarding challenge.

Global Libraries program started in Romania in November 2007 with 12 pilot sites, located in 5 counties. During the pilot year IREX tested various implementing mechanisms and tools. Impact assessment, its connection with real life and delivering it in a friendly way were some of the major objectives during this pilot year.

The program started with two major studies: Library Capacity Analysis and Citizens Needs Assessment, both conducted with by a professional survey organization. Based on the findings and following a participatory process, including librarians and program consultants, IREX designed a simple easy to follow data collection method. After five operation months the librarians started to report how PAC helped improved people life. In a small community, based on library provided service, one public library user found the appropriate contact of medical practice in county capital and had a successful kidney surgery. In other places some people got new jobs, following the assistance of a Global Libraries trained librarian.

The papers presents how Global Libraries Romania designed its impact assessment mechanism, how the librarians deal with and the structure of national program implementation which is expected to serve about 1,600 public libraries across Romania.

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