



novateca

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NOVATECA

Novateca will explore the strengths and opportunities for providing wide scale public access to the internet through the existing Moldovan public library network. The two year learning grant includes networking with a wide range of stakeholders, providing training to librarians, and piloting public access to the internet in a number of libraries.

WHY NOVATECA?

Access to information is crucial for increasing economic development, finding employment opportunities, communicating with distant relatives, accessing information on culture, education, health, and financial issues, yet nearly 36% of the population of Republic of Moldova - mostly in rural areas - has never used the Internet. The library — a well-known community organization has the potential to become the ideal institution to provide this access and support citizens' needs for modern information services.

NOVATECA'S OBJECTIVES

- Assess the physical readiness of public libraries to offer computer and internet services and learn best practices for procuring and distributing equipment.
- Learn about the potential and necessary components of a sustainable professional development system for librarians and identifying primary training needs.
- Understand the existing capabilities and gaps in library leadership and outline the best methods for addressing those gaps.
- Develop partnerships with government officials and the NGO and private sectors to generate momentum to modernize libraries.

There are currently 1383 public libraries in the Republic of Moldova serving a population of more than three million, though fewer than 13% currently have computers with public access to Internet.

Partnership



Novateca works with government and private partners at the national and regional levels. These partnerships will promote the increased relevance and importance of libraries to today's Moldovan society and the need to commit resources to match the new roles of librarians.

Training



Novateca will establish Regional Training Centers to support librarians' continued professional development. The Training Centers will provide training for all pilot libraries participating in the program. They will also be available for public internet access and training.

Advocacy



Novateca understands that a strong library community needs strong library leaders. The program works with librarians at all levels to strengthen their capacity to promote and advocate for libraries and encourage sharing of innovations throughout the country.

Novateca is made possible through the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, in cooperation with the USAID and administered by IREX.

BILL & MELINDA GATES *foundation*

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Libraries initiative is working to open the world of knowledge, information and opportunity to many more people. Part of the Global Development Program, Global Libraries works with select countries that demonstrate a need and a readiness to help public libraries provide free access to computers and the Internet, and training on how to make full use of these tools. The initiative is working to transform public libraries into vital resources that can help improve the lives of millions of people.



The American people, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), have provided economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide for 50 years. In Moldova, USAID's assistance focuses on two areas: Economic Growth and Democracy and Governance. USAID has provided technical and humanitarian assistance to Moldova since 1992. For additional information about USAID programs in Moldova, please call USAID's Development Outreach and Communications Office at: +373 (022) 201-843. You can also visit the USAID website at: <http://moldova.usaid.gov> or our Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/USAIDMoldova>.



IREX is an international nonprofit organization providing thought leadership and innovative programs to promote positive lasting change globally. Founded in 1968, IREX has an annual portfolio of over \$70 million and a staff of over 400 professionals worldwide. IREX employs field-tested methods and innovative uses of technologies to develop practical and locally-driven solutions with our partners in more than 100 countries.



Founded in 1975, Microsoft is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realize their full potential. Microsoft is donating an estimated \$300,000 in software to Moldova's public libraries included in the Novateca program, as part of its global initiative to endow communities with accessible and useful technology.

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