

Success Stories for Telecentres within the pilot project

Rebricea Commune

Rebricea is a commune with 4150 inhabitants in 9 different villages. Before the setting up of the Telecentre only two of these villages had even a public payphone.

In March a fire broke out in one house in the commune. The family in the house and their neighbours had only buckets of water available and could consequently not stop the fire by themselves. Thanks to the Telecentre the Fire Brigade in the nearest town could be called. The firemen arrived quickly and could extinguish the fire and limit the damages. Without the help of the fire brigade, the fire would probably have spread to other houses, with disastrous results.



The councillor with the woman whose house was on fire from an exploding stove

Iana Commune

The commune covers 5 villages with almost 4000 inhabitants sharing before only 2 public pay phones.

The winter was particularly tough in that region this year. For some weeks, the commune had been entirely cut off from the rest of the world due to heavy snow falls and storms, except for the telecom connection via the telecentre which functioned well even through this period. The roads were completely blocked by snow as well. A young woman gave birth prematurely and needed professional medical assistance badly. Thanks to the Telecentre, a hospital could be contacted and the woman was given the necessary instructions by phone. The mother and her little child are now in good health thanks to the Telecentre.



Image from the movie showing the mother with her child

Balasesti Comune

Balasesti commune has 2565 inhabitants in 4 villages. Many of the women do a lot of very good handy craft but they have never had any possibility to sell their products. The villages are all very isolated and far from any potential buyers.

Two Peace Corps volunteers have now created an association of carpet producers in the villages. Via the communication facilities in the telecentre the products are being marketed anywhere and a lot is sold to buyers in USA. The Telecentre gave these women with such a great skills in creating carpets, a way to promote their work throughout the world. The Telecentre offers great opportunities to the people of the commune to promote and sell their products.



The Peace Corps volunteer with two women showing their products

Frecatei Telecenter

Frecatei Commune has 1470 inhabitants in 5 different villages, all in very isolated locations. Before the Telecentre, the entire commune had only one very old phone in the Mayors office connected to a manual switch, which provided services only some hours per day. There was no mobile telephony coverage in the commune. For Frecatei, the Telecentre has broken the isolation and the lack of communication its people suffered from before.

A few months after the Telecentre was installed, the Mayor of the commune had been taken to a hospital for a serious illness. However the hospital urgently needed a document from his home to be able to give the right treatment. Bringing that document to the hospital, even within a couple of days, would have been practically impossible before. Now the document could be scanned directly in the Telecentre and sent by e-mail to the hospital. The mayor could thus get the proper treatment and is once again in splendid health.



The commune is very isolated and can only be reached by crossing the river on a rather primitive ferry.