



# RURAL WINGS

Spreading the Wings of Knowledge:  
Bringing Rural Communities Closer

## SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY ENABLES LEARNING IN REMOTE AREAS

The strategic objective of RURAL WINGS is to provide end-to-end satellite telecommunication (SATCOM) systems for tele-education applications in remote areas and rural areas where the existing communication architecture does not support broadband applications.

The project will offer e-learning services by installing satellite terminals equipment into 128 pilot sites in 13 European countries (Greece, Spain, Sweden, France, Romania, Cyprus, Estonia, Poland, UK, Israel, Armenia, Georgia, and Switzerland).

Harvesting recent developments in the field of networking technologies, RURAL WINGS is now offering the opportunity to offer broadband services due to the unique capability of satellite communication to provide high quality wireless broadband connectivity to groups of people outside densely populated regions.

The project exploits new networking technologies such as Digital Video Broadcasting – Return Channel Satellite (DVB-RCS) incorporating in parallel SATCOM technology and terrestrial local area wireless networks to achieve the provision of broadband services of tele-education.

RURAL WINGS promotes a user-centred methodological approach, based on innovation practices and techniques. The ultimate goal is the transfer of knowledge and the adjustment of these practices in different knowledge spaces (learning@school, learning@work, learning@home) as a means for interaction between user needs and technological developments. The project encourages the users to add their contributions to new emerging applications, engaging them into productive activities which respond to special needs of various target groups.

## FIRST PILOT SITES RUNNING...

The first 32 pilot sites have been fully equipped and are operating. Each of the pilot sites has the necessary equipment for the user to be able to access the internet backbone via satellite.

Through the RURAL WINGS project, the pilot site user is also able to access specific e-learning applications covering a full range of knowledge items such as elementary education subjects, scientific experiments, farmers' training, health training, business and corporate training and local municipalities issues.

All e-applications and learning scenarios are being used and tested by local users connected to those pilot sites set up in, for example, Mesta, a village on Chios island in Greece; on Piirissaare island in Estonia or in the Israeli Bedouin community in the Negev desert. Finally, on extensive validation of the accessibility and the effectiveness of the learning process will be carried out.

At the end of the project a large number of various types of users will be able to access in pilot sites the web in a fast and easy way entering all the above applications. The RURAL WINGS vision of providing e-learning services to the users being @school, @work or @home is the ultimate goal of the project while providing simultaneously a unique perspective and added value to remote villages and locations. By this way every pilot site will turn into a "Learning Hub", a learning centre minimizing the 'digital gap' of the specific rural areas with the Information Society and Learning Community.



Children from Israeli Bedouin community in Negev desert - one of the RURAL WINGS sites. Source: ICCS, RURAL WINGS

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## LIST OF PARTNERS

- Institute of Communication and Computer Systems, Greece
- EADS Astrium SAS, France
- Avanti Communications, UK
- EUTELSAT, France
- Ellinogermaniki Agogi, Greece
- Insead, France
- Stockholm University, Institute for International Education, Sweden
- European Distance and E-Learning Network, UK
- Q-PLAN S.A., Greece
- HELLAS SAT Consortium LTD, Cyprus
- University of Barcelona, Department of Didactics and Educational Organisation, Spain
- Institute of Computer Science, Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas - ICS-FORTH, Greece
- Universitatea "Politehnica" din Bucuresti, Romania
- Alfa – Omega Communications, Estonia
- Digital Broadcast Channel, Switzerland
- University of Aegean, Greece
- Technical University of Dresden, Germany
- FORTHnet S.A. – Hellenic Telecommunications and Telematics Applications Company, Greece
- European Resuscitation Council, Belgium
- Telemedicine Technologies, France
- Ben Gurion University – Center for Futurism In Education, Israel
- Fourier Systems Ltd, Israel
- Progress & Business Foundation, Poland
- Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia
- State Engineering University of Armenia, Armenia

## COORDINATOR

**Institute of Communication and Computer Systems**  
9 Iroon Polytechniou Str  
Zografou  
EL-15773 Athens  
Greece  
<http://www.ruralwings-project.net>

## CONTACT

**Nikolaos Uzunoglu**  
Tel: +30 210 772 3556  
Fax: +30 210 772 3557  
E-mail: [nuzu@cc.ece.ntua.gr](mailto:nuzu@cc.ece.ntua.gr)

## PROJECT INFORMATION

RURAL WINGS: Spreading the Wings of Knowledge:  
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Integrated Project  
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