

E-inclusion of People with Disabilities: APEIRONS' Experience and Vision for the Future

**Conference "ICT for an Inclusive Society"
Riga, June 13, 2006**





What is APEIRONS?

- Registered as NGO in 1997
- Our purpose is to further the independence and integration of people with disabilities into society.



ICT for people with disabilities

Peter



- Can hardly lift a hand
- Works from home on a computer

ICT for people with disabilities

Nataliy



- has speech impediment
- People cannot understand what she is saying
- On the internet she feels like everybody else

The Open Door Project



Microsoft.
Unlimited
Potential **UP**

January 2006 - January 2007

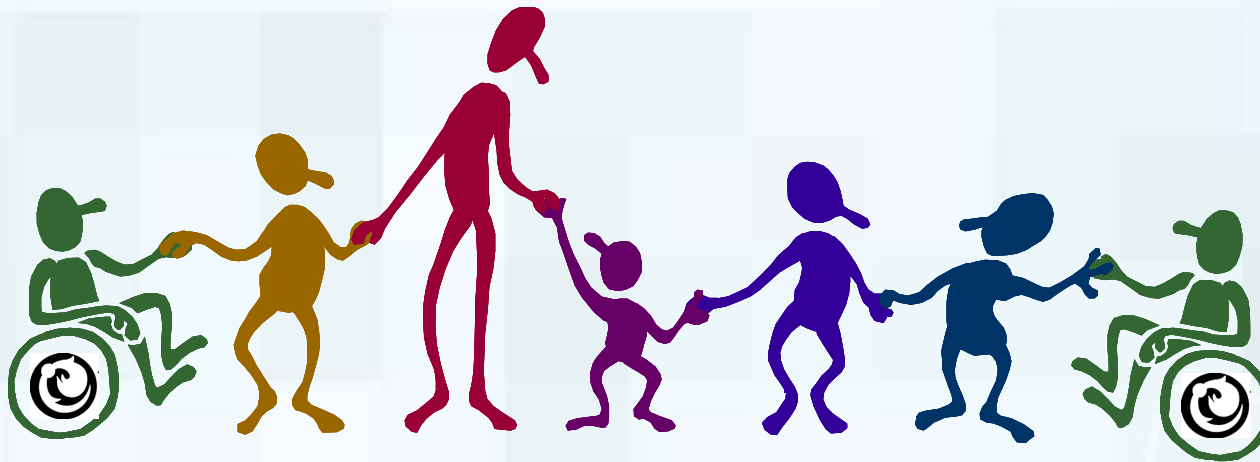


VAR Centre

- IT training
- Free access to computers and the Internet
- A disability friendly community technology learning centre



A Community Technology Learning Centre



- People with and without disabilities learn side by side
- IT instructors on wheelchairs as role models for success

Vision for the future

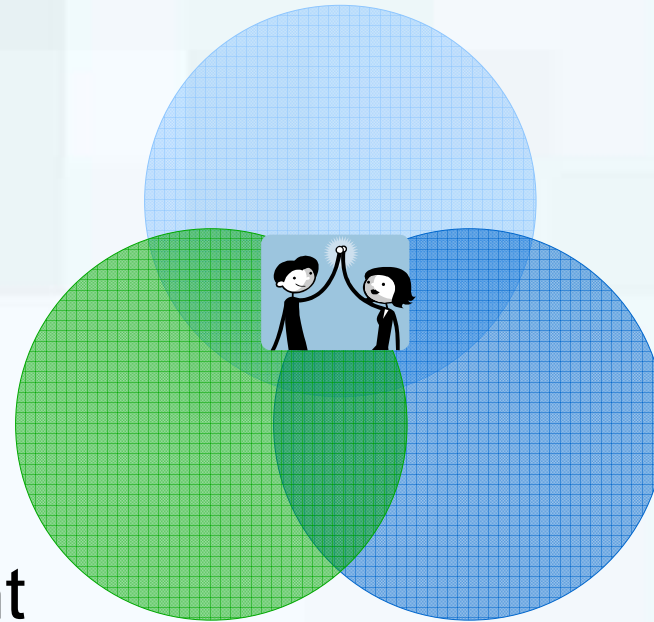
Community technology centres across the country:

- Disability friendly
- Accessible to wheelchair users
- On-site and off-site training
- Supportive and encouraging learning environment
- Free access to technology and the Internet



Partnership of main actors

Municipality



Government

NGO

Government

- Clear policy
- Establishing infrastructure (disability friendly public IT access points and community learning centres)
 1. accessible to wheelchair users
 2. equipped with special facilities (voice synthesizer software, screen-enlarging software, braille display and large-size LCD monitors) for the visually impaired
- Support programmes for persons with disabilities:
 1. financial assistance for the purchase of PCs
 2. subsidized special software to the visually impaired
 3. development of training programmes for the mentally retarded
- Subventions to NGOs to organize adult education courses

NGO

- Motivating people
- Dissemination of information
- Implementation of projects
- Providing IT training



Municipal governments

- Infrastructure
 1. Establishing disability friendly public IT access points and community learning centres that are accessible to wheelchair users
 2. Covering facility costs (facility maintenance & utilities, rent, Internet, etc)
- Transportation (arranging transport services to wheelchair users)
- Ensuring quality e-services (important for the deaf)

Thank you!

Microsoft.
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