

KEY ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES

- Build capacity and redouble the effectiveness of local civil society organizations
- Provide tools for the development of viable community-oriented networks

OVERVIEW

- Free services in 40 cities throughout Eurasia, nearly all hosted by local partners
- Every year 700,000 visits are logged at IATP centers and former centers
- Every year 50,000 users are trained in IT skills
- Host of 8,000 local-language websites



IATP in Moldova

IATP began operating in Moldova in 1998. At present, there are three core IATP centers and one Independent Internet Center (a center that has graduated from IATP funding) to train, assist users utilize the Internet, and organize various technology-related initiatives. In April 2008, 1400 residents of Moldova visited IATP centers, and 108 people attended training courses. IATP's server in Moldova hosts 96 non-commercial websites free-of-charge.

Special Projects

IATP works with dedicated partners to implement initiatives which apply technology tools to meet important goals. MedIT taught hundreds of doctors to utilize patient databases, while Tech Age Girls offers advanced ICT skills to disadvantaged young women.

IREX and ICT4D in Eurasia

Initially launched in 1995, IATP now operates in 8 countries in Western Eurasia, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. The program strengthens NGOs, media outlets, government institutions, political parties, universities, schools, libraries and other community stakeholders. IATP is one of several IREX programs that use simple technologies to provide technical assistance and innovative resources to local citizen initiatives.

IREX is an international nonprofit organization which delivers cross-cutting programs to strengthen civil society, education, and media independence in more than 50 countries.

TOOLS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

IATP provides civil society organizations (CSOs) and community leaders with essential tools that are otherwise either largely inaccessible or under-utilized. The resulting assistance and collaboration improves the effectiveness of local civil society initiatives, expanding their reach and allowing them access to the latest international expertise. IATP provides:

- **Internet Access** –Free computer and Internet access available at IATP centers helps bridge the digital divide and provides new sources of information and knowledge.
- **Technical Training** – A catalogue of over a dozen training modules including basic computer literacy, Web design, Internet research, blogging, and wiki creation can be tailored to meet the institutional needs of organizations and professionals attending courses.
- **Web Content Development** – CSOs and individuals create websites and resources after completing IATP courses. New Web resources increase local-language content, making the Internet more accessible and useful to local users.
- **Online Forums** –Stakeholders, experts, and decision-makers join online in virtual exchanges of ideas that bridge the technology gap between regions and capital cities, and give often isolated professionals and leaders first-hand access to expertise located distantly.
- **Community Events** – Citizens utilize the centers as neutral meeting places to organize community initiatives and use IATP-provided technology and expertise to strengthen their projects.

IATP Administration

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IATP Centers

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City: **Tiraspol**
Partner Organization: Informational Center for Youth World Window
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City: **Comrat**
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Independent Internet Centers (IICs)

City: **Causeni**
Partner Organization: Creative Center
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IATP Expands Presence into Transdnistria

As a result of cooperation between IREX and the local non-governmental youth information center World Window, and with financial support from USAID, a new IATP center was opened in Tiraspol, Moldova, on April 14. IATP is a unique source in Tiraspol for no-cost Internet access and ICT training, and has quickly become popular with NGO, academic, and professional community.

Through the end of May, over 400 visits were logged at the Tiraspol IATP Center. Additionally, eight medical professionals from a local branch of the National Mother and Child Medical Center learned basic computer and Internet skills. The training enabled these healthcare professionals to read the latest medical news on the Internet and use the information they learned during consultations with local residents for the first time. The eight training participants also accessed a wiki page – a collaborative Web page designed to allow anyone who accesses it to contribute or modify content – recently created by doctors at the IATP center in Chisinau, Moldova, which covered diagnosis and treatment of topics such as hypertension, pregnancy, therapy, and ulcers. In addition to basic computer and Internet training, the Tiraspol Center will facilitate online networking and share ICT best practices among experts to provide a bridge between people divided by the frozen conflict.

IATP Gives Practical Skills to Vulnerable Young Women

Through IATP's **Tech Age Girls (TAG)** project (<http://tag.md.iatsp.net>), nearly 100 young women Chisinau, Balti, Ungheni, Comrat, Căușeni and Soroca have benefited from in-depth ICT skills and leadership training. The girls were identified as vulnerable by local civil services, and through the project learned computer and Internet basics and Web Design, PowerPoint, database creation, and blogging. Four countrywide online discussions introduced the Tech Age Girls to prominent women and gave them the opportunity to apply their skills in their communities. The participants created their own blogs and websites, giving a voice to young rural women while offering them the skills to find paid and study opportunities.

In a similar project, IATP is working in cooperation with the USAID-funded and Winrock implemented New Perspectives for Women project to provide technology-related skills related to protecting themselves from trafficking and to finding reputable work online.