# E-mission PL, (several different projects, internet network, )

## Background

**This is an example of several successful, related and consecutive projects leading to a clear community development. Without the first basic projects none of the other had been possible. So even if they have received funding from different national and international resources they represent together a joint process of development.**

**The Płużnica community consists of 20 villages with a total of 5000 inhabitants. In 2002 some young villagers, a group of friends turning back home after high school and university, started Plużnica Youth Association, a youth club with the aim to activate youth and children in the area to prepare them for active citizenship. Identifying the existing needs the association and its activities have been developed from plain leisure activities, via international youth exchanges into providing IT-infrastructure and training and being an IT-service company and a center for information technology.**

**In 2004 there were four families having internet access. This was the start of Plużnica Wireless Coputer Network. Through license fees and voluntary work an infrastructure of eight transmitters were installed during 2004-2006 connecting 95 families in six villages. In 2006, with funding from the Polish-American Freedom Foundation and the Rural Development Foundation the first and outdated equipment was exchanged for new and better one and a system for network management was installed. Three additional villages were connected and the Płużnica municipality as well. The Płużnica Youth Association also changed name to The Technology Information Centre e-Mission. With this project, having a budget of about € 8500, the number of people connected to the network increased from 95 to 165. The organization rented and renovated a new office and hired three permanent workers. Now the incomes from the network services generated additional funds making it possible to expand even more. By the end of 2011 the network had 400 customers.**

## Objectives

**The aim has from the start been the activation of youth in rural areas to prepare them for an active citizenship. By solving the problems and meeting the needs identified, the participating youth have become even more active community citizens. Since Internet was identified as a large interest and arena for youth activities, and the access to the internet was very scarce in the village, the objectives have developed into: Supplying cheap access to the Internet - Teaching how to use the computer and the Internet - Developing local Internet services.**

## Main activities

* **Personal training and development of the association´s members.**
* **Organisation of training courses for children, discussions for youth, sports events and youth exchanges with Ukraine, Germany, France, Lithuania, Latvia and Canada.**
* **Investing to establish internet access points (transmitters) for several villages.**
* **Changing the association mission to be a commercial actor developing the information society by internet services, training courses etc.**
* **Education and training courses for employees to raise computer skills and for entrepreneurs to be able to use the possibilities of the internet.**

## Results and benefits

**Since 2007 45 computer training courses have been arranged with more than 500 participants, which is 10% of the population. Two private companies have been started by young people. The E-mission is providing Internet access points in 15 villages. Creation of a large amount of web pages especially for NGO:s. Development of the Community News Web page at** [**www.kurenda.pl**](http://www.kurenda.pl)

**During ten years of activity the association board has acquired funds for 50 projects worth over 4 million zł. Thanks to European Union Funds a small association with an annual budget of less than 10 000 zł in 2004, has developed into a professional organization which carries out projects worth several millions.**

**Technology Information Centre e-Mission has proved that even in a small village, people with good ideas and the appropriate knowledge and skills, are able to realize interesting and big projects.**

## Lessons learnt

**Young people are interested in new technologies. Young people can teach older people how to use a computer and the Internet. Big ICT companies are not interested in investing in rural areas. Young people can live in the countryside and work through the Internet. This provides qualified work places for young people with high education in rural areas.**

## Description of projects financed by European Union Funds

### 1. Project name: “Pluznica Broadband Internet”

**Time-frame:** 01.01.2012 – 30.06.2014

### Objective:

### Providing broadband Internet access with a minimum guaranteed rate of 2 Mb/s for 480 people from municipalities: Pluznica, Radzyn Chelminski, Wabrzezno and Stolno.

### Specific objectives:

* creating an efficient and reliable ICT infrastructure,
* providing access to broadband Internet for built infrastructure,
* connecting to broadband ICT infrastructure 480 people,
* increasing knowledge, skills and awareness of the benefits of the electronically available use of services and information among the inhabitants of the area covered by the project,
* increasing access to public services based on information and communication technologies among the inhabitants of the area covered by the project,
* leveling the digital exclusion occurring in district Wabrzezno, Grudziadz, and Chelmno.

**Project location:** municipalities Pluznica, Wabrzezno, Radzyn Chelminski, Stolno

**Region:** Kujawsko-Pomorskie

**Total project cost (€):** 329 253 (1 366 400 PLN)

**EAFRD contribution (€):**160 578 (Innovative Economy Program)

**National contribution (€):** 28 337

### Private contribution (€): 140 337

### 2. Project name: “Young entrepreneurs factory”

**Time-frame:** 01.07.2010 – 30.09.2012

### Results and benefits:

* Preparing 72 people (including 43 women and 29 men) for running their own business by providing training and advisory support.
* Grants given to 55 people for starting a business and financial support for 6 or 12 months.

The project was directed to unemployed people aged 18-24 years.

### Project location: Kujawsko-Pomorskie

### Region: Kujawsko-Pomorskie

### Total project cost (€): 674 544 (2 799 360 PLN)

### EAFRD contribution (€): 573 362 (Human Capital Program)

### National contribution (€): 101 182

### Private contribution (€): 0

### 3. Project name: “e-employee”

**Time-frame:** 01.04.2011 – 31.03.2012

### Results and benefits:

* Computer courses for 192 people (16 training groups) from the region of Kujawsko-Pomorskie; subject of courses: using services available on the Internet in accordance with ECDL e-Citizen module.

The project was directed to employed people who wanted to increase their computer and internet skills.

### Project location: Kujawsko-Pomorskie

### Region: Kujawsko-Pomorskie

### Total project cost (€): 85 543 (355 004 PLN)

### EAFRD contribution (€): 72 711 (Human Capital Program)

### National contribution (€): 12 832

### Private contribution (€): 0

### 4. Project name: “Carpenter qualifications”

**Time-frame:** 01.06.2011 – 29.02.2012

### Results and benefits:

* developing individual action plans for employees,
* organizing motivational workshops,
* organizing workshops on effective communication,
* organizing technical trainings,
* organizing training in professional customer service
* individual training for 10 people (driving license, trolley operator, warehouse manager)

The project was directed to 30 employees of three carpenter companies from the community of Pluznica.

### Project location: Pluznica

### Region: Kujawsko-Pomorskie

### Total project cost (€): 37 445 (155 399 PLN)

### EAFRD contribution (€): 31 828 (Human Capital Program)

### National contribution (€): 5 617

### Private contribution (€): 0

### 5. Project name: “Information technology at work”

**Time-frame:** 01.04.2010 – 31.03.2011

### Results and benefits:

### Computer courses (the basics of computer and Internet use) for 50 employed people (5 groups), from the district of Grudziadz, Wabrzezno.

* Computer courses (computer and Internet use – advanced level) for 80 employed people (8 groups), from the district of Grudziadz, Wabrzezno.

### Project location: district of Grudziądz, Wabrzezno

### Region: Kujawsko-Pomorskie

### Total project cost (€): 45 301 (188 000 PLN)

### EAFRD contribution (€): 38 505 (Human Capital Program)

### National contribution (€): 6 796

### Private contribution (€): 0

### 6. Project name: “Internet at work, work on the Internet”

**Time-frame:** 01.04.2009 – 31.12.2009

### Results and benefits:

### Computer courses (the basics of computer and Internet use) for 74 employed people (6 groups)

* Developing individual action plans for 24 participants of project

Project location: district of Wabrzezno, Chelmno

Region: Kujawsko-Pomorskie

**Total project cost (€):** 33 735 (140 000 PLN)

### EAFRD contribution (€): 28 674 (Human Capital Program)

### National contribution (€): 5 061

### Private contribution (€): 0

RATE OF EXCHANGE: 1€ = 4,15 PLN