

RESTART Project

City of Lausanne

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SYNI programme

Background of the project

- RESTART is a pilot project, which is part of the policy for sustainable development of the City of Lausanne.
- The administration is currently renewing its entire computer equipment of over 3,000 desktops and notebooks.
- The Department of Organization and Information System of the City of Lausanne decided to distribute them, without charge, to associations working in development cooperation.

A new life to the old equipment

- First all computers are sent to a workshop for their reconfiguration.
- Each computer is cleaned, formatted and then completely reconfigured according to the requirements of the NGOs/IOs, which can choose between a Windows operating system and Linux.
- The NGOs/IOs, can also ask the workshop to install any free software so that computers respond to their needs.
- All work is carried out by unemployed people on temporary subsidized jobs.

Project objectives and aim

The RESTART project has a triple objective of:

- reducing the environmental footprint of the City of Lausanne,
- supporting NGOs,
- reducing the digital divide,

which will result in the **occupational reintegration of job seekers.**

Transparency

- For the sake of fairness in the distribution of the equipment and especially to ensure that these computers would be used in the context of development projects without being diverted for illegal resale or dismantled for recovery of precious metals, each NGO concerned had to submit its dossier to be examined by a commission.
- The City of Lausanne has all the distribution lists and each beneficiary is required to send a report by the end of the third month after the donation.

Results

- The results are extremely encouraging in any aspect and through the project the participating NGOs manage to strengthen their administrative capacity, to equip schools with computer rooms, establish computer centres etc.
- To date, more than 2,000 computers have already been distributed.
- The diversity of the supported projects and of the final beneficiaries demonstrates the usefulness of this project.

The project in Bulgaria

Up to now 620 computers have been delivered to 3 NGOs in Bulgaria:



National Network for Children



Amalipe Center for Interethnic Dialogue and Tolerance



Stara Planina Regional Association of Hospitals

- These NGOs re-distribute the computers within their networks by following the criteria set by the City of Lausanne.
- 300 computers more are to be received next month.



Visibility

- Local press cuts are constantly gathered and presented to the City of Lausanne and the Swiss Embassy in Bulgaria.

Project follow-up

- Given the success of this pilot project and its social value, the City of Lausanne is currently working on its extension – to ensure sustainability of the temporary subsidized jobs by establishing a permanent computer recycling workshop.
- It would clean and reconfigure computers coming from various authorities in Western Switzerland when they are renewing their computer equipment.
- The number of processed computers could easily reach 5,000 per year.

Acknowledgements

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