

Microsoft Partners in Learning Customer Reference

Innovative Solutions

Increasing Competitiveness of Teachers through Microsoft Office Courses and Certification

The Prague City Council realizes the urge of Prague teachers to be able to obtain further education, notably in the area of Information and Communication Technology, plus to get certified on a higher-than-national level. Since the situation at the workplace is quite clear; in the software area prevail Microsoft solutions, the decision was quite straightforward: to enable the teachers a two-day course on Microsoft Office applications with the option to get certified on the Microsoft Office Specialist level. The course was organized by Microsoft Partners in Learning program, in cooperation with Microsoft partnership activity called STIC – School Technology Innovation Center.

The goal of the project has been to train and voluntarily certify 150 teachers during the academic year 2006/2007. Microsoft Office Specialist certification, the premier Microsoft desktop productivity certification, is a globally recognized standard that validates computer desktop skills. Prague teachers choose mainly the Microsoft Office Specialist – Word 2003 course, which is the only one with a certification in Czech language, but many of them have been masterful enough to try and succeed in the Microsoft Office Specialist – Excel 2003 course as well, which is designed in English.



The Microsoft Office Specialist program meets the demand for "job ready" people in the global workplace. The "MOS" Certification is the internationally recognized standard for validating expertise with the Microsoft Office suite of business productivity programs.

Office Specialist-certified teachers most often report increased competence and productivity with Microsoft Office applications as well as increased credibility with their schools, colleagues, and students. They also feel that MOS certification sets them apart in today's competitive job market, bringing other teaching and tutoring opportunities, greater earning potential, and career advancement – in addition to increased job satisfaction, positive feedback from the students as well as increased productivity during preparation for teaching.

"Me and my colleagues," says Vaclav Kysela, ICT administrator at the Secondary school in Prague 10, Na Trebesine 2299, one of the successfully certified teachers, *"feel that we have obtained increased competency with the individual Microsoft Office applications, we are now more productive than we used to be, our proficiency has had a positive impact on our technical credibility among our colleagues – well,"* he adds, smiling, *"we experience a great deal of requests for help from our less experienced colleagues now, being the internationally certified ones. It is great to know we have a lot more now to offer to our students and the fact that we have an official international certification is also pleasurable."*

The Prague City Council partnered with STIC – School Technology Innovation Center for Central and Eastern Europe, located at the Secondary technical school Na Trebesine in Prague. Thanks to this collaboration, up to 16 teachers-students have been able to attend the Microsoft Office Specialist courses for teachers every month of the current academic year.

The STIC – School Technology Innovation Center – is a response to the needs of the teacher community in the EMEA region. The role of the Central European STIC is to function as a showcase for new technology that has potential for positive impact on teaching, learning and self-study.



Fast Facts

Customer

The City of Prague municipality,

Country: The Czech Republic

Web Site:

<http://www.praha-mesto.cz>

The City of Prague leaders consider education to be one of the cornerstones of Prague's appeal on the international scene. Primary and secondary schools provide education to children and the youth from Prague as well as from the Central Bohemian region and, in some cases, also from other parts of the country.

Microsoft has been cooperating with the Prague City Hall traditionally; free Office 2007 training for Prague teachers has been only one of numerous activities created by the tight collaboration between the Prague municipality and the PiL program.

For more information about other Microsoft Partners in Learning customer successes, please visit: www.microsoft.com/emea/PartnersinLearning

„ We have obtained increased competency with the Microsoft Office applications, we are now more productive than we used to be, and our proficiency has had a positive impact on our technical credibility .”

Vaclav Kysela, Secondary technical school in Prague 10, Na Trebesine 2299