



Russia Deploys New Model for ICT Teacher Training

Russia

Customer Profile

The Academy of Advanced Training and Professional Retraining for Educators (APKiPPRO) provides ongoing training to teachers and educators in all 85 regions around Russia. Founded more than 80 years ago, the organization offers training resources that range from research centers and high-level scientific staff to distance-learning facilities.

Situation

Although Russia had already made great strides in incorporating ICT into classrooms, it was clear that teachers and educators needed more in-depth training on how to incorporate ICT into teaching and learning processes.

Solution

Working with the government and APKiPPRO, Microsoft Partners in Learning deployed regional Microsoft IT Academy for Teacher Training centers and created a certificate-based training program.

Benefits

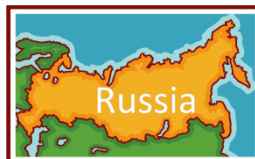
- More than 20,000 teachers trained in the first six months
- 90 peer coach roles created and trained
- Certificate-based courses that standardize ICT learning developed and implemented across the country

“Our collaboration with Microsoft combines the best of technical and pedagogical ideals. Because we’re moving in the same direction, we’re already seeing huge success in training and retraining our educators.”

—Larisa Gorbunova, Vice Rector of Science, APKiPPRO

Russia had already started deploying Microsoft® Partners in Learning projects successfully, but the country needed broader outreach to all of its communities nationwide. By deploying a Microsoft IT Academy for Teacher Training in existing regional centers for ongoing educator training—and making ICT coursework certificate-based—Russia has started formalizing 21st century learning.

Situation



Russia has had several years of successful experience with Microsoft Partners in Learning. In 2004, the Russian Ministry of Education and Science began working with the Partners in Learning program to start delivering information and communications technology (ICT) in classrooms using the many resources the program offers. Schools throughout the country were given the technology—and the knowledge they needed to use it—to incorporate 21st century skills in the classroom. A new emphasis was placed on digital literacy, with four different courses targeted towards K-12 students. And an Innovative Teachers Network (ITN) connected teachers with each other—no matter where they were located.

“This is lifelong learning. It’s not just another class. Instead, it’s a professional certification that boosts their ability to keep up with technology and stay current in the classroom.”

—Nadezhda Volpian, Academic Program Manager, Microsoft Russia

These efforts were such a success that Russia decided to nationalize Partners in Learning programs, making them available to the thousands of educators in secondary and vocational schools throughout the country. In fact, efforts were already underway to incorporate ICT into core curricula: The Academy of Advanced Training and Professional Retraining for Educators (APKiPPRO) was tasked with a “national priority project” to train all Russian teachers to be better specialists in ICT and its use in the classroom.

Solution

As the government entity responsible for ongoing professional development for educators throughout Russia, APKiPPRO was the logical choice for institutionalizing Partners in Learning programs. The agency, which is one of the main partners of the Ministry of Education and Science, maintains facilities in each of the country’s 85 regions, where teachers go for additional coursework and vocational training. As a result, providing additional ICT training at these facilities was simply a natural extension of APKiPPRO’s offerings.

In November 2006, Microsoft and APKiPPRO launched a project to create a Microsoft IT Academy for Teacher Training within these existing ICT training centers. Within the first six months of the project, 30 training centers were created. An additional 16 were deployed at the beginning of the 2007 school year.

APKiPPRO and Partners in Learning have also developed a 72-hour ICT literacy program, which includes the four courses that were developed previously. And in an innovative move, APKiPPRO has made this literacy program a course that provides accreditation after it has been completed successfully. “This approach takes the courses that teachers are already using, but moves them to a certificate-based training system,” explains Svetlana Tkachenko, Academic Program Manager for Microsoft Russia. “As a result, teachers are more excited about the skills they get, and ICT literacy will become standard.”

Benefits

In the short time that these new certificate-based ICT training modules have existed, the results have been astonishing. More than 20,000 teachers have already taken—and received a certification for—the ICT literacy course. By the middle of 2008, another 15,000 teachers will be trained. In addition, 90 tutors/peer coaches have been trained. “This is lifelong learning,” says Nadezhda Volpian, Academic Program Manager for Microsoft Russia. “It’s not just another class. Instead, it’s a professional certification that boosts their ability to keep up with technology and stay current in the classroom.”

Larisa Gorbunova, Vice Rector of Science for APKiPPRO, echoes this view, adding that the partnership between Microsoft and her agency is key to the program’s success. “Our collaboration with Microsoft combines the best of

technical and pedagogical ideals," she explains. "Because we're moving in the same direction, we're already seeing huge success in training and retraining our educators."

These successes will only continue to grow. The fact that Russia is incorporating ICT into ongoing, certificate-based teacher training also means that its reach will be exponential. And because these changes will happen across the country, Russia can ensure that all teachers are well-versed in ICT—and that all students will graduate knowing how to use up-to-date technologies. "This is a completely new model of ICT literacy for educators because it creates a network of academies for teacher training that is backed by federal and state entities," explains Volpian. "ICT literacy is now a part of most fundamental training."

But for Russia, the new 46 training centers are just one part of a bigger picture. The country is committed to boosting the technical literacy of its students nationwide. As a result, the country is not only investing heavily in all areas of ICT, but is also aligning all of its Partners in Learning resources with national priority projects. For instance, it is placing all Partners in Learning training materials in the national collection of digital educational resources. Russia is also updating text books with ICT materials. "All of our technology programs are being energized as a result of this partnership," says Andrey Fursenko, the Russian Minister of Education and Science.

The synergy between different Partners in Learning programs is also leading to a greater use of ICT. For example, the country's ITN had a huge increase in users. Before APKIPPRO created its teacher training courses, Russia's ITN had 9,100 registered teachers. Since implementing the certificate training program, however, that number has risen to almost 15,000 people. In addition, 40 new regional pages have opened on the portal.

For more information

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<http://www.microsoft.com/Rus/Education/PiL/Default.aspx>

Russian Ministry of Education and Science:

<http://www.ed.gov.ru/>

The Academy of Advanced Training and Professional Retraining for Educators:

<http://www.apkppro.ru/>

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