

# Microsoft Partners in Learning Customer Reference



## 21st Century Skills

### Pioneering Distance-Learning Course Ends Technical Hitches for Ukrainian Schools

#### Fast Facts

**Customer:** Ukrainian Institute of Information Technologies in Education, part of the National Technical University of Ukraine "Kyiv Polytechnic Institute"

**Country:** Ukraine

**Website:** <http://www.ntu-kpi.kiev.ua/en/faculty/uiite.html>

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**Maryna Lobastova,**  
Informatics Teacher, School 12, Kupyansk, Kharkiv region

**A hugely successful distance-learning course is transforming** ordinary Ukrainian teachers into technical administrators for their schools' computer networks, empowering them to overcome limited technical budgets and support the delivery of computer classes in their schools. The course has quickly become a vital part of the Ukrainian government's drive to have all secondary schools running computer classes by 2008.

"I had been looking for something like this course for a long time and I am so thankful for the opportunity it presented," says Maryna Lobastova, an informatics teacher at School 12, Kupyansk, in the Kharkiv region. She continues: "The skills I've learned will help to ensure that the children at our school benefit from our investment in information technology."

Since 2003, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine has been funding a major drive to equip all its schools, especially secondary schools in rural areas, with computers and an Internet connection. By the end of 2005, almost half of all Ukrainian secondary schools had computers, but

many were encountering difficulties in offering computer classes on a sustainable, ongoing basis.

**"The Ministry was really succeeding in computerising our schools,"** explains Inna Malyukova, Director of the Ukrainian Institute of Information Technologies in Education. "But we found that progress became compromised if a school encountered a hardware or software problem. There was a lack of funding or provision in school budgets for technical specialists. This meant that when a technical problem occurred, schools were very much on their own – especially those in remote rural areas. It was frustrating for the schools and for us."

The Ukrainian Institute of Information Technologies in Education was created by the Ministry of Education and Science to implement information and communication technologies in education. Determined to help schools overcome their technical challenges, the institute teamed up with the Microsoft® Partners in Learning initiative and the Ministry of Education and Science.

**In 2005, Ukraine's first ever distance-learning programme for teachers** was launched by the three-way partnership. The 72-hour online course equips ordinary teachers with the skills and knowledge to administer

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### Customer Profile:

A state-wide Ukrainian programme to implement information technology in secondary schools was being hampered by a lack of funding for technical staff. The answer was to create a highly interactive distance-learning course that would give ordinary teachers the skills and knowledge to administer computer equipment and local networks. The Ukrainian Institute of Information Technologies in Education, together with the Microsoft Partners in Learning team, jointly developed content for a 72-hour computer administrator certification programme.

Launched in 2005, the first distance-learning course for teachers in Ukraine has proved an instant hit. After just a year-and-a-half, more than 1,300 teachers have already completed the course, and demand continues to grow exponentially. The aim is for at least one teacher from each of Ukraine's 12,000 secondary schools to complete the course by 2008, empowering them to help keep their schools' computers running effectively.

**In less than two years,** Ukraine has given 1,300 teachers the technical skills to support the government's information technology strategy. By 2008, this number will grow to 12,000.

For more information about other Microsoft Partners in Learning customer successes, please visit:

[www.microsoft.com/emea/PartnersinLearning](http://www.microsoft.com/emea/PartnersinLearning)

their school computers and local networks. The Partners in Learning initiative helped to develop the content for the course, and also provides funding for teachers to join it.



The programme gives teachers online access to an interactive reference book, and individual online training at hours that suit their needs. At the end of the programme the teachers must pass an online examination.

Those who succeed in obtaining the course certificate can then provide technical support to keep their schools' computers running effectively. In this way they play a vital role in supporting the delivery of the computer curriculum

in their schools.

**"The distance-learning programme has been a runaway success,"** says Malyukova. "In its first year, 117 teachers from across Ukraine completed it. Now, midway through its second year, 1,250 teachers have already successfully completed it – more than a 900%

increase. Even more encouragingly, new registrations are running at between 200 and 300 each month. It looks like we'll easily meet the Ministry's target of having at least one certified teacher in all 12,000 secondary schools by 2008."

Demand for the course is being fuelled by word of mouth, because of the positive response of teachers who have completed it. Ivan Arsenych, a teacher at the Institute for Teachers' Postgraduate Education, Ivano-Frankivsk, comments: "This is a very important course, because it's so comprehensible for non-technical teachers. At the same time it contains useful information for those, like me, who already have experience in Microsoft® Windows administration. And I think its success is also partly due to the fact that it's in the Ukrainian language."

Malyukova sums up the importance of the programme for Ukraine as a whole: "Ultimately it is our pupils who will benefit. Ordinary teachers are now able to help bring students into the information community, which is such an important part of our country's educational vision."