I. Activities

1. Education/Training/Research

Research

Informatics for the Humanities: The main goal in the field Informatics for the Humanities is transferring of modern information technologies for the preservation and restoration of culture heritage through digital media and dissemination of information on cultural heritage on CD’s and Internet.

- To develop new generation of tools - software for filling and searching Internet-integrated multimedia data base (MDB) and copyrights trading environment in one-step marketing and management of multimedia products and rights capable of operating on European basis.

- To create an Multimedia Rights Clearance value chain that links object creation, marketing, customer and access management, distribution and use.

- To create an MDB prototype using as entries multimedia musical heritage items, based on early European musical heritage data (the images of musical manuscripts, audio-video music records, related pictures, texts).

The MDB prototype, accessible www.musicalia.lt, demonstrates MDB operability on digital acquisition and archiving, transfer and presentation of unique multimedia items as well as proves the benefits of interactive delivery.

Readers and publishers may obtain the digital copies on CD of selected items according to a special agreement with the Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences. For this novel service, called CD-ROM-on-demand, a special software has been developed. A demo version made for the 17th c. manuscript - notation album and copper engravings Cancione [Sapieha’s Tablature] is already created. This CD contains 50 images of best quality, several pieces
from this manuscript, performed by the organist, can be listened too while investigating musical sheets.

The project ended in August 2005, the filling of MDB will be continued by the Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences.


The CHIMER project is researching tools and methods liable to encourage 9-12 aged schoolchildren across Europe to participate in building a living view of the cultural heritage of their villages, towns and regions. Cultural heritage of five European countries: Spain, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Germany, the Netherlands filled in E-maps related to the evolving digital heritage archives enhance the children skills and progress of advanced technologies in everyday life as well as cultural tourism. E-guides and M-guides are created as tools empowering access to digital cultural heritage accumulated in digital repositories. The Didactical Unit Book issued as one of the remarkable results in this project sharing the experience accumulated with other teachers, experts in cultural heritage. The project finalized in 2005.

ARUODA online [www.aruodai.lt](http://www.aruodai.lt) – The electronic compendium of sources on Lithuanian culture - an integral database covering sources for all areas of Lithuanian ethnic culture: language, folklore, ethnology, archaeology, and history. This project 2003-2006 is jointly prepared by the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore, the Institute of the Lithuanian Language, the Lithuanian Institute of History, and the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics. The multimedia DB works are under IMI responsibility.

Such a repository provides the means to preserve and analyze language, folklore, and ethnological, archaeological, and historical data in a modern way. It is hoped that this project will create new opportunities to advance the process of digitalizing sources on ethnic culture. The name of this electronic compendium of sources on Lithuanian culture has a symbolic meaning. The Lithuanian word aruodas means a bin for storing threshed grain. The storage bins of Lithuanian culture will be used to gather, systematize, and interpret data on Lithuanian ethnic culture. The classified index will contain keywords in English; therefore, data stored in the repository will be available both to Lithuanian specialists and to specialists in other countries. Currently the prototype of this ambitious project is under construction and the testing search facilities available only in Lithuanian.

ECH:TOPICC - ENDANGERED CULTURAL HERITAGE: TOOLS FOR PRESERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND COPYRIGHTS CLEARANCE, Eureka programme, project E! 2597 (duration 2003 – 2005) online [www.musicalia.lt](http://www.musicalia.lt). The development of software for Internet integrated multimedia data base and multimedia rights trading environment for one-step marketing and management of multimedia products and rights capable of operating on European basis. The coordinator of this project is IMI. The problems of digital acquisition, archiving, delivery of early music manuscripts as multimedia objects (including professional descriptions of items, their images, audio records of corresponding music) to a general audience and ways of access to it to scholars for
research purposes, the intellectual rights management discussed and the prototype of *Musicalia.lt* created.

**Community Informatics:** The main goal in field *Community Informatics* is support of rural communities to use information and communication technologies (ICT) for social, economical and cultural development.

The special attention for year’s 2005 will be in the field of *Community Informatics*. The main activity in this field prospective:

- creation motivation to use ICT;
- support skills necessary to formulate the community strategic aims, and ICT application to the aims fulfillment;
- influence the communities essential reorganizations in order to adjust to the knowledge based future;
- creation of the ICT usage friendly environment;
- formation of the ICT usage culture.

*Functions:* Investigation, development and adaptation of new information technologies to specific needs of the humanities and rural communities.

Education and training of people in the humanities and rural area communities to use advanced information technologies.

*Services:*

- Delivering of education and training courses on topics of advanced information technologies to people in the humanities and rural communities.
- Providing users with information technology based resources.
- Developing multimedia – based projects, consultations.

Rural communities in Lithuania are already attempting to employ information and communication technologies (ICT) in their activities. Insufficient computer and internet access, low computer literacy and lack of relevant information and internet services are among the problems that are currently being solved with the assistance of the government and business community. However, when training adults, the government and businesses focus on the basic skills of computing.

Computer literacy is an essential condition for the successful use of ICTs, however it is not sufficient. The inability of the adult population to make use of current ICT possibilities, to integrate them into daily personal or communal activities, and their passive disposition towards ICT use, are the most problematic issues.

Aiming to foster use of ICT in rural areas for economic, social, cultural and civic activities, the *Open Society Fund–Lithuania* – the UNESCO Chair of Informatics for Humanities at the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics along with its partners and Centre for Social Studies at Vilnius University.

Activity purpose:
• Developing digital competence, resulting in the ability of rural communities to integrate ICT possibilities into daily activities;

• Strengthening the inter-community communication of socially isolated rural communities, as well as communication with different organizations and institutions through the use of computer network possibilities;

• Making an impact on the policy of central and local governments, resulting in stronger support for digital development in rural areas.

The main activities in 2005 were: fostering rural communities to use the possibilities of ICT; developing communication and partnership networks, intensively using ICT; setting-up and developing the web portal www.bendruomenes.lt to strengthen relations between communities, local media, and community support organisations; developing the media literacy of members of rural communities.

Training

Learning Centre with Mini Video Studio:

The main object of the Learning Centre is increasing of capabilities and motivation of rural communities peoples, using information technology facilities in order to improve their living quality. - Second, Webcasting of workshops, lectures, training courses discussions and other events on the internet.

Using information technologies, courses and workshops for rural communities were begun to be prepared. The content of lectures was meant for training an understanding about the abilities of information technologies in education, economy, culture, public relations, civil activities, health, poverty reduction, and other fields and to make use of them.

Lectures and seminars are presented not only in the studio, in a stationary environment, but also on trips, at the site of communities or events meant for them that are held in various state or public organizations.

Software meant for webcasting on the internet was improved by presenting in two windows:

• images of a lecturer,
• slides, board, picture of the audience.

Using this software, seminars, lectures, and other sessions that take place at the Learning Studio, are webcasted. The webcasting material is stored in a computer for a later broadcast at the time desirable by spectators and for distribution on compact disks.

2.Conferences/Meetings

3. Inter-university exchanges

- Centre for Social Studies, Vilnius University, Lithuania.
- Open Society Fund – Lithuania.
- Cross Czech; Okresni Muzeum v Klatovech; Zakladni skola v Chanovicich, Czech Republic.
- CiberEspacio; Digital Heritage Museum; Colegio Nosa Sra do Faro, Spain.
- Zentrum für Graphische Datenverarbeitung, Germany.
- Friderico Francisceum Gymnasium Bad Doberan, Germany.
- Fraunhofer Gesellschaft zur angewandten Forschung, Germany.
- Institute for Advanced Management Systems Research IAMSR/Abo Akademy University, Finland.
- Zakladni skola v Chanovicich Chanovice 1, 341 01 Horazdovice, Czech Republic.
- Vilnius Minties Gymnasia Erfurto 23, 2049 Vilnius, Lithuania.
- iTEL, Informatics & Telematics Ltd/ R&D Unit, Athens, Greece.
- Cultural and Educational Technology Institute (CETI), Xanthi, Greece.
- Business Systems International SA, Athens, Greece.
- Narcea Producciones Multimedia S.L, Madrid, Spain.
- Videostudio of Rezekne Higher School, Latvia.
- Kolonasata museum of Fr. Trasuns, Latvia.
- Graphical data processing centre, Rostock, Germany.
- Public Company Visoriai Information Technologies Park.
- Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences.

II. Impact

The Chair has demonstrated that the potential of rural inhabitants to modernize and use ICT have been under-estimated. There are people in rural areas who are eager to master new forms of activities, generate and apply new knowledge and use the new tools. They are also capable of mastering IT possibilities, not only as consumers of information and services, but also as creators and providers of information. As our observation shows, community organizations, by modernizing their activities, undergo certain transformations:

- they become learning organization’ with significantly enhanced capabilities to absorb new knowledge;
- they become change agents in the local community;
- they become public relation organizations capable of spreading information about themselves in various ways, including the use of IT;
- they establish communication networks with other organizations and become ‘moderators’ and ‘maintainers’ of these networks;
- with the help of network and public relation activities, community organizations successfully accumulate social capital allowing them to enhance their power, which results in:
  - a bigger influence on the decisions of local government;
  - a more favourable environment for local initiatives;
- attracting outside resources for strengthening the capacities of the
community.

Publications


L. Telksnis. Kaimiškų vietovių informacinių technologijų plačiaujostis tinklas RAIN. (Rural Area Interconnection to the Broadband IT Network (RAIN)). Konferencija Skaitmeninių bendruomenių link, Vilnius, 2005-11-11.

Dainius Blynas, Open Society Fund-Lithuania; Dr. Kęstutis Juškevičius, Open Society Fund-Lithuania, Institute of Mathematics and Informatics; Dr. Arūnas Poviliūnas, Centre for Social Studies, Vilnius University; Ugnė Rutkauskienė, Open Society Fund-Lithuania; and Professor Laimutis Telksnis.


Multimedia materials

The Chair was involved in webcasting material for 9 events, 66 video and audio records in total were prepared, the general duration of which was 15h.

The list of multimedia materials are presented in the tables. See also www.mch.mii.lt