

INTERNET CENTER IN BABUSNICA – A NEW PLACE FOR YOUTH GATHERINGS



Dejan Lazarevic, Babusnica Internet Center Administrator



"Our primary aim is a filled Center" – Young people from Babusnica queuing for a free computer

BABUSNICA, SERBIA – A dream finally came true for Dejan Lazarevic: to be surrounded with computers! Through successful cooperation between CHF and citizens of Babusnica, dreams came true for other young people in Babusnica as well – to have an Internet centre in their town and be connected with young people worldwide. CHF recently within the Community Revitalization through Democratic Action Program (CRDA), supported the opening of an internet centre with 12 modern computers in Babusnica.

Babusnica is a small town in the southeast of Serbia, remote from big city centers. In the entire town there is a little over 5.000 people, and a big percentage of its inhabitants are unemployed. Young people in Babusnica, besides cafes, do not have any other opportunities to gather and have fun. Very few people have computers in their homes, and not even a hint of an internet connection...

Dejan Lazarevic is married and has a two-year old child. His interests go beyond the possibilities such a small town can offer. He plays basketball and tennis, listens to classical and punk music, loves to read and is interested in politics. He is very active in his community. Even before CHF came to Babusnica, Dejan started an NGO Green Earth with his friends in which they tried to make positive changes in their

community. After CHF came, Dejan was chosen by his fellow townsmen as their representative in the Community Development Council (CDC), where he became one of the most active members and from the very beginning of cooperation with CHF waked to realize the Internet Center Project.

Dejan does not hide his enthusiasm with the work of the Internet Center so far: "This has exceeded all our expectations. We emptied many cafes by opening the Internet Center. We work at full steam: for now we have 140 members in our users club, and there is an ongoing training for all interested and people are always queuing to work on computers". The Internet Center enabled three young unemployed people in Babusnica to find job and many young people to learn the basic steps for work on computers.

Dejan Lazarevic believes that much has changed since CHF came to Babusnica: "Some projects which we couldn't finish for years are now being finished. We planned to asphalt streets; build a playground for various sports...What makes these jobs easier is the accessibility and openness of people who work in CHF. However, most importantly, everyone can suggest a good project or idea and anyone is equally important", says Dejan.

For more information on Babusnica Internet Centre, please contact them through email internetcaffe@email.co.yu.