

EUROPEAN UNION GRANTS ADVISOR

# Microsoft Learning Partner Receives Funds to Train Thousands



“In this day and age, it is very important to have IT skills. Using these funds, we will be able to provide thousands of Czech citizens with the skills they need to ensure that the Czech Republic continues to grow.”

Petr Cabadaj, General Manager,  
Mipecom

## FAST FACTS »

### Situation

Microsoft® Certified Learning Partner Mipecom wanted to provide basic IT skills training for Czech citizens. With this in mind, it developed a project that offers free basic computer literacy training to the general public. The course explains computer terminology and teaches students how to use a mouse, navigate through Microsoft Windows®, and use e-mail. After completing the course, students are offered advanced courses for a reduced fee. Mipecom traditionally targets specific groups of students—mainly disabled people—and helps them not only to gain the knowledge, but use it in their new jobs.

### Solution

In an effort to make Europe the most competitive knowledge-based economy in the world by 2010, the European Union (EU) offers financial support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) such as Mipecom to develop IT training and education programmes. The EUGA programme encourages SMEs to take advantage of the available funds to help increase their business and improve the local economy. A EUGA consultant helped match Mipecom's business objectives to the right grant. In January 2006, Mipecom was awarded a grant of €150,000 (U.S.\$193,000) from the Ministry of Informatics. Using the funds, Mipecom was able to rent space and computer hardware, as well as pay trainers' salaries. An estimated 4,000 people will be trained over the course of one year.

### Benefits

- Mipecom awarded a grant of €150,000.
- Approximately 4,000 people receive computer literacy training.
- Czech Republic increases global competitiveness.