



## **ROMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND**

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### **BRASOV BRANCH**

500014 Brasov, 106 Castelului Street; Phone/fax: ++4-0368-429.123  
Phone: ++4-0268-478.328; E-mail: [bvanvr@gmail.com](mailto:bvanvr@gmail.com); Web: [www.anvrbv.3x.ro](http://www.anvrbv.3x.ro)

### **INTERNET CAFÉ AND ELECTRONIC LIBRARY FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED**

The opening of the country's first internet café for visually impaired people will take place on May 17, 2006, at the head office of the Brasov Association of the Blind. The facility will provide all the necessary conditions to ensure the web access for the visually impaired people, being used in the same time as reading room for the association's electronic library. The access to the provided services will be free for the association's members. During the opening ceremony the association will also launch its official web site [www.anvrbv.3x.ro](http://www.anvrbv.3x.ro).

"The only light you can provide for a blind person is the light of knowledge. The access to modern information and communication technologies will represent a big step towards exiting from the isolation endured by most of the blind people and will allow a better communication between the visually impaired people and the society in which they have to integrate" stated Mr. Virgil Lazar, President of the Brasov Association of the Blind.

The room where the new internet café will be opened has three networked computers, all equipped with voice synthesizers and screen readers to make their operation accessible for the visually impaired people. Aided by these computers, the visually impaired people will have the possibility to surf on the web and to use modern communication tools, as the e-mail, instant messaging and web phone services.

The computers equipment also permits their use for reading books in all the common electronic formats, giving the possibility to access the electronic library of the association to the visually impaired people whom don't possess the necessary hardware to do that at home. This library contains at this time over 1,200 titles and is constantly expanded.

By establishing a permanent presence on the web, symbolized by the launch of its own web site, the Brasov Association of the Blind aims to popularize its goals and activities, as a mean to obtain funding for its current activities and future projects and as a mean to reach its goal to contribute to the integration in the society of the visually impaired people.

Also, through the planned future developments for the site, the Brasov Association of the Blind desires to improve communication with its partners, non-governmental and governmental organizations, and with its own members, by offering the most effective support possible, in a permanently accessible manner.

### **About the Brasov Association of the Blind**

Established in 1961 as a branch of the Romanian Association of the Blind, the Brasov Association of the Blind is a non-governmental organization of public utility, with social-cultural, educational, sportive and humanitarian profile, based mainly on volunteering. Always promoting the principles of total freedom and democracy, the Brasov Association of the Blind acts for the integration of visually impaired people in the economic, social-professional, cultural-artistic and sportive life of the county. For more information access [www.anrbv.3x.ro](http://www.anrbv.3x.ro).

#### Contact

Virgil Lazar

President – Brasov Association of the Blind

106 Castelului Street, Brasov

Phone: +4 0368 42.91.23, +4 0268 47.83.28

Fax: +4 0368 42.91.23

Mobile: 0722 25.25.08

[bvanvr@gmail.com](mailto:bvanvr@gmail.com)