



## **ROMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND BRASOV BRANCH**

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### **THE NEW COMPUTER OPERATOR COURSES FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED STARTED WITH THE FIRST SERIES**

Announced from the beginning of this October, the new computer operator courses for visually impaired people, organized by the Brasov Association of the Blind as the first form of permanently available education for blind people in Romania, attracted a great interest from the potential beneficiaries. As a consequence the available places for the first series were filled in less than three weeks and the courses started on October 23.

„All the trainees from this first series are very interested and passionate about computers. This passion, the opening toward the world and the practically unlimited access to information offered now by the modern computer technology even for visually impaired people fueled the trainees desire to grab the opportunity given them by the Brasov Association of the Blind” stated Lavinia Bobu, trainer in the Brasov Association of the Blind’s IT & Training Department.

The trainees use the computers from the association’s internet café, which was reconfigured, optimized and re-equipped, offering now four computers prepared to meet the new demands. So every day between 12 and 15 the internet café is transformed into a classroom equipped with the latest advances in access technology, in order to provide optimal learning conditions for the trainees.

The courses are based on the ECDL Start syllabus, acknowledged in over 140 countries throughout the world, and beside the basic modules (The basics of Information Technology, Windows, Word, Internet and Communication) the visually impaired students having the benefit of a special module to get accustomed with the keyboard and a slightly altered course manual in order to include the concepts needed to use the screen reader and voice synthesizer programs which make the operation of a standard PC accessible to them.

These courses represent a first step towards the Brasov Association of the Blind’s objective to offer a wide range of personal and professional development courses for the visually impaired adults from the county. This range will be soon extended, as the Association also plans to organize mobility, English, Braille reading and reflex-therapy courses.

**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.nevazatoribrasov.ro/en](http://www.nevazatoribrasov.ro/en).

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