

Cooperation reduces digital complexity

The PIKSL laboratory empowers persons with mental disabilities to partner with scientists and to teach the elderly how to use PCs and the internet. Together they reduce complexity and develop products which help to overcome digital barriers.

«The expertise of our team is always needed whenever our complicated world needs simple solutions.»
(Tobias MARCZINZIK)

PIKSL

Organisation:	In der Gemeinde leben gGmbH
Country/region of origin:	Germany
Beneficiaries targeted:	Persons with intellectual disabilities
Approach/model/solution:	Computer and internet learning laboratory, knowledge sharing, scientific research

FACTS & FIGURES

- Involved in 10 research and development projects
- Currently 2 inclusive training courses for elderly persons, free of charge
- 60 persons per week use the laboratory facilities to practice
- Awards received: Ausgewählter Ort 2012, 'Germany – Land of Ideas', Ort des Fortschritts in NRW 2012

PROBLEMS TARGETED

Persons with disabilities face digital barriers in nearly everything they do. They know exactly what is too complex to understand or too difficult to make use of and therefore are experts in helping to overcome this digital divide.

PROJECT

In the PIKSL lab persons with mental disabilities learn to deal independently with computers and the internet. With the knowledge they gain they become teachers for the elderly or other persons with disabilities. They also become partners for scientists, developers, and designers to create assistance tools, simplify complex communications technology and make it more accessible.

CURRENT SITUATION & OUTLOOK

The experts in the PIKSL laboratory are currently involved in approximately 10 research projects to develop barrier-free products. In cooperation with students from the University of Dusseldorf, the PIKSL team develop a pictorial language to allow typing on a PC. The idea: if you cannot read or write, words can be built up of symbols. With a few clicks even illiterate persons can type straight away. Another project is in cooperation with Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg to simplify ATMs and train ticket and stamp vending machines. Embedding the needs and rights of people with disabilities in the development of future information and communication technology will lead to more simplification.



Screenshot of the Content Management System based on symbols and pictorial language.

CONTACT Mr. Tobias MARCZINZIK
PIKSL-Labor, Erkrather Straße 107
40233 Düsseldorf, Germany
+49 211 60 20 789
Tobias.Marczinzik@igl-Duesseldorf.de
www.piksl.net

EXPERT VOTING Top marks from:
• NGO voters

Nominated by: Rolf DRESCHER, Bundesverband Evangelischer Behindertenhilfe E.V.