



Professionals and their interpreters in multilingual societies

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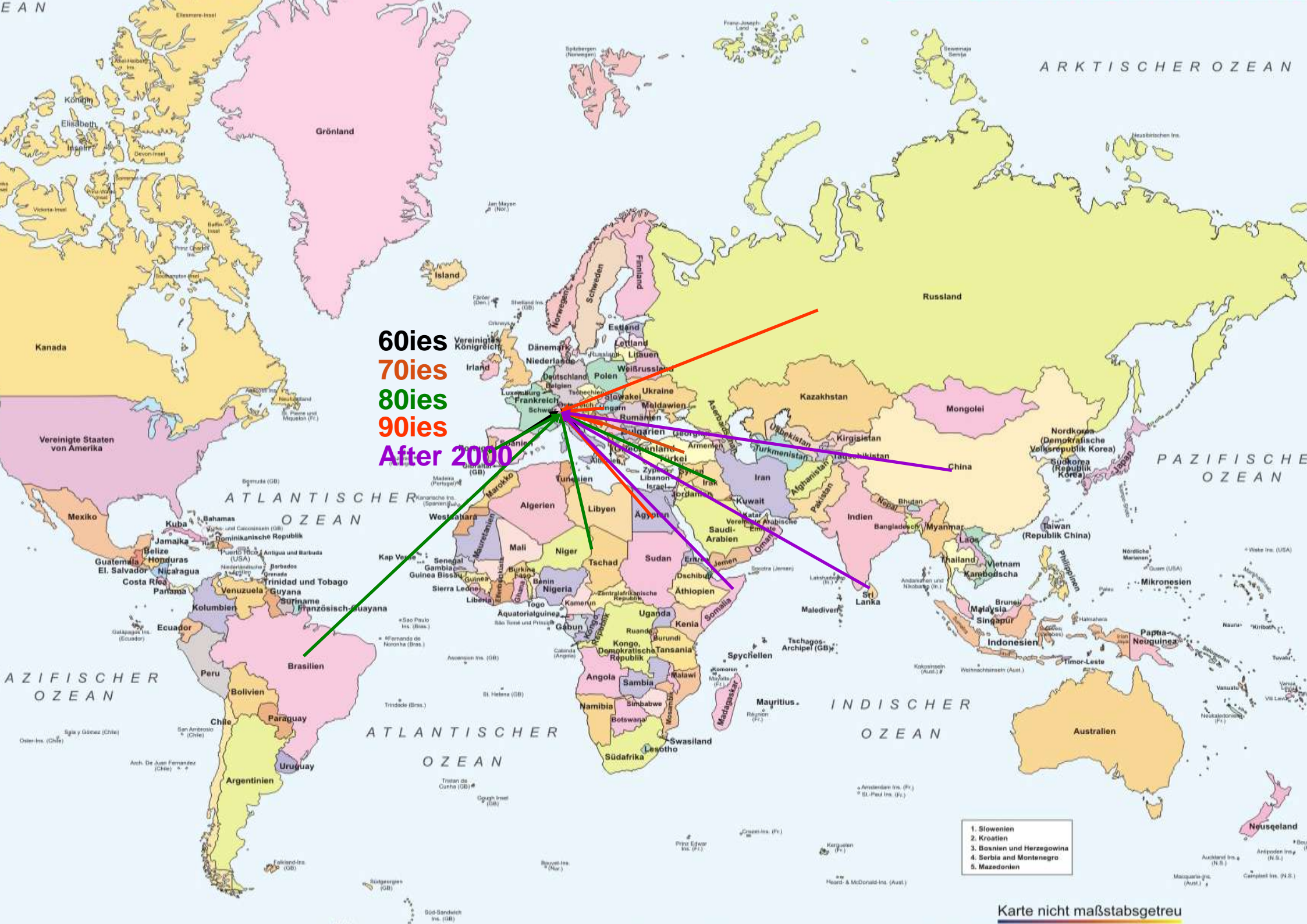
Zurich University of Applied Sciences

Centre for Continuing Professional Education



Overview of presentation

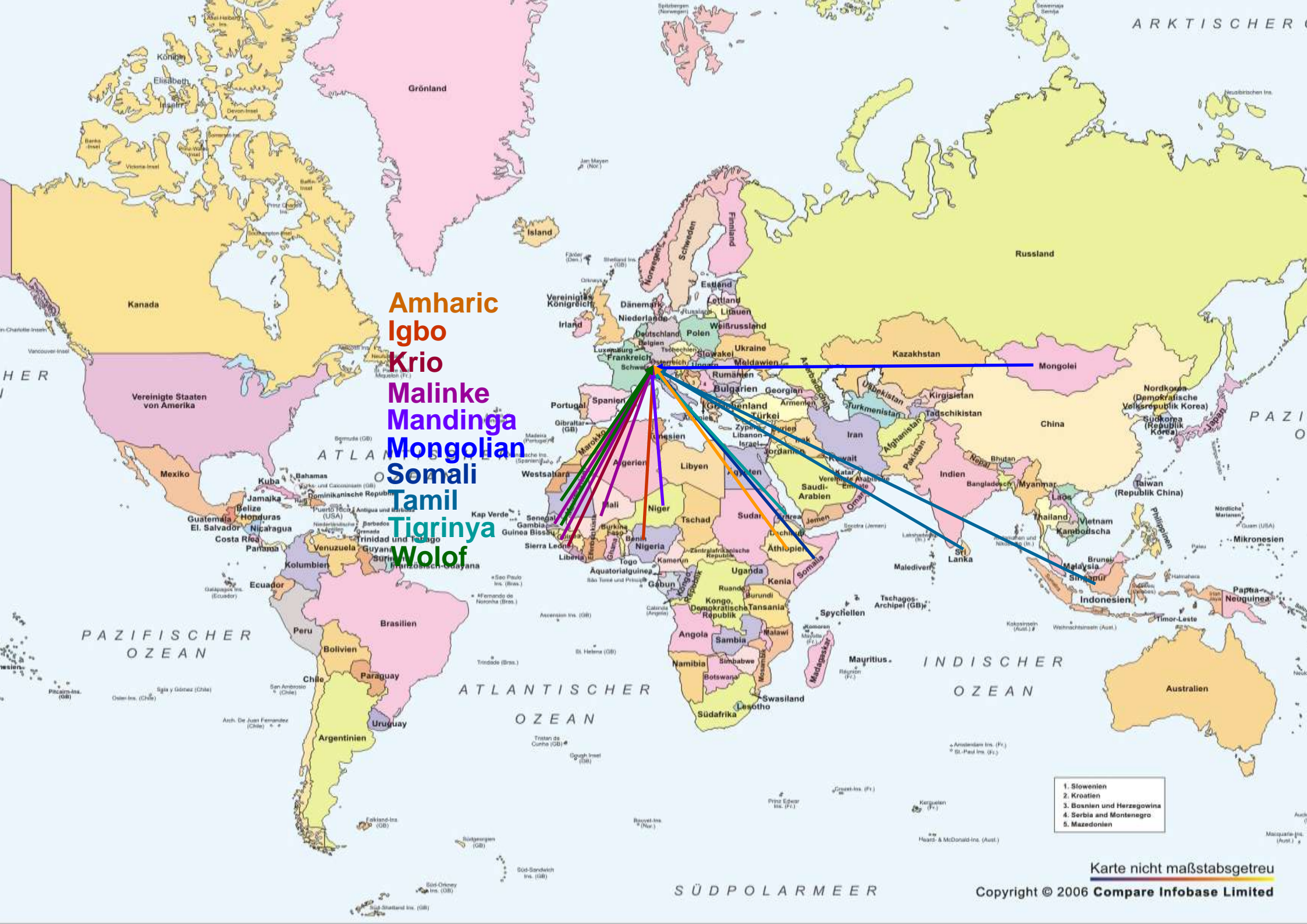
- Development of training programs for legal interpreters
- Cooperation with the Working Group for interpreting of the Canton of Zurich
- Admission procedures in the Canton of Zurich
- Outline of different courses
- New developments
- Outlook



60ies
 70ies
 80ies
 90ies
 After 2000

1. Slowenien
2. Kroatien
3. Bosnien und Herzegowina
4. Serbien und Montenegro
5. Mazedonien

Karte nicht maßstabsgetreu



Amharic
Igbo
Krio
Malinke
Mandinga
Mongolian
Somali
Tamil
Tigrinya
Wolof

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SÜDPOLARMEER

Situation in the Canton of Zurich in 1999

Interpreting for legal authorities

Requirement

- No police record
- Swiss citizenship or residence (Niederlassung^{re})

Registration

- No clear regulations
- Several registers in the Canton of Zurich

Situation in the Canton of Zurich in 1999 (2)

Languages

- 120 languages
- Most frequent languages: Albanian, English, Serbian/Croatian/Bosnian, Portuguese, Spanish, French, Turkish

1999 political intervention

On account of salary CHF 250'000 in the previous year for an Albanian interpreter

Salary justified  discussion on quality commences

Cooperation with clients (police, prosecution, courts)

1999: Founding of a working group (called Fachgruppe Dolmetscherwesen of the canton of Zurich in German) initiated by the Council of Justice of the canton of Zurich

2000: Decision on cooperation with Institute of Translation and Interpreting
Training design

- Course length: 2 days
- Target audience: legal interpreters (untrained practitioners, few exceptions)
- Trainers: legal practitioners (prosecutor, judge)/conference interpreters

Practical questions arising from

- Trainers
 - language-independent courses?
 - heterogeneity of participants?
 - design of exercises?

- Clients
 - 10 golden rules for interpreters?
 - number of participants?
 - testing methods?

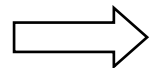
- Course participants
 - compatibility with practice at work?
 - too much theory taught by conference interpreters?
 - note-taking practice?
 - course length vs. course outcome?

Main points of discussion

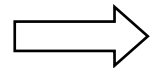
- Training target
- Training content
- Examinations

Training target

- To reinforce background knowledge of law and legal procedure
- To improve understanding of interpreting process
- To finetune interpreting skills (language-independent)



Interdisciplinary



Introduction of professional standards for court interpreters

Content

Purpose of **Basic Course**

Legal strand: introduction to criminal and civil law

Interpreting strand: Ethical principles, professional conduct, introduction to interpreting techniques, consecutive practice (DE-DE) incl. Introduction to note-taking, breathing and voice training

Basis for the interpreting strand: International literature (Colin&Morris, Driesen, Hale, Kadric, Mikkelson)

Exam

- Legal part** 71 questions (multiple choice)
- Interpreting part** newspaper articles with legal background, consecutive practice (DE-DE), 200 words
Questions on ethics, professional conduct and interpreting techniques

Enforcing compulsory training programs

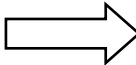
Clients' side

- Prosecutor and judge (Fachgruppe Dolmetscherwesen) favourable opinion on training
- Police (Fachgruppe Dolmetscherwesen) rather reluctant (fear of losing interpreters, see exams)
- Average view on training: Slow top-down process of growing acceptance of need of training

Interpreters' side

- Interdisciplinary training framework was appreciated
- Reluctance on the part of «experienced» interpreters (fear of high standards of conference interpreters, aversion to theoretical parts)
- Overwhelming wish for registration of «new» interpreters because of training

High client expectation

- Precision as to content (word for word!)
 - Completeness of interpreting
 - Linguistic competence in 2 or more languages (grammar, vocabulary, register)
 - Cultural background
 - Terminological expertise
 - Specialised knowledge and vocabulary
-
- No training programs for legal interpreters in Switzerland before 2003 (apart from institutional training offered by **welfare organizations for medical interpreters ok**) dialogue  involving all settings into the framework of standards by Eulita
 - No tradition of research in Switzerland in the field of legal interpreting

Outcomes of Basic course

Number of interpreters reduced from 1000 legal interpreters (2003 – 2006) to 550 (2007)

- Number of languages reduced from 120 to 80
- Registration by Advisory Panel following examination

Attainment of a minimal quality standard **by means of selection**

Participants who fail: are temporarily or permanently struck off the register

Conclusions Part I

Cooperation/Transdisciplinarity leads to

- higher awareness of all aspects of interpreting and translation
- among all the stakeholders
- awareness of the need for common aims

Programme for legal interpreters (level 2)

Intermediate course (56 lessons)

Concept: consolidation of interpreting skills with all the subcompetencies

- Consecutive de/de, note taking, whispering, sight translation, ethics, breathing techniques and voice training, internet research techniques
- Oral exam: interpreting (consecutive de/de, sight translation, professional conduct)

Programme for legal interpreters (level 3)

Certificate course (150 lessons)

Concept based on interdisciplinarity

- Special knowledge: Criminal Law, Civil Law, Aliens Law, Procedural Law etc.
- Consolidation of interpreting skills (note taking, consecutive de/de, whispering, sight translation, ethics, breathing techniques and voice training), internet research techniques, written translation
- Oral exam interpreting (consecutive de/de, professional conduct, sight translation)
- Written exam: special knowledge, translation of a legal document (B language into A language); 70% of interpreters also translate

Module 1 Specialised knowledge	- Introduction to legal interpreting
	- Legal professions
Module 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- General law- Criminal law- Public law- Penal procedures law- Family law- Alien law- Public welfare law- Theory of translation (in language groups)- Workshop (legal translations)

Module 3 Interpreting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Interpreting- Consecutive translation (note-taking technique)- Sight translation- Whispering
Module 4 Terminology/Research- techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Terminology- Drawing up glossaries- Research techniques
Module 5 (Intercultural) communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Voice training- Conducting negotiations
Module 6 Translation Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Translation Theory- Guidelines- Translation Practice (language-specific)
Certificate	Written and oral exams

Outcomes of Intermediate course and Certificate course

- Growing interest of participants
- Qualifying examinations

Pass rates

56 % at Intermediate level

78 % at Certificate level (international exchange)

Certificate mentioned in register of Advisory Panel

Attainment of higher quality standards **by means of training**

ETCS

- Basic Course 1
- Intermediate Course 3
- CAS 15

Conclusions Part II

Principles of teaching programmes

- Structured curricula (3 levels)
- Interdisciplinary teaching staff: conference interpreters (practitioner/pedagogical experience) and legal experts

Training for clients

Aims

- To document
 - multifaceted nature of interpreting
 - complexity of interpreting process
- To identify areas of conflict
 - rendering of completeness of utterances
 - differences in legal interpreters' and clients' perceptions of the interpreter's role and activities

Test after complaints

Clients of police, prosecution, courts report to Fachgruppe

Test of 1 hour

- Talk on a legal subject in both languages 20 minutes
- Consecutive interpreting
20 minutes
- Sight translation (versions) 20 minutes

- **Results**

total	17
recommended	5
not recommended	9

Growing interest of clients in test

New developments: Basic course 2

- 2008: Advisory Group decides on additional course
- Focus on language B (EN, FR, Serbian/Croatian, Bosnian)
- Sight translation (Daten aus Fragebogenerhebung einfügen, falls sinnvoll)
- Short consecutive (EN, FR, Serbian/Croatian, Bosnian, version from DE and into DE)

New developments: Content

Interpreting mode	Situation	Types of text	versions
Sight translation (The participants are given a text to be interpreted into the target language)	prosecution/court	Indictment, penal order	EN – DE, DE-EN
Short consecutive	prosecution/court	News, questioning trials	EN-DE, DE-EN
Questioning without note-taking (A realistic situation in the prosecutor's office/court room)	role play with a prosecutor/judge	Realistic situations: Indictment, penal order	

Conclusions

Professionalisation leads to

- Wider acknowledgment of guidelines for legal interpreters
- More detailed knowledge about legal interpreting as a professional activity
- Better understanding of the need for training programs
- More and better qualified interpreters