

WELCOME &

Introduction to the TermTrain project & the IFAP programme of UNESCO

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"South Africa has eleven official languages. The challenge is to translate this constitutional provision into living reality."

(Dr Pallo Jordan, South Africa's Minister of Arts and Culture)





Terminology training - to empower people to translate human rights into reality – Example: enable access to legal and other public information in people's mother tongues.

Welcome to Terminology



- The language we use and need to understand in public and business life is less "general language" than "specialized language"
- characterized by the terms of the respective subject fields
- e.g. legal texts, parliament speeches, court terminology, science and technology, etc.

Content & Overview



- •What is TermTrain & the IFAP Programme of UNESCO?
- Background and Relevance for RSA and African Countries
- Administrative issues
- Conclusions





TermNet's Project Manager since 1999

Director since 2002

Executive Secretary since 2005



Responsible for Management, Projects & PR

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- Full project name:
 - "Design and implementation of practice oriented terminology trainings for two groups of information professionals:
 - 1) ICT trainers and 2) language trainers in language communities of Africa (TermTrain)"

What is TermTrain?



- A pilot project for capacity-building in African countries
- submitted within UNESCO's intergovernmental Programme Information for All (IFAP)
- co-financed by UNESCO and project partners
- initiated and managed by TermNet





- IFAP provides a platform for international projects and guidelines for action on:
- preservation of information and universal access to it;
- ■participation of all in the emerging global information society → INFORMATION LITERACY
- ethical, legal and societal consequences of ICT developments.





Main argument of and for TermTrain:

The ability to understand and create specialized language and specialized knowledge – i.e. terminology – is a *key qualification of information professionals*.

"There is no information literacy without terminology literacy."





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Important part of the translation of a "constitutional provision into living reality": to develop terminology in the indigenous languages of African languages communities.



Background

Impressing example of applied terminology: TISSA = "Telephone **Interpreting Service for South Africa**" being an initiative of the National Language Service (NLS) within the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) and jointly funded by the Pan South African Language Board (PANSALB).





- Terminology and terminology development and management play a crucial role in services such as TISSA.
- → Without terminology training and terminological methods and tools, the interpreter would not be able to do his or her challenging and most important job.





- Ambitious projects of terminology development in RSA, such as the project performed by the Unit for isiXhosa in Stellenbosch University's Language Centre: to develop isiXhosa as an academic language.
- ■Mr Pumlani Sibula head of the unit.



Background

Examples of encouraging results and developments in the field of ICT and HLT, e.g.: The Centre for Text Technology at the North West University in South Africa has released four new spellcheckers in indigenous languages -Setswana, isiZulu, isiXhosa and Sesotho sa Leboa.

TermTrain



- Another piece of the puzzle of terminology activities in RSA
- Overall goal:
- To perform a train-the-trainer pilot project for capacity-building in the field of specialized language and specialized knowledge for language communities in Africa.

TermTrain



- Specified target groups after kick-off meeting in September 2005:
- those most relevant and professional trainers of languages and ICT who act as subject advisors and curriculum facilitators on behalf of Governmental departments.



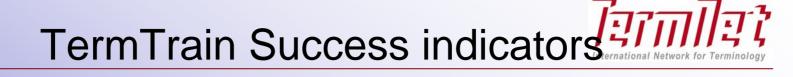
Specific Objectives

- to adapt and develop practice oriented and tailored terminology trainings
- to perform, evaluate and fine-tune two terminology training courses with a maximum of 25 participants from RSA & SADC countries per course



Specific Objectives

- to reach sustainability and multiplying effects
 - by establishing an expert and trainer pool
 - by disseminating and promoting the project results via the worldwide networks and multipliers



- Continuation of training courses after the end of the project (min. 1 course per year in or with focus on African countries)
- Sustainability reached by an expert and trainer pool containing min. 10 regional and 10 International experts which is permanently hosted at a partners' website, growing by 2 regional and 2 International experts every year

Partners



- NLS/DAC
- PanSALB
- AFRILEX
- StanSA
- University of Vienna
- Lessius Hogeschool (Antwerp, Belgium)
- iim (Cologne, Germany)
- TermNet (Vienna, Austria)

Partners



- Many thanks to all partners of TermTrain, in particular to
- NLS –main co-funding partner & TermNet member
- SABS / StanSA our host

Participants



- Thank you for joining us
- sharing your knowledge with us
- making TermTrain a lively and fruitful event for all trainees and trainers.



- TermTrain shows the role and relevance of Terminology in multilingual information society:
- TermTrain is one of 24 approved projects out of 502 project proposals (!) submitted to the IFAP Bureau by organizations all over the world



- Eight of the projects approved concern Africa
- other interesting projects in African and South African Countries
- e.g. IFAP 2005/595 South Africa
 Establishing Information Literacy
 Competence Levels of Library Workers
- create synergies and cooperation



- →in a highly multicultural and multilingual knowledge and information society some of the most important "key qualifications" are:
- Specialized language & communication skills
- Multilingual and intercultural skills

 (also with respect to management skills, e.g. international project management and content management)



- Terminology skills a key qualification of information professionals and language practitioners, particularly in RSA and SADC
- applies to all levels of information and knowledge creation, storing and processing
- ranging from basic terminology teaching to applied terminology in sophisticated Information and Communication Technology (ICT) industries and Human Language Technologies (HLT).



2 Administrative Issues

Needed for the UNESCO report:

- Participants List
- Evaluation forms:
 please give us feedback at the end of every training day

Conclusions



- TermTrain could be a starting point for continuous terminology train-the-trainer initiatives in RSA
- Curricula could be used and further developed for standardized terminology trainings
- Provide additional qualification and new chances for language, ICT and and terminology workers

ENJOY!



- Wish you interesting days of gathering and sharing knowledge with us
- •We all look forward to your comments, questions and feedback!

Thank you very much for your attention!