

# SP 1 Consultation 2005

## First trends & tendencies

TNP 3 - SP1

Languages for language-related  
industries and professions

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# State of play

The issues of language use and language expertise seem to be in a state of flux:

- Political level: EU enlargement; reducing the cost of multilingualism
- Economic level: globalisation; increase in multilingual communication; English as a *lingua franca*
- Technological changes: new opportunities; increased productivity
- Advanced language skills more commonplace and, therefore, less valuable?



## Main trends & tendencies

- The changing professional environment
- The need for HEIs to reflect on and react to the changing professional needs in their academic contexts
- The development of close relationships between higher education and the professional environment



# The changing professional environment

- Translation, including technical writing and localisation, and interpreting are not clear-cut categories of work
- Language experts typically find themselves in jobs with several areas of responsibility such as translation combined with terminology work, project mgmt, or foreign sales and marketing
- Increasing amount of revision and editing
- Foreign language corporate communication
- Intercultural mediation and consulting
- Computer literacy and knowledge of special applications
- Non-linguistic tasks



# The need for HEIs to reflect and react to changes

- Changes in environment should be reflected in HE curricula, learning outcomes and competence profiles
- The employers and graduates seem to agree on what are key linguistic skills and competences needed in the profession



## Non-linguistic areas of expertise

- Project work and team work integrated into the study programme (project mgmt)
- Preparation of assignments under time pressure
- Mock conferences and other mock settings
- Guest lectures and other sessions preparing students for the world of work
- Student project and thesis bringing in data from the socio-economic and professional environments and/or solving concrete tasks for a company / organisation



# Co-op between HE and the professional environment

- Work placements; knowledge of the world of work
- Experts from the professional environment as external examiners, members of (curriculum) advisory boards, guest lecturers and adjunct faculty
- Permanent fora of consultation

