

## GRAZ ASSESSMENT SEMINAR

### Conference interpreting assessment - from novice to professional

**April 5 – 6, 2008**

The seminar will be all day on April 5 and will end at 1pm on April 6.

Assessment is vital at all stages of a professional conference interpreting course, whether it be initial selection, for purposes of guiding and advising students during their training, final exams or subsequent evaluation by recruiters. Students need to develop self-assessment skills. Finally, courses must also accept assessment, by students, trainers and outside bodies, with a view to quality control and course improvement.

<b>APRIL 5</b> <b>9.30 – 12.30</b> <b>Session chaired by Clare Donovan</b>	
<p>Assessment is for the career not only for the study period. Constituency and best practices have been found but still failure rates remain high (25% pass rate for EU institutions). This is major problem because there is huge unmet demand for conference interpreters and number of good candidates is limited. Point of seminar is not for some people to preach to others but to have series of presentations triggering discussion.</p>	
	<b>The Recruiters' Perspective</b>
	Recruiters will be invited to give their point of view: do graduates meet their requirements? What are the strengths and their weaknesses of novice interpreters?. We are hoping to have input from the European Court of Justice, the European Parliament, the Commission and the OECD.
	<b>Brian Fox</b> <b>Conference interpreting assessment “An employer’s feedback – SCIC”</b>
	<b>Olga Cosmidou</b> <b>The Point of View of the European Parliament</b>

**APRIL 5**  
**2 – 5.30**  
**Session chaired by Christine Adams**

<b><u>Assessment Approaches and Criteria</u></b>	
	Focus of discussion: What should trainers be assessing and how? Different types of assessment.
	<b>- Assessment Criteria Revisited</b> Alessandra Riccardi, Trieste
	<b>- L'évaluation en cours de formation.</b> Malgorzata Tryuk, Warsaw
	<b>- Approaches to Professional performance and quality</b> Marianna Sunnari, Turku
<b><u>Interim Assessment</u></b>	
	This session will address issues such as when and how to conduct interim testing. What is the purpose of such testing? Should interim evaluation be used for guidance only or also for selection?
	<b>- Experience with interim re-sits at Westminster</b> Christine Adams/Zoe Hewetson
	<b>- Experience at ESIT with interim testing</b> Clare Donovan
	<b>- Interim stages of Assessment</b> Zsuzsa Lang, Budapest

**APRIL 6**  
**9.00 – 1pm**  
**Session chaired by**

	<b><u>Ensuring consistency in assessment procedures</u></b>
	What can be done to ensure more consistency, particularly in selection and exam situations?
	<b>- Assessment by different user groups</b> Jana Rejskova, Prague
	<b>- Evaluation of exam material</b> Florika Griessner and Heike Lamberger, Graz
	<b>- Presentation : assessing presentation skills in interpreter training and during exams</b> Inge Baaring, Copenhagen
	<b><u>Student Self-Assessment</u></b>
	Students need to acquire self-assessment skills to progress during the course, but also subsequently throughout their careers. How can students internalise assessment criteria and apply realistic benchmarks to their performance?
	<b>- Discussion of a student peer assessment procedure</b> Christine Adams
	<b>- Enhancing interpreting students' ability to assess their own performance</b> Izabella Badiu, Cluj
	<b>- Helping students evaluate and define interpreting strategies in a realistic communication frame</b> Clare Donovan, Paris