

Localization Training in Brussels

Erasmushogeschool offers seminars in Software and Web Localization,
Technical Writing and Project Management

by Rita Temmerman and Martine Baetens

On 17 March 2000 the First Belgian Meeting on Localization was held on the premises of Erasmushogeschool Brussels (Department of Applied Linguistics). This event set off a consciousness raising process on the need for more professional input and assistance in the training of language professionals, i.e. translators, terminologists, project managers, localizers, etc. Now, two years later, initiator Martine Baetens is ready to launch a series of 12 full-day seminars as a first initiative of the newly created Localisation Training Centre. The focus is on recent developments in translation-specific

"LTC takes translators and translation agencies into the localizer's world and provides them with a better understanding of the work of the localization vendor."

core technology. For participants who enroll in the full program, the link which is created towards technical writing skills and project management contributes to a better understanding of the full localization process. This article informs you about LTC Brussels, its mission statement, its website, its training seminars and future plans.

The LTC is unique as a forum in the Benelux for people and organizations involved in professional language technology.

The Localisation Training Centre (<http://ltc.ehb.be>) provides courses and training in localization and facilitates seminars provided by software manufacturers. The LTC, which is affiliated with CVC (Centre for Special Language and Communication <http://ttk.ehb.be>) of the Erasmushogeschool, is situated in multilingual Brussels and ideally located to organize courses and workshops and to track the latest developments in the field of professional language technology.

Objectives of LTC

LTC is one of the founding members of LttN (Localisation Teaching and Training Network <http://lrc.csis.ul.ie>).

It has four main objectives:

- to offer an introduction to localization for newcomers in the language industry through the information provided on its website and via regular symposia and meetings with specialists;
- to promote integration of localization and technical communication courses in the curriculum of existing translators training departments;
- to bridge the gap between the language industry and the academic world and
- to promote and provide professional quality training.

Newcomers in the domain of localization and translation related technology

LTC takes translators and translation agencies into the localizer's world and provides them with a better understanding of the work of the localization vendor. Newcomers in the field are bound to be confused by the terms localization, internationalization, globalization. They should realize that software localization is not just about translation. It is in fact about adapting a product for a specific locale or country. To be successful in a fast changing technological environment, translators and everyone occupying a position in the language industry need to understand how globalization and internationalization of products (in particular software and websites) will affect their professional life.

Integration in the curriculum of translators

For the moment, most localization training is available only to professionals via in-house seminars. The academic world finds it difficult to respond to the need for properly trained translators. LTC wants to offer assistance to other universities and third level education institutions in integrating localization courses in the curriculum of translators, by providing information and counseling. The Department of Applied Linguistics of Erasmushogeschool, Brussels, has already accepted the challenge and has recently integrated two courses in localization in the translators' curriculum.

Course 1: *Introduction to Software Localization* provides an introduction to the specific terminology: localization - internationalization - globalization. Moreover, a history and overview of the localization

industry and the main players are introduced. The software components to be localized are explained: user interface, dialog boxes, menus, strings, online help and documentation. The actual processing of translation data is then discussed: the user interface (direct translation of the binary files with a specific localization tool, e.g. Alchemy Catalyst); the online help (depending on the format of the source files (rtf files in the case of Winhelp, html files in the case of HTML help) and the documentation (converting the DTP files into rtf files and back into DTP format). Finally, Software Quality Assurance is discussed: internationalization testing, functionality testing, linguistic and cosmetic testing and compatibility testing.

Course 2 : *Software Localization Tools* gives students hands-on practice with Alchemy Catalyst.

Corporate-academic partnership

LTC endeavors to raise the understanding of the concept of localization, not only on an academic level, but also in the Localization Industry. Therefore, LTC establishes links with localization professionals in order to circulate information and best practices. A forum is created where new technologies, ideas for research and new developments can be discussed. At the International Colloquium on Special Language and Language Technology organized in March 2001 by CVC in collaboration with Vrije Universiteit Brussel, speakers from the language industry and academics were given a forum and a chance to get acquainted. Reinhard Schäler, Director of the Localisation Research Centre at the University of Limerick, was one of the keynote speakers. More details on the colloquium program and on the corpo-

A forum is created where new technologies, ideas for research and new developments can be discussed.

rate partners' participation can be found on ttk.ehb.be/archief. The proceedings were published Temmerman, R. & M.

Translation Technology Seminars in Brussels Autumn 2002—Spring 2003

24 October 2002	Introduction to Software Development <i>Gert Van Assche (SDL Belgium)</i>
7 November 2002	Introduction to CAT & Terminology Management <i>Rita Temmerman & Arnout Horemans (Erasmushogeschool) Didier Lebrun (Hitext)</i>
21 November 2002	Introduction to Machine Translation <i>Patrick Vanderper (SDL Belgium)</i>
12 December 2002	The Localization Process <i>Bert Esselink (Lionbridge)</i>
5 December 2002	Introduction to Software Localization <i>Martine Baetens (Erasmushogeschool)</i>
16 January 2003	Web Architecture and Localization <i>Bert Esselink (Lionbridge)</i>
30 January 2003	Localizing GUI <i>Alchemy Catalyst Ireland</i>
13 February 2003	Localizing Online Help <i>Audrey Foody (Hitext), Ray Lloyd (Agfa-Gevaert)</i>
27 February 2003	Localizing Documentation + Graphics <i>Miek Sweertvaegher (SDL Belgium), Elke Menten (Sony ITE) and Caroline Emonts-Gast (Hitext)</i>
13 March 2003	Project Management <i>Anja Jacobs (SDL Belgium)</i>
27 March 2003	Technical Writing <i>Gert Troch (SDL Belgium)</i>
3 April 2003	Localizing for PDA <i>Daniel Zenou (Sony ITE)</i>

Lutjeharms (2001) *Trends in Special Language and Language Technology*
Antwerpen: Standaard Editions
ISBN 90 021 77 410.

LTC also organizes traineeships for students at e.g. Lionbridge, Hitext, Sony, SDL.

Quality postgraduate seminars

LTC will launch a series of professional language and localization technology seminars on 24 October 2002.

This program is intended for people with language experience (project managers, professional translators, linguists, lecturers in translation studies) who wish to keep

abreast of current developments in the language industry. Although the program is primarily intended for future specialists in the field, practicing localization managers and technical communicators may also find much of the content useful.

A designated computer laboratory is designed to provide hands-on experience to participants. All seminars are on Thursdays, from 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. and take place on the premises of the Department of Applied Linguistics, Erasmushogeschool Trierstraat 84 B-1040 Brussels Belgium.

Towards a Master's Program

In 2002 CVC executed a feasibility study on setting up a *Master's in Technical Com-*

munication and Localisation which resulted in a curriculum proposal. CVC and LTC are in the process of negotiating terms with the Brussels higher education authorities.

More information can be obtained from:
Localisation Training Centre Department of Applied Linguistics Trierstraat 84 - 1040 Brussels — Belgium, E-mail: Martine.Baetens@docent.ehb.be, Web: <http://ltc.ehb.be>.