

**WELCOME &**

**Introduction to the TermTrain  
project & the IFAP programme  
of UNESCO**

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(TermNet)**

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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)*

# Welcome

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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

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- 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

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

# Who is Gabriele Sauberer?

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TermNet's Project Manager since  
1999

Director since 2002

Executive Secretary since 2005

Responsible for Management,  
Projects & PR

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# What is TermTrain?

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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?

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- 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



# What is IFAP?

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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# TermTrain - Background

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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

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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).

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# Background

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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.

# Background

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- 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

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- 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.



- 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.

- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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

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

# Participants

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



# Relevance

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- 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

# Relevance

- 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

# Relevance

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→ 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)

# Relevance

- 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

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- 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 terminology workers

# ENJOY !

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- 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!