

NATIONAL REPORT 2005 - SLOVENIA

(January 2005 - December 2005)

Language training and related programmes in Slovenia organised by the School of Foreign Languages

A. Non-Intensive Specialised English Courses

1. Officer Training School (OTS)

Trainees: officer candidates

Students were divided into 3 groups at 3 different levels: SLP 3, SLP 2 and beginner level. This 60- hour non-intensive language training programme focused on developing language skills through military oriented topics and tasks.

SLP 3 and 2 students were provided training in the English language skills essential to successful professional performance in an international military environment. Students were exposed to authentic texts on general military topics to improve their military vocabulary and develop reading and listening skills. Students also practised writing a patrol report and operations order (OPORD), and giving a military Briefing. The course was based on in-house materials, Military English of Defence School of Languages (DSL) materials and DLI Army Topics.

Beginner students training focused on developing basic vocabulary and grammatical structures through military based reading and listening texts to develop passive awareness of general military vocabulary. This course was based on Campaign 1.

2. NCO School (Staff Course for NCO's)

Trainees: NCOs assigned to staff duties

Students received a 40-hour language training that was conducted in 2 groups/levels SLP 2 and SLP 1. The programme focused on developing language skills needed in a staff environment. Students were exposed to authentic materials and real-life tasks related to organising a visit (telephoning, preparing an itinerary and a C.V., writing a memo and a fax). The goals of the classroom activities were to encourage students' independence in the learning process and raise students' awareness of the strategies used when learning. The course was based on in-house developed materials, a selection from Business Basics (D. Grant, R. McLarty, OUP) for the lower group and International Business English for the Higher group.

3. NCO Course

Students received a 45-hour language training that was conducted in 3 groups/levels SLP 2 and SLP 1. They were exposed to authentic texts on general military topics to improve their military vocabulary and develop reading and listening skills. Students also practised real-life military tasks (writing a patrol report and reading and analysing operation orders). The course was based on in-house materials.

developed materials, Military English of Defence School of Languages materials and Campaign 1.

4. Senior Staff Course

Trainees: officers to be promoted to the rank of a major
Students received a 60-hour language training that was conducted in 2 groups/levels SLP 3 and SLP 1+. The programme focused on developing language skills needed in a staff environment. Students were exposed to authentic materials and real-life tasks such as conducting and participating in a meeting, delivering military briefings, and memo and report writing. The course was based on in-house developed materials, and selected materials from business English commercial course books (Effective Meetings, Effective Presentations - OUP).

B. Non-intensive General Language Courses

1. STANAG course SLP 1110 - 7 groups

The aim of this 300- hour non-intensive general English language course is to provide training in elementary L, S, and R skills. This course was based on Language in Use (*beginner and pre-intermediate*) course books. The course was taught by externally-contracted language teachers and DLI teachers at different locations throughout Slovenia. At the end students took STANAG 1 exam.

2. German STANAG course SLP 1110 - 1 group

A 300-hour combined German course (one intensive week per month); based on *Themen Neu I and II*; supplementary materials that include STANAG 6001 Level requirements, except for writing skills.

3. French non-intensive training programme

Three 300-hour French courses (one intensive week per month) :

- a) a beginners' course, based on CHAMPION I and teacher designed supplementary materials
- b) an intermediate course based on CHAMPION I et II and teacher designed supplementary materials
- c) a proficiency course for students who already have a good knowledge of French, based on PANORAMA III and authentic materials (press and media). At the end of the course students took a final exam (5-page essay and different tests in Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking skills).

C. Courses in SVN PfP Language Training Centre

1. Intensive English Course SLP 3332/3333 – 2 courses in 2 groups each

The purpose of this 480-hour course is to provide advanced intensive language course in accordance with SLP 3332. Topics covered included: General and military vocabulary, Grammar review, Listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills practice, Professional skills (telephoning, conducting and participating in meetings, working with the media, delivering military briefings, e-mails, faxes & memos) and Learner training.

At the end of the courses, STANAG exams were administered and students were assigned STANAG scores in all four skills.

Participants were from Bulgaria (2), Jordan (2), Kazakhstan (3), Latvia (1), Lithuania (2), Poland (4), Serbia and Montenegro (2) Ukraine (2), Slovenia (21).

2. **Non - Intensive English Course SLP 3332/3333 – 2 courses**

(Sept 04-June 05, Sept 05 –June 06)

The purpose of this 480-hour English course (one or two weeks of intensive training per month, 12 weeks) is to provide advanced language training in accordance with SLP 3332. Topics covered included: General and military vocabulary, Grammar review, Listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills practice, Professional skills (telephoning, conducting and participating in meetings, working with the media, delivering military briefings, e-mails, faxes & memos) and Learner training. At the end of the courses, STANAG exams were administered and students were assigned STANAG scores in all four skills.

Participants come from Slovenian Armed Force (23) and Police Force (3).

3. **STANAG course SLP 2221 - 2 courses of 4 groups each**

(Sept 04-June 05, Sept 05 –June 06)

300-hour combined English course (one week of intensive training per month, 10 months) was based on Inside Out Pre-intermediate and Campaign 2 materials and supplementary materials that include STANAG 6001 Level 2 requirements, except for writing skills (Stanag 1)

Participants were from Slovenian MOD (43) and Police Force (4).

4. **English for Peace Support Operations (PSO)**

The 90-hour intensive English course was conducted to provide commissioned and non-commissioned officers assigned to PSOs with the English language skills required in the carrying out of their tasks. Topics included basic PSO types and principles, Radio procedures, Checkpoints, Ranks, Military patrolling, Writing reports, Terminology on roads and vehicles, Convoy procedures, Non – lethal weapons, Medical vocabulary, Terrain features, Grammar review based on needs determined during the course and three briefings which were prepared and delivered by students (Describing the AOR, Analysing a Peacekeeping mission, Modified Mission briefing). The course was based on in-house designed materials.

Participants were from Slovenian Armed Forces (15), Latvia (1).

5. **English for PSO Staff Officers**

Trainees of that 3-week course were officers who were assigned to PS missions. The programme focused on developing language skills in a staff environment in PSO. The topics covered included: Grammar review based on needs determined during the course, Staff duties and responsibilities, Common acronyms and abbreviations, Vocabulary to describe terrain features and medical vocabulary, Dealing with press and media, Taking part in a meeting to negotiate a solution to a problem, Radio procedures, Mine awareness, Writing reports and memos, and three briefings, which were prepared and delivered by students (Describing the AOR, Analysing a Peacekeeping mission, Modified Mission briefing). The course was based on in-house designed materials.

Participants were from Slovenian Armed Forces (10).

6. **ESP Teacher Training**

A 2-week intensive teacher training course for experienced general English teachers with no more than two years' experience in teaching ESP courses.

Aim: to provide participants with hands-on experience in designing, teaching and evaluating ESP courses for military and civilian professionals. Topics included ESP needs analysis; dealing with ESP vocabulary – beginner, intermediate and advanced; teaching the four skills in ESP; determination and design of context-appropriate ESP tasks; integrated task-based ESP course design; task-based assessment in ESP courses.

Participants were from Bosnia and Herzegovina (1), Bulgaria (2), Croatia (1) Czech Republic (3), Georgia (1), Lithuania (1), Macedonia (1), Ukraine (2).

7. **Testing and STANAG 6001 Familiarisation**

A 2-week intensive teacher training course for candidates who are responsible for test design and implementation in their own educational institutions.

Aim: to provide participants with hands-on experience in designing assessment procedures and tasks that are appropriate to their context.

Participants were from Albania (2), Bosnia and Herzegovina (1), Czech Republic (2), Georgia (1) Poland (2) Romania (2), Slovakia (1), Ukraine (2) And Slovenia (1).

8. **ELT Management II**

This 12-day course is a follow up module to ELT Management basic course_for experienced ELT managers. The focus of the course lies on strategic planning of English language programmes and project management tools.

Aim: to critically evaluate and improve English Language Teaching institutions through the identification of strengths and weaknesses and the tools to elaborate and implement realistic development plans.

Participants were from Albania (1), Bulgaria (1), Czech Republic (1), Croatia (1), Latvia (2), Lithuania (1), Romania (1), Slovakia (1), Ukraine (2).

D. STANAG 6001 Testing Project

The Testing Team continued revising STANAG 6001 Testing Project. The testing team included Slovenian testing experts, one US expert and PEP Manager in Slovenia.

- Two testing cycles were conducted (June 05, December 05);
- Comparison of CEF and STANAG descriptors for writing was made and established to work on;
- New test specifications for writing were drafted;
- New version of listening test with different item types was designed and piloted to be administered in December 05;
- Piloting of reading and listening tests was organised in Croatia and Latvia;
- Internal tester training workshops were organised (standardisation workshops for marking writing tests, for rating speaking skills, for writing reading and listening items, and speaking items);
- SPSS package was used for statistical analysis of reading and listening tests.
- Practice test material for test-takers was put on the School's web page;

- Two new item writers/testers were trained through the courses in Garmisch Parterkirchen and the TESTFAM course in Slovenia.

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