

fantastic position to put these systemic approaches into practice. And I am in no doubt that the most effective participants will be the UN translators, especially those who are from Russia and work with the Russian language.

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CONTINUOUS QUALITY ASSURANCE IN TRAINING LANGUAGE PROFESSIONALS

Today, any interpretation and translation (I&T) training program aspiring to excellence must be closely connected with the profession and based on innovative training methods, appropriate equipment, and cooperation, which will allow students to design their individual training paths. The system of training should also be dynamic, interactive, adjustable to changing needs, and pluralistic in its methodologies and training solutions. This type of training program is efficient only in a professional environment built in clusters. Continuity and coherence of quality assurance (QA) is crucial to the effectiveness of such programs. Thus, QA may be broken into three parts: pre-training QA, post-training QA and in-training QA, each with internal and external components.

The St. Petersburg School of Conference Interpreting and Translation (SCIT) provides non-degree postgraduate training, and its main objective is to provide for intensive preparation of high-class interpreters and translators in order to meet the needs of governmental and international organizations as well as the Russian business community.

Thus, in 2008 a training program was designed to achieve this ambitious goal and to become a world center of excellence in training language mediators. However, today a conference interpreting/translation training program can be successful and efficient only if it is closely connected with the profession, is based on innovative teaching technologies, uses appropriate equipment, and is an intrinsic part of a wide net of cooperation.

The SCIT path to excellence:

- Professionals train professionals: classes in interpretation and translation are taught exclusively by practicing interpreters/translators;
- Innovative teaching technologies which comprise world best practices in training language mediators and rich local traditions;
- Continuous learning programme for trainers;
- Appropriate up-to-date equipment;
- Cooperation – a strong and established net of partners which create a multi-institutional professional environment (UN, EC, EP, ICAO, FAO, IMF, Russian universities, foreign universities, Russian I/T agencies, public organizations) and which contribute to the training of would-be professionals;
- Continuous quality assurance (QA) in training interpreters and translators.