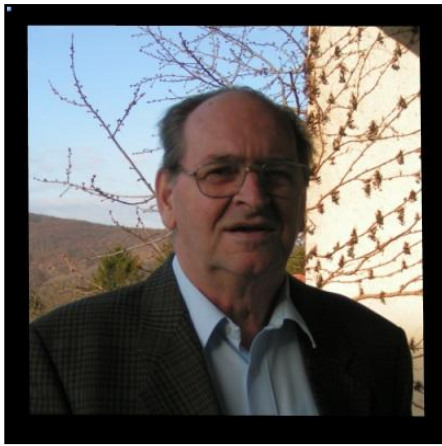


This newsletter is published under the responsibility of the Board of the International Federation for Information Processing - Intersteno - and sent to all e-mail addresses of persons participating in the work of the members of Intersteno known to the Board. Contributions to the newsletter can be sent using the form on the web site www.intersteno.org. Publication will take place at the discretion of the Board.

In memoriam Franz Sager - 7.11.1939 - 5.1.2009

Some people, even if they were to live a hundred years, would depart this world without leaving behind any lasting traces, ideas or tracks.



My best friend Franz Sager could not enjoy this world for even seventy years, but nonetheless he left many and indelible marks. The words "we will not forget" have a very deep meaning; they are not a polite formality.

In every moment of his life, he achieved a connection with all of us: the love for text as bearer of ideas, as well as letters, characters and keyboards as means for producing it.

I had the privilege in many steps of my life, to be with Franz or to follow him; together, we experienced and learned a lot. The use of various equipment (typewriters, teletypes, typing machines with magnetic card or holes, card punch machine, composer, linotypes, PC) as well their techniques: as a teacher of IBM in many schools, as employee at the Austria Press Agency and subtitles department for television. Over the past 20 years he was one of the three persons, along with Helena Matouskova and myself, who made up the Internet ZAV school.

The young Franz was deeply involved in the Unions, improving fairness between employers and employees therefore he could recall the successes, which were not only achieved with agreements or legal steps. but mainly thanks to his friendly approach.

His sports career (Vice World Champion in 1969, on several occasions national championships in Austria) ran in parallel with jobs, which guaranteed him a safe career, but did not fulfil his dream. So Franz left even the "blue giant" - IBM where for many years he worked as a particularly efficient head of the secretarial department. Thus he established his own firm, at his home in Schafberg (Wien) together with his wife Emmi and three children.

Not only as an athlete but also as a teacher and coach I had the opportunity to meet Franz during 47 years. In the seventies, I was a coach in Austria and Franz was one of the best and most popular competitors, before the World competitions in Prague 2007, he trained the Czech team - with his typical Viennese charm and some Czech words.

All life long Franz has been involved in the Österreichischen Stenografenverband, organizing competitions, and after Marlis Kulb he was appointed national representative of Austria at Intersteno.

I write these particularly sad lines in Prague in the day in which we three (with Helena) had planned to meet in Hodonin for arranging joint plans about Beijing World Competitions and ZAV school.

The memory of this best friend, which has built a virtual giant monument in our thoughts through a combination of human qualities and skills, is well represented by the words chosen by the Sager family for the obituary: ... *the glowing days are over, we should not cry, but smile, that he was with us.*

Dear Franzi, we will take care of your giant monument.

Jaroslav Zaviačič

Regulations for the world-wide competitions in Beijing

The updated versions in English - French and German are available at www.intersteno.org both at the Beijing Congress page and at the Competitions one.

Many thanks to *Mark Golden, Boris Neubauer and Gabrielle Fasnacht* for the revision in their mother languages.

Nominations for elections in Beijing

Within March 31st all Countries representatives are invited to submit proposals with the name proposed as Board members. Proposals are to be sent to our Secretary Treasurer, Danny Devriendt at devriendt@online.be.

Sample of how to stimulate learning keyboarding in an efficient way?

During the INTERSTENO-council meeting in Tychy it was clear that in several countries poor time - or even no time - is foreseen in the school programs to learn keyboarding in a good way, using the ten fingers touch typing system.



In The Netherlands the VSLM association (association of teachers and institutions in secretarial skills), opened a website to promote the

advantages of good keyboard-learning: www.diplomacomputertypen.nl.

Even if this website serves the Dutch-speaking market, it can give some ideas.

An important idea is that the three involved groups are addressed in their own way:

- **Pupils** - *leerlingen* - learn the advantages of keyboarding in a good written and attractive text, illustrated with two short video messages, comparing two persons, one with and one without good keyboard skills.
- **Parents** - *ouders* - get another overview of advantages, illustrated with a publication by Dr. Henny van der Meijden of the Nijmegen University. If a University says, it should be correct.
- **Schools** - *scholen* - are the third target group. The VSLM association is helping them in certifying the keyboarding skills.

The website contains also an interactive part in which everybody can test and/or exercise his keyboarding abilities in two games with different levels, scores and lives. One of the games, the *Super Hyper Spider Typer*, is English-oriented and can be used more international.



Even if the site has also a commercial goal, the site can be seen as a good and contemporary contribution to get young people learning keyboarding in a good way. Let's hope it is successful!

Two birds with a stone

Our dynamic Honorary President, Ihsan Yener, suggested to his student who learn English, to read the contents of our e-news letter in order to improve their knowledge of this language and to become acquainted with the words and techniques connected to quickly create texts. The Turkish group, for this purpose, is arranging to send our e-news issues to all its 500 members.



The **World e-Parliament Conference 2008** took place at the European Parliament in Brussels on **25 and 26 November 2008**. The Conference was co-organized by the [European Parliament](#) and the [Global Centre for ICT in Parliament](#), a joint initiative of the [United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#) (UNDESA) and the [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) (IPU) and a core group of partners, established in 2006 to promote the role of parliaments in advancing the Information Society goals as well as the effective use of ICT for the modernization of parliamentary processes.

The **World e-Parliament Conference 2008** represented a unique opportunity for leaders and members of parliaments, parliamentary officials and experts to exchange views at a global level on new technologies and innovation as tools to strengthen the representative, legislative and oversight functions of regional and national assemblies.

The Conference was built on the results of the [World e-Parliament Conference 2007](#), held in Geneva in October 2007, and on the outcome of the [World e-Parliament Report 2008](#), the first publication on this topic issued by the United Nations, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament on 28 February 2008.

The World e-Parliament Conference was aimed at parliamentarians, Secretaries General, parliamentary staff and officials of national and regional parliaments, experts from international organizations and academicians who work and deal with information and communication technologies as instruments to improve and modernize parliamentary business and citizens' participation in public decision-making processes.

Around 400 participants took part in the general debate and parallel tracks forming the **World e-Parliament Conference 2008** to enrich the discussion around the challenges and benefits provided by the daily use of ICT and the analysis of successful approaches, good practices and lessons learned. Selected [presentations](#) were delivered by renowned experts and parliamentary officials to showcase cutting edge solutions and case studies.

At the **World e-Parliament Conference 2008**, the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament and its partners presented and launched tools and concrete outputs developed in the past year to help parliaments assess and benchmark their technological level and/or adopt new technologies in the parliamentary environment.

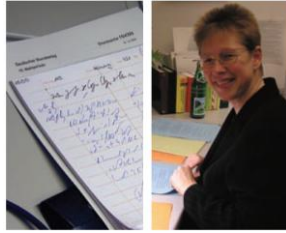
A number of key organizations, institutions and universities are joined the co-organizers to support the organization of the event.

The Conference could be followed live via webstreaming.

At this conference Intersteno was represented by Mr Cees van Beurden, who as member of the Board is deeply involved in parliamentary reporting, and Ms Georgette Sante. The Global Centre for ICT in Parliament has its

headquarter in Rome and Dr Fausto Ramondelli made a presentation of Intersteno, as a result Intersteno is now inserted in the list of the organisations which are strictly related to the goal of ITC in Parliament. ■

Parliamentary report at the German Bundestag



Senior Parliamentary Editor and 20-year veteran reporter Bärbel Heising, of the German Bundestag, was recently interviewed by German radio station Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg, RBB, on the duties of a parliamentary reporter.

"They are there when the Parliament comes together. Nevertheless, they are hardly noticed, those nearly 50 Stenographers in the German Bundestag, who write everything that happens in the Parliament."

Here is the link to what appears to be a 14-minute interview (in German): www.inforadio.de/static/media/mp3/3040287X_E25953DC10BD421A86A4911B25E62FBE.mp3

New students needed for innovative training program

NCRF Pilot Program
to train reporters and captioners

HOME TECHNICAL SKILLS PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM BEST FUTURE

NCRF Seeking Participants for Court Reporting Pilot Program

Do you enjoy the drama of a courtroom setting? Would you like a front-row seat in civil litigation hearings or business happenings? The National Court Reporters Foundation is looking for 15 dedicated and goal-oriented students to participate in an innovative online pilot program to earn a certificate of proficiency in court reporting. Students will learn a stenographic machine shorthand theory and will strive to achieve a speed of 225 words per minute. You must be an independent learner who loves to be challenged. Perseverance, a strong work ethic, and a positive mental attitude are a must. **There is no cost to students for this scholarship program.**

Responsibilities

- Maintain a minimum one-year commitment to eight hours per day, five days per week, of uninterrupted training.
- Computer and high-speed Internet connection.
- Keep abreast of current issues — cultural, educational, and technological.
- Submit all required homework assignments on time.

The National Court Reporters Foundation (USA) is looking for 15 dedicated and goal-oriented students to participate in an innovative online pilot program to earn a certificate of proficiency in court reporting. Students will learn a stenographic machine shorthand theory and will strive to achieve a speed of 225 words per minute. No fee is demanded to the students, only their willingness to devote one full year (8 hours per day) to follow this course.

Shorthand remains an essential skill for reporters even in the age of digital tape recorders.

On 5th December Tamlyn Jones (UK) reported about on the first Journalism Skill conference, and his report is available under the title Editors in plea to save shorthand. Here is an abstract of his report:

Shorthand must never be compromised as a modern-day journalism skill, regional press editors said today.

Manchester Evening News editor Paul Horrocks and Simon Reynolds, editorial director of the Lancashire Evening Post, agreed that whatever upheavals 21st century journalism underwent shorthand must remain.

The pair were speaking in Manchester today at the first Journalism Skills Conference, hosted by the National Council for the Training of journalists, and attended by lecturers and regional press editors.

One lecturer asked the discussion panel what skills could be compromised on university courses to allow the inclusion of new media skills such as video journalism and audio editing.

Mr Horrocks said: "Shorthand has got to be number one. Things that can be given away may be less time on modern processes such as video journalism. We can teach that.

"Still the core skills that we come back to are public administration, law, shorthand, interviewing technique and writing stories."

Mr Reynolds added: "The problem is, if you haven't got shorthand, you are just too slow. Reporters need to be fast - I don't think that's going to change any time soon."

He said that law would also need to remain an essential part of the curriculum, adding: "To take away those core skills is a killer."

This abstract comes from

<http://www.holdthefrontpage.co.uk/training/081205shorthand.shtml>

Where can future journalist learn shorthand? In England the Press associated training offers shorthand courses, also via video conferencing. You can visit their web-site:

<http://www.editorial-centre.co.uk/shorthand.html>

gpt ■



What's new?

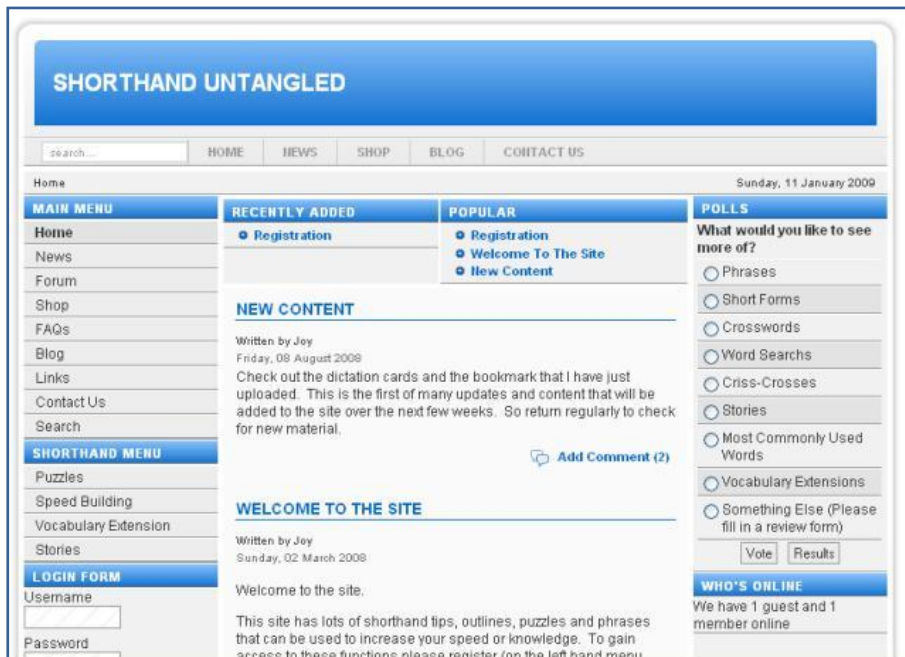
The info herewith is based upon reliable information gathered from various sources, but it is not intended as an advertising of products, services or producers.

Gregg Shorthand web site



This web site was recently released on <http://gregg.angelfishy.net/>. It's full of information, including digital manuals and drills, about this steno system which was the most used in USA. Also applications in foreign languages (Spanish - German - Esperanto) are shown. Links to other sites offering digital dictations and reporting services using shorthand. Many historical references to the evolution of this system, which keep pace with the need of secretarial and professional reporting needs.

Pitman Shorthand blog web site



At the address <http://www.shorthand-untangled.co.uk/> you will find a web and blog site plenty of useful info, including a forum, mainly devoted to Pitman shorthand.

Messages on the forum are growing and I take the pleasure of copying here one of these, since it is written by a young person with high ITC experience:

My background; 28 years as a network engineer. I have used some of the most advanced computer technologies available to the general public and then some. 😊

As a hobbyist, I currently use 64 bit Linux OS. I currently work as a sales professional.

When I walk into meetings, my goal is to eventually I carry only three items, a 0.5 mm mechanical pencil filled with HB leads, a Staedtler Mars plastic retractable eraser pen and a standard 120 page steno notepad. And yes, I am being completely serious.

In my experience, no other technology can even come close in comparison with Pitman shorthand for accuracy, speed and clarity. Again from my own experience, transcribing notes into the computer after meetings gives me a much needed opportunity to re-enforce the concepts and ideas from the meetings.

In my opinion, any young person NOT learning Pitman shorthand for college or university note-taking today is cheating themselves. Note-taking accurately with speed is a requisite skill in any profession.

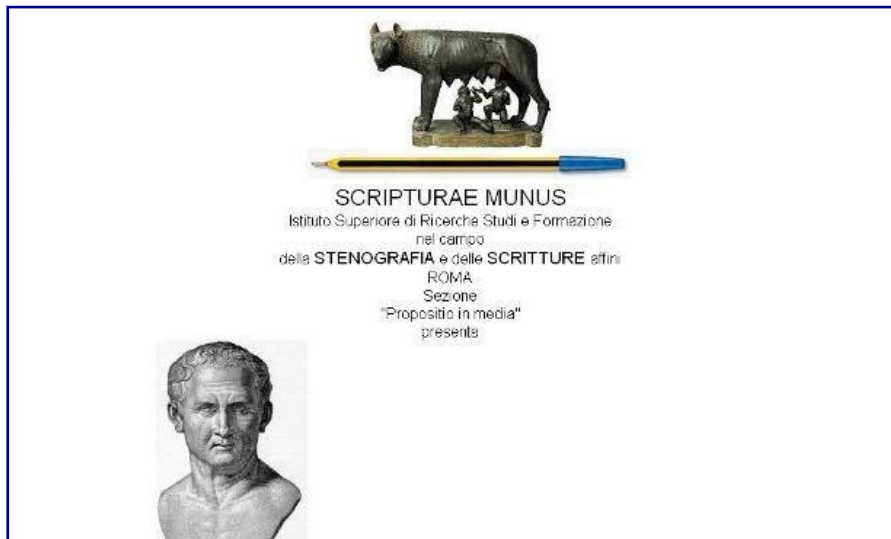
The very very kind ladies and gentlemen who keep Pitman shorthand alive and thriving are passing on a tremendous skill that will help all in their note taking.

Thank you for your very kind work. Please NEVER give up.

Gpt

Revival of shorthand

Thanks to young lovers of traditional shorthand, a new Italian web site has been released: www.stenografando.it



Also in this site there is a forum, which makes reference to the 4 official steno systems of Italy (Cima, Meschini, Gabelsberger, Stènità) as well as to historical and practical matters of shorthand and other technologies for speech capturing. Examples of steno writings are shown with images and video.

The TypeWell system

TypeWell is a system for transcribing speech to text using keyboarding with coded short-forms. It is an effective learning tool for deaf and hard of hearing people, as well as those with visual, physical or learning difficulties.

This organisation trains a hearing transcriber to use a laptop computer with the *TypeWell abbreviation software* to transcribe **meaning-for-meaning** what is said in lectures and discussions. The deaf person reads the transcript in real-time from a second computer. He or she can also type questions and comments to the transcriber to be voiced and can take notes right in the TypeWell program on the second computer.



Full info is available at the url <http://www.typewell.com>.

A simple version of this software is intended for increasing the speed with a keyboard, using short-forms for frequent or long words. The full version includes also Internet capabilities, so that the reporter at a distant place can report and immediately have the transcript visible in the room where the event (usually a school lesson) takes places.

We thank Dave Rogala for informing us about this site.

Live subtitling with speech recognition



Comments to Olympic games broadcasted by RAI (the Italian public television service) has been live subtitled by trained respeakers of Colby, an Italian company specifically devoted to subtitling.

Many improvements to hardware and software has been made, so that the service happens from Colby's head offices near Milano. Therefore the video signals of the broadcast are sent to this location, the respeaker says the words and the text is made available to be broadcasted in synchronized real-time.

Thanks to improvements in the basic software of Dragon-Nuance, the difference in time between the spoken and the written text, is reduced into the limits of the international rules (about 3 seconds).



Respeaker is helped in his work by the use of an improved keyboard, which permits to enter not only the punctuation signs (which are therefore not spoken as it is customary using speech recognition) but also the main important proper names or technical words, to be used in the specific broadcast. The names are made visible in easy readable push button.

Respeakers have been selected among young people with university degree and trained by experts in simultaneous translation techniques.

In addition to the Olympic games, also Formula 1 World race broadcasts as well as several other important sport events and live meetings are integrating this service for helping hearing impaired people.

A video showing the results of this way of realtime distance reporting is available at

http://www.colby.it/_pagine.php?p=menuView&menuid=159&lang=it

High speed Internet connection is needed.

Gpt

Nuance and IBM to combine technologies.

IBM and Nuance announced that Nuance would purchase speech patents and other technology rights from IBM, and the two companies will jointly develop new speech products estimated to reach the market within two years.

Nuance's licensing and technical services agreement will enhance and expand speech products aimed at the enterprise, consumer space, telecommunications providers and worldwide partners. Specifically, the companies will incorporate IBM technology into Nuance's products.

In typical IBM fashion, they brought the ViaVoice product to consumer market, obtained feedback, then brought the product back into research for ultimate focus on enterprise and global telecom deployment. This partnership with Nuance will swing the product back up into the consumer electronics space, where we court reporters reside.

Dr. John E. Kelly III, IBM senior vice president and director, IBM Research, said, "IBM and Nuance share a vision to proliferate advanced speech capabilities across a broad range of devices and environments."

Nuance Chairman and CEO Paul Ricci, said, "We are enthusiastic about this strategic relationship with IBM, building on its rich history of speech research to accelerate the creation and adoption of next-generation speech solutions."

Dave Rogala

Challenging aims in management teacher training

1 Management teacher training in traditional training system

Management teachers' tertiary training in the 20th century in Hungary can be considered as systematic and having begun in 1974. As none of the Hungarian universities undertook this challenge, the College of Nyíregyháza undertook the academic specialization of shorthand and typing teacher training, at that time only at college level. Since then this institute has been the base of such training.

At the turn of the century the name for such training changed to "management teacher". From this time on it has also been possible to combine this specialization with other professions such as Hungarian grammar and literature teaching, foreign languages (English, German, French, and Russian), history, computer technology, library and information technology etc.

Those with primary school teaching degrees in these traditional areas also obtained a degree in management, but 90% of them began their careers as teachers. Their general training in pedagogy and didactics prepared them for primary school level but, as management training was for secondary level, most of them settled for secondary technical schools of economics. Only a few of them began their careers at primary level, or in vocational or grammar schools. The aforementioned could teach Hungarian grammar and literature while the latter could teach management as an alternative, mainly typing or word processing as a part of information technology lessons. The non-teacher entrants started to work in those areas which mostly demand only secondary skills. (www-1, www-6))

2 Contemporary basic (BA) Hungarian training for students of art on management specialization

Management training has changed a lot since the introduction of the Bologna process. Management became a part of the arts in basic Hungarian training. This means that the students' appellation in their certificate will be Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Hungarian/management specialization. This combination of the two specializations has its root in their common linguistic base, although this rapport is the creature of imperatives. College-level management training - like other specializations - could not be given, as widespread scholastic knowledge is not provided due to a deficiency in university training possibilities. We have to point out that the basis of the two specializations are quite different.

The memorandum of foundation says that the aim of training students of art in Hungary in management specialization is to train professionals who will be able to work independently in the management workflow in various

professional situations, using their Hungarian grammar and literature, together with their cultural knowledge. They would also bring into play their general, professional and foreign language communicational skills, up-to-date management and organizational techniques as well as their writing and technical editing knowledge. A further aim is to make the students able to organize and handle the management workflow of various organizations; harmonize their activities, and to take part in decision-preparing and decision-making processes, actively and creatively. (www-2)

3 A probable basis of management specialization

The requirements of basic Hungarian literature and grammar training covers such management activities as professional and official communication, protocol and secretarial knowledge, modern computer-based management and organization, typing, shorthand, corresponding, minute-taking and technical editing knowledge. The content of management specialization is built on 3 modules: written, interpersonal and secretarial communication.

In the 3 modules, apart from the traditional training, numerous courses can be chosen which develop general and professional competencies together:

1. Interpersonal communication module

- a) *General business and secretarial communication*
- b) *Knowledge of mankind, self-knowledge development*
- c) *Negotiating techniques, handling conflicts*

2. Written language communication module

- a) *Electronic writing technique*
- b) *Information technology and information treatment*
- c) *Text fixing and document editing*
- d) *Corresponding and minute-taking knowledge*
- e) *Written communication in foreign language*

3. Secretarial communication module

- a) *Media knowledge*
- b) *Time and project management*
- c) *Program organizing*
- d) *Leadership and organizational knowledge*
- e) *Management and office organizational knowledge and practice*

4 Possibilities to move to a Masters program from this specialty

The students who obtain degrees in the management specialization of Hungarian bachelor training will be able to join any of the tertiary institutes of accredited Hungarian training. Plans to deal with Hungarian literature and grammar, profession/management specialization, as well as second teacher specialization and management training are under construction.

BA training began in 2005 allows any student to begin a management module - with the same subject as in the specialization- as a minor course, which is the basis of a second degree in teaching. We hope that they will be able to move into the management teacher master program as a second teacher training specialization.

The qualification demanded of master training, based on basic training, are being determined by the tertiary institutes. Comparing the two kinds of training it can be said that in master training there is a great variety of specializations. According to tertiary education legislation teacher qualification can only be given in master training in two specializations - in the chosen first and second teacher specializations.

That means management teacher qualification can be chosen as a second specialization in master training. Its requirements are being shaped, like the entrance assumptions from basic specialization or from earlier college training. The possible combinations of management training and other specializations are also being shaped. The following two combinations are the most likely ones:

- a) *Hungarian teacher-management teacher*
- b) *Teacher in economics-management teacher*

The good news is that management is in the accreditation petition of the philosopher consortium of 13 tertiary institutes. Now the work of the specialization is under construction individually by the members of the consortium. (www-4, www-5)

5 Renewed profession - fields of utilization, opportunities in the work market

How do we consider the renewed profession? What will be the opportunities in the work market and what will be the utilization of the knowledge of the would-be management professionals who have the latest information and competencies? Will the social-economical utilization of this qualification grow? We discuss the possibilities that may prevail in the aims of the system.

5.1. It seems a good starting point that the training on management specialization

- a) guarantees job opportunities according to qualification, because generally this specialization researches one of the most important part of cultural heritage, the mother tongue,
- b) A correct, clear and neat style is the assumption of the successful communication in any area of the society and economy.

5.2. The general and professional competencies that are expected as a result of the training - that were not contained in the previous college degree in management teaching- also guarantees, that the qualified student

- acquires the methods of information-getting and the main research methods in the basic training and the chosen specialization,
- joins the scientific life of their narrow profession (conferences, publishing etc.),
- evaluates the scientific work in their field (organizing, applying for tenders, joint projects etc)

5.3. With the improvement in their personal talent and skills we hope that this will enhance their opportunities to

- get jobs due to their Hungarian literature and grammar and management knowledge
- cultivate a wide range of duties connected to cultural activities in

cultural institutes and centres and in the field of state administration and local government administration,

- work as well-prepared professionals for non-profit, social organizations, and in other areas of activity that demand general human knowledge

5.4. Breaks vary according to the social-economical environment

Economical processes set back the formal philosopher-status but it is continuously changing, which is why adaptivity and intellectual value is honoured in a socio-economic environment due to the skills learnt in art training. We believe that students who get a degree in Hungarian specialization will be able to fulfill the socio-economic requirements that are drawn up directly by demand, without State intervention

- Students will have the chance to settle in an occupation in the competitive sector as program organizers, cultural managers; they can organize spare-time activities in intellectual and cultural sections.
- Another important direction of careers concerned with the market economy relates to assistants with art degrees. As for the demands in the labour market, the company leaders prefer intellectual, talented assistants prepared to accept great responsibility to previously qualified secretaries. An intellectual, foreign language speaker with good communicative skills is a great help and for the company a valuable employee. Assistants with qualifications in human fields, fluent foreign language knowledge, and a secure knowledge of the local society and culture are often employed by leaders of multinational companies.
- All sectors and forms of media have employed qualified philosophers since the last decade. State and local, electronic and printed channels obviously regard philosophers as major employees.

6. Summary

We believe that the employment opportunities of students who gain degree in Hungarian basic training/management specialization in the labour market may be raised by their wide knowledge and in particular their specialized foreign language abilities. The possible employment sectors are media, civil service and the competitive sector. Those who gain degrees in Hungarian basic trainings specializations become typical intellectual philosophers who have activities in art, social sciences, traditional or electronic journalism, text writing, translation etc. The fields also cover new areas such as tender writing, monitoring project management or its conception activities.

It is likely that with the BA degrees 40% of the students will get into postgraduate training. We really hope that more and more students gain degrees in management specialization and thus gain a wide range of competencies.

Hajdicsné Dr. Varga Katalin Ph.D. and Szücs Eszter Cecilia (Ph.D. student)

Many thanks to Mark Golden for the revision of these texts.

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