




MASARYK UNIVERSITY

SUPPORT CENTRE FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Speech-to-text Reporting Service at Masaryk University

 Teiresiás

Current situation and activities

Typology of services

A. Services provided according to the Czech Deaf Communication Act

- Interpreting (Czech ⇌ Czech Sign Language)
- Visualizing
 - speech-to-sign transcription (spoken Czech ⇌ signed Czech)
 - speech-to-text transcription (spoken Czech ⇌ written Czech)
 - visual report (real time, not stored)
 - registering report (real time, stored)

B. Services provided to hearing persons

C. Note Taking

- Full record (includes all information, study material)
- Summary (main points and differences)

Dispatching speech-to-text services

- 107 students with hearing disability (December 2011, see chart 1)
- 5 deaf teachers
- 60 users of speech-to-text services according to the Czech Deaf Communication Act (see chart 2)
- dispatching service
 - staff: 30 STTRs, 3 dispatchers
 - technology: Polygraph – a wireless system for real-time distribution of speech-to-text transcription to users' handheld displays, 10 laptops (size 15,6"), 20 iPads (version 1, 2), 1 large screen (size 33")
 - scheduled courses for registered students: service provided automatically whenever a disabled person is registered
 - other events: on-demand service (upon request from teachers and students)

Chart 1: Students with hearing disability at MU (as of Dec 2011)

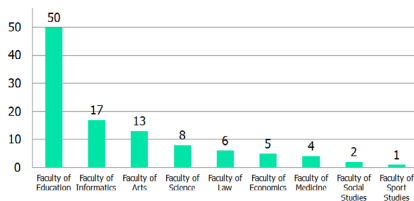
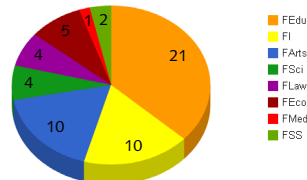


Chart 2: Students using speech-to-text services (as of Dec 2011)



Professional training for STTRs

- annual competition for STTRs posts: new hires (includes tests of typing speed and accuracy, correctness of transcription, communication skills and general knowledge)
- regular current transcribers certifications
 - system for testing current transcribers (annually, same criteria)
- training courses
 - workshops for current transcribers (a training course pilot)
 - one-semester training course

Training courses for speech-to-text reporters

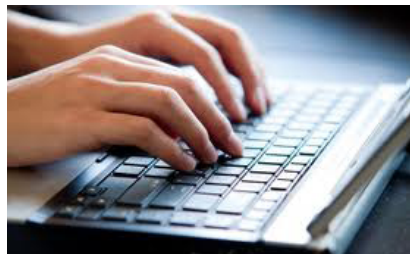
Overview

As part of the Expln project (European Social Fund, Education for Competitiveness Operational Programme) launched at Masaryk University in 2012, in cooperation with the Czech Union of the Deaf and Interinfo (a company running ZAV, a virtual typewriting school), training courses for speech-to-text reporters started in winter 2012.

- 220 hours of training
 - 100 hours of attendance – theoretical and practical lessons
 - 100 hours of home training – e-learning based on the ZAV software for improving technique, speed and accuracy of typing
 - 20 hours of practice and supervision

Structure of attended lessons

- Introduction, typology of services (4 lessons)
- Communication participants' specific needs provided for by transcription (8 lessons)
- Language and communication skills (8 lessons)
- Formal principles of transcription (4 lessons)
- Technical aspects of transcription (6 lessons)
- Practical training of transcription (10 lessons)
- Model training situations (3 lessons)





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