Studying Sciences as a Blind Person

Challenges to AT/IT
SZS Overview

- 1987-1992
  Model project „Informatics for the Blind“
- since 1992
  Service and Research Centre / Department of Informatics
- staff: 5 employees, 1 civil-worker, 3 third-party funded employees
- each year about 5 new students
- about 40 visually impaired students
Aims of the SZS

- support from school via university into employment
- integration of vi students into economics, sciences and engineering
- teaching and learning based on AT and IT
Aims of the SZS

- establishing a tutorial programme to transfer text and graphics into an adapted version
- developing a special language to linearise mathematic formulae
- enabling teamwork between blind and sighted students
SZS

Blind and Partially Sighted Students

Preventing for Higher Education
- Orientation unit
- Mobility training
- Working place equipment
- Learning and working technology
- Course planning

Support during the study
- Preparing course material
- Support at lectures and in examinations
- Assistance in studying abroad
- Regular meetings and lectures

Preparing for a profession
- Support concerning practical training
- Applicants’ training
- Contacts to employers
- Disability Mentoring Days

Research, Development and Transfer Projects • National and International Programmes
- Counselling • Tactile Text and Graphic Print • Media Library • Working Stations
SZS

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Study Centre for the Visually Impaired Students
http://www.szs.uni-karlsruhe.de

2nd International Conference Education for All, Warsaw, Poland, Sept. 22-25
SZS

- Orientation Unit -
Nation-wide orientation unit for school leavers


- **2006**: 9 participants
  1 blind, 8 partially sighted

- **2007**: 8 participants
  1 blind, 7 partially sighted

- **2008**: 13 participants
  2 blind, 11 partially sighted
Topics

- special problems when entering Higher Education
- content and requirements of a study course
- mobility and orientation
- working stations: personal requirements and financing
- students` accommodation
- studying and practical training abroad
- service provided by the SZS
ICC - International Camp on Communication & Computers

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ICC International Camp on Communication & Computers 2009

- 15th camp for blind and partially sighted school students 2009
- BBI Bundes-Blindenerziehungsinstitut Vienna/Austria
- July, 11-18 (15-17 years)
  July, 21-28 (18-20 years)
1993 1. Austrian CC - Graz, A
1994 1. ICC - Linz, A
1995 2. ICC - Linz/Graz, A
1996 3. ICC - Linz/Graz, A
1997 4. ICC - Zeist, NL
1998 5. ICC - Lyon/Clermont-Ferrand, F
1999 6. ICC - Stockholm, S
2000 7. ICC - Stuttgart, D
2001 8. ICC - Skofja Loka, SL
2002 9. ICC - Loughborough, UK
2003 10. ICC - Zollikofen, CH
2004 11. ICC - Budapest, H
2005 12. ICC - Brno, CZ
2006 13. ICC - Königs Wusterhausen, D
2007 14. ICC - Helsinki, FI
2009 15. ICC - Wien, A
ICC - Goals

- Better knowledge and use of IT and AT
- Exchange of different cultures
- Living the idea of a Common Europe
- Making friends
- Improving social skills
- Having fun

Personality, education, profession
ICC - Structure and organisation

- Participants
  blind and partially sighted students, aged 15 to 20
  coming from Europe and Japan, Russia, USA, Israel, Malaysia …
  60 participants per camp week
  fee: 400 € + travel costs

- ICC-International Association board
  (Chair, Vice-chair, secretaries, treasurer, auditor)

- National Co-ordinator
  (PR, selection of participants, travel organisation)
ICC - Structure and organisation

- technicians
  installation and supervision of 60 workstations with special hard- and software

- workshop leaders
  40 workshops
  e.g.: AT/IT, (special) software, music, relaxation, body perception, communication, self-presentation

- teamer
  assistance and guidance

- volunteers
  leisure time, assistance, mobility-aid
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Research, Development and Transfer Projects • National and International Programmes
Counselling • Tactile Text and Graphic Print • Media Library • Working Stations
Transcription of study books, study and exam material
- students choose their courses for the next term
- the SZS contacts the lecturer concerning the study material
- the SZS orders the study books from the publisher and transcribes them into an adapted version
- all material is available at the SZS server
SZS
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Programme „Fit for the Job“

- in cooperation with the German Blind Union and the German Job Centre
- target group: visually impaired students, graduates and job applicants
- about 40 participants
- aims: to improve job skills and to enforce self-confidence by offering special workshops
„Fit for the Job“ - workshops

- employment law, placement and career advancement
- way to an independent profession
- assistive technology
- professional coaching
- applicants‘ training
- IT training
- open and distance learning
- Disability Mentoring Days (DMDs)
Disability Mentoring Days – DMDs

- regional, national and international companies
- organisation by the personal department / SZS
- presentation of the company and their products
- employees’ report on their professional routine
- students’ demonstration of their AT
- mutual exchange, understanding and learning
- possible working place offer
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National and International Programmes

- EU - TEMPUS SCM „Access to University for Blind People“
  (Sept. 2007 – Sept. 2008 / Moldovian State University/
  Rep. of Moldova)
  topic: to create social, technical and structural
  conditions in order to open a
  „Support Center without Barriers“ for vi students

  official opening: 10 Sept. 2008
National and International Programmes

- EU - ERASMUS „Joint Programme on Accessible Web Design web_access“
  topic: development of an accredited distance learning programme concerning accessible webdesign

- BMAS „SUE - Screenreader & Usability Extensions: Towards an OpenSource Screenreader“
  (Jan. 2007 – June 2010)
  topic: new opensource screenreader and development of a correspondent teaching programme
National and International Programmes already Applied or in Preparation

- BMAS „Gateway – Access to Higher Education and Profession for Visually and Hearing Impaired People“
  topic: development of a German wide interactive platform
  (2010 - 2013)

- EU Lifelong Learning Programme „Mobility and Orientation for Visually Impaired Persons in Malta“
  topic: structure, organisation and training programme
  (2010 - 2013)
Thank you for following my presentation!

Time for questions!