Interviews with
Job Market Stakeholders

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Every time I hire a linguist... Emergent tech profiles for linguists, translators and language experts

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Intellectual Outputs

The development of our new study component is articulated through four intellectual outputs (IOs):

- **1. Needs analysis**

- **2. Best practices and guidelines for research-based teaching**

- **3. Curriculum design and development**

- **4. Enriching the curriculum through educational games**

Surveys

Interviews

The interviews

Aim

The aim of these interviews was to follow up on the survey administered in the previous step of our needs analysis in order to gain a better understanding of the needs of the industry when it comes to hiring graduates of linguistics and language-related degrees.

Informal Pilot

We discussed some preliminary results from the survey with the UPSKILLS associate partners during two Advisory Board meetings which then enabled us to prepare an interview guide that zoomed in on those themes that are most relevant to industry stakeholders.

The interviews

A total of **12** job market stakeholders coming from **11** different companies participated in our one-to-one interviews.

Domains
- Language service providers
- Automotive industry
- Language technology
- Insurance services

Areas of engagement
- Translation
- Localisation
- Computational linguistics
- Speech recognition

Analysis

- **Graduate employability**

- **Most sought out skills & knowledge for the industry**

- **Higher education formation and workplace reality**

Graduate employability

Healthy demand in the industry

Specialised language-related expertise should be complemented with technical know-how

Taking on hybrid roles

Ability to deal with ambiguous and unstructured data

Freelance opportunities vs in-house full-time contracts

Most sought out skills & knowledge

Computational knowledge and technical skills	Ability to hold multiple perspectives	Project management skills
Problem solving skills	Ability to apply knowledge	Ability to work under pressure
Creativity	Communication and interpersonal skills	Attention to detail
Analytical skills	Presentation skills	Organisation skills

Higher education formation & workplace reality

- More than **half of our interviewees** stated that higher education often **lacks the goal-oriented character** of industrial work, mainly **technical** and **transferable skills**.

- The industry places emphasis on a **potential employee's versatility**.

- There is a need to provide **quantitative data analysis training**.

- The inclusion of dedicated courses on **data handling** and **project management** in the curricula was also underlined.

- **All interviewees believe that what seems to be lacking the most from existing curricula is specialised training that will enable graduates to think outside the box and come up with their own solutions to typical industry workflow problems.**
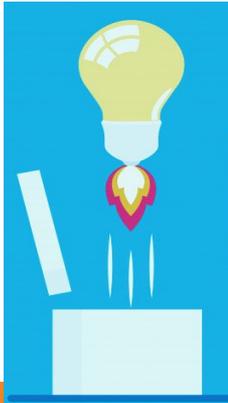
Conclusion

- There is a **growing need** for graduates in linguistics and language-related disciplines.

- It is required of such graduates to have a **strong technical background** and to be **receptive** and **quick learners**.

- Our interviewees are of the opinion that a **different approach to teaching is necessary**: one which is **more hands-on**, informs students about the **most salient facts that are relevant to their future vocation** and makes them aware of the **quality standards** and **requirements** of the industry.

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