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## NLP Training in Austria

*A structured approach to professional NLP practitioner training using video based peer-group reviews*

The Austrian Training Center for NLP was founded in 1984 by Doctors Helmut Jelem, Brigitte Gross, Siegrid Schneider and the author. As our mentors Gene Early, Robert Dilts and Joanne Riou (Quebec) had installed in us a desire for quality training, we started to look for ways to really improve training methods.

First we decided that two- or three-week-long certification trainings may be a nice form of NLP-clubbing and valuable summercamp learning equivalents, but in themselves rarely constitute professional training. Development over time is important, so our thirty-day NLP diploma training is spread out over a year.

Second, we introduced a five-day intensive assessment workshop prior to the thirty-day training. In this context, we also conduct a private and personal interview with each applicant so that we can filter out or guide people with severe health or emotional problems, or a history of substance abuse, before they embark on the training.

For instance, if you do trance reframing demos on day ten of the course, and you do not know that your student is entering trance so quickly not because you are such a great Miltonist, but because she is gliding into a hypoglycemic (diabetic) coma, this is an accident waiting to happen. And it also is a very good idea to know beforehand if one of your participants has been traumatized by abuse in childhood.

Third: as early as 1987, we instituted peer groups in addition to our thirty-day training. The groups, of four to eight people, meet once or twice a month. We ask each peer group to provide minutes of their meetings, highlighting any questions that have arisen during the work. These minutes have to be submitted before the next training session.