

Getting to the source

Living and Working in
your Source-Language
Country



- Grüezi!
- Bonjour!
- Buongiorno!
- Bien di!



Emma Gledhill

FCIL, FITI, Chartered Linguist

- Born and bred in the UK, translating professionally since 1993
- Living in Switzerland for over 20 years – now dual citizen
- BA in German & Music, University of London
 - incl. year abroad in Regensburg
- MA in Translation, University of Surrey
- DipTrans in Dutch-English translation, CloL





**It's not just the
weather that might
be different...**





**...whatever brought
you there**

General

- Make sure you're legal !!
- Potential impact on work arrangements
- Potential impact on immigration opportunities



Benefits

General

- SL fluency
- Current affairs
- Political environment
- Cultural references
- Familiarity with admin and other systems
- and so much more



Employment

Lots of potential differences:

- legislation
- standard working hours
- starting times
- worker protections – or none
- holiday entitlement
- notice periods
- corporate language



Employment (cont.)

“Soft” differences, e.g.:

- attitudes to money
- employment if you're older
- dress codes
- formality
- networking
- work/life balance
- role of employer in your life
- etc.



Freelancing

- Do sole traders need to register?
- Who decides whether you're self-employed?
- Is it financially viable to set up a limited company?
- Can you legally establish a business:
 - if you aren't a citizen, or permanent resident?
 - there are already local companies in your area?
- What are the VAT registration levels?
- How does the VAT system work?
- Reliance on other professionals, e.g. accountants, lawyers



Keeping your target language fluent and current (1)

- Maintaining your target language skills is critical
- Be(a)ware of “source language creep”
 - Using local SL terms in your TL because they are understood
 - Literal back translations of SL terms
 - When your SL has a “mot juste” for a concept
 - When your SL has proper nouns and/or abbreviations



Keeping your target language fluent and current (3)

Ways to keep up with your target language:

- Forums run in your TL
- News sites
- TV, radio, film
- Leisure reading
- Subject material
- Language blogs/Twitter accounts etc.
- Socialise with local TL native speakers – but beware of SL creep



Keeping your target language fluent and current (4)

In summary:

- Be **AWARE** of the risks to your TL
- Be **SENSITIVE** to TL neologisms
- **ACTIVE** listening



CPD in your TARGET language

- CPD might focus more on the informal & less on formal events
- Formal CPD in your target language – focus on distance learning
- Missing out on interesting CPD due to geography
 - combine with planned trips
 - plan trips around CPD events
- COVID dividend



CPD in your SOURCE language

- Every aspect of your life becomes a form of CPD
- Local CPD in SL → Be imaginative about turning local events into relevant CPD



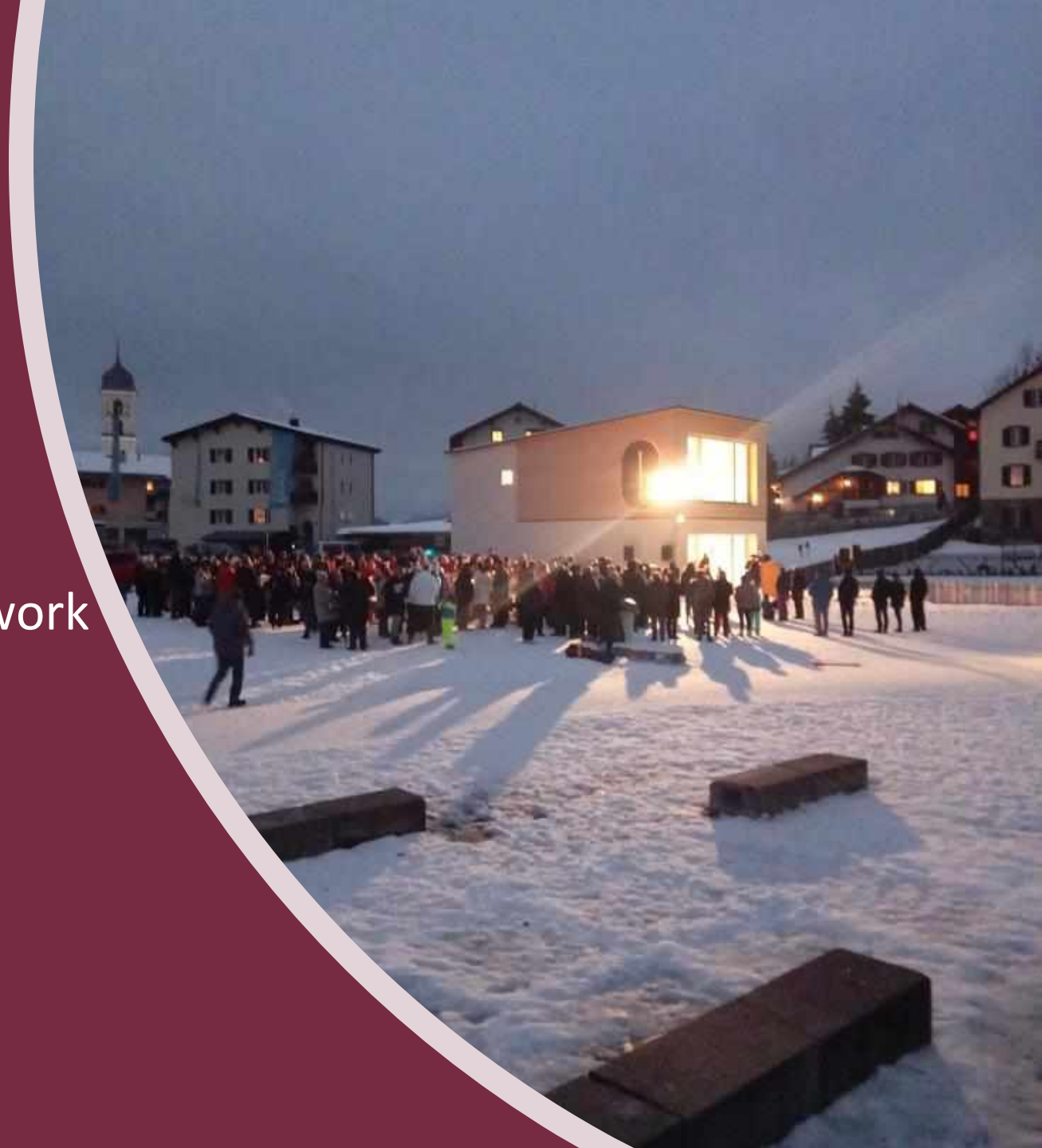
In summary:

→ Develop a sensitivity to lifelong learning



Building networks

- You don't realise how long you've taken to build a network in the country you grew up in
- Can take 15-20 years to build a good network
- Business, e.g.:
 - Business networks
 - Conferences
 - Formal networking events



Building networks (cont.)

- Private, e.g.:
 - Hobbies
 - Neighbours, work colleagues, in-laws
 - Parenthood – schools
 - Local events, classes
- How friendly are the locals? Hospitable or keep themselves to themselves?



Building networks (cont.)

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- How friendly are the locals? Hospitable or keep themselves to themselves?

Look to make friends – not to win business immediately



Top 3 tips

- Tend to your target language
- Switch on to CPD
- Nurture your networks



Thank you
Any
Questions?

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Emma Gledhill

hello@shipwrite.ch

www.shipwrite.ch

Twitter:

@linguistfemail