



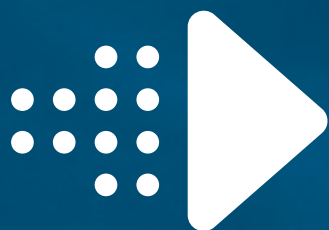
inspire  
& be inspired

Hrvatsko udruženje profesora engleskog jezika  
Croatian Association of Teachers of English

# NEWSLETTER

HUPE Newsletter No. 29 • May 2025





# NEXT CONFERENCE

## 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual International HUPE Conference

October 24–26, 2025

Valamar Poreč, Croatia



VALAMAR  
HOTELS & RESORTS



# PRESIDENT'S NOTE

A New Chapter for HUPE

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am truly honoured to address you as the new president of HUPE. First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the members for entrusting me with the leadership of our association for the next two years. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of previous presidents, Executive Committee members, and all HUPE members for maintaining the association's positive path.

As I step into this role, I see significant opportunities for growth and improvement within our association. I am excited to collaborate with my fellow Executive Committee members, a team I believe will bring fresh ideas and initiatives to the table, inspiring our members to engage more actively than ever before in HUPE activities.

I'm pleased to report that preparations for the 33rd Annual HUPE Conference are in progress. While change can be beneficial, I hope we will continue to receive steady support from the British Council, Australian Embassy, Irish Embassy, American Embassy, our dedicated publishers, city councils, and companies, as well as successfully

rekindle our partnership with the Education and Teacher Training Agency.

Over the past four years on the HUPE Executive Board, I have consistently affirmed a core belief: a satisfied member is our best ambassador. It's not only our responsibility to ensure your satisfaction; it is a shared dedication. We welcome your ideas and suggestions on how HUPE can better serve you, so please don't hesitate to reach out.

Together, we can announce a new and refreshing phase for HUPE.

Warm regards,  
Sanja Paić  
HUPE President



## WHERE IS STORYLAND?

Every great story begins with a spark of imagination—and that spark has found a home in Storyland, the creative writing competition proudly organized by the Croatian Association of English Teachers (HUPE). The competition is open to three age categories:

- **5th and 6th grades of primary school**
- **7th and 8th grades of primary school**
- **All levels of secondary school**

Participants are invited to explore any genre, as long as their stories are original, imaginative, and written in

English. Each story is a journey into the mind of a young writer, where dragons can fly through school corridors and quiet villages can hold magical secrets.

Through this competition, HUPE enthusiasts try to spark and cherish the love of English language learning and provide a platform for students to express themselves in meaningful and imaginative ways.

We look forward to reading the next round of unforgettable stories. After all, in Storyland, anything is possible.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Dear HUPE members, You are all invited to become a part of making HUPEzine what it really is – the best professional magazine for teachers of English in Croatia. Your ELT topics are most welcomed on [hupe.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:hupe.newsletter@gmail.com). They should be no longer than 1500 words, and can be accompanied by pictures/photographs, sent separately

from the text. You should write your full name, profession, the name of the institution, and your email address at the end of it.

Ivana Kasunić  
HUPE newsletter editor

# ADJUSTMENT OF THE MEMBERSHIP FEE – MAINTAINING THE MISSION AND SERVICES OF HUPE

Dear members of HUPE,

As a self-funded association dedicated to supporting professionals in English language teaching throughout Croatia and beyond, HUPE has always strived to maintain high-quality services, events, and resources for its members.

Over the years, we have been fortunate to receive support from embassies and publishers from time to time. However, such external financing has decreased significantly, and we are now facing increased financial demands to maintain and further improve our activities.

To ensure that HUPE remains a strong, active and innovative organization, we will adjust our membership fees. This decision was not made lightly, but several important costs need to be covered, including:

- Renewal **of our website** to improve communication, usability and accessibility
- Improving members' access to membership status, **duration**, and benefits associated with active membership
- Establishment of a more accessible and simpler **payment system** for the collection of membership fees and registration fees
- Implementation of a system for enabling payments via **mobile banking** (barcode or QR code)
- Implementation of **the Stripe payment system**, which enables secure and flexible **card payments**
- Auditing and updating our **register of members**, improving accuracy and transparency
- Introduction **of e-invoicing** in accordance with the legal requirements announced
- Costs of **workshops and meetings** of members in branches
- Expanding **opportunities for members** to attend webinars, seminars and professional development events in Croatia and abroad

These steps are necessary to ensure that HUPE remains accountable to your needs and continues to provide meaningful value and engagement for all members.

We appreciate your understanding and continued support as we take these steps to secure the future of HUPE and improve the services we offer.

Thank you for being an important part of the HUPE community.

HUPE team

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

**Sanja Paić, PRESIDENT**

I am a teacher of English and Italian with just over 20 years of teaching experience. I work at Kustošija Primary School in Zagreb, where I teach both languages. Recently, I was promoted to the title of Excellent Advisor Teacher. I led a Comenius project with a school from Italy, back during the EU pre-accession funding period. Additionally, I have participated in several smaller EU-funded projects in the field of education.

I enjoy travelling and gaining new experiences from other countries, as well as learning about different cultures, traditions, and meeting new people. During my travels, I take a particular interest in the organization of various education systems. I enjoy working in a positive environment, motivating others, and contributing to team success.

For the past four years, I have been a member of the HUPE Executive Board, and I am grateful that my colleagues have recognized my contributions and entrusted me with such an important role in the association today.



### **Ivana Kasunić (HUPEzine and newsletter editor)**

I'm an English teacher at Elementary School Nikola Tesla in Rijeka, with nearly 20 years of classroom experience and a long-standing passion for books—which I do my best to pass on to my students. I enjoy working on creative projects that bring learning to life, and for the past two years, I've had the pleasure of contributing as the editor of *HUPEzine* and the HUPE newsletter. I'm excited to continue supporting our teaching community in this role in the board!



### **Marija Grah**

I have worked as an English language teacher in primary school for 20 years. Through the years I have actively participated in various professional development programmes always trying to improve my teaching style. I have also worked from kindergarten to language schools. In 2021 I completed the course to become certified and accredited Neurolanguage Coach®. I am always looking for opportunities to broaden my educational horizons because I am a lifelong learner.



### **Maja Labaš Horvat**

Maja Labaš Horvat has been teaching English for 24 years, gaining extensive experience in both grammar and vocational schools. For the past 15 years, she has also taken on the role of teacher trainer and ŽSV leader. In recent years, her work has centered on assessment, a field in which she holds British Council certification and has received specialized training in Item Writing. Maja is enthusiastic about engaging in diverse educational projects and values the opportunity to work closely with both students and colleagues. This year, she proudly joined the HUPE Executive Board. She looks forward to new challenges and continued collaboration with fellow educators.



### **Mirjana Zubak Mičetić**

Mirjana Zubak Mičetić is a Croatian professional with extensive experience in teaching English and Croatian languages. She has worked in various educational settings, including primary and secondary schools, language schools, and adult education centres. Currently she is working in primary education in Samobor, Croatia, OŠ Bogumila Tonija, teaching both lower and higher primary levels. Mirjana has joined HUPE in early 2000s and has been a branch president for Zagreb HUPE branch for 3 years. Mirjana's educational qualifications include a Master's degree in English and Croatian language and literature, various certificates in different teaching aspects, court translator and certified real estate agent. But above all, she has strong passion for music which keeps her going and her energy focused on creating things together.



### Sanja Pratljačić

My name is Sanja Pratljačić. I am an English teacher at Primary School "Stjepan Radić" Oprisavci. For almost 20 years I teach lower and higher primary levels. I have participated in many projects including both students and teachers. For the previous two years I have worked as a HUPE treasurer. I love to travel, meet new people, read books and teach. My biggest support in everything I do is my family.



### Tihana Svoren Kolarec

Tihana Svoren Kolarec je profesorica engleskog jezika s nešto više od 20 godina iskustva u nastavi. Radi u maloj seoskoj školi s učenicima u dobi od 6 do 14 godina. Tijekom svoje nastavničke karijere pohađala je mnoge tečajeve za osposobljavanje učitelja, online tečajeve i metodološke seminare. Vodila je radionice u Hrvatskoj na HUPE konferencijama i sastancima podružnica HUPE-a. Također je aktivno sudjelovala na međunarodnim konferencijama u Sloveniji, Bosni i Hercegovini, Škotskoj i Mađarskoj. Godine 2018. bila je voditeljica MOOC-a, a 2019. volontirala je kao guru resursa na OPEN platformi. Aktivna je članica HUPE Croatia (Hrvatskog udruženja nastavnika engleskog jezika) gdje je od 2017. jedna od članica izvršnog odbora (predsjednica podružnice HUPE Osijek, PR HUPE-a, nadzornica HUPE-a i međunarodna koordinatorica HUPE-a). Posljednjih 8 godina aktivna je članica Erasmus tima u svojoj školi.



---

## HUPE DUBROVNIK BRANCH MEETING REPORT

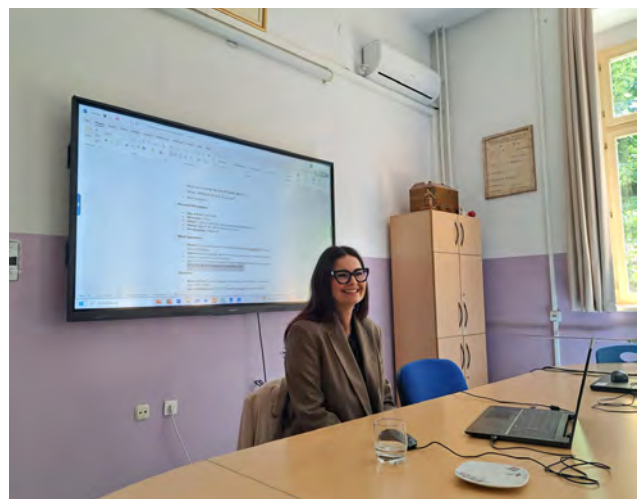
The second HUPE Dubrovnik Branch meeting in 2024-2025 took place at Osnovna škola Blato

in Blato on May 24, 2025.

Agenda:

1. SANJA RAŠKOVIĆ: *Stories, a powerful teaching tool*
2. SILVIJA PEĆANAC BAČIĆ: *Literature unfolded*
3. HUPE info
4. HUPE Dubrovnik president election

The first speaker was Sanja Rašković with her interactive storytelling workshop. It showed us the importance of





storytelling in English teaching. She offered us numerous amazing activities to use in our everyday teaching. Most of the activities are suitable for all age groups, so the workshop was useful for both primary and secondary school teachers.

Silvija Pećanac Bačić gave a presentation which showed an example of good practice, unfolding narrative layers to understand Shelley's commentary on science, humanity, and creation, showcasing Frankenstein's enduring influence on literature and popular culture.

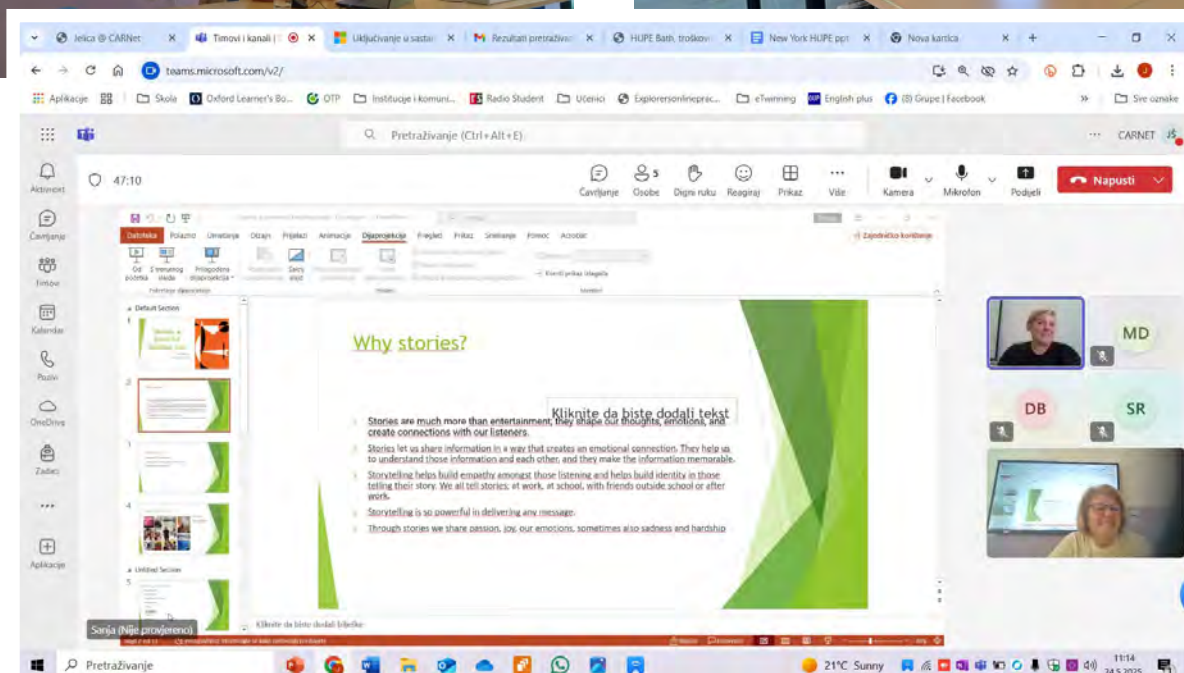
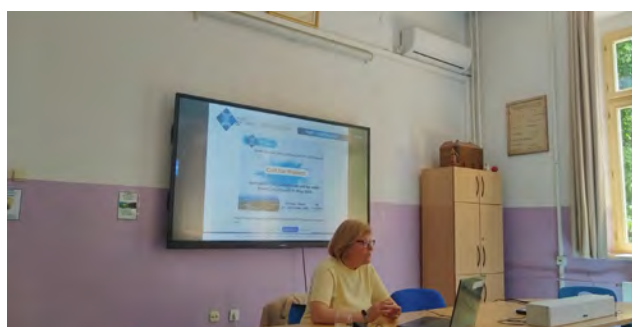
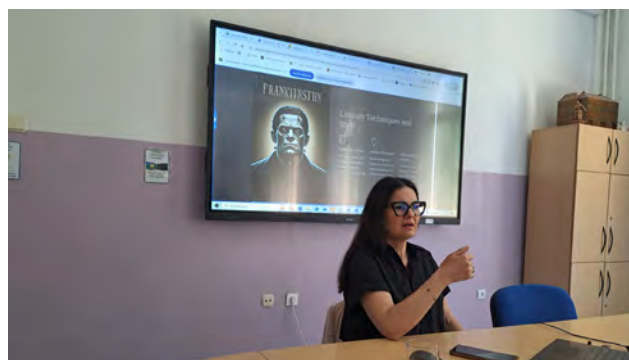
Following these two very interesting workshops, the current HUPE Dubrovnik president shared the latest HUPE news, such as the information about the new board,

HUPEzine and the 33rd HUPE conference, which will take place in Poreč, 24 – 26 October 2025. All the participants were invited to participate in HUPE newsletter and HUPEzine, as well as to contribute to our web page digital materials.

At the end of the meeting, HUPE members voted for the next branch president. They unanimously supported Silvija Pećanac Bačić as the new HUPE Dubrovnik branch president. Congratulations, Silvija!

Jelica Šeparović

HUPE Dubrovnik Branch President



# THE THIRD HUPE OSIJEK BRANCH MEETING IN SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025

The third HUPE Osijek branch meeting in the school year 2024-2025 was held on 24 May 2025 at the Faculty of Education in Osijek. The 4-hour-long meeting was attended by 25 members.

## The agenda included:

- 1) Sanja Rašković: Stories, a powerful teaching tool
- 2) HUPE news
- 3) HUPE Osijek branch president elections
- 4) Dajana Vukadin: Let's Play with Words: Grammar and Vocab Unplugged!
- 5) Ivana Burić Kurtović & Eva Bogdanović: Colourful gardens: on creativity and global biodiversity in language education

At the beginning of the meeting, **Sanja Rašković**, an English teacher and certified NLP trainer from Global Lingua private language school in Zaprešić, held a workshop titled **Stories, a powerful teaching tool**. She shared engaging, story-based activities designed to boost creativity and support language skills such as vocabulary, grammar, reading, listening, and speaking. This practical workshop highlighted the power of stories to make learning more enjoyable and meaningful across all age groups.

After the workshop, members were informed about the **news in HUPE**, including the new HUPE Board members, changes in membership fees from 1 June 2025, future teacher training courses in New York and Bath, the new edition of HUPEzine, upcoming conferences by our partner associations, and other regular branch updates. The branch president also notified the members about the details of the upcoming **33rd Annual International HUPE Conference**, which is taking place in Valamar Diamant Hotel, Poreč from 24 to 26 October 2025, such as the call for speakers, registration fees, accommodation, and transportation. Newly elected HUPE president Sanja Paić also attended the meeting and said a few words about the new website design and plans for future conferences.

After the updates, the **HUPE Osijek branch president elections** were held. There was only one candidate, acting Osijek branch president, Adrijana Roždijevac from Josip

Kozarac Primary School in Soljani. She shortly addressed the members and explained the voting process, after which the voting was held and she was unanimously voted the new HUPE Osijek branch president.

Following the coffee break, the second workshop, titled **Let's Play with Words: Grammar and Vocab Unplugged!**, was held by **Dajana Vukadin** from Sveta Klara Primary School in Zagreb. She introduced a range of fun, classroom-tested games, from fast-paced speaking activities to strategy-based board games, that turn traditional grammar and vocabulary exercises into engaging, student-centred learning. The workshop focused on boosting motivation, creativity, and teamwork, while offering practical ideas easily adaptable for different age groups and levels.

At the end of the meeting, **Ivana Burić Kurtović** from Happy Melody private language school and **Eva Bogdanović** from Čarobna riječ private language school in Zagreb held a workshop titled **Colourful gardens: on creativity and global biodiversity in language education**. Through a story-based, game-like format, the workshop encouraged participants to tap into their creativity, explore cultural and linguistic diversity, and develop a growth mindset. Participants collected essential elements for healthy plant growth by engaging in different language activities that stimulated their imagination and promoted collaboration and critical thinking.

**HUPE Osijek is thankful** to the speakers and all the members who were able to attend the meeting on Saturday morning and create a friendly and relaxing atmosphere ideal for teachers connecting, collaborating, and exchanging ideas. I'm truly grateful for your trust and support in re-electing me to continue serving as the branch president.

Hopefully, we will see you at one of our future meetings next school year. Enjoy the long-awaited and well-deserved summer holidays!

Adrijana Roždijevac

HUPE Osijek Branch President



# THE THIRD HUPE SLAVONSKI BROD BRANCH MEETING IN 2024/2025 TOOK PLACE AT OSNOVNA ŠKOLA DRAGUTIN TADIJANOVIĆ IN SLAVONSKI BROD ON MAY 28, 2025.

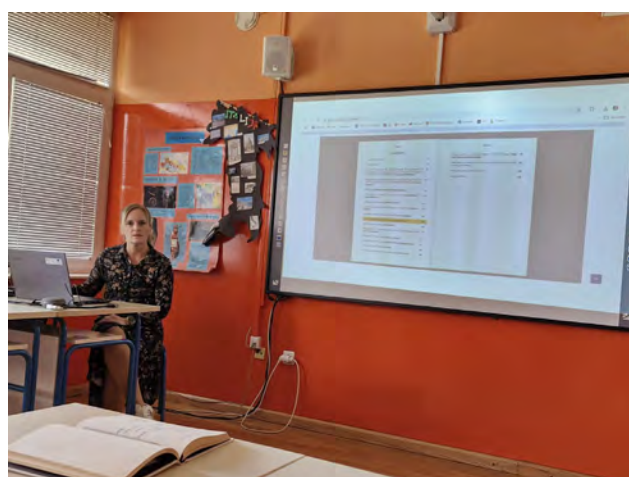
## Agenda:

- 1) Ivana Borozni: "English Learning Through Student Lenses."
- 2) HUPE Slavonski Brod branch president elections
- 3) Mirta Kos Kolobarić: "Education for sustainable future."
- 4) HUPE news

Ivana Borozni presented her research: **"Students' Experiences Learning English"** at the HUPE Slavonski Brod teachers' meeting. She shared the findings from a survey conducted with 36 middle school students to explore their attitudes, preferences, and challenges in learning English. She highlighted that while most students understand the importance of English for their future, their levels of enthusiasm vary. The students showed a clear preference for interactive and media-based learning activities such as games, videos, and music, rather than traditional grammar exercises. She noted that many students feel nervous about speaking in class, though a majority reported feeling reasonably comfortable. Grammar was identified as the most significant challenge, followed by difficulties in writing and speaking. The research also revealed that few students currently use digital learning apps, but most believe that technology could enhance their language learning experience. Students expressed a preference for working in pairs or groups over working alone. She concluded that incorporating more games, videos, and group activities into lessons could increase student engagement and confidence. Her presentation emphasized the importance of blending innovative, student-centered approaches with traditional teaching methods to create a more effective and balanced learning environment.

Mirta Kos Kolobarić led the workshop titled **"Education for Sustainable Future"** sharing practical activities and ideas from the structured course for teachers (Education

for sustainable future) which the speaker attended within the 1st accredited project (project no. 2024-1-HR01-KA121-SCH-000206090). The workshop was engaging and thought-provoking, designed to encourage attendees to reflect critically on their own sustainable and unsustainable habits. Participants gained valuable new ideas on how to guide students toward changing their behavior in small but meaningful ways to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The activities sparked reflection among the attendees about sustainability, inspiring them to consider how even



baby steps can contribute to a more sustainable future. Overall, the workshop was highly informative, leaving teachers better equipped and motivated to integrate sustainability concepts into their classrooms.

After these two highly engaging workshops, Ivana Borozni, the current president of HUPE Slavonski Brod, shared the latest updates from HUPE. These included news about the new board, the HUPEzine, and the 33rd HUPE conference, which is scheduled to be held in Poreč from October 24 to 26, 2025. All attendees were encouraged to take part in the HUPE newsletter and HUPEzine, and to contribute to the digital materials on our website.

HUPE members attending the meeting cast their votes for the branch president. Ivana Borozni was re-elected as the president of the HUPE Slavonski Brod branch.

Ivana Borozni

HUPE Slavonski Brod Branch President



## HUPE ZADAR BRANCH MEETINGS 2024-2025

HUPE Zadar branch members had the opportunity to attend two meetings this year. The first meeting took place on December 11, 2024 at Bartul Kasic Zadar Elementary School. Our colleagues and members Daria Paro and Simona Atlaga Ivanišević held a workshop titled *Teaching English in the Age of AI*. The workshop included detailed analysis of the ways AI influences teaching as well as several ideas and tools that can be used in the classroom. In the second workshop our colleague Lana Kulišić and Anita Dominis Šestan, IT teacher, continued with the AI topic and presented us with AI-powered tools specifically designed to help teachers with various aspects of teaching including both positive and negative sides of using AI in the classroom. We continued with HUPE 2024 conference report as well as HUPE news. Finally, our friend Kristina Jurešić held a sweet *Cookie class* to finish off the year with some tasty Christmas cookies and recipes.

The second meeting took place on May 9, 2025 and it was held online. Teacher Sanja Rašković held the first workshop named *Recycle and teach* where she presented several activities using recyclable materials to engage

students with both vocabulary and grammar exercises in a fun and interesting way. The second workshop titled *Green school for a brighter future* included some interesting ideas for engaging students in CLIL lessons using the topic of sustainability and critical approach to solving environmental issues. Members were also informed about the HUPE board election results. Finally, the new HUPE Zadar branch president was elected, and members were informed that colleague Ana Džaja is taking on the new role.

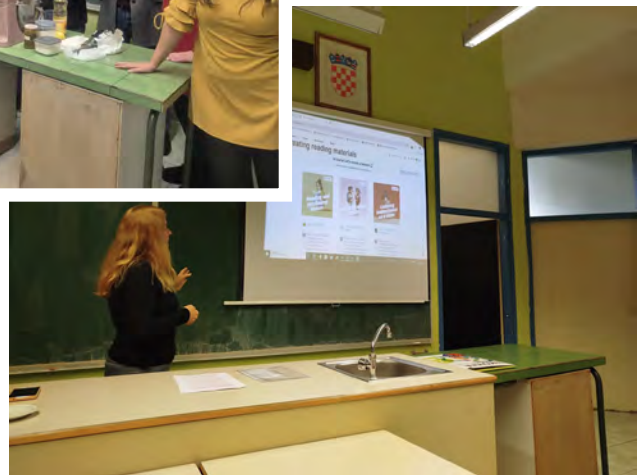
HUPE Zadar would like to thank all members for participating. Also, a special thanks goes to Daria Paro, Simona Atlaga Ivanišević, Lana Kulišić, Anita Dominis Šestan. Kristina Jurešić and Sanja Rašković for the interesting workshops and collaboration.

We are looking forward to seeing you all next year at our future branch meetings.

Kristina Viduka

HUPE Zadar Branch President







# HUPE ZAGREB 2024.-2025.

On May 17, 2025, the third HUPE Zagreb branch meeting for the 2024-2025 school year took place at Čarobna riječ, attracting over 20 enthusiastic English teachers and HUPE members for a 3-hour professional development session. The agenda included workshops on "Creative Paths to Students' Well-Being" by Barbara Hanjilec, which focused on supporting Gen Z through art and emotional intelligence; an IELTS presentation by Đurđica Valadžija from the British Council; and a creativity workshop by Ivana Burić Kurtović and Eva Bogdanović "

Colourful gardens: on creativity and global biodiversity in language education", that encouraged engagement in language tasks. Following the workshops, updates on HUPE activities and future events were shared, and Petra Blajić was elected as the new branch president and Mirjana Zubak Mičetić thanked participants for their support during the past years. The meeting concluded with gratitude expressed to the speakers and attendees and with an invitation for English teachers to join HUPE Zagreb.

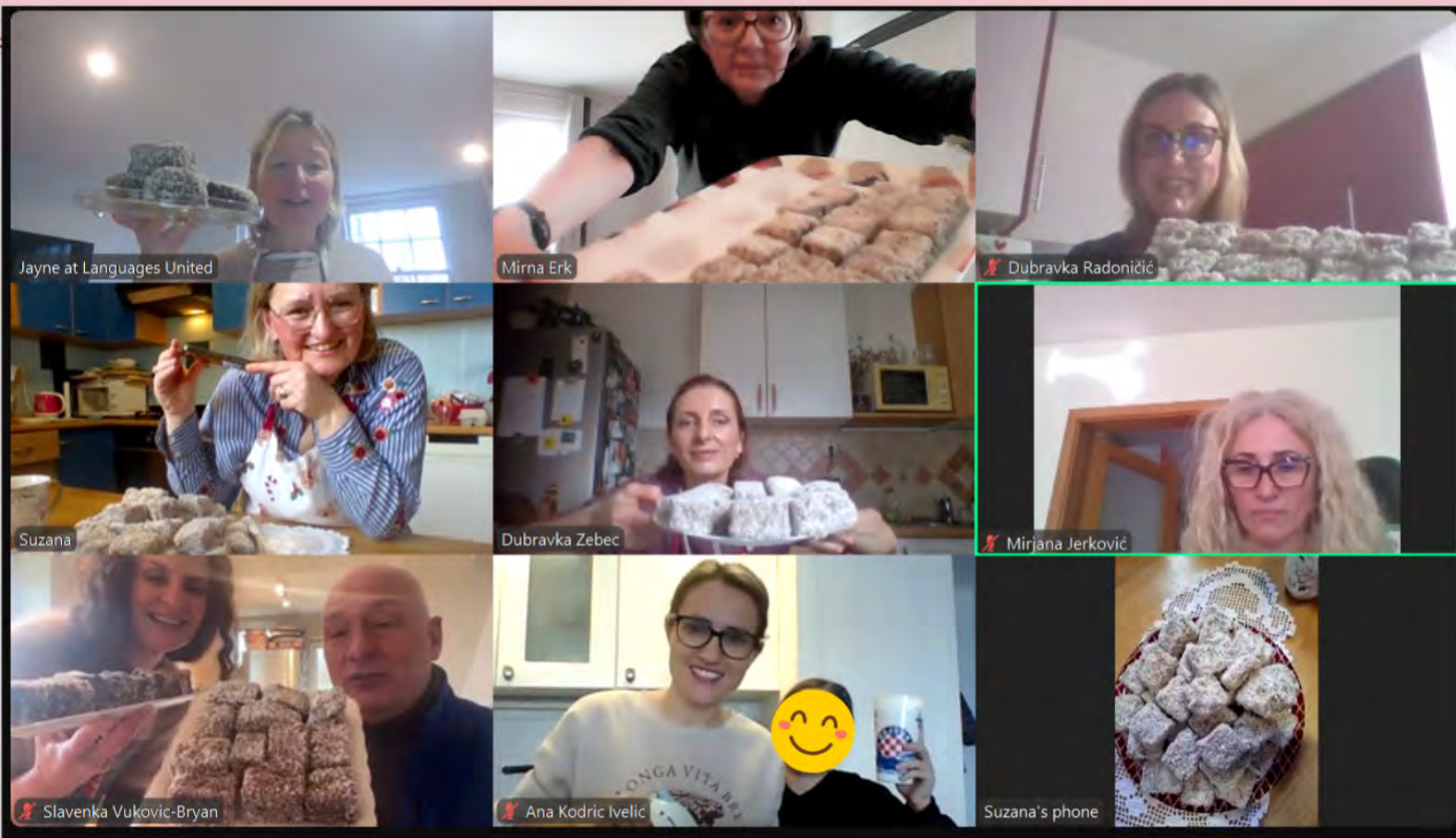




# Languages United & HUPE



## ČUPAVCI bake-along with Suzana Tolić



yum



# BAKE-ALONG COLLABORATION BY LANGUAGES UNITED AND HUPE

The fact that English teachers are a completely new level of human existence finds proof in fact that we have decided to spend every last Sunday in a month from January till June baking cakes via zoom with colleagues from all around the globe.

The idea was “cooked” during the Zoom British Victoria Sponge bake-along organized by the great people from Languages United and hosted by wonderful Jayne Bowra for English teachers from Croatia who were unable to attend the HUPE Conference in Poreč in 2024.

And, while the Victoria sponge was in the oven, the teacher bakers discussed favourite recipes and ... the rest is history.

So far, we have organized and hosted five baking events of Professional Development through Cross-cultural Collaboration series by Languages United and HUPE. The final one is scheduled for June 28, and we are looking forward to spending quality time with our dear teacher baker colleagues.

Before every session, we send the invitation with the attached presentation containing the list of ingredients and equipment required, as well as a sneak peek into how the cake will look. This bake-along offers an amazing opportunity to share culture and language through baking.

Wonderful recipes were demonstrated and tasted!, In January we made Čupavci a.k.a. Lamingtons with Suzana Tolić (Osijek), in February Baklava Rolls with Sabina Skenderović Bukvić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), in March Chocolate Cookies with Mary Dimitrov (the USA), in April Bajadera, the Chocolate Queen with Dubravka Radoničić (Zagreb), in May Auntie Ana's Cake again with Dubravka Radoničić (Zagreb). And this seasons's Bake-Along finale will be in June with our host Suzana Tolić making her very own London Delight Carrot Cake. So, if you have not baked with us yet, join us in June!

---

## REPORT ON 38TH ANNUAL APPI CONFERENCE – ELT IN A MULTIMODAL WORLD, 25TH – 27TH APRIL 2025

I recently had the chance to take part in the 38th APPI Annual Conference, held at the ISCTE - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, and what an inspiring experience it was! Organised by the amazing APPI team APPI, the event brought together passionate teachers, educators, and professionals from across Europe to share ideas, practices, and plenty of positive energy.

The conference featured an impressive lineup of plenary speakers. Nik Peachey opened with a thought-provoking

talk *Multimodality in English Language Teaching and Learning*, setting the tone for a multimodally-centred event. Rose Aylett focused on *Transformative teaching: seven principles for critical language pedagogy*, George Kokolas highlighted the importance of positivity in education in his *“Positive Education for Beginners”*, while Gabriel Díaz Maggioli Fulfilling students' needs one “E” at a time! offered practical frameworks for dealing with complexity of students' actual learning needs and shaping our teaching accordingly. Nayr Ibrahim's



session *"From teacher to activist: visualize, decolonize and demonolingualize ELT"* beautifully tied together multimodality and multilingualism, stating the need for ELT to become a space for equity, inclusivity and linguistic justice.

I was truly honoured to present my own session, *"Gender Equality: Are We There Yet? – a classroom project"*. I shared how my students engaged with gender equality issues through creative, multimodal activities and collaboration. What made the experience even more rewarding were the meaningful conversations that followed. Colleagues from Portugal shared their own classroom perspectives and challenges, and a few even expressed interest in joining the project next year—an unexpected and very welcome outcome!

A particular highlight for me was Sandra Luna's talk, *"Why do I need a teacher? I learn English better with...!"*. Her session struck a powerful chord, reminding us that our students are all the same across the world, and our classrooms are also spaces for promoting values, empathy, and critical thinking.

Huge thanks to both HUPE and APPI for giving me the opportunity to be a part of such a dynamic, warm, and enriching event. I left Lisbon feeling inspired, connected, and full of new ideas to bring back to my students and colleagues. Until next time!

Gordana Bujanić Tretinjak, prof.

HUPE Supervisory

---

## 23<sup>RD</sup> ELTA SERBIA CONFERENCE

The 23rd ELTA Serbia International Conference took place on 16–17 May 2025 at Alfa BK University in Belgrade, Serbia. It was organized by the English Language Teachers' Association (ELTA) Serbia and it brought together educators from around the world to share innovative practices and experiences in English language teaching.

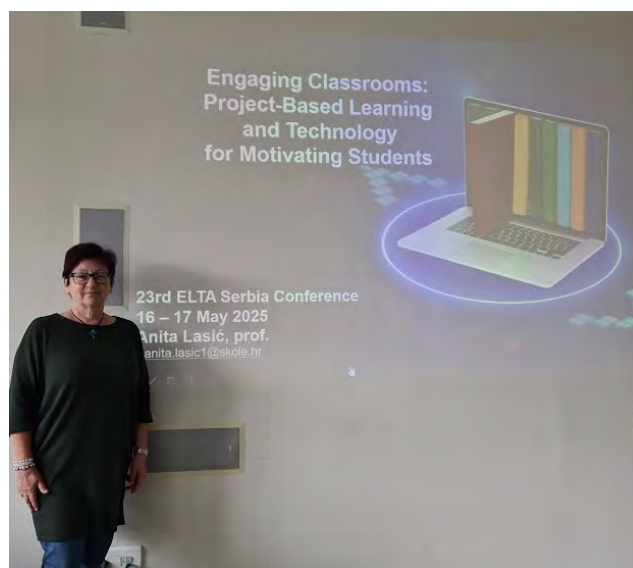
The event offered more than fifty workshops and talks, and seven plenary sessions. Experts from 20 countries contributed to the success of the conference. The overall theme, inspired by Nelson Mandela's quote, "It always seems impossible until it's done," highlighted the challenges and magic of teaching in modern classrooms. Accredited by the Institute for Educational Advancement (ZUOV), the conference provided a platform for professional development and networking among English language teachers.

Teaching is much more than just conveying information — it's about permanently adjusting to the ever-changing world of education, motivating students, and including technology into everyday classroom activities. Modern teachers are expected to find the right balance between traditional and modern methods, often engaging with students who are more digitally fluent than ever before. Despite the difficulties they face, teachers worldwide continually accomplish extraordinary feats, transforming challenges into opportunities each and every day.

I had the honour and pleasure to participate in the conference as a speaker. My workshop dealt with *Engaging Classrooms: Project-Based Teaching and Technology for Motivating Students*. In this 45-minute interactive

workshop, I explored practical approaches to project-based teaching, highlighting how modern technology and innovative teaching methods can enhance the learning experience and make lessons student-centred. The session provided strategies for integrating digital tools into lessons while fostering creativity and collaboration. Additionally, the workshop addressed techniques to boost motivation among both students and teachers, making classrooms more engaging and dynamic. Teachers had the opportunity to acquire practical ideas to implement in their own teaching practices, helping to inspire and motivate learners in today's digital age.

The outcomes of the workshop included teachers' grasping the principles of project-based learning and



ways to implement it effectively in the classroom; learning to integrate digital tools into their lessons to enhance student engagement and creativity; exploring various innovative methods that can boost motivation and improve learning outcomes for students; developing strategies to motivate both themselves and their students, creating a more dynamic and engaging learning environment; gaining skills to design project-based lessons that incorporate technology and innovative techniques.

My participation in the 23rd ELTA Serbia International Conference was a great and inspiring experience. I met many passionate educators from around the world and had the opportunity to share my ideas through the workshop *“Engaging Classrooms: Project-Based Learning and Technology for Motivating Students”*. It was also the great opportunity to learn from a wide range of innovative and practical workshops. The conference offered professional connections and stressed the importance of creativity, adaptability, and collaboration in language teaching. I return motivated, full of new ideas, and proud to have contributed to a global dialogue on improving education.



---

## ELTAM MONTENEGRO – ENJOYING TEACHING AND TEACHER TRAINING

If you are looking for a conference with loads of laughter and good workshops – spend two days of learning, connecting, and growing together at the ELTAM Conference.

This May, I had the honour of taking part in the Montenegrin conference in Nikšić and enjoying plenary sessions, talks and workshops.

**What is CLIL, and What Can It Offer to Both Teachers and Learners?** with Phil Ball from the British Council was a huge success. It was a pleasure to be a part of an eye-opening session on Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) with international education expert Phil Ball.

**Language Learning in the Digital Age** where we have been a part of a powerful and thought-provoking session with Catherine Jeanneau from the European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML) — and it was a deep dive into the future of language learning! Her talk explored how language classrooms can go beyond grammar and vocabulary to shape responsible, autonomous, and

digitally literate communicators. Ms. Jeanneau reminded us that language is action — and by integrating digital tools and meaningful tasks, we’re not just teaching language, we’re shaping future-ready citizens.

We have also followed an inspiring and thought-provoking session with Mr. Grant Kempton: **“PSS: Are We There Yet? Will We Ever Be There?”** With over 38 years in ELT, Mr. Grant has brought his deep experience—and a dash of humor from his teenage “trend advisors”—to tackle the evolving challenges of post-pandemic education. In a world that’s more digital, less human, and filled with uncertainty, he urged us to rethink how we build confidence in both teachers and students.

I also enjoyed numerous valuable workshops, among others:

**Card Games for Dynamic Learning** by Alenka Tratnik (IATEFL Slovenia). We are wholeheartedly thankful for laughter, learning, and lots of ideas! Teachers got hands-on with a variety of card-based activities—perfect for adding energy, interaction, and fun to language lessons.





**Power Up Your Classroom** by Matthew Gleason (ELF Kosovo) This brain-based workshop explained how memory works, offering “use on Monday” tools to boost retention, vocabulary, and grammar recall through multisensory learning. The workshop explored the fascinating intersection of learning, memory, and teaching, aiming to empower educators with practical tools, strategies, and activities to enhance student learning outcomes that result in long-term memory transference, retention, and retrieval. Participants were guided through a series of activities that explored key concepts related to memory, such as attention-sustaining activities, mnemonics for grammar practice and vocabulary building, and depth of processing techniques to facilitate multisensory learning experiences.

**Engaging English: Adaptable Activities for Dynamic Classrooms** by Ljiljana Šćekić (ELTA Serbia) Teachers walked away with a toolkit of adaptable, high-impact activities designed to energize learners, encourage critical thinking, and promote collaboration. This session showcased a collection of adaptable and engaging activities designed to invigorate English language lessons. The activities presented span a range of skills and can be easily modified to suit specific learning objectives and class sizes.



**The Power of Intelligent Instruction** by Rob Howard, IATEFL Poland, focused on how clear, thoughtful instruction design boosts student engagement and learning. Our dear speaker shared hands-on strategies for immediate classroom impact. Our participants developed effective communication skills to deliver instructions in a manner that is easily understandable by students. Furthermore, they explored various strategies, such as



using visual aids, providing examples, and employing interactive methods, to facilitate effective instruction delivery. The workshop emphasized the importance of modeling and our participants learned how to craft instructions that promote critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration among students.

**Emoji-O-Meter** by Zorka Radonjić & Ivana Radulović, ELTAM. Ourbshowed how emojis—simple, relatable visuals—can energize classroom communication and help build vocabulary, grammar, and productive skills in a fun way! Emoji are definitely perfect visuals which can spice up our teaching practice and develop our students' vocabulary, grammar and therefore productive skills. Teaching things dear and known to students makes one's work easier, interesting and fun.

**Let's Have Fun – Energizers, Fillers, Warm-ups!** (Jelena Spasić, ELTA Serbia) We kicked things off with engaging, adaptable activities that boost motivation and language retention—because every great class starts with energy and fun! We all know that effective English language teaching goes beyond textbooks. It requires a dynamic and responsive classroom environment where students are engaged from the start and their energy levels are kept high throughout the lesson. So, how do we do that? Well, one way is to use warm-ups, fillers, and energizers. In this demo lesson, participants tried out some of the practical activities that not only enhance student motivation, build confidence and improve language retention, but also allow us to relax and have fun. The activities shown are simple and adaptable to various proficiency levels.

**Writing as a Key to the Future – Peace Corps Volunteers Erika Steiger, Conrad Salisbury, and Robert Henry** shared dynamic classroom experiences that develop students' creativity, critical thinking, and voice through diverse writing forms. They were kind enough to share

their meaningful experiences when it came to teaching all kinds of writing to students, from academic essays to imaginative stories to poetry.

**Low-Prep Vocab Revision with AI – Ekaterina Surkova** spoke about how to let AI do the heavy lifting with smart, student-centered vocabulary tasks. Effective language learning relies on spaced repetition, retrieval practice, and meaningful recycling of content. In today's talk, Ms. Surkova explored how we can apply these principles to create low-prep tasks for revision and recycling of vocabulary so that a teacher can maximize learning while minimizing their workload. Our speaker showed how AI can generate customized revision activities, tailoring them to students' needs. By doing this, teachers can boost their students' engagement and ensure long-term retention of the material. This was a meaningful talk for all those teachers who would like to explore innovative ways to enhance their lessons, thus making AI their ally, not a competitor.

I held a workshop: **The Tie That Binds: How the Carpathia Saved the Titanic**. This multidisciplinary workshop brought history to life with authentic materials, tech tools, and creative projects—blending language learning with critical thinking and storytelling. The room was packed and the feedback lovely, we enjoyed discovering more about the project and promised to never forget the people of Carpathia.

Congratulations to ELTAM board members who organised another great conference, and especially the round table where we discussed the future of teacher training and English language teaching associations.

Anita Jokić, prof.

---

## IATEFL CONFERENCE IN EDINBURGH

How quickly the time flies. It is already one month since I attended IATEFL conference in Edinburgh. This was my first IATEFL conference and I hope it will not be the last one. The conference lasted from 8 – 11 May and was held in Edinburgh International Conference Center. On Monday, May 7 there were numerous pre-conference events. As HUPE representative I attended Associates Day events. There were representatives from 55 different associations from all over the world. It was a wonderful opportunity to talk to people from similar associations, compare similarities and differences and gain some new ideas. The most exciting part for me was seeing other

association's representatives mentioning HUPE in their presentations.

Form Tuesday to Friday each day would start with a plenary session. This year's plenary speakers were: Catherine Walter, Carolina Kuepper-Tetzel, Daniel Xerri, Neil McMillan, and Harry Waters with Alicia Waters Galan. My personal favourites were father-daughter duo Harry and Alicia Waters who addressed the topic of ecology and raising young activists.

Besides plenaries there were numerous workshops and talks on various topics in ELT, poster presentations,



debates, forums, panels, and SIG events. Conference organizers made navigation through the programme and the venue easier by offering participants conference app. The programme was so rich that it was difficult to choose just one in each slot.

The most popular themes were the use of AI in education, working with neurodivergent students, ecology and sustainability, creativity, and problems that EFL teachers face all around the world.

On Tuesday I had the opportunity to support our HUPE member Ivana Devčić who was presenting at the conference with her mentor as a continuation of EVE mentoring program. Ivana was great and people in the audience were actively participating in her workshop.

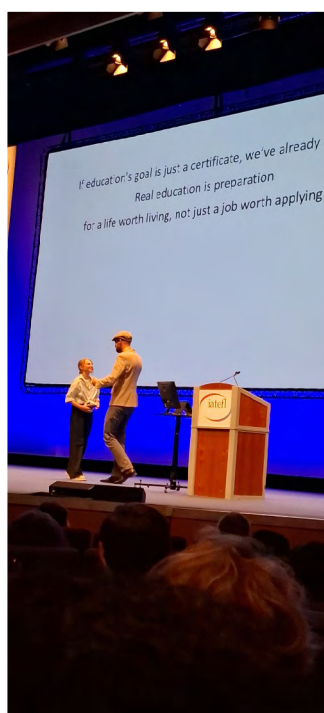
She was not the only HUPE member presenting in Edinburgh. Our very own Ivana Burić Kurtović and Eva Bogdanović had a workshop on Friday which gave a lot of inspiration to participants.

Every evening there were social events where participants could learn something more about Edinburgh, Scottish culture, or just relax and meet peers from all over the world.

I must say that I am very happy that I attended this wonderful event. I met a lot of great experts in EFL world, I have a lot of new ideas that I can implement in my everyday teaching, and I had the chance to enjoy the enchanting Edinburgh.











## New School Year. New Paths.

Choosing the right English coursebook is more than ticking a box — it's about selecting materials that truly match your students' needs, support your teaching, and keep everything manageable and relevant.

We're here to help you make that choice with confidence.

### Which titles can you choose from?

Give your students  
the English they need  
for their future professions  
— without adding to your  
workload.



Your Essential  
Supplement  
for Vocational  
English




... and  
many  
more!



Every student who uses **New Enterprise** or **On Screen** will receive free digital access to the relevant **Career Paths** title via the **DigiBooks** platform.



### What do you get when you choose **New Enterprise** or **On Screen**?

Student's Pack	Teacher's Pack
<b>Student's Book</b> (printed and digital edition via <a href="#">Express DigiBooks</a> )	
<b>Workbook</b> (Printed and digital edition via <a href="#">Express DigiBooks</a> )	
<b>GRATIS Grammar Book</b> (printed and digital edition via <a href="#">Express DigiBooks</a> )	
<b>GRATIS Career Paths</b> title relevant to their vocational area Digital edition via <a href="#">Express DigiBooks</a>	<b>Teacher's Book</b> and other Teaching Resources (printed and digital)
<b>Not using <i>New Enterprise</i> or <i>On Screen</i>?</b> You can still take advantage of the <b>Career Paths</b> series! <b>Printed + digital edition available at a SPECIAL price of only €15!</b>	 <b>Interactive Whiteboard Software (IWB)</b>
	<b>Career Paths</b> title relevant to their vocational area Printed and digital edition via <a href="#">Express DigiBooks</a>

To learn more or get free samples contact us at:

Alfa d. d. & Express Publishing PLC | [engleski@alfa.hr](mailto:engleski@alfa.hr) | [f/groups/engleskialfa](https://www.facebook.com/groups/engleskialfa) (*Engleski jezik – Alfa & Express Publishing*)  
[www.alfa.hr](http://www.alfa.hr) | [kabinet.alfa.hr](http://kabinet.alfa.hr) | [hr.mozaweb.com](http://hr.mozaweb.com) | [www.expresspublishing.co.uk](http://www.expresspublishing.co.uk) | [www.expressdigibooks.com](http://www.expressdigibooks.com)

# REPORT ON THE 30TH INTERNATIONAL IATEFL SLOVENIA CONFERENCE

13th–16th March 2025, Terme Vivat, Moravske Toplice

The 30th International IATEFL Slovenia Conference took place from the 13th to the 16th of March 2025 in the picturesque surroundings of Terme Vivat in Moravske Toplice. Themed “What Keeps Us Going,” this year’s conference gathered educators, ELT professionals, and renowned speakers from around the world to reflect on what drives and sustains us in the ever-evolving field of language teaching.

Members of the HUPE (Croatian Association of Teachers of English) board were active participants in the event, both attending and presenting workshops, contributing significantly to the professional atmosphere of the conference.

The conference was officially opened with a plenary talk by Milan Mandeljc, setting an inspiring tone for the days that followed. The opening evening featured the popular International Evening, a warm and engaging tradition where participants presented samples of their national drinks and cuisine, celebrating cultural exchange and camaraderie.

A highlight of the event was the impressive lineup of plenary speakers, which included well-known figures in the ESL world such as Jeremy Harmer, Jamie Keddie, Sara Isaković, Cecilia Lemos Harmer, Claudia Molnar, and Milan Mandeljc. Their insightful talks touched on creativity, motivation, AI in education, and the emotional dimensions of teaching.

The conference program offered a rich variety of workshops across three days, exploring themes such as gamification, motivation, ChatGPT and AI, peacebuilding, kindness, humor, and the culture of teaching. HUPE representatives made notable contributions:

- Ivana Borozni, president of the HUPE Slavonski Brod branch, led a dynamic and engaging session titled “Humor Me! Incorporating Laughter in Your Classroom.”
- Ivana Kasunić, editor of Hupezine and HUPE newsletter, followed with her workshop focused on peacebuilding in the classroom.
- On Saturday morning, Mirjana Mičetić Zubak delivered a forward-thinking workshop on implementing the “Magic of AI” in language education.



What truly sets the IATEFL Slovenia Conference apart is its strong sense of community and memorable social events. From the festive International Evening to wine and paint sessions, poetry competitions, chocolate praline workshops, acupressure treatments, pool



nights, and relaxing massages, there was something for everyone. A special highlight was Jeremy Harmer's guitar performance and the lively dance party, which featured the fun and unconventional dress code: "Something You Couldn't Wear to Class."



In summary, the 30th IATEFL Slovenia Conference was an inspiring blend of professional development, creativity, and connection. It reminded us all not only of what keeps us going, but of the joy and community that make language teaching a truly special profession.



## TEACHERS' DAY-THE BRIDGE IN BRATISLAVA

Last March I attended Teachers' Day-The Bridge, a one-day conference taking place on 22nd March 2025 at the Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology STU in Bratislava.

The conference was organized by one of HUPE associates partners, The Bridge-English language centre in Bratislava. A day before the Conference, on 21st March, there was a small gathering of The Bridge associate partners where I met most of the presenters.

The conference was well structured and presenters' insights, expertise and engagement truly made a good impact on the participants. There was a Plenary session and 16 workshops in the area of self-development, skills and methodology and Humanistic Language Teaching (HLT). There were four sessions of workshops in four slots followed by the discussions.

Some of the presenters were really inspiring and enriching experience for everyone involved. I will mention a few of them.



The Plenary talk by Jon Hird on Spoken Grammar, identified by grammarians as often heard in everyday conversations but not yet having become a routine in conventional ELT syllabus was really interesting. Most certainly many of our students would enjoy listening to some of the examples, as well.

Mark Andrews, ever being original, had a workshop "Student=A Human Being" dealing with what is Humanistic Language Teaching. The workshop emphasized the importance of a teacher creating a positive teaching/learning atmosphere by having a more personal touch with learners in the process of learning.





A teacher sharing some private ideas and feelings with learners, being more “present” in class and with a slightly humorous touch is suggested as a part of a successful teaching.

Alan Pulverness’ workshop “Walking the Talk: Putting HLT Digital into Practice” also explored the practical application of some of the principles discussed in HLT Digital to the classroom teaching.

David Fisher’s beliefs that teaching is more effective if it is entertaining, introducing learners to the art of theatre, were expressed in his workshop “Emotions in the classroom”.

This idea was expressed as well in my workshop “Film in class” which explained a number of reasons why film is an excellent teaching and learning tool. Different activities have shown that using film in class is motivating and enjoyable. It provides authentic and varied language, gives learners a visual context, brings variety and flexibility to the classroom helping students to develop

all four communicative skills while having fun.

And last but not the least, I would like to describe an experience of having a one-to-one coaching session with Sam Patre, which can be used with learners to help them recognize their strengths and take meaningful steps toward their goals.

Sam’s coaching philosophy focuses on helping learners build confidence, improve their mindset and unlock new opportunities. This way they become able to take charge of their education.

I enjoyed connecting with fellow speakers and participants and

I would like to extend my thanks to The Bridge for a warm welcome and such a rewarding conference.

If you’d like to see some pictures from the conference, here is the link:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/kcVAAZcjCFMvvhFQ9>

---

## KONFERENCIJE 2025.

ELTA Albania: 30.-31.5., Tirana

<https://eltaalbania.org/event/the-15th-elta-albania-international-conference/>

SCELT Slovakia: 14.-15.6., Stara Lesna

<https://www.scelt.sk/scelt-forum-2025>

IATEFL Poland: 19.-21.9., Lodz

<https://iatefl.org.pl/call-for-proposals/>

BETA Bulgaria: 27.-28.9., Sofia

<https://www.beta-iatefl.org/important-dates/>

TESOL Hungary: 3.-5.10. Siofok

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSesqILes4a-U-Zmx37aL9owY0kAfuLWldOal6JI5E4CPn-iwA/viewform>

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSchinfBCo1zH54Yy82SG1X0LoGdCdkfDZmQCFOVIUqlbaGTtg/viewform>

4th Mediterranean Symposium: 23.10., Valetta

<https://eltcouncil.gov.mt/4th-mediterranean-symposium/>

ELT Malta conference: 24.-25.10., Valetta

<https://eltcouncil.gov.mt/call-for-papers-now-open-2/>

CyTea: 1.-2.11., Nicosia, Cipar

<https://www.iatefl.org/iatefl-associates-events/cytea-conference>

TESOL France: 21.-23.11., Paris

[https://www.tesol-france.org/en/call\\_for\\_papers.html](https://www.tesol-france.org/en/call_for_papers.html)