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Hrvatsko udruženje profesora engleskog jezika
Croatian Association of Teachers of English

NEWSLETTER

HUPE Newsletter No. 13 • December 2016



EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear HUPE members,

Our December issue is here. The cold weather is perfect for finding a cosy place and reading the latest HUPE news.

Preparations for the 25th conference are well under way and we invite you all to join us in Šibenik, in March. In this issue you can find out more about the first three plenary speakers. HUPE's web page is the place to go to for all the information. We have partnered with the Teacher Training Agency this year, so don't forget to register at <http://ettaedu.azoo.hr/> as well.

We are very proud to announce that this year again HUPE is a sponsor for the TESOL EVO ICT4ELT, one of the sessions of the TESOL EVO professional development project. Join our colleagues from all over the world in January.

As always, our branches have been very active. Read the reports from Osijek, Slavonski Brod, Split, Varaždin and Zagreb in the **HUPE Branches** section.

Evelina Miščin wrote an article on the **BESIG** Satellite event in Croatia.

In the **International Conferences** part learn more about the conferences in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Macedonia and Poland. Alenka Miljević wrote about **The Future Classroom Lab (FCL) course „Interactive Technologies“ in Brussels**.

A Sneak Peek into Our Classrooms brings you interesting ways to teach culture. Students from primary school in Vrbovsko had a whole week filled with Halloween activities followed by giving thanks on Thanksgiving.

In the end, take a look at the **Upcoming Events**.

If you would like to contribute to the Newsletter on a more regular basis, please contact us. We would like to have you on board!

We are also pleased to announce that HUPE is issuing a call for article submissions for the next HUPEzine. The deadline is May 1st.

We invite you to send your stories, comments, or reviews to hupe.newsletter@gmail.com.

Yours,

Dajana



HUPE
newsletter

Branch
meetings

Annual
HUPE
Conference

Student
helpers

Junior
Conference



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Croatian Association
of Teachers of English

What does HUPE do?

HUPE (Croatian Association of Teachers of English) is a professional association of people who are involved in ELT. It was set up in June 1992. As a vibrant professional association, it is continually evolving to meet its members' interests and needs in the range of activities that it undertakes.

For more information please visit

www.hupe.hr

facebook.com/HUPE.hr

twitter.com/HUPECroatia

or contact

hupe.international@gmail.com

Become a member

Becoming a member of HUPE will connect you with fellow English teaching professionals around Croatia and abroad. You will be able to attend conferences, branch meetings and webinars organized by HUPE. You will receive our regular newsletter and a magazine Hupezine, containing the latest trends in the world of English language teaching. Furthermore, by becoming a member you are entitled to a conference fee at the discount rate.

HUPE is affiliated to IATEFL (International Association of Teachers of English) and TESOL International (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages).

HUPE has established long and successful cooperation with the British Council, the United States Information Service as well as with many other ELT associations around the world. The above mentioned cooperation results in mutual support among these organizations (exchange of speakers, organizational assistance etc.).

In order to find out more on what, when and where something is happening, consult our webpage or simply like our HUPE Facebook page.

25

*Annual HUPE
conference*

Šibenik, Croatia
24-26 March 2017



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Renata Geld – Assistant Professor at Department of English at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Studies, University of Zagreb



OPENING PLENARY SESSION

Strategic thinking, learning, and meaning construal

What we need to know to enhance our learners' strategic potential and facilitate learning



Jeremy Harmer - a writer, trainer and teacher who is currently a course designer and instructor for the online MATESOL at the New School (New York).



www.jeremyharmer.wordpress.com

PLENARY SESSION



Is teaching English an art, a science or a craft?



Jon Hird - a teacher, trainer and author based in Oxford, UK. He also gives teacher-training talks and workshops, and has a range of experience and interests, but with a particular interest in Grammar, English for Academic Purposes and in dyslexia and learning English. He has written a number of ELT books and recently contributed grammar material to several levels of the *Navigate* course book series. In his free time, he plays the drums.



www.jonhird.com

PLENARY SESSION

Dyslexia and Learning English: literacy and wider issues



TESOL EVO ICT4ELT

Dear HUPE members,

We are very proud to announce that this year again HUPE is a sponsor for the TESOL EVO ICT4ELT, one of the sessions of the TESOL EVO professional development project. TESOL EVO includes a series of free online professional development sessions for teachers that run for five weeks, starting on January 8.

ICT4ELT is a session aimed at teachers and teacher trainers interested in improving their online skills. Participants will be encouraged to use various online platforms and tools to spice up their teaching, to interact with other participants and moderators, and to think about how they can use these new skills and tools in their particular teaching context.

ICT4ELT attracts teachers from all over the globe. The moderation team reflects this diversity, as the moderators are all former participants living and working across the globe. This year there are three moderators from Croatia, all members of HUPE.

The ICT4ELT moderation team invites all HUPE members to join the session for five weeks of learning and sharing about the use of technology in the classroom. The registration starts on January 1 and it is free of charge for all teachers. HUPE will announce the call for participation on HUPE webpage, HUPE Facebook page and in HUPE tweets.

We hope to see a lot of HUPE members in this year's edition of ICT4ELT.

Sanja Božinović
(HUPE President and a proud member of the ICT4ELT team)

HUPE BRANCHES

Report - Osijek Branch

The first HUPE Osijek Branch meeting in 2016/ 2017 took place on 19th November 2016 in American Corner Osijek. 31 teacher attended the meeting. The workshops were run by our colleagues Ksenija Benčina and Tatjana Mioković.

In her workshop *Do your students "write tests from English in a gymnasium"*? our first speaker Ksenija Benčina decided to face the problems our students often have with vocabulary related to education. They tend to translate certain words or phrases literally and not to recognise false pairs. We also discussed some culturally specific words for which we as teachers would like to find the appropriate equivalents.



The second part of the meeting was reserved for the game of Taboo, which Tatjana Mioković and her students describe as their favourite game of all time. Our colleague showed us how it can be used in different ways, not only for vocabulary acquisition but also for developing all four skills, if you and your students spice it up a bit using your creativity.

You're all welcome to join us at our next meeting!

Best regards,

Sara Salatić
Osijek Branch President



SLAVONSKI BROD HUPE BRANCH MEETING REPORT

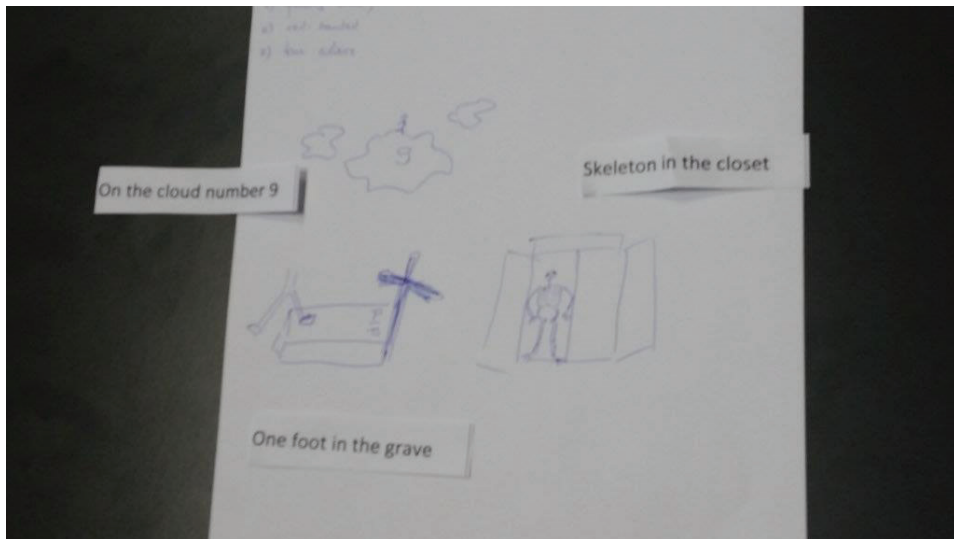
The first Slavonski Brod HUPE Branch meeting in this school year was held on 6th October 2016. The venue was Ekonomsko-birotehnička škola Slavonski Brod.

19 teachers attended the meeting and enjoyed the presented activities. They had a chance to show their artistic talent in the drawing section of the workshop *Fun with Idioms* (run by Mirta Kos Kolobarić), to reminisce about some older songs containing colour idioms and to cooperate with their colleagues.

Our guest speaker, Zvezdana Penava Brekalo from Osijek joined us later. In her workshop *Stressfree Assessment*, she shared with us her own experience of assessing students. We engaged in a lively discussion on various methods of assessing various kinds of work performed by our students, but mostly their oral production. We also had an opportunity to reflect on our own methods of assessment, since this is an ELT area which is the most difficult one for the majority of English teachers.

Our next meeting will take place in November. Hope you can join us!

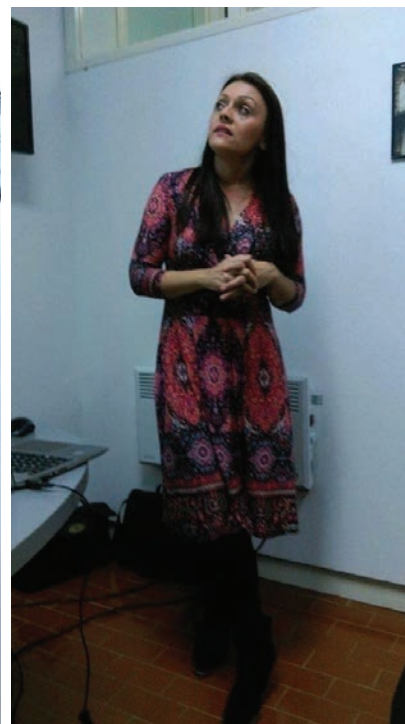
Slavonski Brod HUPE Branch President
Mirta Kos Kolobarić



SPLIT BRANCH MEETING REPORT

The first HUPE Split branch meeting for the school year 2016/17 was held on 27 October, 2016 in Language Centre Sintagma in Split. The agenda included a workshop by Vanja Bošnjak and presentation of HUPE's cooperation with TCN. Although 15 teachers registered for the meeting, it was attended by 8.

As a part of HUPE Split first meeting, we hosted the representative of our long-term associate Oxford University Press. Vanja Bošnjak is an OUP ELT Consultant for Croatia and the title of her workshop was Oxford Big Read. The workshop provided us with the latest readers from OUP. Vanja helped us in selecting suitable reading materials for our students and presented us with numerous ideas and ready-to-use activities after reading. She also emphasized extensive reading advantages for our students and students' motivation.



The meeting continued with the presentation of HUPE's cooperation with TCN. Teachers were introduced to this excellent writing opportunity for their students. We explained how they can turn their young students into reporters as well as practical side of this cooperation. The presentation was followed by socializing and vivid discussion about course books, reading and other teaching material.

Branka Šegvić, HUPE Split

HUPE Varaždin

The first HUPE Varaždin Branch meeting was held on October 10, 2016 at Orehovica Primary School (Školska ulica 2, Orehovica, Međimurje).

It was attended by 19 teachers. I was really happy to see so many nice people and I'm so glad for the opportunity to meet the teachers from other counties as well (Varaždin and Koprivnica County)!

After surviving the very busy September, we all needed fresh ideas. Our presenters tried to help us with that:



1) Stela Pavetić: "Accommodate Your SEN Students"

2) Tanja Oreški: "A Note for OneNote"

Stela Pavetić (English teacher from Veliki Bukovec Primary School) helped us to understand students with learning difficulties and presented the ways to help them.

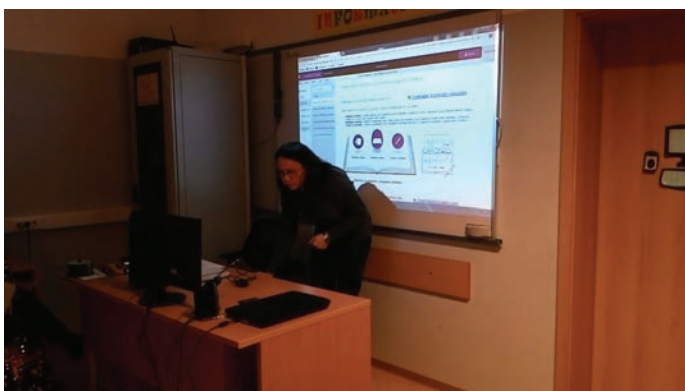
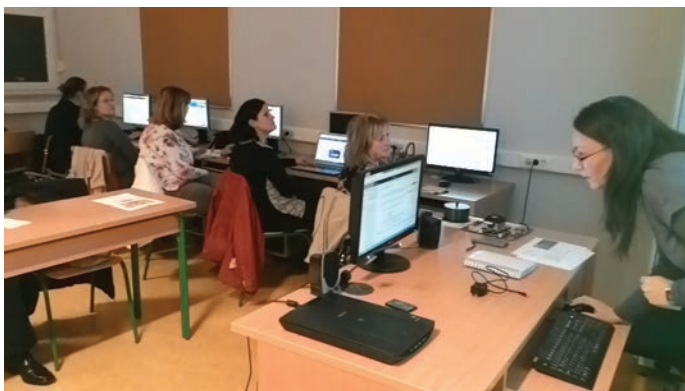
Tanja Oreški (ICT teacher from Orehovica Primary School) explained how to use OneNote, computer program for gathering information and collaboration.

As usually, when teachers are gathered, you can learn many new and useful things and tips&tricks even during breaks and informal talks.

Thank you all for coming and hope to see you soon again!

Best regards,

Adela Tompoš
HUPE Varaždin Branch President



Zagreb Branch Meeting Report

The first meeting of HUPE Zagreb took place on September 30 in Svijet jezika, Vodnikova.

We had the pleasure of attending two wonderful workshops. The first one was held by Mia Šavrljuga: Where is my mind? With loads of activities for young learners, we sang, danced and practised a lot and it was quite a nice way to relax on a Friday night.

Blame it on the Cartoon Network was the second one. It was held by Dora Božanić, our colleague from Rijeka. Dora showed us how successfully she makes cartoons with her pupils and what steps one needs to take to do it.

I would like to thank Mihaela Kišček Blagačić from



Profil – Klett and Sanja Ivoš from Školska knjiga, who support Mia and Dora in their work and gladly cooperate with HUPE.

There were 34 teachers and I hope to see even more of us in November.

Until then,cheerio!

Lana Duka Zupanc

HUPE Zagreb



BESIG Satellite event in Croatia

This is the fifth year that the satellite event in Croatia has been organised at the University of Applied Sciences in Zaprešić. Usually the same teachers come and this year there were 9 of us. Even for those of us who work together, this is an excellent opportunity to get together, comment what we have seen, agree and disagree with speakers and other participants. The first session was by Chia Suan Chong who dealt with cross-cultural communication and showed some roleplays that could help our students in international communication. She was followed by Sylvie Donna who argued that student should develop new identity when speaking English. Her claim was that an English-speaker identity may quite affect a business person's success levels



in international communications. Then, Mike Hogan mentioned 10 steps to success with low-level business English learners offering examples from the book *Business English for Beginners*. The last session that we watched was also the best one and it was Evan Frendo's 'Where are we with BELF?' dealing with business English as a lingua franca. He summarised some of the recent research in that field discussing practical implications for the work of business English



teachers, trainers and writers. Although not all of the teachers who attended the event teach business English, they use this opportunity to see what is new in the field of business English which might also be applied to their teaching. The atmosphere at such an event is friendly and relaxing. We also share some of the ideas we use in teaching, discuss some problems we encounter. This year, we were also joined by a teacher from Kutina, a place about 80 km from Zagreb, motivated by the colleague who is regularly present here and who praises our organisation and the event. There are always nibbles and drinks and during the lunch break we had coffee at a nearby café. We are aware that the event could be watched at home but it would probably be

difficult to concentrate on the topics thinking about all the chores and it would be difficult to explain to your family members that you are unavailable for several hours. I am sure that we are going to continue organising such an event, as long as there are enthusiasts willing to come.

Evelina Miščin

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

ELT Czechlist: Ideas from the Heart of Europe

The Association of Teachers of English of the Czech Republic (ATECR) is one of the partner associations of HUPE – their representatives attend our annual conference and they invite HUPE to send a representative to attend their annual conference. I was lucky to be the HUPE representative and attend their fifteenth national and the eleventh international ATECR conference in Prague, 9 - 10 September 2016.

Prague was a perfect host city for the conference and around 150 teachers from the Czech Republic and other countries enjoyed the sights, as well as very interesting talks and workshops at the conference, in the almost summer weather of the early September in Prague.

The opening ceremony was held at the Univerzita Karlova, Pedagogická fakulta, at noon on Friday, 9 September.

The biggest lecture hall was full of enthusiastic teachers welcomed by the ATECR president Libuse Kohutova, the vice president Ilona Havlickova and other representatives of the ATECR.

The first plenary was also held in the same venue – Sharka Dohnalova talked about 'Language as the tool of all the tools for including everyone in the classroom'. The plenary was very informative and it gave us all a lot of information about

the situation in the Czech Republic regarding the inclusion of SEN students, the results of her research as well as the examples of practice from Sharka's own language classroom and her work as a teacher trainer. The speaker showed us that the teachers share the same problems and the same obstacles in different countries, can improve their teaching and find new learning opportunities for their students by sharing the thoughts, ideas and the examples of good practice.

After the first plenary, the conference moved to a nearby secondary school, a huge and beautiful old building of Střední průmyslová škola elektrotechnická, in a nearby Jecna street, also not very far from the city



centre. On Friday, workshops and talks were offered in five parallel classrooms, on a variety of topics and aimed at teachers teaching pre-school to university level. My workshop about the use of rubrics for assessment was in the first time slot and I was happy to meet teachers from the Czech Republic and their international guests and exchange ideas about rubrics. Other great topics we discussed in other workshops were the use of LMS, the element of fun in language learning and teaching, motivation, story-based CLIL for primary and many more. During the coffee break in the school cafeteria, teachers had an opportunity to get to know one another, chat, visit the exhibition with the books and other teaching materials by the Czech and international publishers and language schools. After the last workshops for the day all teachers stayed in the school cafeteria for the buffet. The cultural programme for the evening was the performance of the Choir Orfej.



Saturday sessions began with a choice between two very good plenaries. Louel Ross Calleja's plenary was on the topic of native and non-native speakers, and Ben Dobbs talked about what learners need English for in the international communication. It was not an easy choice. I decided to listen to Louel R. Calleja and loved the lecture in which Mr Calleja spoke about co-owning English, from the perspective of a person who was born in the Philippines, educated in English and teaching internationally. He quoted Silvana Richardson and made teachers think about if native and non-native speakers are ready to share the ELT limelight, and if the inner, outer, and the expanding circles should be considered co-owners, co-stewards and co-arbiters of pedagogical norms. The speaker gave some interesting examples of accents and vocabulary from European English. The

ideas of the plenary were really some food for thought and the native and non-native teachers were happy to share their ideas in a very interesting discussion.

The concurrent sessions continued throughout the day, in six classrooms of the school in Jecna street. The Czech and international presenters gave talks and workshops until late afternoon, when the conference was closed and all teachers said goodbye to their new friends. The time came to return to my students to use the materials and include the new ideas into my lessons, to enhance my lessons and be a better teacher, feeling thankful to the colleagues from the ATECR for a very good organization of the conference, for making us all feel welcome and for a lot of great ideas I brought home from the heart of Europe.

Sanja Božinović
HUPE President

Dimensions, Diversity and Directions in Kaposvar

26th Annual International IATEFL Hungary conference report

Lidija Branilović, HUPE PR

As promised, this year's conference has taken a panoramic view of the current state of English language teaching in Hungary and beyond. Teachers from all over the world got a chance to examine all dimensions of our diverse and changing world, and see how they affect us professionally, as well as help them to find professional directions and shape their own professional pathways. Indeed, we did.

The highlight of the conference was – people, of course. It was our fellow teachers to whom I could talk to without the fear of being misunderstood, or judged in the wrong way. It was our colleagues

whom I could ask anything without being misinterpreted and looked down at. It was the people, like me, like us.

Plenary talks, as always, perfectly opened both the conference and every day. I believe the names of the speakers like Margit Szesztay, Marjolijn Verspoor, David Evans and Magdalena Kubanyiova are simply enough to mention.

The workshops, on the other hand, were diverse in the real sense of the word. There was something for everybody, from intercultural communication and multicultural challenges, English for Specific Purposes and Business English all the way to teacher education, special needs education and lifelong learning.

Here, I will write a thing or two about several that were really wonderful and that still have an enormous impact on me.

There was a great session where participants could share their views on different teaching/mentoring situations. They also had the chance to share their own stories about what kind of challenges they were facing at the moment. Here is one such story, mine. *"Teaching Roma students English as a third language in primary school in Croatia was a great experience! I still do it, but not for the experience's sake but for pleasure. Why? – one would ask. Well, I like myself doing it – bringing new worlds into the classroom and then learning about theirs. Sharing with them my good days and my better days. It's difficult but it's challenging. And that's what matters!"*

At this point in your career, what particular challenges are you ready to face as part of your teaching because you would like to make a difference or need to move out of your comfort zone?

This was one session that you didn't want to leave, as the presenters Uwe and Judit poured coffee and tea, gave away cookies and smiles. Such a lovely idea.

Sandra Vida talked about teaching outside the box. It was an excellent presentation which gave us an insight into organising a conference or a lesson in a similar way – starting from the expectations and the objectives you want to



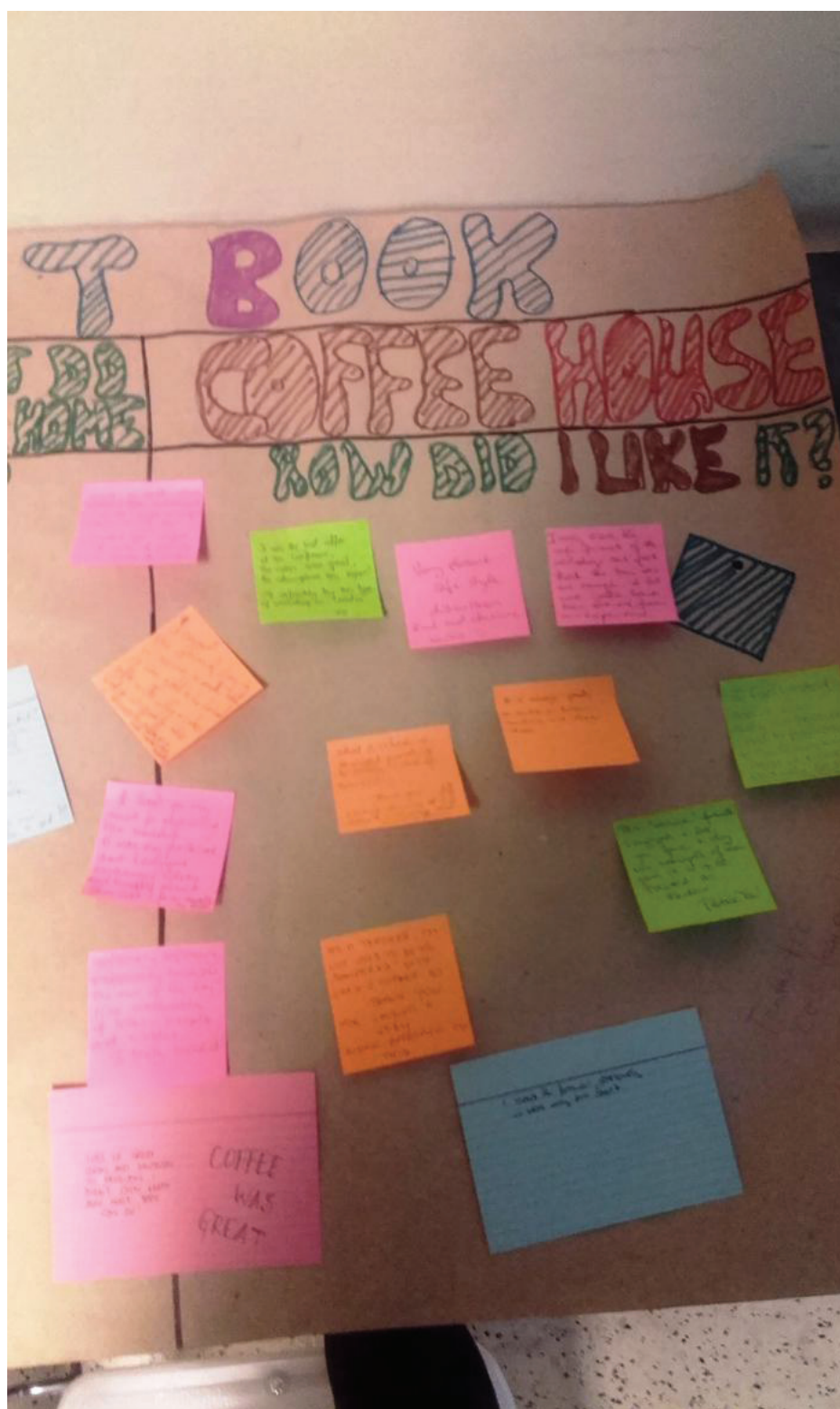
achieve, not from the content itself. Whether it's your students or your colleagues, you want to impress, teach, learn from,... We usually take it for granted, but when you stop and think for a second, simple as it seems, she made us all think about it throughout the conference and later on as well.

'Like Me: Intercultural Communicative Activities for the Classroom' was the title of Lynda Steyne's workshop. I could not even imagine what the workshop would turn into as I sat down and had to draw bread. Imagine. Bread. I'm a mother, a wife, a teacher, a woman. I should know what bread looks like, but what does it have to do with English language teaching? It took us the whole 30 minutes and more to understand it – at the very end of the session, as we compared our *bread*, we understood how teaching identity, nurturing student's self and moving it forward and even beyond is important. It shapes lives and it gives us the glow people often don't see in us.

Elma Velić Bešić from TETA presented interesting ways of teaching English to students with learning difficulties. The best thing was to remember that many famous people (movie stars, singers, politicians) had those difficulties during their learning process, and many still do but they always try to make the most of it. This was one session where you could sit back and enjoy seeing how well we do such an important job. And sometimes, we need exactly that.

Finally, the organizing committee of the conference invited all the students majoring in English Studies from universities in Hungary and around the world to attend the first junior conference and offer a talk. At this excellent event the participants were offered talks both by experienced EFL professionals and fellow students reporting on their work, research, teaching experiences and innovative ideas. HUPE members were also invited to this event but unfortunately, we didn't have a junior representative.

All in all, I'll remember the conference for a long time!!



ELTAM Conference, Struga

From October 14th to 16th Ana Galac, Lana Duka Zupanc and me attended 9th ELTAM international teachers' conference in Struga, Macedonia, titled Re-imagining teaching, rejuvenating and transforming classroom practices. ELTAM conferences are held every two years. We flew to Skopje via Belgrade and were invited to join their Board in a mini bus travelling south to Struga (a 3hour' ride), which we happily accepted. Some international guests flew straight from London to Ohrid for 100 euros round ticket with a popular low-cost airline, which was rather convenient since Struga is only 17 km from Ohrid.

For us Skopje was so impressive that we did not know if we were in Las Vegas or Washington DC. The main square is a display of grandeur and light, there is an enormous screen with commercials and info, newly built or redecorated white marble buildings illuminated with LED lights changing colours and a whole bunch of statues that we did not know who all the people they represented are. (Nor do the locals.) Apart from the overdose of statues, we quite liked the architecture. And the fountains! In the middle of the main square there is a statue of a warrior, on a horse, which is said to represent Alexander the Great. It dominates the square since it is taller than some of the buildings (30 meters) and from it there is water pouring on all the sides while the LED lights are changing colours from pink to lilac, purple, blue, yellow and red. Wow!



The people from ELTAM are very nice and friendly. We were in a lovely hotel overlooking Lake Ohrid and a river flowing out from it called Crni Drim, hence the name of our hotel was Crni Drim. In summer Struga is a tourist resort, but it is also a place of great diversity. Macedonians, Turks and Albanians live there and I have been told by the local teachers that all the documents that come to schools have to be written in these three languages, that is why the people are great linguists. The conference was well-prepared and ran smoothly. Both Ana and me had presentations which were well received. Since one of the topics of



the conference was networking and the future of the teachers' associations, Mark Andrews made a documentary on that, interviewing me among others. In front of everybody there Mark publicly stated that HUPE was the best in the region in terms of branches and network. He made us so proud of our Association that I immediately agreed to take part in the film, which is on YouTube and everybody is welcome to see it: just write Build Your Teacher Association! Marjorie Rosenberg, President of IATEFL posted a comment: 'Very

well done and really captures the essence of the bridges we build through Teacher Associations.'

We made friends and were able to taste Macedonian hospitality and their delicious food. Hope to see some of the people in Šibenik in March. Aleksandra Popovski, their President, will be coming, and we really liked what she said in her opening speech:

-When I go to a conference, I have a feeling that I belong. I go to a conference not just to travel, I can travel to different places where there are no conferences. But there I meet other teachers, people who have the same interests and passions as me. I find soul mates.'

Hope to see more soul mates in Solaris!

Dubravka Blažić
HUPE Treasurer



25th INTERNATIONAL IATEFL POLAND CONFERENCE SZCZECIN

16-18 SEPTEMBER 2016

The **25th Anniversary IATEFL Poland** conference was held at West Pomeranian University of Technology, Szczecin. Szczecin is a lovely shipbuilding and university town situated in the north west of Poland, close to the German border and it is closer to 3 other capital cities (Berlin, Prague and Copenhagen) than its own. As a tradition, Polish conferences are held in a different town every year and only one, the 10th anniversary conference, was held in Warsaw. Approximately 1000 participants come to the conference every year.



The conference lasted 3 days and consisted of 9 plenary sessions and more than 120 workshops! I was quite amazed when I realized that there were 14 workshops going on at the same time i.e. in one time slot! It was really difficult to choose which one to attend! Beside the workshops and talks, there were also quizzes, live lessons, debates and the grand finale of a public speaking contest which I wasn't able to attend because it took place early on Friday, before my arrival.

Unfortunately, as there were 2 plenary sessions going on at the same time, it was not possible to listen to all the plenary speakers, so I will mention only some of them.

One of the plenary speakers was **Marjorie Rosenberg**, the president of IATEFL, and her topic was *Getting unstuck-stretching out of our comfort zones*. Ms Rosenberg challenged all of us to stretch out of our comfort zones, our teaching style, methods and routines we are accustomed to using. She discussed the reasons we keep doing the same routines and suggested some ways for us to *get unstuck*.

Professor David Nunan gave the second plenary *New Ways of Teaching and Learning: A role for Technology* in which he discussed different roles technology can play in language learning and presented several instructional models in which digital learning and face-to-face instruction are blended in different ways.

I was really pleased that I have a chance to listen to **Dr Piotr Steinbrich** whom I remember





from one of the HUPE conferences. In his plenary talk, *Do we really want our students to think critically*, he discussed the place of critical thinking in the classroom and whether test-based learning gives the students a chance to start thinking critically?

I attended numerous workshops and talks but I will mention 2 of them which I enjoyed the most. **Jamie Keddie**, humorous and charming as always, talked about Online video and critical thinking. He shared with us three interactive stories which served to raise students' critical awareness of online videos as well as an opening of a communicative language classroom.

It was a real pleasure to take part in Ms **Aleksandra Zaparucka** workshop *Drama for all ages* where I learnt how to warm my vocal cords body and brain in preparation for language learning. I also experienced series of activities built around the character and designed to improve all language skills, memory and spatial thinking.

I also had a chance to deliver my workshop *I like to move it*. I was nervous

because it was the biggest conference I had ever attended but I am happy to say that it went very well.

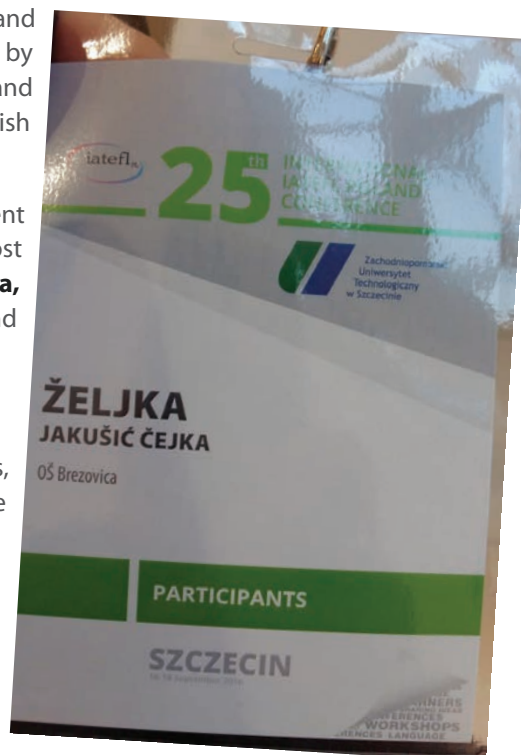
The organization of the conference was immaculate- it was never too crowded (bare in mind that there were approximately 1000 participants), everything was well-organized and the IATEFL Poland board members did a very good job! I also felt very nice surrounded by numerous representatives at the IATEFL Board Friday dinner. (IATEFL Poland has 27 partners associations and there were 14 representatives of English teachers associations from all over the world).

Polish board members were very good hosts- helpful and patient, efficient and really nice. I was surprised that they know a lot about Croatia and most of them visited Croatia several times! Ms Anna **Rogalewicz-Gańska**, IATEFL Poland chief administrative officer, visits Croatia every summer and has visited more Croatian islands than I have.

That was my first visit to Poland and now I really want to see more of it!

And if you want to experience Polish hospitality, listen to excellent talks, meet colleagues and make new friends- the next IATEFL Poland will be held on 15-17th September 2017 in Bielsko-Biała!

Željka Jakušić Čejka
HUPE Vice-President



The Future Classroom Lab (FCL) course „Interactive Technologies“ in Brussels

The Future Classroom Lab was created by the European Schoolnet and is supported by 30 ministries of education. You can find more about FCL following this link and courses you can attend on-site or on-line following this link: <http://fcl.eun.org/about>

The course about interactive technologies and how to use them in teaching and learning brought together over 20 teachers. There were 4 of us from Croatia. We were all there as the winners of the national Comet award for the best eTwinning projects.



During the course we had the opportunity to try out different interactive technologies for different purposes like creating surveys, quizzes or on-line lessons.

Mentimeter is free easy-to-use software that you can use online. It is an interaction tool that enables your students to actively participate in your lessons. Students can give their opinions or give answers anonymously to questions that you can prepare in advance. It can also be used to check if students have understood your explanation. You can choose among different types of questions. The options we tried out during the course are “multiple choice”, “scales”, “open ended”, “100 points” and “who will win” questions. Each type of question is meant to be used for different purposes. For example you should use “multiple choice” when you want to give more alternatives to be voted on and you can also allow your students to give more than one vote. “Scales” are used to rate statements on a scale from 0 to 5. “Open ended” questions allow your students to give their own answers or share their opinions. “100 points” give your students the option to distribute 100 points among the alternatives you added. “Who will win?” gives each student one vote to cast on one of the options you give them and you can decide when you want to reveal the winner which makes the whole process of voting more exciting.

Another interactive tool we learned about is *Nearpod*. It is a user-friendly ed-tech platform that gives teachers the possibility to create interactive lessons which they can use either in real time or for a student-paced lesson – flipped classroom. You can add your pdf documents, presentations or start creating a new presentation and add interactive features this tool offers. It is as easy as creating power point presentation slides to which you can add quizzes, polls, surveys or even ask your students to draw something. If you decide to use this app in your lesson, there is another great feature that this app has. It is a little red light that comes up if your student is inactive or not in the app.

This course inspired me and gave me some new insights of the meaningful use of interactive technologies both in lessons and in eTwinning projects. There are so many tools out there and the courses like this one help teachers to learn efficiently how to use them both for teaching and learning.

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A SNEAK PEEK INTO OUR CLASSROOMS

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A boo from our school!

Instead of having just one day booked for Halloween, we had a whole week filled with all sorts of Halloween activities.

Younger pupils enjoyed in DIY activities making their own ghosts, pumpkins and skeletons while the older ones did activities based on TV series such as Mr Bean, Friends or films such as notorious E.T.



Among the activities the younger pupils participated in, I think the most unique one was making skeletons out of cotton sticks. Only head was made out of paper. There were scary skeletons as well as cheerful ones. The older pupils, as I have already said, watched video clips and did the exercises based on those clips. They seemed very interested in it although E.T. as well as Friends is considered 'ancient' when they are concerned. The oldest ones watched Suckablood and they got really involved in it. It's a short horror film but not the kind of those American full-of-blood-and-scream ones that you see on TV. The seventh graders had the most fun, I would say. They did a Halloween quiz which was based on trivia regarding that holiday. They were divided into two groups of three and had to go through





the text very quickly after which it was quiz time. Two pupils were in charge of the monitoring the buzzers and writing down correct answers. I as a teacher was in charge only of reading the questions.

On the Halloween day, which means 31 October, we had a costume party and there were a lot of witches, wizards, monsters, Jokers and chained murderers with hand-made saws running around.

There were Halloween cakes shaped

like haunted houses, ghosts, witches, pumpkins, etc. There were muffins, too...with Halloween decorations on top.

Pupils learnt about the history of Halloween from the ancient times to the present and how things changed throughout the history. We talked about some of the most notorious costumes typical for that holiday as well as Jack o'lanterns, trick-or-treating and a popular game of bobbing for apples which we decided to do next year.



What are you thankful for?

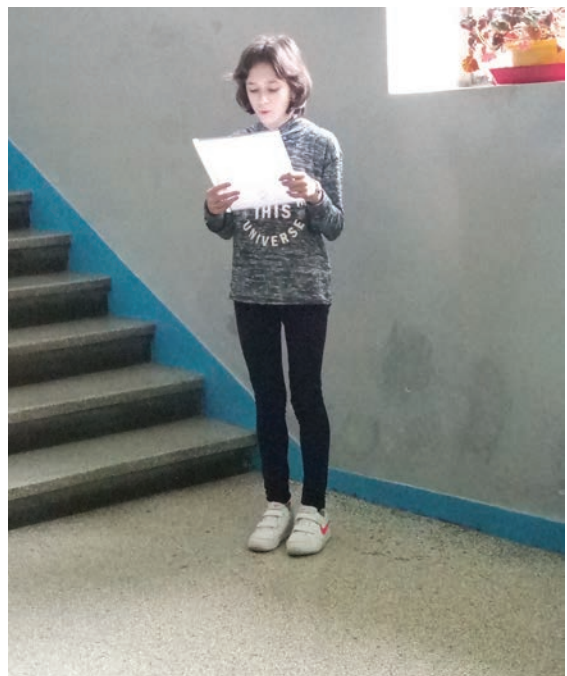
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On 24 November we celebrated Thanksgiving Day at our school. This year it was 24 November, next year it won't be. Why? Thanksgiving is celebrated always on the fourth Thursday in November. Regardless of the date.

Pupils learnt about the very first Thanksgiving, Pilgrim Fathers and their disagreement with the religious situation in England, a ship Mayflower, Native Americans who helped the white people survive the harsh winter and that way saved their lives, Thanksgiving food and so on.



They did some activities connected to Thanksgiving which involved both English and Maths. It wasn't very complicated Maths, just a little bit of summing. The first class pupils had capital letters instead of sums. Basically, the first letter or the correct sum referred to the correct colour pupils had to use to colour the correct field. In the end they had beautifully coloured turkeys, Native Americans and Pilgrim Fathers. Some of them did a crossword containing all the words connected to Thanksgiving while upper class pupils



played a Thanksgiving game similar to *Čovječe, ne ljuti se* in which they also had to answer several questions about the holiday correctly to be able to move forward. Some fields meant going two fields forwards while others meant missing your turn. It was a great fun to play that game.

We also made turkeys, Native Americans and Pilgrim Fathers out of toilet paper rolls. All we needed were coloured papers, feathers, hot glue gun, glitter, googly eyes and some gems. A perfect DIY activity!

And for the end the question from the title. What are you thankful for? Seems like an easy question but it's a very complex one. I'm thankful for my family. And you?



UPCOMING EVENTS

3-5 March, 2017

TESOL-SPAIN 40th Annual National Convention - Universidad Miguel Hernández, Elche

9-12 March, 2017

24th International IATEFL Slovenia Conference 2017 - Terme Topolšica.

18-19 March, 2017

38th TESOL Greece Annual Convention 2017- Royal Olympic Hotel, Athens