



inspire  
& be inspired

Hrvatsko udruženje profesora engleskog jezika  
Croatian Association of Teachers of English

# NEWSLETTER

HUPE Newsletter No. 16 • October 2017





inspire  
& be inspired

26

years of inspiration

26th Annual HUPE Conference

20-22 April, 2018, Poreč, Croatia





HUPE  
newsletter

Branch  
meetings

Annual  
HUPE  
Conference

Student  
helpers

Junior  
Conference



inspire  
& be inspired

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](http://www.hupe.hr)**

**[facebook.com/HUPE.hr](https://facebook.com/HUPE.hr)**

**[twitter.com/HUPECroatia](https://twitter.com/HUPECroatia)**

or contact

**[hupe.international@gmail.com](mailto: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.

# Editor's note

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the autumn issue of your HUPE Newsletter. We wish you all a successful and stress-free school year.

Preparations for the 26th Annual HUPE Conference are well under way and we invite you all to join us in Poreč, in April. Call for Proposals is open and you can find it at <http://www.hupe.hr/index.php/conference/speaker-proposals-form>.

In this issue you can read more about our branches which have been very busy. Find the closest one to you and join us. We've prepared some interesting surprises for you.

**The International Conferences** part brings you the report from ELT Signposts 2017 conference, co-organized by the Association of Teachers of English of the Czech Republic and the Department of English Language and Literature by Marinko Uremović.

Elvira Dolenc wrote about her Scottish experience with Erasmus + KA1 School Staff Mobility.

Davorka Nekić shared her experience with Erasmus+ Project: EduCATE – Nonviolent Conflict Management for Teachers

**A Sneak Peek into Our Classrooms** section brings you articles about European Day of Languages by Marina Sertić i Nina Rezo and Davorka Nekić.

In the **Upcoming Events** part you can find the dates of International conferences.

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 1 November 2017.

We invite you to send your stories, comments, or reviews to [hupe.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:hupe.newsletter@gmail.com).

Do not forget to write your name, surname, affiliation/institution and address at the beginning of the text. Photographs are also welcomed, but make sure you send them separately from the text.

Have fun reading your newsletter.

Yours,

Dajana



# President's note

Dear colleagues, HUPE members and friends,

Let me greet you at the beginning of a new school year and welcome you to a new year of professional development with HUPE. Let me announce a series of new professional adventures towards our professional growth and let me invite you to join us to learn and grow together as teachers and members of the big HUPE family.

It is a great honour and a great privilege to start another school year volunteering as a member of the Executive Board and the president of HUPE. The Board has some old and some new members. Congratulations to all for volunteering to dedicate their time and energy to our teachers' association. The Board volunteers have already met in two meetings this school year, to plan new PD opportunities for the members. Please find all the information about the Board and our activities at [www.hupe.hr](http://www.hupe.hr) and the HUPE Facebook page.

Some of the learning and networking opportunities are our regular ones: branch meetings throughout the year, webinars, the annual conference, the collaboration with the British Council Croatia, the US Embassy in Zagreb, our publishers, and other old and new partners and friends. There will also be some new opportunities this year, so stay in touch with what happens in your branch and connect with HUPE online.

HUPE has grown since last year. We are very proud to announce that HUPE has a new branch – HUPE Zagorje, which will give the opportunity to all teachers from the area to have meetings without having to travel to Zagreb. Congratulations to all teachers in Zagorje!

All the branches invite members to take an active role in their work and participate in the HUPE events, especially in our annual conference, either as speakers or by attending talks and workshops and sharing the new ideas in their schools and wider. We will be sharing all the information about the events on the HUPE webpage, Facebook page and at the branch meetings.

The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual HUPE Conference will be held in Poreč, 20 – 22 April. The conference will be in the AZOO catalogue and all the teachers who work in state schools will have the option to get the AZOO certificate of attendance, too. We will keep you informed about all the preparations for the conference and hope to get many speaker proposals from Croatian teachers.

HUPE webinars in collaboration with CARNet will be held once a month. Please take this opportunity to actively participate and learn online. Every HUPE webinar will be recorded, so even if the time is not perfect for you, your membership in HUPE gives you an opportunity to access to the recordings and have the most out of the materials shared during the presentations because the recordings and the materials will stay online, in the Members' Area of the page.

Our webpage, <http://hupe.hr> has some new features. It has been updated and we hope you find it useful. We will be adding new content throughout the year and all the members are welcome to suggest useful content and features.

Thank you again for joining forces in HUPE where teachers come to inspire and be inspired!

Best wishes,

Sanja

# HUPE BRANCH PRESIDENTS

Nikolina Pranjić - Slavonski Brod Branch President

[hupe.slavonskibrod@gmail.com](mailto:hupe.slavonskibrod@gmail.com)

Vanja Fazinić- Split Branch President

[hupe.split@gmail.com](mailto:hupe.split@gmail.com)

Fani Paleka - Zadar Branch President

[hupe.zadar@gmail.com](mailto:hupe.zadar@gmail.com)

Nataša Žarkov - Rijeka Branch President

[hupe.rijeka@gmail.com](mailto:hupe.rijeka@gmail.com)

Dubravka Lapčić - Karlovac Branch President

[hupe.karlovac@gmail.com](mailto:hupe.karlovac@gmail.com)

Lana Duka Zupanc - Zagreb Branch President

[hupe.zagreb@gmail.com](mailto:hupe.zagreb@gmail.com)

Ivana Pomahač - Varaždin Branch President

[hupe.varazdin@gmail.com](mailto:hupe.varazdin@gmail.com)

Petra Končić - Zagorje Branch President

[hupe.zagorje@gmail.com](mailto:hupe.zagorje@gmail.com)

Tihana Svoren Kolarec - Osijek Branch President

[hupe.osijek@gmail.com](mailto:hupe.osijek@gmail.com)

## BRANCH REPORTS

### HUPE Karlovac

HUPE – Branch Karlovac ran its first meeting in the school year 2017/2018 **on Saturday, 30 September 2017 at 10 30 a.m. in Industry and Trade Vocational School, Domobranska 2, Karlovac.** The meeting was attended by ten teachers.

The presenter, doctor of science **Ljiljana Pintarić Mlinar**, an assistant professor working in two Departments at Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences in Zagreb - Department of Inclusive Education and Rehabilitation and Department of Visual Impairments had a short introductory talk on the topic and ran a 90 min workshop ***English language teacher in interaction with children with special educational needs.***

Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences is the only higher education institution in the Republic of Croatia that creates and offers well established university-level programmes in speech-language pathology, educational rehabilitation and social pedagogy in addition to developing and advancing high-quality research as well as clinical best practices in these areas.

Ljiljana Pintarić Mlinar's main interest has been for more



than 20 years research of processes of bio-psycho-social rehabilitation of children with intellectual difficulties and functioning of their families, i.e. creation of individually tailored strategies necessary in encouraging the development of these children.

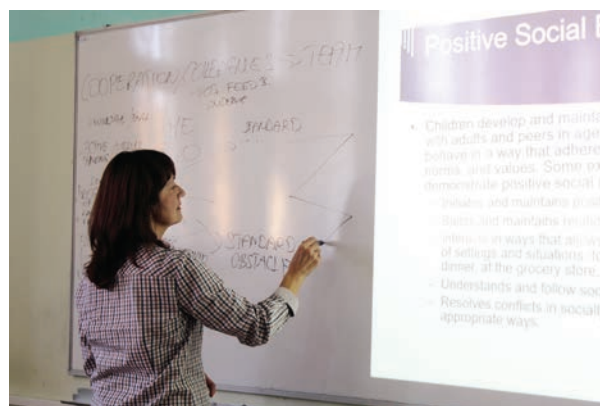
However, her recent interests are very much focused toward transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary insights in supporting children's and youth development from social context: family, school and teachers, peers interactions as well as global perspective influence to values in curriculum planning, changes, etc...

The workshop introduced some latest research conclusions and trends in teaching students with special needs. As introduction to the workshop, teachers saw a short video on early language learning sensitive periods **"Young children citizens of the world"** and had a brief overview of legislative framework in Croatian Education System, a little bit of statistics related to children with special needs as well as clinical best practices in the areas of speech-language pathology, educational rehabilitation and social pedagogy.

In the main part of the workshop different issues such as cognitive preparation for work, creativity in presenting curriculum for children with special needs, relationship pupil with special needs/teacher, emotional feedback – likes and fears, children's needs, examples of teaching strategies and rationale for improving learning outcomes were tackled.

The second issue on the agenda was the election of the Branch president. Dubravka Lapčić was elected the president in the new term.

Dubravka Lapčić,  
HUPE-Branch Karlovac President



## HUPE Rijeka

The **first meeting** of HUPE Rijeka Branch in new school year was held on **23<sup>th</sup> September 2017** at Gradska knjižnica Rijeka – Trsat. Our fabulous hosts - American Corner Rijeka offered their beautifully decorated space and all modern technology. Two workshops were held by **HUPE Croatia** board members **Ana Galac** and **Dubravka Blažić** and **Anita Jokić** gave a report from IATEFL Poland conference. About thirty members attend the Saturday morning meeting, had loads of laugh and hugs and went home with new ideas once more.

The teachers who were present unanimously voted **Nataša Žarkov** the branch president for the next two years, and we wish her a lot of success in presiding HUPE Rijeka.







## Summaries of workshops:

### Ana Galac: English in Town

When they come to our school, our students want to learn how to communicate. After they had finished their conversation classes it was time to test what they have learned so far. We went to Zagreb where the students had to pretend they were tourists. How was the task set up? How did they feel after the trip? What are the pros and cons of organising such a trip? Find out in the presentation „English in Town“.

### Dubravka Blažić: Mnemotechniques

Metaphors and associations are powerful instruments which help us memorize and make sense of certain concepts, words, structures and even pronunciation. We will mention intelligence, Triune Brain Theory, synaptic connections and linking ideas. Some metaphors and associations will be shared with the participants to help them make their teaching easier and happier.

Anita Jokić, prof.  
HUPE Rijeka Branch President



## HUPE Split

First HUPE Split branch meeting for the school year 2017/18 was held on September 28, 2017 at Primary School Don Lovre Katić. The agenda included:

1. Elections – new Split Branch president
2. Vanja, Fazinić, Erasmus + K1 “Tablets and Smartphones: using mobile devices as educational tools”
3. Miscellaneous

The meeting was attended by 15 English teachers.

In the first part of the meeting, the only candidate for the new Split Branch president – Vanja Fazinić – was presented. She was unanimously elected by the present meeting attendees for the period of next two years.

After the elections, our new branch president gave a lecture titled “Tablets and Smartphones: using mobile devices as educational tools”.







The lecture was a result of her Erasmus + K1 experience. Vanja Fazinić disseminated the results of the Erasmus + K1 mobility which she took part in from 6 to 13 August 2017 in Dublin.

The focus of the presentation was on incorporating interactive learning platforms into teaching and learning and use of digital tools for formative assessment. Vanja shared her experience of how learning can be enhanced by using serious games and quizzes.

After the lecture, she shortly presented her plan for future practical workshops where the attendees shall have an opportunity to find out more about each of the above mentioned tools.

At the end of the meeting, we informed HUPE members about membership fee discount which was available for that week and encouraged them to spread the word to potential new members. We presented the benefits of being HUPE member and encouraged attendees to actively take part in the work of Split Branch by giving their own talks, workshops and sharing their experiences.

Branka Šegvić, HUPE Split



## HUPE Zagreb

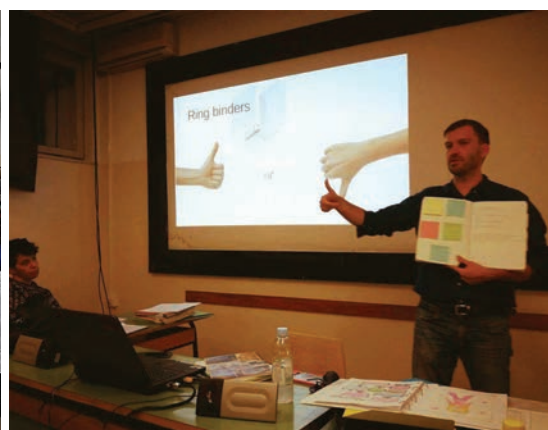
Our first meeting was held at Svijet jezika on Friday 22 September, 2017.

Our speaker was Marinko Uremović who works in Osnovna škola Blage Zadre in Vukovar.

The topic was The Complete Beginner's Guide to Interactive Student Notebooks. Since students notebooks are integral part of any language course, we were shown how to make them more exciting and useful. Interactive students notebook have added colours, better organisation, understanding and are personalised in a way that each and every student can spark and feel great about himself or herself.

After the initial talk, 40 teachers were divided into groups and asked to give some ideas on certain topics using interactive notebooks. Interesting ideas were shared and discussed.





The second topic of our meeting was elections for the Branch president. I am happy to be given an opportunity to run it for the next two years.

The meeting ended at 9 pm.

If you are an English teacher and want to join us, feel free to contact me on [hupe.zagreb@gmail.com](mailto:hupe.zagreb@gmail.com).

Lana Duka Zupanc  
HUPE Zagreb

## HUPE Zagorje

The newest HUPE branch, HUPE Zagorje was founded this school year.

Since teachers of the Krapinsko-Zagorska County have shown an interest in having their own branch, our HUPE PR Gordana Bujanić Tretnjak organised a meeting on 13th September 2017.

We are thankful for the support of Bedekovčina Vocational School which hosted this event. The head teacher Vera Hrvoj welcomed HUPE and said she would gladly give support to our meetings in the future.

HUPE President Sanja Božinović welcomed teachers who were able to join us and wished the branch a lot of success. There were 20 teachers present at this meeting (some 10 more apologised for not being able to attend - they had classes and their principals didn't want to let them attend the meeting - but they promised to be active members of the branch in the future).

The teachers who were present unanimously voted Petra Končić the branch president, and we wish her a lot of success in presiding over HUPE Zagorje.

There were two workshops held at the meeting; one by Ana Galac (a teacher at Pučko otvoreno učilište Velika Gorica) and the other by Sanja Ivoš (the head of the primary school department at Školska knjiga).

Ana Galac presented her very successful and inspiring workshop called *English in Town* which is about taking students to town to use English in real life situations. Sanja Ivoš gave a very interesting talk called *Teaching Life Skills*, which tells us how the skills students need for life have been changing over the past few decades and what skills are considered to be the most important at the moment.

We wish HUPE Zagorje a lot of success in their work, many great workshops, talks and a lot of networking and sharing of great ideas and positive experiences in the future.

Gordana Bujanić Tretnjak, prof.





# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

## ELT Signposts, Brno, 8-9 September 2017

Travelling alone to any international conference may seem like a daunting task having in mind that most destinations demand a 10h hour bus drive from Osijek but what made me quite comfortable was plenty of good music on my mobile phone, a good book in the bag and, of course, a couple of familiar faces I was going to meet at the conference.

I arrived to Brno at 5.15 on the Friday morning or whatever you may call that part of the day. I took a tram and went looking for my accommodation in a student dorm. Since I went to college in my hometown I never had to opportunity to be in a dorm and to live a typical student life so this was my first dorm experience. The whole campus was rather empty as the new academic year had not yet started so I may not have gotten the true insight into the real dorm experience but at my age and after taking the night bus maybe that's for the better.

Having arrived to Brno so early I had the opportunity to look around the town. Brno is the second largest city in the Czech Republic and a city with an interesting mixture of baroque, modernist and socialist architecture. Nonetheless, Brno pulls it off very nicely.

ELT Signposts 2017 conference, co-organized by the Association of Teachers of English of the Czech Republic and the Department of English Language and Literature was hosted by the Faculty of Education of Masaryk University in Brno. The programme started at 1 PM with the opening ceremony and an announcement of a big star in the Czech ELT community – Don Sparling.

The opening plenary titled *The DARK AGES: English IN THE AGE OF 'NORMALIZATION'* was, in my humble opinion, one of the most enjoyable and the most refreshing plenaries in quite a while. Normalisation is a name commonly given to the period 1969–87. This was the period after the Prague Spring and the aim was to restore the firm party rule and to re-establish Czechoslovakia as a committed member of the socialist bloc. Don Sparling began teaching English in the Czech Republic in 1969 and at the time was only one of a handful of native speakers in the country. The talk focused on the methodology and practices of English teaching in that period. Don went through a series of coursebooks and handbooks to reveal the absurdity of the methodology these books had employed. Do you know what a squirrel's nest is called in English? You don't? Neither did I. It's called a drey (MS spellchecker suggested the word dry instead) and it seems this word would pop up in an everyday conversation as it was taught as a high proficiency word. The whole plenary got me thinking about my early education and my first English lessons and it made me feel thankful that, despite many absurdities I encountered over the years, our education system was much more meaningful. But this is just my gut feeling (without trying to be too judgemental of any other foreign education systems).

The conference continued with the first session of workshops. Each session had 8-10 concurrent workshops on offer. I decided to go to Barbie Bujitas's workshop called *Taming Authentic Content For Beginners*. **It was an interesting workshop that focused on adapting authentic materials using modern technology such as videos, music and other engaging tools. This was followed by**



Stefania Ballotto who delivered a workshop titled *Creativity in the Language Classroom*. The workshop focused on listening skills and the importance of listening skills, not only in the English language classroom but in general life as well.

To finish the day off, it was time for me to deliver my own workshop called *The Complete Beginner's Guide to Interactive Notebooks*. It was a 45-minute version of a 90-minute workshop so it flew by quite quickly. I thought the session went pretty well because the Czech teachers left an impression of a quite animated audience through asking many questions and this made the whole experience very rewarding.

In the evening there was a social programme with some dancing, singing and a nice dinner. At this point of my career and life I think I enjoy these informal moments the most. The evening was spent in a very enjoyable company of people from the Philippines, Hungary, Slovakia, Canada and of course local people. It was great to see beer offered at a conference. After all, the conference was in the Czech Republic, right? I also got to chance to try Kofola. Kofola is a carbonated soft drink produced by Czech company called Kofola. Original, right? It is the principal rival of Coca-Cola and Pepsi in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. This drink became very popular during the 1960s and 1970s Kofola in communist Czechoslovakia because it substituted for Western cola-based drinks like Coca-Cola or Pepsi, which were not generally available. The locals say it's an acquired taste but I enjoyed the taste right away.

The second day kicked off with the second plenary delivered by Stefania Ballotto. The talk, titled *Learning for Life in the 21st Century*, focused on the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. The concepts such as self-assessment, decision making, organisation and self-awareness were discussed during the session. Stefania proposed that teachers should not be the sage on the stage but rather guide on the side.

The conference continued with a series of workshops. I visited Sarah Johnson's workshop *Video and Vox Pops for Secondary Learners of English*. The workshop looked at the ways how to motivate teenagers to read more and the series of *Mary Glasgow* magazines were presented. This was followed by a very interesting workshop by Petra Borovková. The workshop *Leximapping – How to Teach Through Mind Maps* presented many ideas why and how mind maps should be used in teaching, and I learned a new concept of leximapping which I found very interesting. You can find out more about it [here](#).

During the lunch break I watched a play in the garden. This play is a collaboration between Mark Andrews of SO(U)L, and David Fisher and Lenka Fisherová of The Bear Educational Theatre. It was a 25-minute excerpt from a play called *Should I Stay Or Should I Go*. I would be really happy to see the whole play at the HUPE Conference in Poreč next year.

The conference was rounded off with a raffle and a closing plenary delivered by Paul Braddock. It was the same talk that was delivered in Šibenik at the HUPE Conference in March.

Finally, I can say that the conference, although a bit short, provided many learning opportunities. It was a very well attended and impeccably organised event. Thank you ATECR people for your hospitality, and thank you HUPE for the opportunity to represent you in Brno.

Marinko Uremović





# Dunfermline 12-20 August

In January 2017 my school applied for Erasmus + KA1 School Staff Mobility funding. In June my colleagues and I were overjoyed when we learned that our application was successful. The course which I chose took place in Dunfermline, the ancient capital of Scotland, 25 kilometers north of Edinburgh.

## JOURNEY AND ACCOMMODATION

On the 12th of August I flew to Edinburgh, but landing at Edinburgh Airport was not the end of the journey for me. I still had to take the local bus, which took me further north to the Ferrytoll Park and Ride Station. There I met my host Jane, who picked me up and drove me to her house in Dalgety Bay, which was my home for the following eight days.

All the participants were accommodated for by host families, which is truly a unique experience and one of the most memorable aspects of the course. My host Jane deserves more than just a sentence or a few adjectives, but I can only describe her as a helpful, caring and a “what’s - mine - is - yours” type of person (not to mention her excellent cooking skills).



In my registration form I stated that I would not mind if there was another course participant with my host family, so that’s how I met Joanna, a Polish teacher who became my best friend, companion and classmate. Luckily, it turned out that we had a lot in common – even our age. There were 24 participants, most of them women, what a surprise. They came from Sweden, Poland, Spain, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Estonia and Bulgaria. I was the only one from Croatia.

## THE PROGRAMME

About the course ... I chose “Creative Activities and Motivating Materials for the Secondary Classroom” and I have no regrets about it. The programme actually started on Sunday 13th with free individual research. This being the case, some of my new classmates and I decided to explore the Scottish coastal area, stopping at St. Andrews, which is recognized worldwide as the home of golf, and Anstruther, a very picturesque old –fashioned fishing village. Of course I had to try its top attraction - fish and chips .

Monday started with a guided tour of Dunfermline, which was partly spoiled by dull rainy weather.

(By the way, one cannot talk about the UK without complaining about its changeable weather. At least I didn’t have to worry about getting sunburnt.)

However, back in the City Chambers (our tuition center) in Dunfermline, the illustrated lecture on Scottish History and Traditions given by the experienced guide and lecturer Rita was anything but dull. Her humorous remarks on popular views about Scotland really threw a new light on clans, Sir William Wallace and Hogmanay.

Workshops (and hard work it was) started on Tuesday with Lucy Norris, our teacher trainer. It’s difficult to list all the discussions held, warm up exercises done, methodology questions raised, creative activities tried, useful links shared and group projects done in the classroom. We began at 9:00 and finished at 16:30 every day, so our days were filled with workshops on teaching, as well as advanced language practice. Our 20 minute coffee break and lunch hour was usually spent in Dunfermline’s beautiful park or in High Street pubs or cafes, where we enjoyed the cozy atmosphere.

I really felt like I was a student again, working, talking, writing, being creative and it crossed my mind that we teachers should put ourselves in our students' shoes more often when we set tasks. As if this wasn't enough, we would discuss school matters in our free time over a drink. Needless to say, sharing teaching ideas or frustrations about things we teachers can't ever change or influence, was really a fulfilling experience.

I would like to single out my favourite activities, but whenever I think about it I realize that even if I was skeptical about some of them at the beginning, such as shared dictation, acting out a conversation between Kate, William and the Queen or making a poster, they turned out to be either fun or useful. The question which we were constantly encouraged to keep in mind was: How can I adapt this activity to my classroom?

Also, through various workshops we were reminded of the teacher's role being that of a guide and facilitator whose 21st century students have to develop 21st century skills.

Saturday was the last day of the programme and it ended the way it started, with a guided tour; however, this time believe it or not, the weather was nice and sunny, just perfect for a visit to Edinburgh. It started at Edinburgh Waverly Station, where we met our guide Rita. I had never been

to Edinburgh before so I was really excited when we took a walk down Royal Mile or when we saw the cafe in which J. K Rowling wrote her first Harry Potter novel. Last but not least a visit to the new Scottish Parliament building, an architectural wonder, was another lesson in Scottish history.



## OVERVIEW

When I booked my flight back in June, my wish to attend a course for teachers in Scotland actually

became reality. At the beginning of August, most of my colleagues were enjoying their holidays. I was filling in forms, making travelling arrangements, thinking about what to pack, and to be honest, worrying a little about whether the whole adventure would be worthwhile for me from a professional point of view. I am happy to say that it paid off.

Elvira Dolenec  
Gimnazija Josipa Slavenskog Čakovec



# Erasmus+ Project: EduCATE – Nonviolent Conflict Management for Teachers

What exactly is EduCATE? Well, it is a 3-year project funded by the European Commission whose objective is to promote a culture of peace and nonviolence through teacher training. Six partners from all over Europe - **the University of Gotheborg**, Sweden, **the Autonomous University of Barcelona**, Spain, **the Evens Foundation from Antwerpen**, Belgium, **the Center for Peace, Nonviolence and Human Rights from Osijek**, Croatia, **the Psycho-pedagogical Center for Peace from Piacenza**, Italy and **the Coordination for Education to Peace and Nonviolence from Paris**, France got together with an aim to create a teacher's training programme in nonviolent conflict resolutions as well as to establish a European network of actors in nonviolent conflict management.

After meeting in Warsaw (Poland), which was organised by the Evens Foundation, the six European partner organisations formed a transnational team. Their intention was to develop the intensity of their collaboration by combining each and everyone's excellence in constructive and non-violent conflict management. This led to the EduCATE project for which funds were approved in July 2015 by the European Commission.



Partner organisations

Why exactly is this curriculum so innovative? *'It is based on examples of good practice from Sweden, France, Spain, Italy and Croatia. There are three main points: 1) conflict is an opportunity for change, 2) change starts from ourselves and 3) it is a maieutic way that helps participants discover nonviolence. Furthermore, change starts with formative training. The teacher becomes acquainted with the concepts of nonviolent communication, authority, power, conflict itself and violence in relation to what they mean to them, the classroom, the school and the community. The teacher becomes a model for his/her class, that class becomes a model for the school, while the school becomes a model for the whole community'*, says Katarina Kruhonja, one of the Croatian trainers.

Within the project, there was a 7-day long training course on nonviolence organised for the teachers and educators from five partner countries: France, Sweden, Italy, Spain and Croatia. The training was held in the little picturesque town of Saint Antoine in France from July 10th to July 16th, 2017. Twenty-five participants took part in the training which was full of lectures, workshops, discussions, acting and role play. We stayed in L'Arche de Saint Antoine, a historically significant location when it comes to nonviolence. It was founded in 1948 by Lanza del Vasto. One of Mahatma Gandhi's disciples he was an activist in the nonviolent movement. While we were learning about nonviolent conflict management during the training, in our free time we got a chance to see what community life looks like and what each and every community member does for the community he/she lives in.



L'Arche de Saint Antoine

Each day, a specific topic regarding nonviolence was introduced and presented through four lectures/workshops in which participants actively took part. The course was held by experienced professionals from the partner countries who tried to make these serious topics more familiar and to give us something to think about. **Annaline Sander** and **Tone Försund** from Sweden, **Cécile Berbeito** from Spain, **Elena Passerini** from Italy as well as **Lidija Obad** and **Katarina Kruhonja** from Croatia held excellent workshops regarding the meaning of conflict for each of us, conflicts in the classroom, the meaning of power and how it is dealt with within the classroom as well as conflict in the community or society. This was followed by evaluation and feedback by the participants.

	Day 1 Tuesday 11	Day 2 Wednesday 12	Day 3 Thursday 13	Day 4 Friday 14	Day 5 Saturday 15
			Breakfast 7:30		
8:30-9:00	Warm up	Warm up	Warm up	Warm up	Warm up
9-10:30 [1h30]	Group building Cécile	What NVC means for myself Lidija/Katarina	Power in the classroom Lidija/Katarina	What NVC means for my school Lidija/Katarina	Power in my community Tone/Annaline
	Break 30 min				
11-12:30 [1h30]	Introduction to the training Christian	Conflict in the classroom Elena	Conflict in school Tone/Annaline	Conflict in the school) Elena	NVC in my community Lidija/Katarina
	12:30 Lunch				
14:30-16 [1h30]	What conflict means for myself Tone/Annaline	What it means for my classroom (community building) Cécile	Conflict in society Elena	Conflict in society Elena	Feedback on the training + evaluation
	Break 30 mn				
16:30-18 [1h30]	What power means for myself	Teacher time	Community building Cécile	Community building Cécile	Follow up
	19:00 Dinner				

Timetable





Lidija Obad and Katarina Kruhonja

The French team was represented by Catherine Steine, Géraldine Lamarche, Olivia Hilaire and Daniela Vieru while the Spanish one consisted of Berta Maristany, Mica Garau Lopez, Begoña Tebernero Redondo and Maria Rigol. The Italian team consisted of Maria Concetta Voro, Simona Pavesi, Elisa Sarchi and Giovanna Polidori while Sweden was represented by Anneli Merinen, Alicia Andersson and Joakim Itkes. **Croatia was represented by three teachers from Ivan Goran Kovacic Vrbovsko Primary School. This same school was given the Peace Building School Award in 2016 by the Center for Peace, Nonviolence and Human Rights in Osijek: Davorka Nekić, Viktorija Samsa and Barbara Turk Čop.** The three teachers got a chance to meet colleagues from the other four countries as well as to represent their school and many of the projects for which we are known, and for which we had become the Peace Building School in 2016. Not only did we represent our school but we also represented the Center for Peace, Nonviolence and Human Rights in Osijek.

Besides being one of the twenty-five participants, **Christian Renoux** was also the person behind the EduCATE project. He did everything he could to make us all feel welcome in his homeland as well as during the 7-day course. Thank you, Christian!



All participants from five European countries





A workshop



Group work

Apart from the educational part of the course, we also enjoyed a dance evening where we danced international dances from all over the world including the famous Croatian ring dance. We also enjoyed two Bastille Day celebrations, one in the community and one in the village. Seven days flew by too fast, but we were left with knowledge, self-reflection, discussions, laughter and mutual bonding. The twenty-five perfect strangers from the beginning of the story became friends at the end of the 7-day course and hope to stay in contact for as long as possible.



Bastille Day celebration in the L'Arche Community

To finish the article in an appropriate way, I'll quote a great speaker of nonviolence, Mahatma Gandhi: 'Be the change that you wish to see in the world.'



# A SNEAK PEEK INTO OUR CLASSROOMS

## Nice to meet you(r) language!

Language is a living thing. It develops and changes through time and is under impact of both social and geographical influences. Just like any other living being, we have to get to know it in order to understand it. Language is a unique human gift, having power to separate nations and bring people together, like nothing else in this world. This is the reason every school year we, the language teachers, are looking forward to 26 September, the European Day of Languages.



In just a few years, it became our subject's birthday which we celebrate for a week. It feels like an annual meeting of dearest friends, making brand new friendships and maintaining the old ones. Each year we do something new, something different, something fun, just to make our reunion more exciting and spiced up. We learn words in different languages, get to know some "exotic" language, listen to languages we don't have a chance to hear often and explore different aspects of languages then in our regular classes.

In our school, Vugrovec-Kašina elementary school in Zagreb, we always include the national minority students (from Macedonia, Albania, the Czech Republic and Ukraine) in these celebrations. They are always willing to participate and introduce some new words and expressions to us. But this year we decided to tackle the topic in an even more challenging way, to celebrate diversity in a deeper sense. We started learning the sign language. Nobody among us knew it, nobody is hearing impaired, but everybody enthusiastically pioneered. Little by little we taught each other the alphabet, how to introduce oneself, say basic greetings and other conversational words. To make it even more interesting we divided into two groups – one getting to know BSL (British sign language) and other ASL (American sign language). Girls from the 6th grade even got the hang of the whole song in ASL entitled Waiting on the world to change (by John Mayer).

We recorded everything, used some of it and made an awesome music video with the perfect message set out to be understood by each and every language interpreter, as long as he or she "listened" to it carefully. Oh, by the way, you haven't seen anything yet, because this is only the beginning of our new school project. By the end of this school year, we will gather some of our most famous national legends and stories to retell them in sign language.

Keep calm and celebrate diversity in all its diverse beauty.

[https://youtu.be/oXVz-d9L\\_0g](https://youtu.be/oXVz-d9L_0g)





Teachers Marina Sertić and Nina Rezo



## Davorka Nekić, prof.

I. G. Kovacic Vrbovsko Primary School  
Nikola Tesla Branch School, Moravice  
ddnekic@gmail.com

# Talk To Us!

The **European Day of Languages** is celebrated on September 26th, as proclaimed by the Council of Europe on December 6th, 2001. That year was the European Year of Languages, which had been organised by the Council of Europe and the European Union. Its main goal is to encourage language learning across Europe.

We celebrate the **European Day of Languages** regularly at our school in Moravice by making posters and flags, by presenting food from different countries, by having recitations and a variety of other activities.

But this year we opted for something quite different. For the first time there was a quiz organized at our school, the **Talk To Me!** quiz. It consisted of 30 questions with four possible answers per question. All the questions had something to do with Europe and was based on the notorious *Who wants to be a Millionaire* quiz. The music within the slides was from that quiz as well.

There were two teams of four students who competed against each other. The seventh graders (David Čelam, Ema Konjević, Ema Lešnjaković & Teodor Ninković) vs the eighth graders (Valentina Alinčić, Mirjam Golik, Anja Rajnović & Roberta Vučinić). Each team had a buzzer with a different sound so that the judges could decipher which team had pressed the buzzer first. It was a 'first come, first served' way of answering. The faster team got a chance to answer first. In the case of a wrong answer, the second team got a chance to win a point. There were some questions to which none of the teams managed to give a correct answer, so the judges asked the audience, which consisted of all the students from the 5th to the 8th classes, to give it a try. They did and they managed to answer those questions! Well done!

Want to try? Why not?!

*Who is the longest reigning European monarch?*

*How do you say 'red wine' in Spanish?*

*And 'Yes' in Polish?*

*How many countries are there in Europe?*

*What nationality is Pope Benedict XVI?*

*Who is the voice of Puss in Boots in 'Shrek'?*

It's not that easy, is it? But it's worth a try.

There were two judges who monitored the buzzers, decided whether the given answers were correct or not, and tallied up all the correct answers at the end in order to get the final scores and declare the winning team.

This time the 8th graders were more successful than the 7th graders who weren't bad at all. The next year is definitely going to be theirs!

At the end of the quiz, the team who came second got certificates and silver medals specially made for the occasion while the winners got certificates and gold medals.

The students had fun. They tested their knowledge, they learnt new things and they made their English teacher very proud!

Wherever you go....whatever you do...just remember...

You are worth as many languages as you speak!

# Upcoming events

39th TESOL Greece Annual International Convention, Deree — The American College of Greece, 3-4 March 2018

TESOL-SPAIN 41st Annual National Convention  
9-11 March, 2018 Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Madrid

25th International IATEFL Slovenia Conference 2018, Terme Topolšica  
8-11 March 2018