



inspire  
& be inspired

Hrvatsko udruženje profesora engleskog jezika  
Croatian Association of Teachers of English

# NEWSLETTER

HUPE Newsletter No. 27 • February 2022





# HUPE in

# Storyland

The first three  
mentors in both  
categories win a  
free conference  
fee.

The first three  
students in  
both categories  
win wireless  
over-ear  
headphones.

All applications  
are anonymous.  
Generate a pass  
on our webpage  
and wait for the  
results!



- compete in one of the two categories: primary or secondary
- apply on the HUPE webpage from 1 December 2021 until 15 January 2022  
(<https://hupe.hr/index.php/competition>)
- wait until Valentine's Day to find out who the winners are

# Editor's Note

Dear readers,

It has been a while since we've had such an opportunity to look back on a set of LIVE events that have taken place as in the last few months. After a rather challenging year where all events were transferred to the online world, HUPE has managed to organize a real, breathing, laughing, and mingling live conference. So, dear ELT teachers, if you've been part of the HUPE International Conference that took place in Poreč this November, we sincerely hope you found it as inspiring as we did. HUPE Board has given its best for you to feel welcomed and inspired despite a difficult epidemiological situation. Your editor feels the urge to once again thank all branches that have taken part in a brilliant talent show, sharing not only their undoubtable talents but also joy and positive energy among participants.

In this issue, you'll also find a set of articles kindly shared by speakers from another conference that took part in Hungary prior to the HUPE Conference. IATEFL Hungary has always been a place that gathered numerous ELT professionals, from Azerbaijan to Croatia. HUPE had the honour of being a partner to the Hungarian association, so we packed our suitcases and went to Hungary. The conference was a success, especially the live part while the online part remained slightly neglected. This is understandable since hybrid conferences are more challenging than live or online ones. Also, the beautiful venue of Pannonian University could not be easily replaced, so the participants were more likely to pick live talks and workshops rather than the ones taking part via Zoom. But, taking into consideration that the Hungarian conference was the first partially live conference, HUPE once again congratulates our partners for organising such an event.

You've all noticed that HUPE has made slight changes in organising branch meetings over the last year and that all branch meetings have been replaced by National HUPE days. We've seized the opportunity to offer you workshops on a national level since there was no point in organising multiple online events for every branch independently. Taking all of this into consideration, we've tried to offer you high-quality workshops and to meet all of your needs as teachers. The last HUPE day event was given by the Board as we found it appropriate because of the elections that took part.

As for the elections, most of the Board decided to volunteer on behalf of HUPE for another two years and some decided to come back and continue volunteering after a short break. Gordana Bujanić-Tretinjak joined us as PR after being a branch president for the last two years. Lana Kulišić has been elected as a new secretary and Sanja Paić a new treasurer. HUPE had a slight change in branches as well and you can check our presidents' biographies in this issue as well. We hope you've been satisfied with the work we've all done in the last two years and we promise to work even harder in the years to come. As for the Board, we are here because of all of you and we never forget that it is teamwork that makes the dream work.

Dear readers, this being said, we invite you to go through our latest newsletter and see what has been happening in the ELT community in the last six months. Enjoy!

Anita Žepina, HUPE Publications Editor

# Meet the branches

## Jelica Šeparović, HUPE Dubrovnik Branch President

I have been an English teacher in Osnovna škola Blato for more than thirty years, and a HUPE member since 1997. I am a great nature lover, so hiking in the mountains and exploring nature with my dog are my favourite outdoor activities.

My favourite indoor activity is teaching. As much as I enjoy teaching, I also love learning from my students. When leaving the classroom, I often have a strong feeling that I get much more from them than I give.

I believe that professional development is crucial for a teacher to become successful in his/her work. Therefore, I am very happy to be a part of the HUPE family, as HUPE gives us numerous opportunities to exchange our ideas and experiences and to evolve into better teachers.



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## KARLOVAC BRANCH ELECTIONS REPORT

HUPE Karlovac elections were held on the **3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021** at an online meeting via Zoom during HUPE Days.

At the beginning of the meeting, the former branch president Marijana Smolčec gave a short report on the last two years. HUPE Karlovac only held two meetings in the school year 2019/2020 before the Covid-19 pandemic led to a lockdown and all the schools in the country were closed. The third meeting that was supposed to be held on March 14, 2020 was canceled due to the previously mentioned lockdown. But, thanks to the great organisation of HUPE board members, we carried out the virtual meetings that the organisation held in 2020 and 2021. There were three HUPE Days organised in February, May and September 2021.

Currently, our branch has 32 members, but 13 active members who have renewed their membership and others will do so with the upcoming HUPE conference in November 2021.

During these past 2 years Karlovac HUPE branch has been joined by 4 new members.

Only 8 active members participated in the election's meeting and took part in the voting, while other active members excused themselves.

Former branch president Marijana Smolčec had to step down due to many other obligations. We had only one candidate for the branch president and that was Tomislav Mravunac, from OŠ Žakanje. Tomislav presented himself and was willing to take the role of the branch president. It was a unanimous vote and **Tomislav Mravunac** was elected **as a new branch president of the Karlovac Branch**.

I wish to congratulate our new president and wish him many great LIVE meetings and a lot of fun in running our branch!

To all the other members, I wish you good health and hope to see you face to face, and not just behind the screen as the 2019-2021 mandate was mainly held remotely.

Take care everybody and see you at HUPE! :)

Marijana Smolčec  
(former) Karlovac Branch President



## Deni Krinčić, HUPE Rijeka Branch President



I obtained my Master's degree in English Language Teaching and Literature and Pedagogy from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Rijeka in 2016. During the first year of my Master's program I was fortunate enough to receive a scholarship for the Comenius sub-program operating within the EU's Lifelong Learning Program. As a result, I spent four months working as an English language teaching assistant in Kaurialan Lukio, a grammar school in Hameenlinna, Finland, where I worked with students aged 15-18.

In order to gain even more international experience, I spent the summers of 2014, 2015 and 2017 in the USA working as a camp counselor at Camp Moosilauke, a camp for boys aged 8-15. I was in charge of student supervision, developing progress charts and managing a team of 5-7 people. These international experiences helped me immensely in further developing my communication skills and intercultural competence.

The current school where I work as an English teacher, Rijeka's First Croatian High School, is also the school where I did my teacher training after graduating from college.

My focus of work is developing students' communication skills and intercultural competence, improving their level of fluency through relevant topics, and providing them with various ways to deal with obstacles and challenges posed by second language acquisition.

In my free time I love to travel. I've visited the Philippines, Thailand, the USA and many more countries in Europe. Next on my list is Colombia! I also cook, play tennis, binge-watch Netflix shows and play board games with my friends.

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## HUPE RIJEKA BRANCH ELECTIONS REPORT

HUPE Rijeka elections were held on **3 September 2021** at an online Zoom meeting during HUPE Day.

HUPE Rijeka held two meetings in the 2019/2020 school year before the COVID-19 pandemic led to a lockdown. Fortunately, HUPE Rijeka continued to participate in virtual meetings held by HUPE in 2020 and 2021.

Our branch is comprised of 78 members, of which 35 have renewed membership. Out of the total number, 14 people participated in the voting process. One candidate applied for the position of HUPE Rijeka Branch president, and it was our very own Deni Krinčić. He was voted unanimously the new branch president. Congratulations!

I would also like to thank all the members for their enthusiasm, creativity and devotion to teaching. Hopefully, HUPE has inspired some ideas in your daily work. Your active participation has certainly inspired us to give our best to offer you inspiring workshops and talks.

If you wish to join HUPE Rijeka, please contact Deni Krinčić at [hupe.rijeka1@gmail.com](mailto:hupe.rijeka1@gmail.com).

Dario Abram  
(former) HUPE Rijeka Branch President

## SLAVONSKI BROD BRANCH REPORT

HUPE Slavonski Brod elections were held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 via Google Forms. There was only one candidate Nikolina Pranjić and those who voted, voted for that candidate. Slavonski Brod branch president Nikolina Pranjić will fulfill her duty for the following two years.

HUPE Slavonski Brod was able to hold two meetings in the school year 2019/2020 before the Covid 19 pandemic led to a lockdown and all the schools in the country were closed. They had a chance to listen to *Crossing the lines between subject areas-the CLIL approach* held by Mirta Kos-Kolobarić. The other topic was *Vi t Nam i: Teaching EFL in Vietnam* held by Adrijana Roždijevac. She presented her experience of living and working in Vietnam, their culture and education. The second meeting was held In February and the topics were Damira Mršić: *Soft skills-hard cash- Why critical thinking and problem-solving skills matter*, Mirta Kos-Kolobarić: *Super Sleuths Are on the Case* and Ana Radočaj i Mirta Kos-Kolobarić: *Black History Month*.

The lockdown didn't stop us. HUPE Slavonski Brod participated in the organisation and implementation of virtual meetings that the organisation held in 2020 and 2021 better known as HUPE Day, and the annual meeting that was also held online.

Currently, our branch has 19 active members and is growing every day.

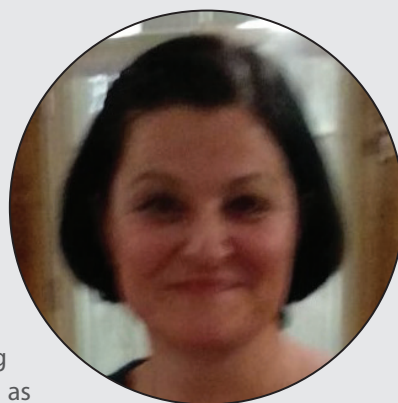
*HUPE Slavonski Brod will continue to inspire and hopefully become a bigger branch in the future.*





## Stela Pavetić, HUPE Varaždin Branch President

I have been teaching English in a small primary school for twenty-five years. I believe that moderation, involvement and balance are the key to success in both teaching and learning. I am especially interested in inclusive education and universal design and I believe that all children should have equal opportunities in education, regardless of their background, social status or abilities. They just need the right perspective and approach. I love spending time with my family, reading books and taking long walks, but I also enjoy many other activities such as singing, dancing, cooking and baking cakes.



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## VARAŽDIN BRANCH ELECTIONS REPORT

HUPE Varaždin branch was reactivated again in November 2020. Because of the Covid 19 pandemic, and because of the lockdown there were no live meetings held in 2020/2021. The members of the branch participated in virtual meetings that the organisation held in 2020 and 2021.

Currently, our branch has 23 active members and 10 members who haven't renewed their membership yet.

HUPE Varaždin elections were held between **17<sup>th</sup> September and 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021** online via google forms and since there were no other candidates for branch president, except for the former president, all members agreed to renew the former president's mandate.

Stela Pavetić  
HUPE Varaždin Branch President

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## Marko Morić, HUPE Zadar Branch President

My name is Marko Morić. I have graduated in English Language and Literature and Geography from the University of Zadar in 2011. I teach English in two schools: Benkovac Primary School and Petar Zoranić Stankovci Primary School. Also, with the support of the local Tourist Office, I teach language courses for adults, for beginners and for advanced learners. Last year, I also taught an English Language course for young learners as a part of an EU financed project „Mala škola Engleskog jezika“. Since the start of the pandemic, I have participated in various projects regarding on-line lessons. One of the most important ones is the „i-nastava“ project organised by the Ministry of Education, in which I participated as the author of several video lessons for first and second grade. For the last two years I have successfully collaborated with Školska knjiga on several different projects. As HUPE Zadar Branch President for the last three years I have been fortunate to meet and to work with many great people. The phrase that would best describe me is: always willing and happy to teach and always willing and happy to learn.



## ZAGORJE BRANCH ELECTIONS REPORT

HUPE Zagorje elections were held on **13<sup>th</sup> September 2021** at an online meeting in Zoom.

At the beginning of the meeting, the former branch president Gordana Bujanić Tretinjak gave a short report on the last two years. HUPE Zagorje held two meetings in the school year 2019/2020 before the Covid 19 pandemic led to a lockdown and all the schools in the country were closed. That didn't stop us, so HUPE Zagorje participated in the organisation and implementation of the virtual meetings that the organisation held in 2020 and 2021.

Currently, our branch has 45 members (out of which only 7 members haven't renewed their membership – one retirement, three maternity leaves) and is growing every day. Out of the total number, 22 people participated in the meeting and took part in the voting.

We had two candidates for the branch president for the first time in four years: Valerija Smerekar from SŠ Krapina and Petra Gorički from SŠ Bedekovčina and SŠ Zabok. The ladies presented themselves and their vision for the future of the branch. Voting was held via Google forms, and **Petra Gorički was voted the new branch president** by winning 14 votes.

I wish to congratulate our new president and wish her many great LIVE meetings and a lot of fun in running our branch!

**Also, thank you all for being part of our little Zagorje branch for these four years and sharing your ideas, enthusiasm and love for teaching English. #sharingiscaring**

*HUPE Zagorje will continue to inspire and hopefully become a bigger branch in the future.*

If you wish to join us, contact us at hupe.zagorje@gmail.com

Gordana Bujanić Tretinjak  
(former) HUPE Zagorje Branch President

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## ZAGORJE BRANCH 2019-2021 REPORT

HUPE Zagorje branch held two meetings before the general lockdown in March 2020.

The first meeting was held at Bedekovčina Secondary School on **15<sup>th</sup> November 2019**. There were three workshops held as well as a short introduction into what is new at HUPE. The first one was a workshop held by Anita Jokić titled **Story of a friendship: Tom Jones and Elvis Presley**. Anita presented very interesting and fun activities that could be applied to any other subject matter. The second workshop **The Magic of Storytelling**, was held by Sanja Rašković, from Global Lingua, and we were presented with useful activities on using the magic of storytelling in the classroom. The third presentation was held by Petra Blajić **28<sup>th</sup> IATEFL POLAND Conference in Gdansk – dissemination** - a compilation of useful activities, tips and tricks from the workshops and talks she had attended there.

The second HUPE Zagorje meeting was held at Bedekovčina Secondary School on **14<sup>th</sup> February 2020**. There were three workshops held as well as the introduction to the 28<sup>th</sup> HUPE Annual International Conference. The first one was held by **Melinda Tupek**, titled **(Old fashioned) Games in the ESL Classroom** giving the teachers who were present an array of fun and interesting games that could be applied to any classroom at any level of students' knowledge throughout the curriculum, no matter the subject or lesson. The second workshop **A Wee Talk on Northern Ireland**, held by **Barbara Hanjilec**, focused on culture and how to bring it closer to our students in the classroom. The third workshop **WHYs and HOWs of Making Short Videos in the Classroom IATEFL**, held by **Gordana Bujanić Tretinjak**, focused on putting students' mobiles to good use – how to teach them to make video materials that could be used in the classroom or for any learning goal you wish.

Unfortunately, after March 2020 all our activity was online. The branch president was involved in organising and moderating **HUPE Days** as well as the first ever **HUPE online conference**. I am very glad that many of HUPE Zagorje branch members participated in our online events.

HUPE Zagorje Branch is a relatively young branch, we have been operating in just two mandates – the branch was established on 13th September 2017. We have been growing in numbers steadily since then so I am leaving to my successor a healthy and vibrant branch of 44 members – 37 active but we hope the rest will renew their memberships soon.

Finally, I can only hope that we will never have to do it online again. Meeting people in person, talking to each other and sharing ideas and materials as well as laughter is priceless.

Gordana Bujanić Tretinjak  
HUPE Zagorje Branch President



## Adrijana Roždijevac , HUPE Osijek Branch President

Adrijana Roždijevac has been an active member of HUPE ever since she started teaching English in 2010. She studied English and philosophy at the University of Zadar. She lives in Vinkovci and works at "Josip Kozarac" Primary School in Soljani, where she teaches English to the students from grades 1 to 8.

Her love of travelling and exploring different countries and cultures, has taken her to Vietnam, where she has spent two years teaching English as a foreign language to students of all ages and levels, from kindergarten to adults.

With her students, Adrijana actively participates in various eTwinning projects which allow her students to express themselves creatively using English and to expand their views beyond the classroom walls.



## THE FIRST HUPE OSIJEK BRANCH MEETING REPORT

The first HUPE Osijek branch meeting in the school year 2021-2022 was held at **the Faculty of Education in Osijek on 4 December, 2021**. 17 members attended the meeting. The agenda included:

- 1) The 29th Annual International HUPE Conference report
- 2) Mirta Kos Kolobarić: *Nurture a love of reading*
- 3) Selina Geli: *Early English language learning outcomes of young learners exposed to two different English language teaching approaches - CLIL in Austria and traditional ELT in Croatia*
- 4) HUPE news

At the beginning of the meeting, new HUPE Osijek branch president Adrijana Roždijevac informed the participants about **the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual International HUPE Conference**, which took place in Valamar, Poreč from 12 to 14 November, 2021. She reported on the conference programme, venue, workshops, social events, raffle, sponsors, as well as on the overall positive feedback that the HUPE Organizing Committee had received.

The first workshop, titled ***Nurture a love of reading***, was held by **Mirta Kos Kolobarić** from the Secondary School of Economics from Slavonski Brod. In a one-hour workshop, Mirta demonstrated how the choice of a contemporary short story with an intriguing topic combined with the choice of engaging reading tasks can motivate students to read, reflect on the story, relate it to everyday life, and boost their digital skills. She offered various creative and ready-made activities adaptable to different levels but mostly focused on secondary school, which the participants could try out for themselves.

After the coffee break, the second presentation, titled ***Early English language learning outcomes of young learners exposed to two different English language teaching approaches - CLIL in Austria and traditional ELT in Croatia***, was held by **Selina Geli** from "Dr. Franjo Tuđman" Primary School from Beli Manastir. Selina presented the research she had conducted with the students from grade 4 in Austria and Croatia where the students are taught English through different teaching methods. She talked about the similarities and differences between the two countries and foreign language



learning, as well as about the listening and reading tasks the students were tested on. The research results show that the Croatian young learners could comprehend English better than the Austrian students, which started a very interesting and productive discussion among the participants.

At the end of the meeting, participants were informed about the **news in HUPE** including the writing competition *HUPE in Storyland*.

HUPE Osijek is thankful to the speakers and all the members who were able to attend and make the meeting a productive and enjoyable experience. Hopefully, we will see you at our next meeting in February 2022.

If you are a teacher of English and would like to join HUPE Osijek, feel free to contact me at [hupe.osijek@gmail.com](mailto:hupe.osijek@gmail.com). Thank you!

Adrijana Roždijevac  
HUPE Osijek Branch President



## OSIJEK BRANCH 2020-2021 REPORT

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, during the 2020-2021 school year, former branch president Kornelije Juranić was not able to organize any live meetings at HUPE Osijek. However, HUPE Osijek participated in organizing and carrying out the virtual meetings that HUPE held in 2020 and 2021, including the 28<sup>th</sup> HUPE Online Conference and the three HUPE Days. Currently, our branch has 35 members with active memberships. Our members actively participated in all the virtual events, including the Writing Competition, where two of our members and their secondary students were awarded for their excellent writing skills.

HUPE Osijek elections were held online via Zoom on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 at the Annual General Meeting during HUPE Day. There was only one candidate for the branch president, Adrijana Roždijevac from "Josip Kozarac" Primary School, Soljani. She introduced herself to the 13 members that were present, after which the voting was held and she was unanimously voted the new HUPE Osijek branch president.

We are thankful to all the members for participating in online events and we are looking forward to seeing all of you in person soon.

If you are an English teacher and wish to join HUPE Osijek, feel free to contact me at [hupe.osijek@gmail.com](mailto:hupe.osijek@gmail.com).

Adrijana Roždijevac  
HUPE Osijek Branch President



## Miranda Barac , HUPE Split Branch President

Miranda Barac is an English and French teacher with 25 years of experience in teaching EFL and FLE to different age groups from young learners and teenagers to adults. During her teaching career, she has mostly been employed at Craft school in Split (a vocational high school) and Alliance Française de Split (an official hub for French language and culture in Split), but she has also enjoyed teaching in various schools for foreign languages and language camps around Croatia. She had a short non-teaching period as a bilingual consultant at the Canadian Scholarship Trust in Toronto, Canada, from 2002 to 2004, and she worked as a French teaching assistant at Keele Street Public School in Toronto for a year. She's a teacher mentor, twice awarded for excellence in teaching by the Ministry of Science and Education, an eTwinning enthusiast, an Erasmus+ coordinator (four projects), a textbook review committee member (four years in a row), a member of the expert team of English teachers who worked on the implementation of curriculum reform, a member of the project team i-nastava and a part of the HUPE family for many years. She feels happy and fulfilled when she's in class and she always does her best to make her students feel the same.



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## HUPE Zagreb Branch Meeting

Our first live meeting took place on Friday 10th December at Čarobna riječ. We were overwhelmed to see each other back at the same place after two years.

Sanja Rašković showed us some tricks and tips on how to use objects around us. Instead of throwing them away, why not recycle, reuse and repurpose them in the lessons. And so we did. We played games and took part in all the ideas she presented. It was both educational and loads of fun, as it often happens in Sanja's workshops.

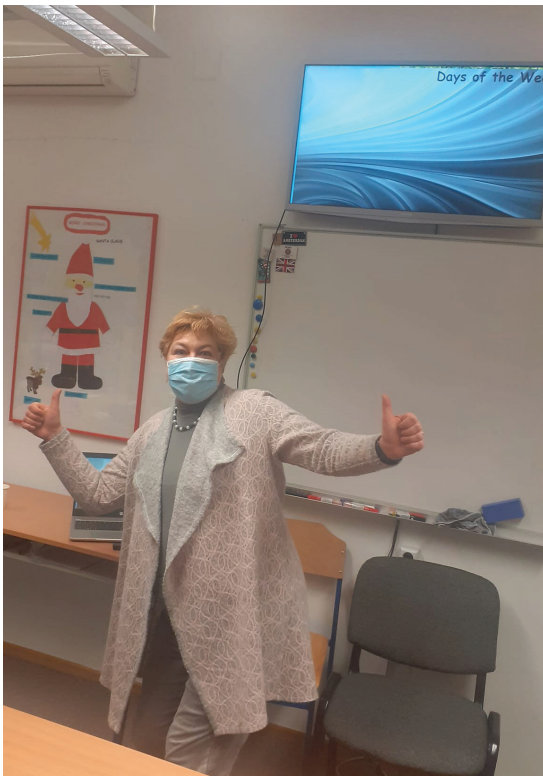
And finally – songs in the classroom with Marina Hadžiomerović. This time Marina showed us how to tackle important issues, express opinion, show empathy and tolerance. In versatile challenging activities we thought about ecology, drug problems, loneliness, all the issues that can be dealt with in a classroom using songs. Some TPR also happened as we tried to walk in the shoes of our youngest students by singing days of the week.

Looking forward to many more live branch meetings in the near future.

Lana Duka Zupanc  
HUPE Zagreb













## HIP HIP HOORAY!

IATEFL-Hungary 30+1  
Birthday Conference

8-9 October 2021

**Kolos Esztergályos** has an MA in English Language and Literature and TEFL, and currently works as a senior consultant and teacher trainer for Oxford University Press.

He started his language teaching career with young learners in 1996 and then spent the following 10 years in various classrooms, teaching students aged 8-18 as well as adults. Before joining Oxford University Press in 2009, he worked as an examiner and a freelance materials writer. These led him to find interest in the role of teaching materials in motivation, and how digital platforms can transform learning and help in achieving learning outcomes.

**How did the first live conference after a long time make you feel?**

It was just so amazing! I'm sure everybody was missing the real-world, "three-dimensional" way of professional development, socializing and making friends. It was such a pleasure to meet a lot of friends and colleagues after a long time and, of course, this made the conference even more special, along with the 30(+1)-year anniversary. And, should I add, having Peter Medgyes, the founding father of IATEFL Hungary, as a plenary speaker was one of the highlights of the event.

**What is your first impression regarding the organization and workshops given?**

Veszprém has hosted a good number of IATEFL Hungary conferences and events, and I think it is an excellent choice because of the cultural heritage, historical vibes and the natural environment you just can't fail to notice.

Organizing such a conference is always a tremendous amount of work and it should be even more challenging with the pandemic making everything more unpredictable. I saw smiling faces everywhere, chatting away over coffee in the breaks, so, obviously everyone was enjoying the event. I think there was a wide range of interesting topics to choose from, so congratulations to all who made this possible!

**Tell us something about your workshop (a summary).**

There are two main reasons why I chose to give a workshop on flipped learning. First, I'm a great advocate of making students part of the learning process, giving them responsibility for their own learning. Essentially, this is putting them in control over their learning methods and paths, instead of making them passive objects of our teaching. The other reason is that I've found that remote teaching during the lockdown actually helped to move in this direction. Remote teaching deemed traditional classroom practices unviable – for example, students had to learn a lot of new material at





home, assigned as homework. For example, there might have been a text with a lot of new information for students to read at home, and this was discussed next time in an online, synchronous lesson.

This is not to say that all learning now should take the form of individual study. The point I was trying to make with flipped learning is that learning can happen outside class and new information will not necessarily come from the teacher only. In retrospect, remote teaching during the pandemic (with all its negative effects), has at least prepared our students to act as agents in their own learning. Again, this brings us back to learner agency. As the old proverb goes: "Teachers open the doors, but you must enter by yourself".

### **Tell us something about yourself (a short bio).**

I graduated in English Language and Literature and TEFL from ELTE University, Budapest. While a university student, I started teaching in a programme for Young Learners and this early experience made me passionate about the teaching profession and interested in SLA (Second Language Acquisition) theories. I spent six years in the programme as a teacher and later as a teacher trainer and materials writer. I also worked as a primary and secondary school teacher for almost ten years before moving into publishing.

Currently I am a Senior ELT Consultant and Teacher Trainer for Oxford University Press, which allows me to meet and support teachers in person, and lately, through global webinars. My role also involves creating content for professional development courses.

### **What makes you stand out in the ELT Community (don't be shy)?**

That is a tough question as the ELT Community I know is made up of so many brilliant people that it's hard to think of something that makes you stand out! So, here are just three fun facts instead:

- I share a birthday with Kim Basinger
- I keep a huge collection of test papers and worksheets I've ever used with my students
- I still haven't decided what I want to be when I grow up!

## **SANDRA VIDA-IATEFL SLOVENIA**

### **How did the first live conference after a long time make you feel?**

Aaaaah. It felt like we were allowed to fly again! The hugs, the laughs, the actual people in classrooms around you! It was fantastic. I remember that at times during this pandemic, we felt like it was too dangerous to even have a laugh with friends and be happy. Everything seemed so grim. But this conference pushed it all to the past. So yes, I think we all agree it was genuinely liberating. It is really hard to express in words. You see all the damage the isolation has caused and at the same time you feel optimistic because it is now behind us.



## What are your first impression regarding the organization and workshops given?

As a conference organizer myself I was very interested in how the hybrid conference would work out and how different people would react to the different sessions offered. Truthfully, I was more drawn to the live sessions than the online ones. I do see some good in trying to use all the technology at our disposal, to get access or involve those who could not join the conference live; but at the same time, I saw how different my own engagement with workshops was if they were live. I think we are all a bit fed up with Zoom and similar tools at the moment. As far as content goes, it is always a bit of a gamble to end up in a workshop you will truly enjoy. Sometimes it works and sometimes less so. I quite enjoyed some really good workshops and am already making plans for involving the learned into my practice.

As for organization - there have been some stumbles, but I think after 2 years we are all a bit rusty in organizational skills. However, all should be forgiven organizers who dare to do it first I say :)

## Tell us something about your workshop (a summary).

My workshop was more of a talk about what I learned in the past years. It was different from the others because I had shared many good ideas and lessons that had worked out well in the past. But I also wanted to share some of the lessons that did not work out well at all, because I strongly believe in the fact that an association and a conference should provide a forum for honest conversations with our colleagues. A place where it is ok to say, I don't know how to do this, I sometimes feel like I am speaking into an abyss, things like that. Perhaps I had more time in the past to reflect on my practices and how they influence my students and their learning. Honestly, even after 20 years of teaching and 15 years of conferencing, I often still hit a wall and can't get through to my students so, at times, I feel like a failure. I think it is important for us to share that aspect as well.

## Tell us something about yourself (a short bio).

I am a secondary school teacher with a love of singing, dancing, poetry and peace. As such, I am very different from the teenagers I have been teaching for more than 20 years. I also believe very deeply in giving back to the community so I have been active in IATEFL Slovenia.

## What makes you stand out in the ELT Community (don't be shy)?

Perhaps honesty, an eagerness to learn and tolerance. I have hope in the future and I try very hard in these areas.





## Tamara Bradonjić-Elta Serbia

Tamara Bradonjic was born in 1981 in Kragujevac. She graduated in English language and literature from the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade in 2005. Besides teacher education, she is also educated as a translator in the Association of Scientific and Technical Translators of Serbia. She has been teaching for 16 years in a primary school "Milan Blagojevic" in Natalinci. In her work she combines various techniques, such as teaching with music and teaching with graphic novels. Translation is her hobby, especially translating legal and economic documents for university professors. Teaching is learning, and teaching children should motivate us to be learners at the same time. Her other hobbies are listening to music, cooking, reading books and writing poetry.

### **How did the first live conference after a long time make you feel?**

My feelings about the conference were absolutely amazing! I was so overwhelmed to be among all those lovely people all around the world. Everybody was looking forward to the live conference after such a long time. The very place, University of Pannonia, was just like a museum, the museum of English artists and craftsmen.

### **What are your first impression regarding the organization and workshops given?**

IATEFL organizers did a great job regarding the venue and the choice of workshops. There were 5 plenary speakers, 48 workshops (16 online), 32 live and hybrid sessions. All the plenary speakers were fantastic speakers, speaking like real professionals, and the workshops were so creative, interesting and educational.

### **Tell us something about your workshop (a summary).**

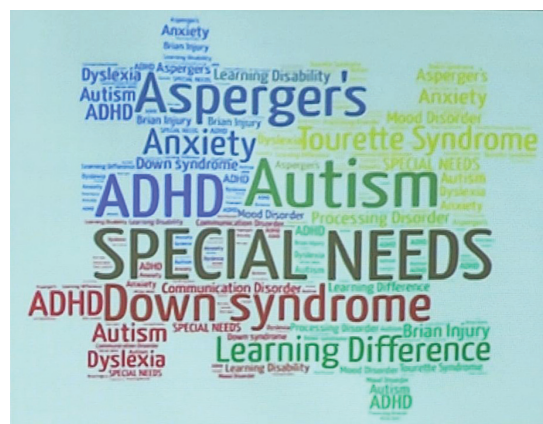
In my session I talked about special needs education. It refers to the practice of educating students in order to provide the accommodation for their individual differences, disabilities and special needs. I explained what the very process implies and how the teaching procedures should be individually planned and systematically developed as well as the adapted materials and adjustable settings. Furthermore, I reflected on the aim of special education and in which way it provides accommodated education for students with disabilities such as learning disabilities,



emotional and behavioral disabilities, physical and developmental disabilities and many other disabilities. My basic aim was to explain students' benefits from additional educational services, especially because different approaches to teaching are used. I emphasized the importance of identifying students with special needs. The sooner they are identified, the better results will be achieved. Nevertheless, we need to be aware of the fact that it is not so easy to identify students with less obvious disabilities, especially those who have learning disabilities. Special education is designed to meet each student's needs thus it should be customized and based on individual needs. I talked about a student's individualized education plan which is called a student's individual learning plan. I tried to explain different instructional techniques used for students with special needs which can be classified as accommodations and modifications. Finally, I reflected on the advantages of this kind of education.

### **What makes you stand out in the ELT Community (don't be shy)?**

The ELT community is like a family to me. Being a member of ELTA Serbia I literally fulfilled my dreams, broadened my mind and met amazing and creative teachers.





# Three schools, one goal! - ECOoperation

Martina Grgac, Gimnazija Fran Galović, Koprivnica

Maja Labaš Horvat, Srednja škola Prelog



Project based learning has been an important part of the teaching and learning process for a long time and it is a transformative learning experience designed to engage language learners with real-world issues and meaningful target language use through the construction of products that have an authentic purpose and that are shared with an audience that extends beyond the instructional setting. What are its benefits and where have we found room for improvement? How can we engage students and motivate them to participate actively in order to become more independent learners? We've tried to answer these questions while working together on the following project.

INTERREG project „ECOoperation“ is the result of a successful cooperation of three secondary schools from the Croatia - Hungary cross-border region. Two Croatian secondary schools and a Hungarian one formed a partnership and carried out numerous project activities. The Hungarian school Csokonai Vitéz Mihály Református Gimnázium Általános Iskola és Kollégium from Csurgó was the lead beneficiary and partner schools were Gimnazija „Fran Galović“ Koprivnica (B1) and Srednja škola Prelog (B2). Logistic support was provided by development agencies REDEA and PORA. The duration of the project was 18 months (July 2020 to December 2021) and the total value of the project was 241 870,93 euro.

The three above-mentioned project partners implemented the ECOoperation project tasks in their respective combined categories: micro-climate research / cycling, soil research / camping and water research / kayaking. It was also a multilingual project – the participants used English, Hungarian and Croatian as working languages.

The project started in July 2020 after the partners had held initial preparatory meetings. The opening conference was organised by Srednja škola Prelog and it was an opportunity for teachers and students of all three schools to present their future project tasks.

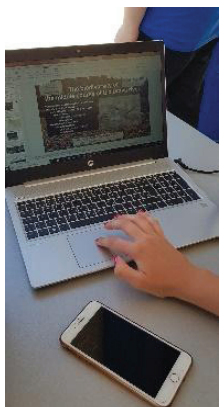


The next activity for the teachers and students of each partner school team was to do field research in their subject and present it to the other two teams during online lectures. The teachers taught teachers while the students taught and learned from their peers from other schools. The final outcomes of this part of the project were three exhibitions organised by the project partners.

Another set of project tasks - parallel with the preparation for presentations - focused on the procurement of specialised equipment for water, soil and micro-climate research as well as for cycling, camping and kayaking activities. In addition, teachers and students were taught by external associate experts on how to use the equipment. Then the teams taught each other on how to create quizzes and answered questions based on the research presentations by the other two partner schools.

As a result, all the members acquired new skills which they could apply during the next project phase – outdoor lessons. Before the actual implementation of this part, each school team of teachers had created a final product – an elaborate field trip scenario with a map.





The final phase of the project was organised by Csokonai Vitéz Mihály Református Gimnázium Általános Iskola és Kollégium from Csurgó. They hosted a joint field trip for all three schools at the Gyekenyes Kotró lake and the closing conference at their school in Csurgó. This was an opportunity for all the students and teachers to finally work together live. They applied and shared the acquired knowledge and skills, adding value to the project through educational and amusing experiences.



Due to the epidemiological situation, most of the project activities when all three schools had to be involved were carried out through virtual meetings and cooperation on the Zoom platform.

The ECOoperation project included more than a hundred students and twenty teachers from the three partner schools.

Project activities have been presented in the media – school paper, online local news and television – and project details can be found on school websites and social networks.

The students and teachers involved in the project learned about the environment and biodiversity of the Croatia – Hungary cross-border region using innovative and active methods of teaching and learning. Besides doing research and learning interesting facts, they worked on developing multicultural understanding, linguistic and presentation skills as well as organisational and teamwork skills during field work. The teams taught each other about their respective fields of research while acquiring soft skills and improving their communication competences through friendly interaction, which added more value to this project.

The sustainability of ECOoperation project will be ensured by the school principals and teachers who will keep encouraging students and promoting project-based learning through fieldwork methods. Croatian and Hungarian schools also plan to continue working together on common goals - enhancing the teaching and learning quality in their schools, developing students' communication skills as well as positive attitudes towards the environment and making a positive impact on their mental and physical health.







# Erasmus Beginner

**Authors: Goran Podunavac and Evica Dernej, Primary school Drenje**

For the first time ever, students and employees of Drenje Primary School joined the Erasmus Days' celebration from the 14th to the 16th of October. The goal was to bring forward the possibilities, examples of good practice and successful stories of the greatest program of the European Union in the fields of education, training, young people and sport.

Last year, students made their first steps in eTwinning and achieved successful cooperative learning with their European peers. Since they haven't had any Erasmus experience yet, it piqued their curiosity and they motivated their teachers to explore the unknown together. In Computer Science class students explored what Erasmus+ is and what its characteristics are. They found out that it contains various useful programs through which they can improve their language, communication, presentation and digital skills and develop cooperative work with other participants from European countries. In addition, the school curricula become enriched with the European dimension of education. Not to leave everything on just research work and theory, they found some interviewees whom they asked some questions. What they all have in common is an Erasmus experience - during their primary school, university education or while working.

In Croatian class, under the guidance of their teacher Evica Dernej, the eighth-graders revised their knowledge of writing interviews and came up with some interesting questions for the interviewees. The students listened to the experiences of their peers from Popovac, as well as those of former students of Drenje Dunja Dernej and Andrej Labudić Primary Schools. Given the fact that teacher Goran Podunavac is an Erasmus+ project coordinator in Popovac Primary School, they got to learn about the mobilities, activities and reactions of the students and colleagues who work with him on Erasmus projects.

People have the opportunity for "learning, cooperation, travelling, meeting new people, culture; finding your place in the global world; learning about others and, most importantly - about yourself", says Alenka Miljević, a teacher with a long-standing experience in Erasmus. For those less familiar with Erasmus, journalists from Drenje and Popovac created a collection called "Erasmus Beginner" using the Wakelet digital tool. They incorporated the most important information on Erasmus with examples of good practice in it.

At the end of the three-day event, most of the students said that they hope to become a part of the Erasmus+ family soon because they want to expand their knowledge, gain new experience and meet friends from other countries of the Old Continent.



Gorana Babić

# Beautiful Iceland

Here are some short impressions from the course on the Icelandic educational system when I stayed in Iceland on October 10-16 2021.

The provider is a Spanish company called English Matters. This course is organized every year in March and / or October. The participants came from 19 European countries.

This structured course is designed for **teachers, head teachers, principals and other school staff** who would like to learn about the **Icelandic education system**, which is considered one of the most interesting ones in Europe.

After introductory theoretical lectures on the culture, history and educational system of Iceland, we visited several schools. As part of the Context 4 Content field trip, we visited the Golden Circle, Reynisfjara Beach, the town of Vik and Skogafoss Waterfall, as well as the National Museum in Reykjavik. All these elements helped us better understand the education, the culture, the extreme natural environment, and the wonderful people of this amazing country of ice and fire on the outskirts of Europe.

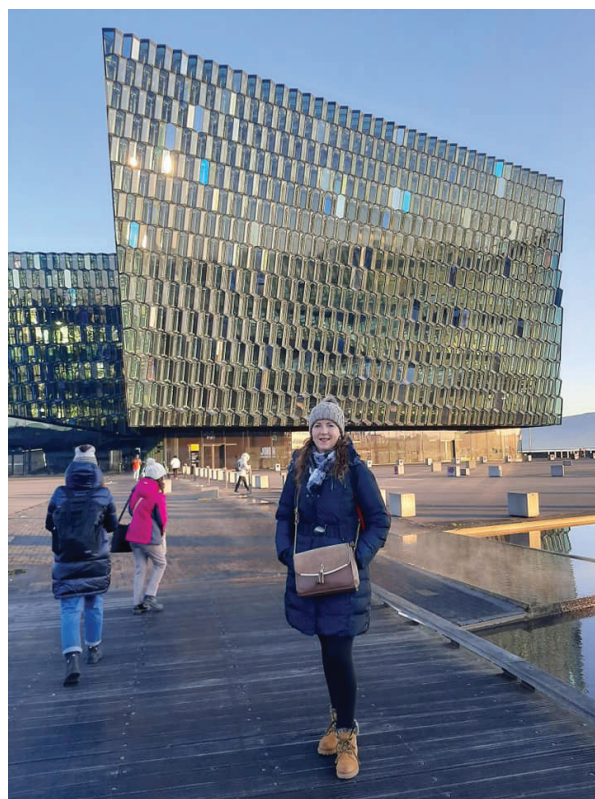
It has been a very interesting experience. Icelandic culture is completely different from ours and undoubtedly affects their educational system.

The Icelandic Ministry of Education has some basic principles that all their schools work on: sustainability, healthy living, literacy, democracy, equality, respect for human rights and creativity. All schools incorporate these principles into their school curricula, but schools can decide autonomously how to apply these principles. Believe it or not, students eat only healthy food for brunch. Snacks and sweets are strictly prohibited. I am amazed with the subject called Home Economics. It consists of 3 modules: cooking, sewing and woodworking and it is being taught from the 1st grade.

English is taught from the 4th grade, and Danish from the 7th grade - Danish is taken at the graduation exam. There is a good reason for that; Iceland was under the rule of the Danish king.

Almost every school has a pool for teaching Sports. If the school does not have a swimming pool, it has a subscription for the city swimming pool because the number of swimming hours per year is prescribed.

Civic education is a part of every subject. In the first three grades, the grades are descriptive, while in the 4th grade students are graded only in some subjects. Grading in all subjects begins in the 5th grade. When assessing, special attention is paid to the student's attitude towards work and the student's cooperation with other students.





Textbooks and workbooks usually stay at school, except when students have homework. Homework is done once a week - most often given on Wednesday for Monday. The task is related to reading. Icelanders pay special attention to reading, which thrilled me immensely.

Namely, in all schools in Iceland, the first lesson begins with reading that lasts from 15 to 30 minutes in all classes. After reading, teachers check the comprehension, each time with several students. Icelandic teachers point out that reading comprehension skills are extremely important and that it is the basis of personal development of each individual since reading is applied in all the subjects. Also, Icelandic teachers are of the opinion that reading at the beginning of the working day allows students to calm down, relax and prepare for the working day at school. The Icelandic educational system is student-centered and everything is subordinated to their personal development. Teachers only occasionally direct the work of students - they are moderators of pupils' activities. Students in the same class often do different subjects during one lesson according to the situation. The emphasis is on projects and team work. All students have free textbooks as well as all the materials needed to work at school. All groceries needed for cooking, sewing materials and wood for processing are procured by the school. Pupils call the teachers by their names, but there is a high level of respect towards teachers.

One word- paradise.

Since I teach Croatian, I intend to implement discussion methods more than before. I am also going to implement additional activities related to encouraging reading comprehension and continue focusing pupils' attention to local legends (inspired by the example of their sagas) which has already begun. An inspiring culture and an inspiring educational system. I highly recommend all colleagues to visit Iceland and Icelandic schools.



# Conference report or something like it!

Hello, hello wonderful people! Hope you've managed to get some very much needed R&R during the Xmas holidays! You certainly deserved it!

As you all know and remember, last November we organized our Annual HUPE Conference and as opposed to the year before, the 2021 HUPE Conference was held live in Poreč. For those three amazing days we felt almost like COVID never existed.

As always, the Conference lasted for three days, from 12 to 14 November. Each day had a lot of interesting lectures and workshops, and in the evenings, we socialized and had fun all together. Now that the emotions of this live Conference have had some time to simmer, we are ready to go through each of those days and try and bring back at least some of the fun we experienced.

The Conference opening was at 3.00pm on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> of November and right after the inspirational opening speech by our HUPE President, Anita Jokić, we had our first plenary session. Irena Vodopija Krstanović was our first speaker and her talk on CLIL really got us into the spirit of learning. Right after her we had the honour and privilege of hosting, for the first time ever, the Ambassador of India and his lovely wife. Mr. Raj Kumar Srivastava gave a speech on the life and culture of Indians.

During the afternoon sessions, participants could choose to attend lectures or workshops in 5 different rooms depending on their preference of topic. If you were interested in Young Learners or Primary school learners, maybe you went to a workshop on storytelling or one on how to help teens figure things out. Those of you who teach mostly Secondary School Learners probably attended workshops on teaching literature or telling stories through pictures. There were also workshops on MEMEs and Web Quests. Mentioning the names of all the presenters wouldn't make any sense given the fact you all have the Conference schedule. We will, however, emphasize that all the presenters were very good and regardless of whose talk/workshop you attended, you definitely left the room satisfied and filled with new energy.

The second Conference day started bright and early at 9.00 a.m. with five different workshops. There was a little bit of everything: from activities to have fun with in the classroom, using thinking tools to your advantage, reducing noise in the classroom but still managing to have fun, and a bit of meditation. The morning sessions continued up until our coffee break. We finished off the morning with our second plenary speaker Daniel Xerri who talked about the importance of soft skills and teaching them to students. Saturday afternoon brought topics such as PTA, autonomous





learning, gifted students and how to teach them, student assessment and, of course, reading and how to use books in the classroom.

Sunday morning was reserved for the topics of NLP, emotional intelligence, climate change and a little bit more of reading and using literature in the classroom. It kind of shows you what English teachers love, doesn't it? And just before the Conference closing, Beatrix Price, our third plenary speaker, gave her talk.

All through the Conference there were a lot of prize draws and games in which participants could win valuable awards. Some of them were organized by our publishers, others by our sponsors and some by HUPE. The important part is that in HUPE everyone is a winner!

This Conference was also important because of our AGM which was held on Saturday and during which we had our HUPE Board elections. There was another novelty introduced during the Conference: using QR Codes to evaluate the presenter whose workshop/talk you attended. This gave us a very clear idea on which workshops or talks you really enjoyed and which you really, really enjoyed!

With this note we leave you to read the rest of the HUPE Newsletter and invite you to follow our organisation on social media and on our website. All-important info regarding HUPE will be posted there!

Toodles for now,

Team HUPE

