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Hrvatsko udruženje profesora engleskog jezika
Croatian Association of Teachers of English

NEWSLETTER

HUPE Newsletter No. 8 • September 2015



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School

EDITORS' NOTE

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the autumn issue of our HUPE Newsletter. We hope it will inspire you with new ideas to make your teaching practice even more successful and enjoyable.

As you already know, the new HUPE Executive Board started on September 1, 2015. You can read more about their plans for HUPE in the President's note.

Preparations for the 24th Annual HUPE Conference are well under way and we invite you all to join us in Šibenik, in April. Our branches have been very busy and in this issue you can read more about the workshops they have organised during the last school year.

HUPE representatives attend international conferences on a regular basis. Read about two excellent conferences and if you would like to attend one yourself, have a look at the forthcoming events.

Are you looking for ideas on how to teach culture? Read Davorka Nekić's report on her project.

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.

We invite you to send your stories, comments, or reviews to 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,

Lidija i Dajana

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear HUPE members and friends,

It is a great honour and privilege to write this note as a new HUPE president. I would like to thank you all for giving me this opportunity to lead the team of volunteers in HUPE Executive Board in running our teachers' association. On behalf of the new Executive Board, a big thanks to the previous Board and the president for all their hard work and commitment.

The new school year has started and in HUPE we are preparing a number of great opportunities for professional development. The team of volunteers is working hard and we hope to receive support from the British Council, the American Embassy, our loyal publishers, city councils and firms.

Our 24th Annual HUPE Conference is the biggest event we prepare and you can find all info on www.hupe.hr. Our eight branches plan a series of events, too, and you are all invited not only to join but to contribute, too. We have great news for all fans of online professional development. HUPE is in the process of joining SEETA and you can already check and join the platform on www.seeta.eu

These are all opportunities to grow professionally, get to know your colleagues, make friends and have a lot of fun. I hope you will join us in our enthusiasm for teaching and learning, offer new ideas, share some of your thoughts and ideas from your classroom, attend and present at the annual conference and other events, contribute papers and articles to our magazine and this newsletter.

HUPE is as great as the members who care, share, and grow together.

Best wishes for a great year of teaching and learning to all,
Sanja



HUPE is happy to announce its

24th Annual HUPE Conference 2016

which will take place at
Hotel Ivan - Solaris Beach Resort near Šibenik
on 8 - 10 April 2016

Join the association with over 400 enthusiastic English teachers and enjoy the beautiful venue as well as remarkable plenary sessions and workshops.

All additional information will be available on www.hupe.hr very soon!

CALL FOR SPEAKER PROPOSALS

Dear HUPE members, colleagues and partners.

Call for Proposals for our 24th Annual HUPE Conference is now open.

We invite you to share your knowledge, ideas and experience as you join us in networking with ELT professionals from Croatia and other countries. The deadline for submitting your speaker proposal is Sunday 17 January 2016. Any proposal received after the deadline will be placed on the reserve list.

Visit www.hupe.hr and find the form there.

INVITATION TO JOIN

Dear colleagues,

A great way to celebrate European Language Day is to join the HUPE family.

If your membership is about to expire or your friends and colleagues are not our members yet, let them know about the HUPE membership benefits. This includes the chance to connect with fellow English teaching professionals around Croatia and abroad, to attend conferences, branch meetings and webinars, to receive our regular newsletter and magazine and so much more.

For more information go to

<http://www.hupe.hr/index.php/membership/membership-benefits>.

You are all very welcome.

HUPE team



The new HUPE Board members are:

Sanja Božinović, president
Željka Jakušić Čejka, vice-president
Ana Galac, secretary
Dubravka Blažić, treasurer
Suzana Anić-Antić, International Coordinator
Lidija Branilović, Public Relations (PR)
Dajana Vukadin, Newsletter and HUPEzine editor

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In our next issue you can find out all about the new branch presidents, so don't miss it. For any other information, check our website www.hupe.hr.

23rd HUPE ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT BY HUPE PARTNERS

"How are you?" I asked the grey-haired old man on the seashore.
"Nohow!" he replied. "I await death!"
"Don't you enjoy life?"
"No!"
"Doesn't hope console you?"
"No!"
"And desire?"
"I desire nothing!"
"Not anything? , really anything, not even the return of your youth?"
"No! They poisoned my youth and they are poisoning my old age now!"
"And if you could be born again?"
"God forbid!"
"And if you would be born again, what would you like to be?"
"A stone in the depths of the sea!..."

Fran Mažuranić (1859-1928)



The Conference was a very successful one and it was obvious that the organizing committee had worked very hard and very efficiently to turn a Professional Development weekend into a fulfilling and enjoyable experience, offering 60 inspiring sessions plenaries and workshops - which were attended by a lot of participants, mostly Croatian teachers, but also teachers from other countries. There was joyfulness and enthusiasm in the atmosphere, and many opportunities to meet and talk to new people during the well-scheduled and well-prepared- coffee breaks.

I got a lot of new ideas in this Conference; I was glad to see that a lot of the attendees were young teachers with a lot of interest; I felt very pleased to witness the high level of English of Croatian people who had nothing to do with ELT, but were eager to help me as a visitor who doesn't speak their language. All these things really convinced me that English teachers in Croatia do a very good job and the future of ELT is in very good hands.

Julia Alivertis
TESOL Greece

They say you should never mix business with pleasure but, oh God, how wrong they are! They have, obviously, not been to HUPE Conference in Šibenik.

When I say business, I mean professional development. A HUPE conference is considered to be the biggest annual ELT event in Croatia. This one offered the participants a choice of almost sixty workshops and talks and there were six plenary talks given by Deborah Healey, Paul Dummett, Gwendydd Caudwell, Philip Warwick, Gary Anderson and Evelina Miščin over the three days of the event, 24-26 April 2015. The sessions offered an insight into the latest findings, trends and methods from the world of ELT. This is why it was so difficult to choose which one to attend you just could not be at more than one place at a time, though I could bet that most of us wished we had the super power to do so!

The best thing about being at this conference was having the great pleasure of meeting fellow teachers from Croatia and other countries from the region, having a chance to share experiences, complain about the same problems that bother all of us and find out that there is a solution, sometimes even from a colleague half your age. As the official representative of ELTA, I had a chance to spend time with members of The Conference Organising Committee. It was a great experience to go behind the scene and witness the dedication and enthusiasm that the HUPE team put into making all this happen.

Dragana Andrić
ELTA Serbia

Though I was a presenter myself, I was, for the most part, just a fan gushing over ELT personalities such as CUP senior international teacher trainer Gary Anderson, Life author Paul Dummett, veteran conference speakers Rakesh Bhanot and Mark Andrews, YL specialist Gwendydd Caudwell, University of Oregon's Deborah Healey, and many others. In my opinion, Phil Warwick's plenary talk on the teaching of grammar and Gary Anderson's session on Dogme were the most engaging of them all. They were informative and interesting at the same time.

Most of my co-presentors and I have come to the conclusion that Solaris Beach Resort is hard to top as a conference venue. It is not every day one gets to present in a conference and stay in a four-star hotel on one of the Balkan peninsula's most spectacular seafronts. I did not mind walking from one hotel to another for it meant I could take in the magnificent view again and again.

I am very happy with the way my seminar on language correctness was received. I liked the way the audience responded to my questions and shared their ideas. It was very interactive.

In conclusion, my experience in Šibenik was very positive, and I am hoping to welcome Croatia's representative to our conference in Uherské Hradiště this September. We are hoping that our conference will measure up to HUPE's.

Louel Ross Calleja
ATECR, Czech Republic

When I got the invoice of being accepted at the HUPE conference, I googled the resort Solaris first. I wanted to check the prices and how far it was, but actually I also went through the gallery and checked a few things the resort offers. When I got the programme of the conference, I sat on my couch, drank some coffee and thought: NO!!! Three different hotels, so many workshops, friends that I haven't seen for a while, coffee, pools, the sea, sun, sand, cafes, Šibenik, RESORT!!! How will I manage all that?!? Well, I will have to skip something.

Solaris welcomed us greatly. It was a beautiful place, flowerish and nice, interesting and fascinating, all in one.

What I actually liked the most was the fact that I was at the resort, near the beach and I was indoor most of the time. The conference program was greatly planned and in every hour there was a session that was interesting and challenging. I took a selfie the first day of the conference, while waiting for the first plenary and post it on Facebook. When I got home everyone was talking about my early vacation and how I enjoyed the sea and sun, but actually they didn't know that it was a working weekend and that sun and the sea were only at that picture. Also, the scare that the different hotels gave me at the beginning was a great refreshment because after every session there was that little walk which gave me energy and fresh air to continue my mission.

Elma Velić Bešić
TETA, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Only about a month and a half had passed since the 2015 IATEFL Slovenia conference in Topolšica and I was already looking forward to travelling to Šibenik to attend the 23rd annual Croatian English teachers' association event.

It was already the air that we breathed as we stepped out of the car after a long drive when we knew we would enjoy the HUPE Conference. Next, it was all the bushes and the flowers that were blooming and then it was the long sandy beach with thatched beach umbrellas and the beautiful blue sea with its nice smell we could enjoy every time we went from one workshop to the other since they took place in different hotels. Adding a variety of different workshops we could choose from Friday to Sunday, there's nothing else but to say: **we will come back to your conference next year!**

We got a chance to learn more about using technology from Deborah Healey, who also gave the closing plenary on gamification, which is definitely a project worth considering implementing in your classrooms. Paul Dummett shared some ideas on how to develop critical thinking in your students and Kate Mulvey prepared, what was in my opinion one of the most inspiring workshops of the whole conference this year, on how to use art in the ESL classroom. Another subject area which was covered at this year's event in Croatia was neuroscience and I attended two workshops on this topic. One was given by Vida Škreb, who explained the theory of the four rooms and the other by Gregor Pirš, who among other things made us aware of how important it is to read task instructions as carefully as possible.

Teja Podgrajšek and Janja Čolić
IATEFL Slovenia

I was very pleased to see how wide the range of topics the presenters brought to the conference was. Just to give you an impression on the versatility of the 'menu' I shall haphazardly compile a list of topics at the event: some tools that technology offers teachers to make their work easier, how to become digital natives, using arts and poetry in the English classroom, the role of drama and theatre in the classroom and in teacher training, how to cope with teaching English to young learners and assessment processes on a young learner lesson. As far as evaluation is concerned earning processes, speaking and thinking and book assessment were also addressed by different presenters. To hit on the hard scientific side of the coin there were some issues discussed through the lenses of neuroscience and psychology.

The venue was marvellous and the organisation as excellent, everything went smooth and by the numbers.

Laszlo Katona
IATEFL Hungary

HUPE Branches

HUPE ZAGREB

The third Zagreb branch meeting was held on 22nd May 2015 in Centar za strane jezike Vodnikova. In spite of bad weather, 30 teachers attended the meeting.

Our first speaker was Ms Mirta Kos Kolobarić, The president of Slavondki Brod HUPE branch. She held a workshop Animated Films in ELT. She presented several interesting ideas on how animated films can be used in teaching English. Since modern animated films are targeted at viewers of all age groups, our teenage students do not have a feeling they are watching and analysing something childish. Animated films can be used as a good motivation factor, so students are ready to communicate and discuss various characters, their relationships, as well as work on grammar and lexical structure. We even had a little quiz where some of our colleagues showed brilliant knowledge of animated films.



Our second speaker was Ms Ivana Kirin, HUPE vice-president from Osijek. She held a workshop Project Based Learning- Learning by Doing. She explained the difference between projects and project based learning (PBL). PBL has extended time frame, includes collaboration, research and construction of an artefact (poster, presentation, cookbook, video commercial...) We watched several video clips filmed by her students and were amazed by their imaginative ideas. She pointed out that all her students like PBL and they are all engaged in PBL. Even weak students who rarely speak in class, happily preformed in short videos and spoke English.



In the final part, Zagreb branch members elected Ms Lana Duka Zupanc president of HUPE Zagreb Branch. She has been a member of HUPE for many years and has attended numerous HUPE conferences and we are all sure that she will keep up the good work.

I would like to thank all the colleagues for coming and creating great atmosphere.

Željka Jakušić Čejka
Ex-HUPE Zagreb branch president

HUPE Varaždin Branch Report 16th May 2015

Our fourth meeting in the school year 2014/2015 took place on 16th May 2015 at Škola stranih jezika Žiger, Varaždin.

9 teachers attended the meeting.

Mia Šavrljuga was our first speaker with *Teachers Rule (the World)* topic.

Her workshop helped us rethink everything we know about motivation,

communication, classroom management and learning.

Our second speaker was

Dubravka Blažić who shared her knowledge of using mnemotechnics in the classroom. Useful workshop with theoretical and practical part with new ideas how to make learning easier and more interesting.

I would like to thank all the colleagues who attended the meeting and made such a great atmosphere.



Vida Novak,
HUPE Varaždin Branch President

HUPE Slavonski Brod Branch 5th Meeting Report

The fifth HUPE Slavonski Brod Branch meeting (and also our last one) in this school year was held on **May 18, 2015** at 18 p.m. The venue was Ekonomsko-birotehnička škola in Slavonski Brod.

9 teachers attended the meeting, enjoyed the presented activities and shared their experiences.

Maja Penava Aleksić, just before going on maternity leave, managed to run a workshop on *ADHD and Learning Disabilities*.

She had finished an online course dealing with the topic, so she shared some theoretical knowledge with us, as well as some examples from her own teaching practice and work with such students. We engaged into lively discussion and shared our views and experience regarding ADHD, learning disabilities and exceptional students.



Marija Lovrić, our next speaker, prepared an overview of the workshops she had attended at 23rd HUPE Conference held in April this year. She presented some practical activities which can be easily used in everyday teaching practice.

Ivana Opačak, our colleague whose student had been invited to the state competition in English held in April this year, presented her view of the competition and knowledge of English required from students at this level.



The next item on the agenda was the election of a new branch president, since the current president's term had expired. Since there were no other candidates, the current president was unanimously re-elected.

Mirta Kos Kolobarić
HUPE Slavonski Brod Branch President

IATEFL Slovenia 2015 Report

Vida Novak, HUPEVaraždin Branch President

I'm very glad and proud that a dear colleague of mine, Mrs Lidija Branilović, and I had the chance to be the official HUPE representatives in Slovenia. The 22nd International IATEFL Slovenia Conference was held from 5th - 8th March 2015 at Terme Topolšica - a spa and wellness centre in the hills of northern Slovenia. Upon arrival we noticed that there were the highly unusual, yet attractive offerings in the programme, but more about it later.

On Thursday, after the opening plenary by a Slovenian teacher and teacher trainer Mojca Belak, I was ensured the very first evening why is this conference known as the cosiest one. We had a very interesting international get-to-know-each-other evening hosted by Mark Andrews and Rakesh Bhanot. We were presenting part of our cultures, the best of food and drinks and short stories about our countries. I really liked this idea of a friendly approach to a conference. Lidija and I presented Croatia with the finest sorts of wine made in our region and mentioned the growing popularity of Dubrovnik thanks to the super popular TV serial Game of Thrones. We had an opportunity to try many delicious things from various countries. The last, but most definitely not the least part of the opening evening was a plenary talk in the swimming pool. Yes, you read it right, the swimming pool was opened just for the conference participants. The water was comfortably warm, the temperature of the cool night air was 4° C, the moon was shining. Quite a romantic atmosphere. Mark Andrews reminded us what we have in common with water and stars and presented us an unique plenary.

Friday started very early with the morning gymnastics in the pool for those who very early birds. During the plenary, Erika Osvath taught us how chants and rhythms affect language acquisition and memory. We all jointly created a short rap song relevant to the conference and enjoyed it. Steve Lever had a "Brain Rules" lecture. In order to create a classroom environment that allows the brain to do what it does best, we need to take certain factors into consideration. When we begin to understand the workings of the mind, we can organise our classrooms in a way that is conducive to boosting brain power. Another special lecture was held by Jean McCollister and BammBamm. Who's BammBamm? He's a well-trained, clever and friendly therapeutic dog. Jean showed us how he can enhance the learning process and help



students learn things as irregular verbs or prepositions. Christine Coombe emphasized that a title doesn't make us professions, working skills do. Janja Čolić presented many useful ideas how to engage pupils with special educational needs more efficiently. You can find ideas and very useful exercises here:

http://www2.arnes.si/~osljjk6/02_osnova/predmet_i_meni/anglescina_meni.htm

Friday evening was reserved for The Ultimate Pub Quiz hosted by one and only Peter Hopwood. 25 teams, each with five English teachers, were competing, showing their knowledge and unusual skills in lip singing, drinking beer quickly and eating chilli peppers. It was an evening full of laughter.

Saturday was just as rich in interesting ideas and tips



for English teachers. There were 20 more talks/workshops to choose from. Marjorie Rosenberg made us wonder how often we do something new and if that's enough. She provided us with useful resources of how to "get unstuck". One more workshop that I really liked was presented by Aniko Almasi, how to teach visual grammar, how can grammar become more memorable with the help of colours and balloons. Beatrix Price is a well-known teacher trainer full of ideas how to make learning fun and enjoyable with the help of involvement, songs, games and competition. We had fun playing with fly slapper, an excellent game the pupils love, all you need is a couple of those, several flashcards and start the game who is going to slap the correct picture first. The workshop was filled with songs and games. During the Slovenian AGM, we were offered to try out a medico wellness shortened program. We loved our little treat with a relaxing cup of tea, home-made cookies, peaceful music, piling and whirl-pool. Most of the ex-Yugoslavia teachers were present. Chaz Pugliese told us to bend the rules in order to surprise our students by doing things out of the box. He explained the meaning of fluency with words that the conversation is fluent, not the speaker. Maja Jerkovič and Mark Andrews were engaged in a T-shirt project that makes a difference; they helped the families affected by the flood. Students found a real life issue that invokes empathy. Maja and Mark set an example, organised a class competition, evaluation, internet voting, printing and selling the T-shirts.



They even did something similar at this conference and our own Lidija bid for the T-shirt and got it! Thumbs up for such ideas! Just before dinner, we were given an opportunity to treat our hands with a paraffin bath, all we needed was a towel and a good will, it was worth it. In the evening, it was raffle time and the main prize (a trip to Ireland) was won by an English teacher from Croatia, Dalija Vujec. After that, the organisers came up with a great idea how to make us moving. The last evening was reserved for guided disco dancing lessons run by a professional dance trainer who taught us how to shake it until we made it. And so we danced the last night away.

maps. Rakesh Bhanot had the closing plenary "Do it the other way". He showed us how to change our approach. Why should students underline unknown words in a new text, why not try with underlining the words that students know? One more idea that I found interesting was to give students a completed word puzzle and ask them to write the clues.

Sunday morning was reserved for doing our own mind maps and listening to new suggestions how to improve teaching grammar, vocabulary and speaking with the help of mind

The four days that I spent in Topolšica at the IATEFL Slovenia passed too quickly. I gained and learned so much. If you ever get the chance to go to IATEFL Slovenia's annual conference, be ready to learn and enjoy, pack your swimsuit and be prepared to have a time of your life, just as I had. I met wonderful people whom I hope to see again at the future conferences. I would like to thank everyone for sharing thoughts, ideas, advice and love.

3rd TETA International Conference, 'Creating a Real-World Connection' Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina

June 12-13, 2015

Lidija Branilović, HUPE PR

I represented HUPE at the TETA International Conference in Tuzla last June with my two workshops *'Primary School Projects from top to bottom'* and *'Correcting Students' Errors in ELT'*. Bosnians are known as relaxed and fun loving people, and I have been to Bosnia many times before, thinking I have seen everything. But, when my colleague Sandra Vida from IATEFL Slovenia and I arrived, I saw how people can always surprise you. The warmth and the friendship we have been given there cannot be described in words. Unfortunately, we didn't make it at the very opening of the conference, but we entered the restaurant at dinner-time in style. It was great to see all those familiar faces, the fellow teachers from all over the region (Slovenia, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia, Hungary and other).



I have stayed at the hotel called Dom penzionera, which was quite close to the faculty building where I had my workshops the next morning and afternoon. TETA Conference is somewhat different from the HUPE Conference as there are four times less people there, but it really doesn't matter the quantity, as the quality of given talks and workshops had been priceless.

As I gave two workshops and stayed there for only a day and a half, I didn't have much time to attend other workshops. The one I left to, and was very glad I did, was *'Lessons with Music'* given by Sandra Vida. It was very interactive, dealing with phrasal verbs and idioms, conditional clauses and Facebook for me, it was a way to get further from primary school curriculum: refreshing, active and fun.



There were many well-known English teachers and teacher trainers in Tuzla, whom I was lucky to meet, some of them for the first time: **Maggie Sokolik**, Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, USA; **Philip Kerr**, teacher trainer, lecturer and materials writer based in Vienna, Austria; **George Kokolas**, teacher trainer for Express Publishing in Athens, Greece; Višnja Pavičić Takač, a Full Professor at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Osijek, Croatia; and **Eric Bergman**, trainer representing



Pearson, UK. But, not a single conference in this area can go by without one and one only **Mark Andrews** who was, once again simply himself, Mark Andrews.

Philip Kerr's "The Wonderful World of Word Associations" was a chance for all the participants to have an inside look into the research into the way that words are organized in the human brain, which provides us with useful insights into the associations between words, the relationship between word storage and pronunciation, and how we should approach the teaching of vocabulary. It was something new for me, as rather 'young and new' teacher.

After the Conference which was sponsored by TETA's partners: U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo, RELO Regional English Language Office for Central and Southeast Europe in Budapest, **Faculty of Philosophy in Tuzla**, publishers, exhibitors, and other, all the participants from the region went into the centre of Tuzla to share their experiences, their impressions, their advice.

I was surprised by the number of **student helpers** who have been helping around the clock with literally everything, but always providing the most important thing to all of us a kind word and a smile. I hope Croatian students will soon recognize HUPE as a chance to develop their teaching skills, as an opportunity to learn from the best, as a way to get into the real thing.

The first workshop I held was 'Correcting Students' Errors in ELT', which went surprisingly well. I thought teachers were fed up with all the criteria for evaluating and correcting students' work, but this was an opportunity for me to see how there is always a way for improvement. The talk about dictation, homework, projects was everything but boring for my participants and the thrill came when they had to actually correct my student's translation which they graded with a B.

The second workshop was even better, to my on surprise. I gave them all the steps for making a successful project with the youngest students (age 7) who dealt with colours and shapes, the older ones (age 9-10) who made their own magazine (thanks to my HUPE editing experience) and the oldest in primary school the 7th graders who did *My Footprints* eco project and the 8th graders who translated *Romeo and Juliet* in Roma language. The participants were, in my opinion, very glad to see how students can actually be motivated and involved in classroom work with such normal topics.



I hope I'll have a chance to give more workshops at TETA Conference soon because I love it there.

SMALL VILLAGE PROJECT DONE IN A GREAT WAY

The Month of the English Culture in Nikola Tesla Primary School in Moravice, Croatia

Davorka Nekić, HUPE Rijeka branch president

Believe you can and you're halfway there.

Theodore Roosevelt

What is a better way of learning about a country than through its culture? I did just that with my pupils and they loved it. My pupils and I did a cultural project that lasted a whole month. Each week presented a different English speaking country. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Australia and Canada were our destinations.

Each country had its guide. So, the UK was guided by Roberta Vučinić dressed like Hermione Granger. The USA was guided by Valentina Alinčić or the best Minnie Mouse on this side of the pond. The Australian guide was Vanja Vučinić or a famous cartoon character Felix the Cat while Canada was presented by Mirjam Golik or our own Atomic Betty.



Photograph 1 The four guides and their English teacher

Each week was opened with the speech in both English and Croatian so that all the pupils and colleagues could understand it. With the last sentence of the opening speech, the first sounds of the national anthem would start which was a great opportunity for the pupils to listen to the four national anthems unknown to them till that moment.

The guided tours started by introducing the guides and explaining to the pupils why those precise characters had been chosen. There was a welcoming sign at the very entrance with a figure or a photo of famous writers as well as the national animals and the official flowers of the countries included in the project. So the pupils met face to face with a bulldog, a bald eagle, a kangaroo and a beaver. They were greeted by the Bard himself, Ernest Hemingway, Patrick White and Michael Ondaatje.

Throughout the school corridors there were posters presenting geography, history, government, educational system, landmarks, film and music industry, TV shows, literature, one important celebration for the country being guided, traditional dishes, traditional stories and legends and finally a Powerpoint presentation as a sum up of the whole exhibition. Each country's exhibition was enriched by many paper models of the famous landmarks.



Photographs 2 Paper models showing famous landmarks

While the UK and the USA are well presented within our coursebooks, that isn't a case with Australia and Canada. So this project was an excellent way of providing pupils with new information on those two beautiful countries. Besides Sydney Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge they are familiar with, they heard of Uluru, the Old Mill in Perth, the Wheel of Brisbane which reminded them of London Eye, Adelaide Gaol and many more landmarks. Canada was even more interesting because they didn't know any landmarks there except for the Niagara Falls. That was their opportunity to hear about two most photographed hotels in the world Chateau Frontenac and Chateau Lake Louise, Confederation Bridge, Saint Joseph's Oratory and many more.

Before this project, they knew only of two universities in the UK - Cambridge and Oxford. Now they know of the Ivy League as well as top 5 universities in Australia and in Canada.

The most interesting for the younger pupils as well as children from our neighbouring kindergarten was the Disneyland corner while the older pupils loved Michael Jackson's dancing figures.

While familiar with Shakespeare and Dickens as well as Hemingway and Twain, they heard for some of the greatest names of the Australian and Canadian literature for the first time. So, they „met“ Banjo Paterson, Ethel Turner and Patrick White while travelling through the country Down Under. But they have also met Michael Ondaatje, Alice Munro and Carol Shields while visiting the 2nd largest country in the world.

Each country was also presented with one special poster on an important date or event. So there was a green poster for Saint Patrick's Day, a black one expressing our sorrow and sympathy for all the victims of September 11th, a red one as it is a colour of poppies that symbolises the Remembrance Day as well as another red one to celebrate Canada Day.

The posters on traditional dishes were all around the kitchen's door and they included dishes such as fish and chips, Yorkshire pudding, cottage pie, haggis, apple crumble, meatloaf, chocolate chip cookies, damper, Pavlova, poutine, butter tart and many more.

The stories and legends were around the library's door. The pupils could read about Finn MacCool and the Giant's Causeway, the Gingerbread Boy, Rip van Winkle, about the Navajo People, about the Dreamtime and Creation of life as well as the Canadian First Nations people's legends.

As a part of the Month there were two quizzes organized. The first one was The Music Quiz in which four groups of four pupils presenting each of the four upper classes had to listen to a song, press their buzzers as quickly as possible and try to guess the singer or a group. Each team was awarded a music trophy. Two days after The General Knowledge Quiz was held. It consisted of a hundred questions regarding everything they had heard during the four weeks of the project. They were awarded trophies as well.



Photograph 3 - Participants of the General Knowledge Quiz

During the last day of the project Conor Snowden, a director of the British Council for Croatia and Slovenia and Branka Žaja, the British Council project coordinator visited our school and were a part of our cultural event. Mr Snowden and Mrs Žaja were, together with our school headmaster Anton Burić, members of the decision making committee in charge of the buzzers and the validity of the answers provided by the pupils.



Photograph 4 - The decision making committee

On the last day of the Month pupils Michael Mladenovic, Valentina Alinčić and Roberta Vučinić acted out Michael's play called *The Fisherman and the Silver Trout* which was based on the traditional English folk tale Three wishes.

Each week there were guided tours for all of our guests, including the pupils and the teaching staff from the neighbouring Railway technical school as well as the parents, grandparents, locals and members of the press.

Essays and photographs had been sent to the embassies of the countries included in the project, so they could see how their countries were presented to the pupils in a small village school.

Although we are a small village school with approximately 60 pupils we are willing to learn new things, visit new places, meet royalties, presidents and Prime Ministers, watch films, listen to music, read books in English and much more. This project broadened pupils' horizons and they were faced with many new and interesting things. They learnt to dance the English waltz as well as polka. Yes, I know it's a Polish dance. But do you know that it is also the state dance of Wisconsin? My pupils do!

If you want to learn things you haven't learnt so far about the four English speaking countries, visit us! If you want to learn the English waltz, come and dance with us! If you like to read, come and we'll read together! And if you like delicious food...you can always prepare it and we'll eat it together!

We may live in a small village, but we are the citizens of the world!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

24th International IATEFL Poland Conference

September 18-20 , Krakow, Poland

1st International SKA ELT Conference

September 25-26, Bratislava, Slovakia

Topic: "Innovating the Classroom of the Future!"

October 2-3, Shkodra, Albania

25th Annual IATEFL Hungary Conference

October 9-11, Budapest, Hungary

17th LAKMA International Conference

October 16-17, Vilnius, Lithuania

Digital ELT Ireland 2015 Conference

October 31- November 1 2015 , www.digital-elt.eu

28th IATEFL BESIG Annual Conference

November 13-15 2015, Melia Sitges-southwest of Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain

16th National RATE Conference

November 6-8, Timisoara, Romania

Topic: "Making Teaching Count!"

November 23-24, Vlora, Albania



Dear teachers,

We hope you are all well and had a relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

We are happy to let you know that we have a brand new free online teacher development course on the Future Learn platform called **Professional Practices for English Language Teaching**: <http://bit.ly/1LA8WDh>

The course is based on the following professional practices from the Teaching for Success CPD framework:

- Week 1: Understanding Learners
- Week 2: Planning lessons and courses
- Week 3: Knowing the subject
- Week 4: Managing resources
- Week 5: Managing the lesson
- Week 6: Taking responsibility for professional development

The course officially began on **31 August**, but you can join right up until the last day on **11 October**.

We are currently also inviting registrations for our paid online courses – both moderated and self-access. Why not start the new academic year by updating or refreshing your skills with one of the following:

Moderated:

- [Learning Technologies for the Classroom](#)
- [Primary Essentials](#)
- [CLIL Essentials](#)

Self-access:

- [Steps to Success](#)
- [Communicative Assessment](#)
- [Special Educational Needs](#)

Moderated courses begin on **28 September** and the registration deadline is **11 September**. Find out more and join now: <http://www.britishcouncil.hr/en/teach/online-courses>

We also have a brand new publication on **Creativity in the English Language Classroom**, edited by Alan Maley and Nik Peachey. The launch of the publication was accompanied by a webinar with Nik Peachey which you can still find on our Teaching English website: <http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/nik-peachey-creativity-language-classroom>, and the publication is free to download here: <http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/creativity-english-language-classroom>

And finally, we would like to give you a heads-up about the exciting global programme British Council is preparing to mark the **400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death in 2016**. Have a look: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/shakespearelives>

We wish you a happy and successful new school year!

Best regards,
British Council Croatia