



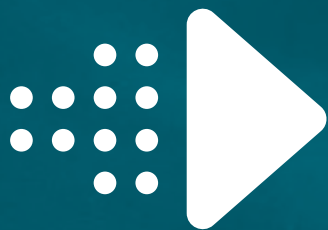
inspire  
& be inspired

Hrvatsko udruženje profesora engleskog jezika  
Croatian Association of Teachers of English

# NEWSLETTER

HUPE Newsletter No. 28 • October 2024





# NEXT CONFERENCE

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual International HUPE Conference

November 15–17, 2024

Valamar Poreč, Croatia



VALAMAR  
HOTELS & RESORTS

# EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear readers,

welcome to the latest edition of the HUPE Newsletter at the very start of a brand new school year.

Over the previous school year, branch meetings have been held in all our branches and this issue presents detailed reports on the branches' work. In this issue, we're excited to share detailed reports from each branch, highlighting these efforts, and praising the impact of ongoing professional development.

Many of our members have also taken the initiative to participate in various types of education and mentorship programs.

In January 2024, eight female teachers were given the opportunity to participate in EVE mentorship programme. In July, our members embarked on a delightful and enriching teacher training program in Liverpool. In this issue, they share their impressions, both in verse and in prose, offering a glimpse into the atmosphere, itineraries, experiences, and cultural exchanges that made this training both exciting and transformative.

Thank you for your continued dedication, and here's to a fantastic school year!

Warm regards,

Ivana Kasunić  
HUPE newsletter editor



# HUPE DUBROVNIK BRANCH MEETING REPORT

The first HUPE Dubrovnik Branch meeting in 2023-2024 took place at Osnovna škola Blato in Blato on December 9, 2023.

## Agenda:

1. Mirta Kos – Kolobarić: *An Idiom a Day Keeps Boredom Away*
2. Tea Horvat: *AI is here – Now What?*
3. Jelica Šeparović: *Better School for Better Tomorrow* – Erasmus+project dissemination
4. 31st HUPE Conference report
5. HUPE News

Fourteen members attended the meeting. Five members joined us online, through HUPE Dubrovnik Teams channel.

The first speaker was Mirta Kos-Kolobarić with her interactive and amusing workshop, presenting several ready-made ideas and quizzes you can use in the classroom to help students learn some interesting and frequent idioms. We all gladly participated in the workshop, going from station to station, using idioms and having great fun.

Tea Horvat was the second speaker. She presented some relatively new facts about artificial intelligence in her talk *AI is here – Now What?* She gave us some ideas for quicker lesson planning, generating responses from Chat GPT and generating AI videos, images or even presentations with various AI tools and how to use AI in education.

As a part of the Erasmus+ project *Better School for Better Tomorrow* dissemination, Jelica Šeparović shared her experience of a very interesting course she had attended in Helsinki in May 2023, *Introduction to the Finnish Education Model*. The participants of the meeting took part in a funny interactive team activity she had first used in Finland, Goosechase.

After the meeting my colleague Fanika Arnautović organized an amazing Christmas Tea Party in our school, where we had traditional cucumber sandwiches, biscuits and tea with milk, of course. Everybody was welcome to watch Christmas Carol with us and enjoy delicious food and drink.

Jelica Šeparović  
HUPE Dubrovnik Branch President

---

## HUPE OSIJEK BRANCH 2023-2024 REPORT

The HUPE Osijek branch, consisting of 90 active members, had a productive 2023-2024 school year marked by three well-attended branch meetings, each with three engaging and useful workshops held at the Faculty of Education in Osijek.

The first HUPE Osijek branch meeting took place on November 25, 2023, as a mini-conference rerun with three workshops held at the 31st HUPE Conference by our branch members. The meeting opened with a report on the mentioned conference held in Poreč the previous month and ended with a Kahoot quiz, where participants tested their knowledge of the 31st HUPE Conference and

won goody bags filled with teaching materials. Mirta Kos Kolobarić delivered a workshop titled "Are you a copycat or a busy bee?" where she presented creative ways of introducing animal idioms through engaging classroom activities. Ana Katruša led the workshop "Supporting Gifted Learners: Strategies, Tips & Ideas," providing practical strategies for teachers to meet the unique needs of gifted students. Ksenija Benčina concluded the meeting with her talk "It makes you look old!" which explored recent changes in English grammar and vocabulary, emphasizing the importance of keeping up with linguistic developments.

Our second branch meeting was held on March 16, 2024, and started with Katarina Berać Vuić's workshop, "Acting for dummies: Fairy tales development," where she demonstrated drama activities that encourage students to act out and creatively retell fairy tales in the classroom. Mirjana Zubak Mičetić continued with the workshop "Implementing Magic of AI," showcasing how AI tools like Magic School can reduce teachers' workloads and enhance classroom activities. Mirna Erk and Ksenija Benčina shared their findings in "The road that made all the difference 20 years ago: EFL teachers to young learners in Croatia," discussing the job satisfaction of lower-primary EFL teachers and the growing role of subject specialists in young learner education.



Our third and final meeting, held on May 25, 2024, was conducted in a relaxed atmosphere and mostly focused on teacher well-being and stress-free teaching. Cassy Prskalo began the meeting with her workshop "Beyond Boredom: Transforming Essay Practice into an Adventure," where she introduced methods to make essay writing more interactive and enjoyable for students, especially in preparation for the Matura Exam. Gabrijela Romić presented "Teacher life: Juggling stress, staying happy," offering practical tips for managing stress and maintaining well-being in the teaching profession.

Marija Rukavina closed the meeting with her talk "Happy Teachers, Happy Classrooms: AI for Stress-Free Teaching," where she demonstrated AI-powered tools designed to simplify lesson planning, generate quizzes, and create visual materials, all aimed at reducing teacher workloads.



At each of the meetings, the participants were also updated on the news in HUPE, including the 4th National Writing Competition – HUPE in Storyland, the teacher training course in Liverpool, HUPE Day, HUPE's new partner associations and their conferences, new editions



of HUPEzine, and the EVE-HUPE mentoring program, as well as the details of the upcoming 32nd Annual HUPE Conference. All members were also invited to contribute to the new editions of HUPEzine by sending their ELT articles and examples of good practices to our HUPE editor via [hupe.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:hupe.newsletter@gmail.com), as well as encouraged to become future speakers at our meetings and share their good teaching practices.

We are very proud to say that our Osijek branch members actively participated in all HUPE events and activities throughout the year, including the HUPE in Storyland writing competition, where their students successfully demonstrated their creativity by winning some of the top 5 places in all categories.

HUPE Osijek is extremely thankful to all the speakers and members who attended the meetings, actively participated in the workshops and discussions, and created a great atmosphere for chatting and sharing ideas. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our future meetings next school year.

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).

Adrijana Roždijevac  
HUPE Osijek Branch President





# HUPE RIJEKA BRANCH MEETING REPORT

The second HUPE Rijeka branch meeting took place on June 8, 2024 at 10 am at the Trsat Branch of the Rijeka City Library.

Our first presenter was Gracijela Orobabić from OŠ Gornja Vežica, who shared with the participants some creative ideas for engaging students in teamwork and to show how different types of personalities can cooperate well with each other. She demonstrated four activities including different materials and props, such as a hoop, lego blocks with four colors that represent different personalities, problem-solving cards and a worksheet with some self-reflection activities. Participants had much fun trying out the activities and as a cherry on top, we tried also a delicious cake Gracijela made.

Ester Vidović, a lecturer at the Faculty of Teacher Education in Rijeka, shared a project she is working on, which includes problem picture books. She gave some examples of picture books that deal with illnesses of family members and illustrate how to cope with those. The workshop raised some questions on how to teach students topics related to health and how to foster empathy and understanding of illnesses such as malignant diseases, depression and similar. It was an emotional workshop, which made us think about less common topics in the classroom, which are also an important part of our everyday life.



# SLAVONSKI BROD HUPE BRANCH REPORT

Slavonski Brod HUPE Branch held one meeting in the last school year and it was held on 29th February 2024. The venue was Osnovna škola Dragutin Tadijanović, Slavonski Brod. 11 teachers attended the meeting and enjoyed the presented activities. They had a chance to listen about : „SOLDIER OF LOVE – TIME MACHINE“, presented by Sandra Halt-Čuže.

The topic itself was a report on a video making challenge in organization of HUPE, Croatia and the languages United – boutique school of English (Bath, England). There was a short presentation of students who have won and their work and contribution in similar projects up to date. Next, we touched upon the synopsis and the scenery of the film, as well as the shooting process itself. We talked about the positive outcomes of the process as well as some drawbacks. The subsequent workshop consisted of array of helpful tools used in editing videos, with the stress on finding a good way in outlining the story and reaching the final product: maintaining the creative impulse, transmitting the message while respecting the language input given.



The other topic was “Item Writing: Objectives for Objective Tests.” by Lidija Čorni and Kornelija Šebalj.

In this workshop we listened how assessment has been an integral part of any learning process. More often than not, it doesn't serve its main purpose but poses problems for both the examinee and the teacher, or in this case an item-writer. So, we learned about its main purpose. We found out why tests are sometimes problematic. This workshop tackled some of the most important questions regarding assessment in teaching English as a foreign language.

Our branch has new active members every week and is growing every day. We keep in touch via our Facebook page and exchanging e-mails. We are planning a new meeting at the beginning of the next school year.

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

Slavonski Brod HUPE Branch President, Ivana Borozni









# HUPE SPLIT BRANCH (2023./2024.)

Prvi sastanak HUPE podružnice Split održan je 1. prosinca 2023. u prostorima OŠ Pujanki. Radionicu, *And the Oscar Goes to...!*, vodile su Ivana Bokavšek i Anita Lasić koje su predstavile metode kako potaknuti učenike da poboljšaju svoje vještine slušanja i govora koristeći filmske i video materijale. Govorile su o tome kako procijeniti govorne vještine, kako i gdje pronaći ideje i nastavni materijal te kako integrirati filmove u nastavu.

Drugu radionicu predstavila je Ivana Pločkinić iz III. gimnazije Split. Održala je prezentaciju o transverzalnim vještinama. Ove se vještine ne smatraju specifično povezanim s određenim predmetom ili područjem znanja, već vještinama koje se mogu koristiti u najrazličitijim situacijama. Transverzalne vještine su sve više tražene kako bi učenici bili uspješni u školi. Neki od primjera su kritičko i inovativno razmišljanje, interpersonalne vještine, intrapersonalne vještine, globalno građanstvo, medijska i informacijska pismenost.

Treću radionicu pripremile su i predstavile Marija Čarija Agoli i Ana Kodrić Ivelić koje su uspješno podijelile svoja iskustva s CLIL-om. CLIL je kratica za integrirano učenje sadržaja i jezika. Sudionici, organizirani u timove, dobili su zadatak osmisliti sat na zadanu međupredmetnu temu (moda, Sunčev sustav, Drugi svjetski rat,...).

Drugi sastanak HUPE podružnice Split održan je 3. svibnja 2024. u prostorima III. gimnazije u Splitu. Prvu radionicu *What's AI Got To Do With It?* održala je Dajana Jelavić. U ovoj smo radionici istražili kako AI alati mogu poboljšati kreativnost dok istovremeno potiču SEL kompetencije.

Drugu radionicu predstavila je Tajana Bundara, iz SŠ Ivana Lucića, Trogir. Ovo interaktivno predavanje imalo je za cilj razmijeniti iskustva o korištenju umjetne inteligencije (AI) za formativno i sumativno ocjenjivanje u nastavi engleskog jezika. Sudionici su dobili prijedloge o tome kako pripremiti materijale za ocjenjivanje pomoću umjetne inteligencije, komunicirati s botovima i istražiti kombinacije umjetne inteligencije koje podržavaju rezultate ocjenjivanja. Treću radionicu predstavila je online Petra Gorički. Cilj je bio pozabaviti se izazovima s kojima se učitelji susreću kada rade s učenicima s posebnim potrebama unutar kurikuluma koji ne mora uvijek zadovoljiti njihove potrebe. Fokus je bio na različitim strategijama i metodama koje se koriste za prilagodbu sadržaja kurikuluma kako bi se stvorilo poticajno okruženje za učenje u kojem učenici imaju priliku ostvariti svoj puni potencijal





# HUPE VARAŽDIN BRANCH MEETING

The meeting took place on the 8 of June 2024 at 9:00 AM online.

## Agenda:

1. Tea Horvatić: AI is here. Now what?
2. Martina Grgac: The role of international projects in teaching English
3. HUPE news

Tea Horvatić is an English teacher and mentor from Primary School Strahoninec where she has worked for 14 years. Microsoft Educator Expert, eTwinning enthusiast and Erasmus+ coordinator for KA1 projects. Tea works in a suburban school near Čakovec and teaches English to ages 6 to 15. She is happy to use ICT in her work and likes to explore new ways of teaching. Through Erasmus+ projects, she has travelled across the European Union, where she has gained interesting experiences for teaching practice. She is happy to share her experience with colleagues through talks, workshops and on social media.

In her talk/workshop "AI is here. Now what?" she talked about the challenges AI puts in front of us as teachers as

well as all the benefits arising from it when used properly. She thinks that when artificial intelligence (AI) enters your classroom, you should prepare your students and you should be prepared. Moreover, the talk summarizes the ideas for quicker lesson planning, generating responses from Chat GPT and generating AI videos, images or even presentations with various AI tools and how to use AI in education.

Martina Grgac is an English and French teacher and a HUPE member. For the past 16 years she has been enjoying teaching in Gimnazija „Fran Galović“ Koprivnica and she has also worked in preschool, vocational and adult education. Her main field of interest is project based learning - she has been participating in international projects with her students since 2012. In her talk she will present some of the examples of project based activities she has carried out with her students as well as the challenges teachers and students face during the implementation of international projects.

In the end the branch president shared some news concerning membership, upcoming conference and other relevant information. The meeting ended at 11.30.

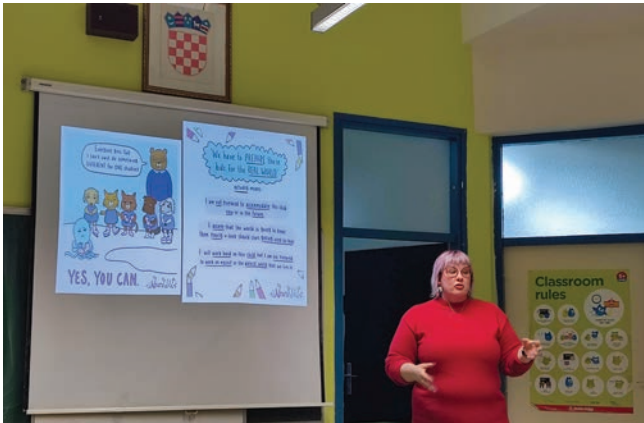
# HUPE ZADAR BRANCH MEETING

U zadarskoj podružnici od planirana dva sastanka održan je jedan sastanak. Kolegice Ivana Kardum i Ana Džaja održale su dva predavanja: Josipa Kardum: Perspektiva autističnog nastavnika u nastavi Ana Džaja: Teacherice i internacionalizacija škole - neodoljiva veza.

Podružnica broji 12 članova s aktivnom članarinom. Do prosinca ove godine planirana su dva sastanka te su već dogovorene teme i predavači. Pojedini članovi aktivni su na međunarodnim konferencijama koje HUPE ponudi, kao i na stručnim usavršavanjima u organizaciji HUPE-a u Londonu i Liverpoolu.

Krajem ove godine u podružnici je vrijeme za nove izbore te se nadam da će sljedeća započeti s brojnijim članstvom i pojačanim aktivnostima unutar podružnice.



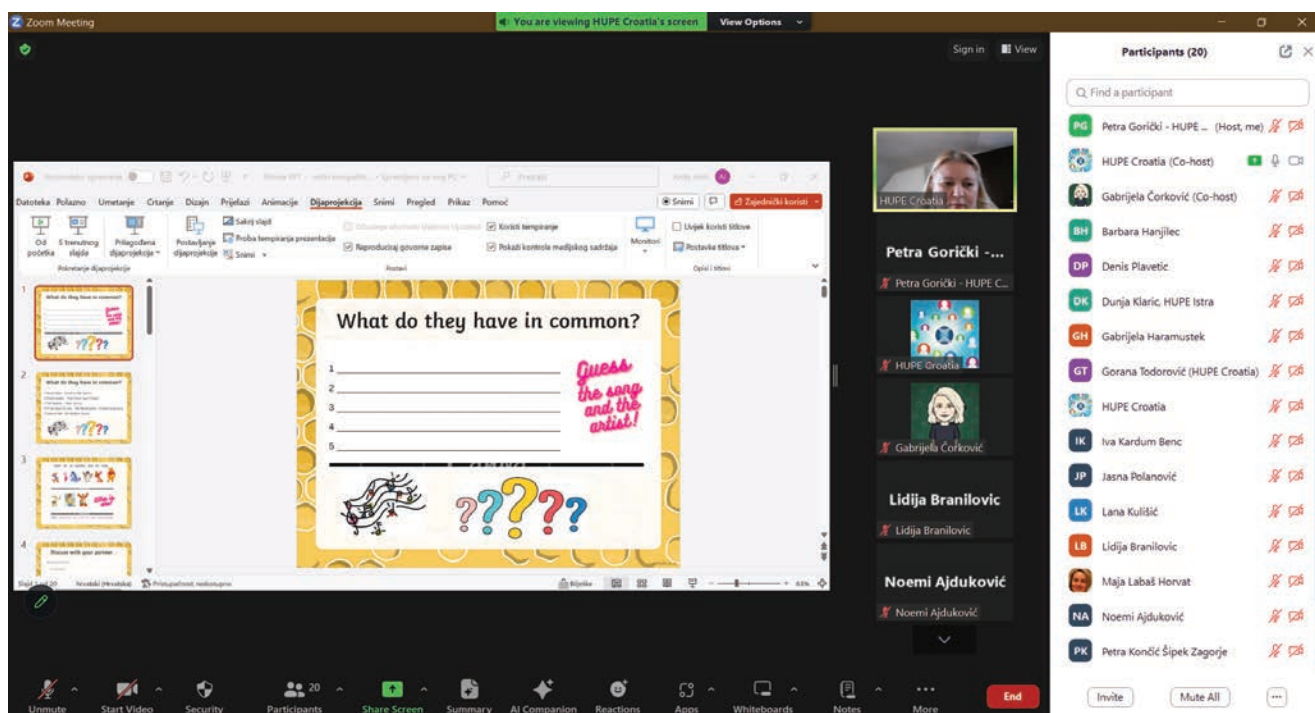
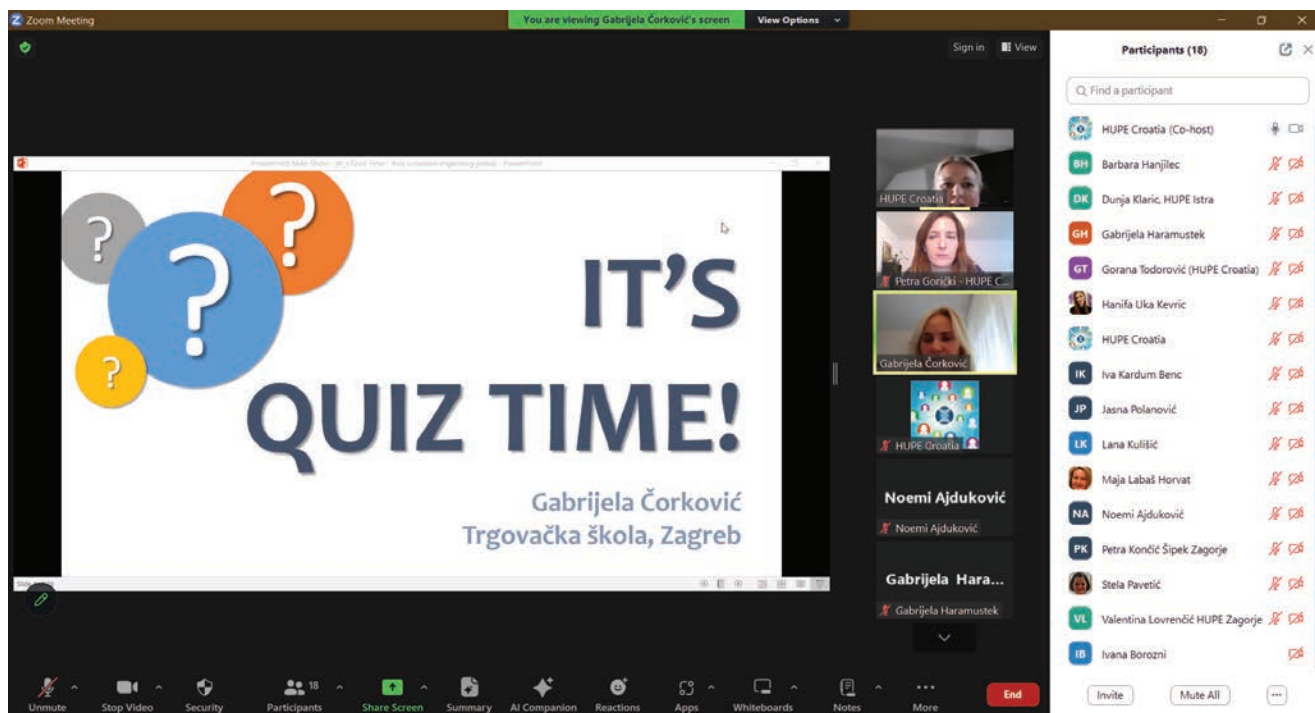




# HUPE ZAGORJE (2023./2024.)

U školskoj godini 2023./2024. održan je jedan online sastanak podružnice HUPE Zagorje, 25.11.2023. Prezentirano je izvješće s 31. godišnje konferencije HUPE. Radionice su održale Gabrijela Čorković (*Media*

*Literacy: Five Questions for Media Analysis; It's Quiz Time!*) i Anita Jokić (*What can we learn from Winnie the Pooh?*). Predstavljeno je planirano stručno usavršavanje HUPE u Edinburgh.



# ANNUAL REPORT ON HUPE ZAGREB BRANCH ACTIVITIES

The Zagreb branch has been expanding steadily, and we are happy to welcome all our new members. We are a group of 236 (and growing) English language teachers, enjoying our work and always happy to meet each other at our meetings, which took place this year at Čarobna riječ, an organization that supports our work. Thank you for their hospitality and their readiness to participate in our workshops.



We met three times in the past year, starting on November 24th, where we had the privilege to listen to our experts, Evelina Miščin and Gabriijela Čorković. Evelina talked about ChatGPT and whether we should be afraid of it. The rapid growth of artificial intelligence (AI) in language teaching and learning presents ChatGPT as a promising tool for improving language proficiency. Despite teachers' concerns, this workshop aimed to showcase ChatGPT's potential uses. And it was exactly that! A packed house confirmed my suspicions. Gabriijela



Čorković, also our quiz expert, taught us about quizzes and how to use them in the classroom with students, providing various examples and different tools that can help us with quiz-making.

The second meeting was, now traditionally, in a spa in January, known as the HUPE Zagreb Spa Day. We listened to the excellent Danka Singer and her workshop, "Bunny



or Crocodile Language,” which reminded us about communication, diplomacy, and how proper language can achieve amazing results.

Ana Eterović had a lecture about writing skills, and it was most informative to exchange experiences and challenges from secondary school and high school with those from the primary school level.

Our last meeting was in June, where we had another amazing visit from Daška Domljan, who reminded us about the management skills we use in the classroom and, of course, how we deal with the stress of change. Our colleague Ljerka Vukić, who participated in the HUPE EVE-ELT education program, presented her amazing workshop, “I’m Finished, Teacher!” about mixed-ability classes.

I would like to take this chance and thank all our lecturers and teachers for amazing educational workshops and all of our members for being such and excellent participants.

We are looking forward to seeing you all this year! I hope we will offer you another set of amazing workshops and lectures. I also invite all of you who want to present your work to take a chance with HUPE Zagreb. We offer an amazing atmosphere and a group of eager listeners! Contact us at [hupe.zagreb@gmail.com](mailto:hupe.zagreb@gmail.com) and visit us.

Mirjana Zubak Mičetić  
HUPE Zagreb branch president



# REPORT ON THE EVE MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME (EQUAL VOICES IN ELT)



EVE is an acronym standing for Equal Voices in ELT. This programme was designed to promote inclusivity and equal opportunities in the field of English Language Teaching (ELT). Its mission is to mentor women speakers to improve the representation of women in plenaries and on panels at ELT conferences worldwide.

EVE are a group of ELT professionals interested in the issue of equality and local representation at conferences and other ELT events. The idea was conceived by Fiona Mauchline and Sue Leather in 2017, and the term EVE (‘Equal Voices in ELT’) was born in early 2018. Aleksandra Popovski is also on the board.

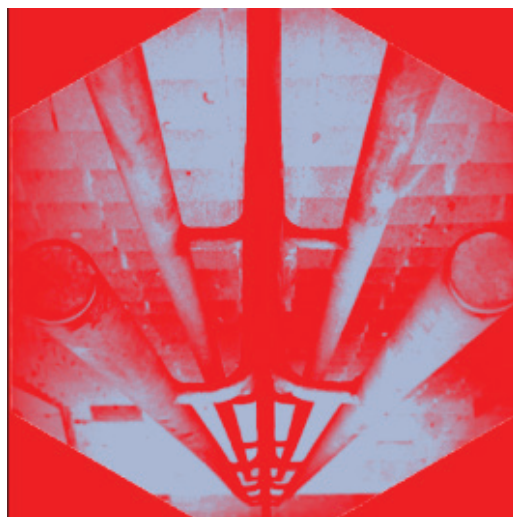
This mentorship was carried out through collaboration between EVE group and HUPE Croatia. The programme lasted for three months. It included ten hours of structured mentorship aimed at fostering professional growth, skills development, and networking opportunities for participants. This report provides an overview of the programme and key outcomes.

Mentors in the programme were experienced professionals in the ELT field with expertise in teaching, curriculum design, and educational leadership. Mentees were eight HUPE members, ELT female classroom teachers who were not visible enough because they were shy or might have lacked the public speaking skills to share their ideas and expertise through actively participating in professional conferences and organized professional development presentations.

In the very start of the programme, in January 2024, participants were paired with their mentors. Regular virtual meetings were held over the period of three

months. In meetings with mentors, participants received clear guidelines and had the opportunity to practice important professional tasks, such as presentations, under the mentors’ supervision and feedback. Around mid February, six weeks after the first meeting, first rehearsal was held. This was the opportunity for the trainees to practice their talks and receive feedback from the members of EVE board. Having received the feedback, trainees had another month to polish up their presentations and the final presentations were held on 16 March 2024.

The EVE Mentorship Programme was successful in achieving its objectives of fostering equal opportunities and inclusivity in the ELT profession. Participants benefited from personalized mentorship, enhancing their skills and advancing their careers. With some adjustments, future iterations of the programme can further amplify its impact on the ELT community.





# TEACHER TRAINING IN LIVERPOOL

## (and Stratford upon Avon, Oxford, Manchester and Northern Wales)

HUPE teacher training lasted six days, which simply flew by. This was our fifth edition, after two teacher trainings in London and Edinburgh, it was time for the third destination – Liverpool. It only took 48 hours to fill the 60 available spots.

Thanks to the British Council, we got the best possible partners – the Pope Francis Catholic Academy Trust, led by the wonderful colleague Mr. Jeremy Barnes. We were placed in 16 schools and gained excellent insight into teaching, with many of us also teaching lessons and organizing quizzes for the students. Further collaboration has been arranged, including pen pals, exchanges, and projects that you will surely hear more about.

Our days were packed with various activities – the most popular being the Treasure Hunt, during which participants had to uncover the murderer by discovering clues hidden throughout the city. We also visited the British Music Experience and The Beatles Museum, where we played and sang and got raving reviews. We explored a few more museums and created teaching materials which we will readily use throughout the school year.

We also visited Shakespeare's birthplace and the magnificent Oxford University. Our only "free" day was spent on a field trip to North Wales – all for one and one for all.

Anita Jokić

### Marina Hadžimerović:

Rainy Oxford, libraries with books galore  
In Shakespeare's home marvelling the tiny door  
Then Liverpool's first night - love at first sight  
Followed by welcoming schools in site and  
Bonding with fellow teachers, sheer delight  
Liverpool - newborn love or love anew  
Cover band in Cavern Club – a dream come true  
Music 24/7 and we were in heaven  
Wishing we had more days than just seven  
Off to Wales counting black sheep on the way  
Glancing at Snowdon, oh what a day!  
Museums, pubs (and some shops) made us fit  
Mingling and bonding even more, we admit  
Mersey River Cruise - icing on the cake  
It was a dream, we wish we weren't awake!  
Anita's Liverpool Gang gently mentions:  
We're ready for beautiful new adventures!



### Nataša Bebić Baćan:

I am glad I participated in another well-structured HUPE teacher training program with a wonderful group of colleagues. From the Beatles to the docks, every moment was enriching and memorable, offering a comprehensive cultural and educational experience. A standout aspect was the brilliant concept of visiting schools in smaller groups, fostering deeper engagement and observation.



#### **Martina Blažević:**

Professional development in Liverpool is the kind of education I would recommend to everyone. The content offered each day was well thought out, educational, and enriched me culturally.

I would especially highlight the visit to a Liverpool school, as it was my first in-person encounter with the British education system. I am glad I had the opportunity to compare and pinpoint the advantages and disadvantages in relation to the Croatian education system, and I consider this a valuable experience for my work.

The atmosphere during the program was productive and positive, encouraging everyone to participate actively and motivating for similar teacher training sessions.

The friendships formed are lifelong!



#### **Jeronima Kursar Rinčić:**

Liverpool is my third trip organized by HUPE (or Anita ☺). The program is always excellently designed, tailored to the needs of us English teachers.

It was a unique opportunity to socialize and exchange experiences with around sixty female colleagues (and one male colleague) from all over Croatia. By the way, when you are a part of Anita's group, you always get special greetings from the cockpit!



During our stay in Liverpool, there was time for personal activities, and for me, the most important thing was getting to a bookstore, spending my pounds on books for the summer and the new school year, and going on the Magical Mystery Tour with my wonderful roommate, to see where John, Paul, Ringo, and George grew up. All while humming their songs, sometimes louder, sometimes quieter. Additionally, we dedicated one day



to the magic of North Wales, where, in the end, it wasn't as cold as we had expected.

We spent some days visiting various schools in the Liverpool area. I would like to take this opportunity to especially thank my mother for giving me such an unusual name, which allowed the British Council to nicely assign me to a primary school named after my namesake, St. Jerome's Catholic Primary School in the town of Formby.

There, two other colleagues and I were warmly welcomed. Each of us visited a different class and participated in the teaching. A special treat was a walk to the sandy beach, led by our kind principal.

In short, the week flew by, and soon we had to trade the pleasant temperatures for a heatwave.



### **Mirjana Zubak Mičetić:**

Early morning flight, and off we go on another adventure. A well-organized and well-thought through timetable by our Anita promised a long and challenging first day, but we survived!

Oxford, the city of universities and fantastic scenery captured my imagination, once again making me want to sign up for any of the colleges just to stay there. Stratford-upon-Avon, Shakespeare's birthplace, followed, and finally, we arrived at the capital of music and culture, the home of the Beatles. Although I had already been there, I had never experienced an educational week like this one.

Spending days in a primary school, talking to fellow teachers, exchanging experiences, and learning new things was amazing. It was incredible to watch our colleagues work with their students and we enjoyed presenting our country to curious young minds. We received a wonderful reception from our host schools.

Friday night was spent at the Cavern Club, singing along with the Beatles, an unforgettable experience with an audience from all over the world.

Saturday was our first "easy-going" day, but of course, we didn't walk fewer than 20,000 steps because, well, who can stop teachers from exploring a new city and visiting all the famous sites?

Sunday started early with a field trip to North Wales and Snowdonia. Despite some rain spells, we were determined to see everything, walk everywhere, enjoy nature, and find that Black Sheep!

Monday was reserved for more musical experiences at the British Music Experience Museum and, of course, some last-minute shopping. We were simply too busy the previous days.

On our way home, we visited Manchester, and with a direct flight, we landed in Zagreb, filled with joy, new knowledge, and, of course – we were exhausted.

A highly recommended experience to remember and repeat!

