



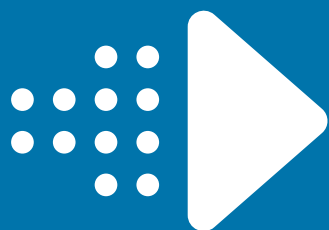
inspire
& be inspired

Hrvatsko udruženje profesora engleskog jezika
Croatian Association of Teachers of English

NEWSLETTER

HUPE Newsletter No. 33 • Summer 2026





NEXT CONFERENCE

34th Annual International HUPE Conference

*Teaching for Tomorrow:
Multilingualism, Wellbeing and
Sustainability in ELT Classrooms*

November 20–21, 2026

Zagreb, Croatia, at Hotel Antunović

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear colleagues,

In this issue, we look back at the past three months and present reports from our HUPE branches and conferences we attended.

As the school year comes to an end, we wish you a relaxing and well-deserved summer break. We look forward to seeing you again in autumn.

Happy reading!

HUPE team

REPRESENTING HUPE AT THE 39TH APPI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

From 8–10 May 2026, I had the honour of representing HUPE at the 39th APPI Annual Conference in Aveiro, Portugal. As President of HUPE (Croatian Association of Teachers of English), I was proud to participate in one of the most significant ELT events in Europe, joining approximately 800 participants from 13 countries and engaging with over 100 speakers and ELT professionals from diverse educational contexts. The conference featured 89 sessions, offering a rich programme of plenary talks, workshops, presentations, and discussions.

The conference theme, *Fostering ELT Communities for the Common Good*, highlighted the growing importance of building meaningful educational communities and promoting values such as inclusion, sustainability, intercultural understanding, and social responsibility through English language teaching. Throughout the three-day event, participants explored how ELT can contribute to a more connected, equitable, and sustainable world.

One of the most noticeable trends was the prominence of sustainability, multilingualism, social-emotional learning, and teacher wellbeing. While artificial intelligence continues to influence education, it was no longer the dominant topic of discussion. Instead, many presentations focused on strengthening human connections, supporting learners' emotional development, fostering inclusive classrooms, and promoting the wellbeing of both students and teachers.

Among the sessions I attended, *Practical Tips for Teacher Professional Development*, *Unlocking Creativity in the ELT Classroom*, *Empowering Sustainable Citizens*, and *Many*

Voices, One Classroom: Teaching English for the Common Good provided valuable insights and practical ideas that can be directly applied in the classroom. These sessions reinforced the importance of creativity, lifelong professional learning, and the role of language teachers in preparing students to become active and responsible global citizens.

The organisation of the conference was exemplary. APPI once again demonstrated its commitment to high-quality professional development through a carefully designed programme, excellent logistics, and numerous opportunities for networking and collaboration. The welcoming atmosphere encouraged meaningful exchanges of ideas and experiences among colleagues from different countries and educational systems.

Representing HUPE at this event was both a privilege and a valuable professional experience. I returned to Croatia with new perspectives, practical teaching ideas, and a deeper understanding of current European trends in ELT. I look forward to sharing these insights with Croatian teachers through HUPE activities and professional development events, helping to strengthen our own teaching community and contribute to the continued growth of English language teaching in Croatia.

I would like to express my gratitude to APPI for its warm hospitality and to HUPE for the opportunity to represent our association at such an inspiring international gathering.

Sanja Paić, HUPE President

IATEFL CONFERENCE & ASSOCIATES' DAY 2026 REPORT

The IATEFL Conference 2026 and Associates' Day were held in Brighton, UK, from 20–24 April 2026. HUPE was represented by our Vice-President, Mirjana Zubak Mičetić, who also delivered a short presentation about our teaching association during Associates' Day on Monday.

This year's Associates' Day was sponsored by Pearson, which provided delegates with welcome goodie bags and hosted a presentation by Mike Mayor entitled *The Future of Teaching: Data + Humans*. We were warmly welcomed by the IATEFL Associates Committee and began the day with an icebreaker and networking activity led by Beatrix Price and Christina Gultekin.

The impressive Skyline Room was filled with representatives of teaching associations from across Europe, Asia, and South America. It was inspiring to hear delegates present their organisations and share examples of their activities and achievements. The discussions generated numerous ideas and valuable insights, highlighting a common challenge faced by many associations: maintaining active membership, attracting younger teachers, and clearly communicating the benefits of involvement for both individuals and the organisation as a whole. Teacher associations play a vital role in educational communities worldwide, and we should continue striving to strengthen and develop our organisations.



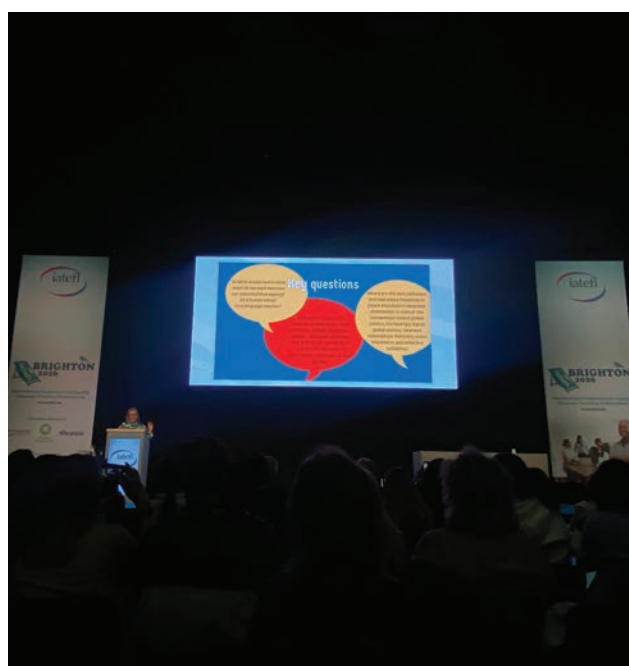
The IATEFL Conference officially opened on Monday evening with a welcoming reception. On Tuesday morning, the conference commenced with the first plenary session, *English Language – The Coloniser: A Black Female Leader's Response*, delivered by Patricia Angony. Those who have attended IATEFL before will know that the conference programme is packed with lectures, workshops, and presentations throughout each day, typically continuing until late afternoon. The evenings offered a variety of social and networking events, including an Introduction to Brighton, Music Night, Sharing Stories, the PronSIG 40th Anniversary Party, and the International Quiz.

The following day began with a highly informative plenary by Danny Norrington-Davies and Richard Chinn on the topic of emergent language and how we perceive and work with it in the classroom. Subsequent plenary speakers included Larisa Kasumagić Kafedžić, who presented *Reimagining Language Education for Peace in Our Divided World*, and Laura Patsko, whose talk was entitled *Five Things I Wish I'd Known When I Started Teaching*.



I was particularly moved by Larisa Kasumagić Kafedžić's plenary session, which brought many members of the audience close to tears. Her message was both powerful and deeply relevant in today's world.

IATEFL Brighton 2026 was, as always, an exceptionally inspiring event. This year's conference was further enhanced by beautiful sunny weather and the presence of teachers from around the world who were eager to exchange ideas, experiences, and best practices.



For any English language teacher, IATEFL is truly a conference worth attending. I hope this report provides at least a glimpse of the inspiration and professional development opportunities it offers and encourages you to consider attending next year's conference in Birmingham, UK.





HUPE RIJEKA BRANCH MEETING REPORT- MAY 15, 2026

HUPE Rijeka Branch Meeting in the 2025-2026 school year took place on Friday, May 15 2026 at 5 pm online via Zoom.

The agenda included:

1. Tihana Svoren Kolarec: It's the final countdown! – Surviving Revision Season

2. Sanja Rašković: Stories- A powerful teaching tool

3. HUPE news

Our first presenter, Tihana Svoren Kolarec shared some fun and minimal-prep games for the vocabulary and grammar revision in her workshop *It's the final countdown!- Surviving Revision Season*. She gave examples of some games that are especially suitable for the end of the school year, designed to maximize student engagement when energy levels are low. Participants learned how to pivot from traditional drills to gamified review, reducing teacher burnout while ensuring students effectively consolidate curriculum goals. She shared a ready-to-use strategy bank that turns "tired" classrooms into competitive, productive learning environments.

The second presenter, Sanja Rašković, showed the participants how stories can be used to broaden students' vocabulary, enhance communication skills and can serve teachers as a powerful teaching tool. They also make learning easier and more fun. She presented some story-like activities that work well in the classroom, boost creativity and facilitate vocabulary and grammar revision, as well as reading, listening, and speaking practice and can be used with all age groups.

Finally, HUPE Rijeka branch president shared the latest HUPE news with the members, including information about the 34th HUPE conference in Zagreb on 20-21 November 2026 and its Call for Papers deadline, the information about the new edition of the newsletter and upcoming teacher training course in Devon and partner associations' conferences.

Thank you again for being part of our HUPE Rijeka Branch Meeting and we hope to see you again soon!

Doris Mesaroš
HUPE Rijeka Branch President

THE THIRD HUPE OSIJEK BRANCH MEETING IN SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026

The third HUPE Osijek branch meeting in the 2025-2026 school year was held on **Saturday, May 9, 2026, at the Faculty of Education in Osijek**. The meeting gathered 15 HUPE members for a morning of professional development, practical workshops, and sharing teaching ideas in a pleasant and collaborative atmosphere.

The agenda included:

- 1) Sanja Rašković: *Engaging and Teaching Generation Alpha Without Relying on Technology*
- 2) Ida Globočnik: *Storytelling "à la carte"*
- 3) HUPE News



At the beginning of the meeting, Sanja Rašković, an English teacher and certified NLP trainer from Global Lingua private language school in Zaprešić, held a workshop titled **Engaging and Teaching Generation Alpha Without Relying on Technology**. Through a range of games, practical activities and ready-to-use ideas, Sanja explored effective ways of motivating and teaching Generation Alpha students while developing their future skills, even in classrooms with limited access to technology. Participants actively took part in the activities and gained useful strategies for creating more engaging and dynamic lessons.



The second workshop, titled **Storytelling "à la carte"**, was delivered by Ida Globočnik from Ban Josip Jelačić Secondary School in Zaprešić. In this interactive session, participants explored storytelling as a powerful tool for teaching English through a variety of creative before-, while-, and after-reading activities designed to develop language skills, creativity, and emotional intelligence. The workshop offered many practical classroom ideas adaptable to different age groups and encouraged active participation and creative thinking.



During the **HUPE News** section, participants were informed about upcoming HUPE activities and events, including the call for contributions to the next issue of HUPEzine, the call for speakers for the 34th HUPE Conference which is taking place at Hotel Antunović in Zagreb from 20 to 21 November 2026, the results of the Multilingual Music Competition, the popular Languages United & HUPE bake-along activities, and information about upcoming partner associations' conferences and teacher training opportunities in Devon with SOL.



As part of the meeting, participants also took part in the HUPE branches "poem on a string" break-time activity created by our member Anna Maria Popović. During the coffee break, members read the poem "HUPELAND" and contributed their own creative rhyme-names for the 11 HUPE branches by writing ideas on paper "T-shirts" displayed on the wall.



HUPE Osijek sincerely thanks the speakers and all members who attended the meeting and contributed to the pleasant and inspiring atmosphere through active participation and a few good laughs. We hope the workshops provided useful and practical ideas that participants will be able to apply in their classrooms.

Hopefully, we will see you at one of our future meetings next school year. Good luck with the end of the school year and enjoy your well-deserved summer holidays!

Adrijana Roždijevac
HUPE Osijek branch president





THE SECOND HUPE SLAVONSKI BROD BRANCH MEETING

The second HUPE Slavonski Brod branch meeting in the school year 2025–2026 was held on Tuesday, 5 May 2026 at the Elementary School “Ivana Brlić-Mažuranić” in Slavonski Brod. The meeting lasted for three and a half hours and gathered HUPE members for an interactive and fun afternoon of professional development, collaboration, and exchange of ideas.

that included vocabulary development, tone awareness, guided email writing, peer feedback, and the use of figurative language. Special attention was given to the ethical use of AI tools as brainstorming support in the writing process. Overall, the workshop emphasized how clear scaffolding and emotionally engaging topics can enhance student motivation, creativity, and writing quality in the English classroom.



The agenda included:

- Alenka Taslak & Ivana Hrastović Mandarić: *Small Words Big Meaning*
- Tihomir Matković: *European Day of Languages – When Creativity Meets Curiosity*
- HUPE News

It is important to note that the originally planned second workshop was cancelled due to the speaker's illness, and the talk *European Day of Languages – When Creativity Meets Curiosity* was delivered instead. The first workshop, titled *Small Words Big Meaning*, was delivered by Alenka Taslak and Ivana Hrastović Mandarić. This informative and useful workshop presented practical, scaffolded strategies for teaching writing through the theme of kindness and friendly communication. The presenters demonstrated a structured writing sequence

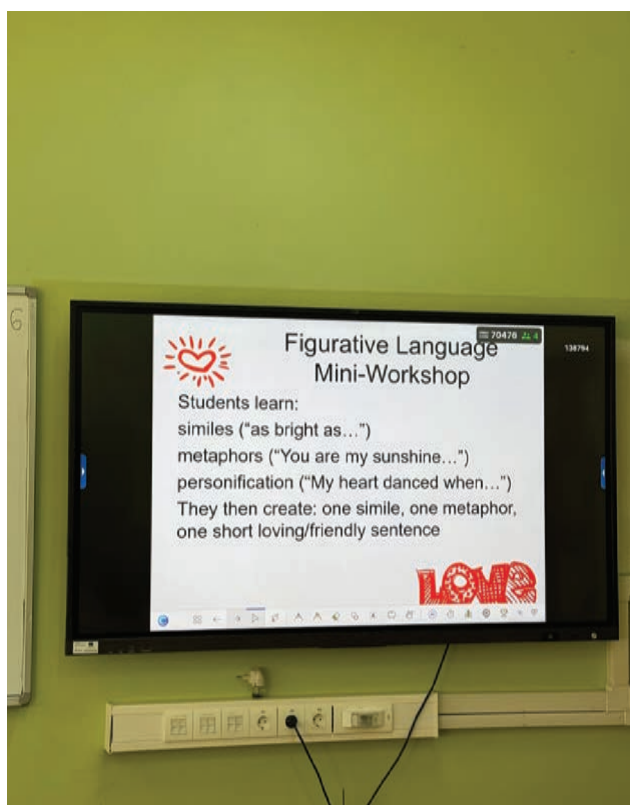
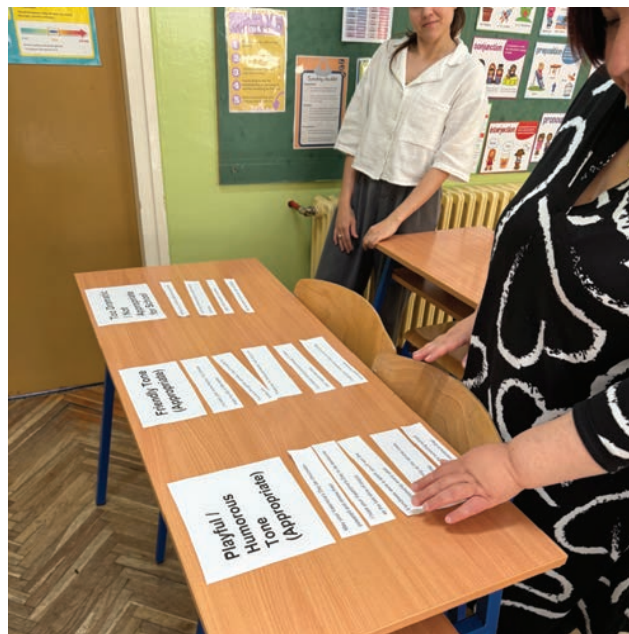


The second talk, titled *European Day of Languages – When Creativity Meets Curiosity*, was delivered by Tihomir Matković. The presenter showcased the activities that he and his colleagues in the school conducted with their students to celebrate the European Day of Languages in September 2025. Their project combined creative expression and research which lead to students developing their digital and linguistic skills through a series of fun projects such as the “building” of Multilingual Wall, researching extinct languages in Europe and translating common European proverbs in different European languages thus empowering their curiosity and highlighting the cultural and linguistic diversity of European countries.

Participants were also informed about the latest HUPE news, including upcoming professional development opportunities, results of the Multilingual Music Competition, upcoming HUPE Conference and its Call for Papers deadline. Members were encouraged to actively contribute to HUPEzine by submitting ESL teaching-related articles and to apply as speakers at future branch meetings in order to share examples of good practice and innovative teaching ideas.

HUPE Slavonski Brod is sincerely thankful to all the members who attended the meeting and contributed to a positive and collaborative working atmosphere. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Tihomir Matković
HUPE Slavonski Brod Branch President



THE SECOND HUPE SPLIT BRANCH MEETING IN 2025-2026

The second meeting of the HUPE Split Branch in the 2025–2026 school year was held on 4 May 2026 at OŠ Pujanki in Split, bringing together English teachers from across the region for an afternoon of professional exchange, learning, and reflection.

The agenda included

1. HUPE news: Anita Lasić
2. Marina Štambuk Poparić – From New York to Your Classroom: Innovative Teaching Ideas and Scavenger Hunt Activities
3. Sandra Jovišić: Recharge to Teach: Teacher Wellbeing in Focus
4. Marija Čarija Agoli i Ana Kodrić Ivelić: Mentalno zdravlje kao jedan od ciljeva razvoja OŠ Pujanki

The meeting was organised by Anita Lasić, who opened the session with a presentation of the latest HUPE news and updates. Participants were informed about current

activities within the association, future plans, and opportunities for professional development, reinforcing the importance of collaboration and continuous learning within the teaching community.

The first workshop, delivered by Marina Štambuk Poparić, was titled "From New York to Your Classroom: Innovative Teaching Ideas and Scavenger Hunt Activities." Drawing on her professional training experience in New York, the presenter introduced a range of modern, student-centred teaching approaches. She demonstrated how creative and digital tools can be effectively integrated into English language teaching to enhance student engagement. A central element of the workshop was the Scavenger Hunt activity, presented as an interactive and dynamic strategy that encourages collaboration, critical thinking, and active participation. Through practical examples and hands-on ideas, participants were provided with ready-to-use materials and inspired to adapt these approaches to their own classrooms.





professional performance and overall quality of life. Particular attention was given to the development of personal and social competencies, ongoing mental health care, and the responsibility of teachers as role models for their students. Research findings were discussed, identifying interpersonal relationships and cooperation with parents as major sources of stress, often leading to burnout. However, the workshop also offered practical solutions, demonstrating how self-care strategies, fostering a positive working atmosphere, and strengthening collaboration can significantly reduce stress levels and improve job satisfaction.



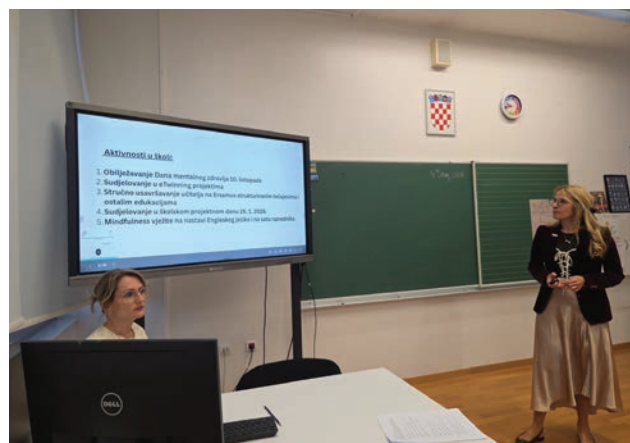
The final presentation, delivered by Marija Čarija Agoli and Ana Kodrić Iveljić, focused on "Mentalno zdravlje kao jedan od ciljeva razvoja OŠ Pujanki." This session showcased examples of good practice implemented at OŠ Pujanki, with a strong emphasis on promoting mental and physical health among students. The presenters shared a variety of activities centred on mindfulness, healthy lifestyle habits, and the importance of hobbies in maintaining wellbeing. In addition to theoretical insights, participants engaged with practical exercises that can be easily incorporated into everyday teaching. Special attention was given to raising teachers' awareness of their own mental health and equipping them with strategies to support students in developing healthy habits and emotional resilience. The session encouraged the exchange of experiences among participants and provided concrete ideas for integrating wellbeing-oriented activities into the classroom.



Overall, the meeting successfully combined professional development with personal reflection, addressing both innovative teaching practices and the essential topic of wellbeing in education. It provided participants with valuable tools, fresh ideas, and renewed motivation, while also strengthening the sense of community among HUPE members.

Anita Lasić
HUPE Split Branch President

The second workshop, "Recharge to Teach: Teacher Wellbeing in Focus," was led by Sandra Jovišić. This session highlighted the crucial role of teacher wellbeing, emphasising that it encompasses physical, mental, and emotional health. The presenter addressed the challenges teachers face in managing stress and pointed out how these challenges directly influence both their



THE SECOND HUPE ZADAR MEETING (2025/2026 SCHOOL YEAR)



The second HUPE Zadar meeting of this school year was successfully held on **Wednesday, April 29th** at **OŠ Šime Budinića in Zadar**, bringing together English language teachers for an inspiring and engaging professional gathering.

The meeting opened with **HUPE News**, where participants were informed about current activities, upcoming events, and opportunities within the association. This segment provided valuable updates and encouraged continued involvement in HUPE initiatives.

The central part of the programme featured two insightful presentations. **Rose Madeleine Pogorilić** and **Anna Marie Devčić** delivered an interactive session titled *"Making English Fun through Games"*, sharing a variety of practical, classroom-ready activities designed to increase student engagement and motivation. Their hands-on approach sparked lively participation and offered attendees immediately applicable ideas.

In the second presentation, *"AI – My Ally"*, **Ana Džaja** introduced participants to the growing role of artificial intelligence in education. The session explored practical ways teachers can incorporate AI tools into their daily practice, highlighting both opportunities and considerations. The topic generated strong interest and discussion among participants.



The meeting concluded in a warm and collegial atmosphere, with time for discussion, exchange of experiences, and networking. Once again, the HUPE Zadar gathering proved to be a valuable opportunity for professional development, collaboration, and inspiration.

We thank the presenters and participants for their contributions and look forward to our next meeting.

Ana Džaja
HUPE Zadar Branch President



THE SECOND HUPE ZAGREB BRANCH MEETING IN SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026 24 MARCH 2026

The second HUPE Zagreb branch meeting in the school year 2025-2026 was held on 24 March 2026 at Prirodoslovna škola Vladimira Preloga, Zagreb. The meeting started at 3.30 p.m. and went on for four hours. Some thirty or so HUPE Zagreb members were able to attend this learning and socializing event.

The agenda included:

- Tamara Maljcov Lulić "Encouraging Early Writing Skills in EFL Through Blackout Poetry"
- Dijana Šprem "Does AI make our lives easier or busier?"
- Mia Šavrljuga (Profil Klett d.o.o.) "Back to Basics: Teaching (Exam) Writing 101"
- Petra Blajić "State matura essay from group work to individual success"
- HUPE news

The first talk/workshop was presented by Tamara Maljcov Lulić who taught us how to use blackout poetry in class; next came Dijana Šprem Frković who wanted to introduce a new AI tool she found useful for lesson prep – Chalkie AI. Our third presenter, Mia Šavrljuga, sponsored by our wonderful partners Profil Klett d.o.o., gave us meaningful insight into the world of writing and shared many examples on how to use it with students in primary school. Last, our HUPE branch president showed us how she teaches writing to her secondary students, focusing mostly but not exclusively on argumentative essay.

At the end of the class, our HUPE president told the attendees all about the upcoming Devon teacher training.

Until next time, toodles!

Petra Blajić
HUPE Zagreb Branch President

