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Hrvatsko udruženje profesora engleskog jezika
Croatian Association of Teachers of English

NEWSLETTER

HUPE Newsletter No. 10 • March 2016



EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear HUPeteers,

In this issue we have all the news of the upcoming 24th Annual HUPE Conference. Hope to see you all in Solaris. Find everything you have ever wanted to know about **ABELTA** in the text written by the IATEFL Slovenia representative, Dragana Stegić.

We have also prepared the reports from our branches which have been very busy, as always. In this issue's **HUPE Branches** read the reports from Osijek, Rijeka, Slavonski Brod, Split and Zagreb.

Evelina Miščin wrote a report on the **BESIG Satellite Conference** in Zaporešić.

If you are still looking for a good reason to join us in Solaris, read about Darija's **Devon Adventure**. Darija Klepec from Vrbovec was the luckiest participant of the 23rd Annual Hupe Conference held in Šibenik in April 2015. She took part in a raffle organized by SOL and won the main prize - the chance to attend one of the training programmes for teachers of English, in Devon.

In **A SNEAK PEEK INTO OUR CLASSROOMS** part we will share some interesting projects with you to try out with your own students. For those of you interested in teaching culture, read the reports by Davorka Nekić on teaching about the USA and Australia. Davorka also presented a bilingual book about the legends of Moravice.

Our colleague, Gordana Novak, shared her experience with using Skype in the classroom. She invites you to join the community of over 400,000 teachers from 265 countries and regions who have joined Skype's mission to bring real life teaching to over 6 million students around the globe.

Romana Šimunić Cvrtla explains how E-twinning projects, Comenius and Erasmus+ school partnerships and In-Service Trainings have become valuable for her teaching and how they have strengthened the European dimension in education. Give it a try yourselves.

In the end, take a look at the **Upcoming Events**.

If you would like to contribute to the Newsletter on a more regular basis, please contact us. We would like to have you on board!

We are also pleased to announce that HUPE is issuing a call for article submissions for the next HUPEzine. The deadline is May 1st.

We invite you to send your stories, comments, or reviews to hupe.newsletter@gmail.com.

Yours,
Dajana

24th ANNUAL HUPE CONFERENCE

Hotel Ivan - Solaris Beach Resort Šibenik, Croatia
8-10 April 2016

Dear colleagues, partners and all HUPE friends,

We are happy to invite you to our 24th Annual HUPE Conference that will take place at Solaris Beach Resort near Šibenik, 8-10 April 2016.

We are proud to inform you that this conference will be held under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Croatia, Kolinda Grabar Kitarović.

As always, we plan to offer you many opportunities for both professional and personal development.

We have prepared a rich programme consisting of plenary sessions, numerous workshops, live lessons and a panel discussion with Boris Jokić and the members of the National Expert Working Group for EFL Curriculum Design on Comprehensive Curricular Reform. After a successful day you can have fun at our social events.

Plenary speakers are Boris Jokić (IDIZ), Catherine Walter (OUP), Steve Oakes (Pearson), Suzanne Mordue (British Council), Sarah Giles (British Council), Olha Madylus (Cambridge).

Social events - Irish Maiden by Paul O'Grady, The Ultimate Pub Quiz by Peter Hopwood.

Live Lessons - Mark Andrews, Lindsay Houchin.

The registration form is available at www.hupe.hr but for all the English teachers in Croatia it is necessary to submit your registration at www.ettaedu.azoo.hr as the conference is listed in the Agency's Catalogue of professional development.

Hope to see you all in Šibenik!

Your HUPE Executive Committee



Organised transport to the 24th Annual HUPE Conference

Dear colleagues and conference participants,
HUPE is offering you organised transport to the conference venue in Šibenik.

If you would like to reserve a place on the coach please contact your branch president. The number of places on the coach is limited so do not hesitate to do so as soon as possible.

COACH 1:

Vinkovci-Osijek-Slavonski Brod-Nova
Gradiška-Šibenik -170,00 kn
Contact: hupe.osijek@gmail.com ili
hupe.slavonskibrod@gmail.com

COACH 2: ZAGREB - ŠIBENIK -170,00 kn
Contact: hupe.zagreb@gmail.com

COACH 3: ZAGREB- KARLOVAC- ŠIBENIK- 120,00 kn (from Karlovac)
contact: hupe.zagreb@gmail.com

COACH 4: RIJEKA- ZADAR -ŠIBENIK -170,00 kn (60,00 kn from Zadar)
contact: hupe.rijeka@gmail.com

The detailed itinerary will follow soon.

Please deposit the appropriate amount into our bank account as follows:

- purpose of the payment (svrha doznake): uplata prijevoza na konferenciju
- payment to (primatelj): HUPE, Palmotićeve 60, 10 000 Zagreb
- bank account number (IBAN): HR36 25000091101033220
- reference (poziv na broj): 18

In order to ensure the place on the coach please send the confirmation of payment to your branch president.

Best regards,
HUPE Executive Committee

WHAT'S IN A NAME? – THE STORY OF ABELTA

For those of you regularly attending, I'm sure you already know that teachers' conferences are much more than just a list of workshops and fancy names. In fact, last year's annual IATEFL Slovenia conference saw the initiation of a project which quickly became recognizable among English language teachers in the region. The idea that we at IATEFL Slovenia had for quite some time was to bring together representatives from the TAs and brainstorm ideas about where we could go with the project. Since we already met our friends regularly at regional conferences, we thought we might take our friendship to the next level. This is when ABELTA (Alliance of Balkan English Language Teaching Associations) was born.

Last year, thanks to the generous help from RELO Budapest and US Embassy Ljubljana, we had a first meeting of representatives from Albania, Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, Macedonia and Montenegro. The representatives were chosen based on their TA presidents' suggestions, as being most up to the task and most likely to pass the acquired knowledge back to their organisation. It was inspiring to see teachers getting together to talk about the challenges each TA faces in working with members, offering quality service and trying to survive financially with little or no help from the country's Ministry of Education.

For me personally, it was another proof that the world of ELT operates beyond borders, visas and, as we are sadly witnessing recently, the barbed/razor wires.

As main organizers of the meeting and one of the TAs with most experience, we offered teachers advice on TA management and events organizing, but we all agreed that as teachers, we weren't actually trained to deal with funds, accounting, organizational factors – in short everything that needs to be done within any organization (state funded or not) to operate smoothly.

Since as teachers we often lack time and energy to focus on different tasks individually, we concluded that having one place to get together fast and swiftly was, of course, the internet. For the time being, we decided to set up an ABELTA Facebook page where members from regional TAs could get together, share ideas, ask questions, and also post their newsletters for other members to see.

This year's meeting is a follow up on what has been worked on last year, a much needed gathering which will, hopefully, give boost to our cooperation and result in future projects which will only strengthen the friendship.

ABELTA is still an infant which needs help growing, but with an opened heart and proper approach, we can witness its growth for many years to come.

Dragana Stegić
IATEFL Slovenia

HUPE Branches

Report - Osijek Branch –second meeting

The second HUPE Osijek Branch meeting in 2015/ 2016 was held on 28th November 2015 at The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Osijek. 22 teachers attended the meeting.

With his workshop at our HUPE meeting in Osijek Mark Andrews from SOL (Sharing One Language) finished his tour around Croatia. In the workshop *Working with the here and now and responding to current events in the English classroom* we were dealing with a hot topic for Europe at the moment, namely migrants and refugees. Mark asked us to bring our passports with us, both valid and the old ones, and he also brought some, so we used them as the authentic material, compared them and discussed what they can mean to citizens of a certain country, how they can make them feel, etc. By using such materials Mark wanted to show us one more time how important it is to enable our students to develop and improve their critical thinking skills while, for example, practising their reading skills and increasing their vocabulary range.

Sara Salatić

HUPE Osijek Branch President



Report - Osijek Branch –third meeting

The third HUPE Osijek Branch meeting in 2015/ 2016 took place on 19th December 2015 at The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Osijek. 13 teachers attended the meeting.

The main focus of the meeting was on dyslexia, but we also learned about some other disabilities that can affect learning, such as visual impairment and ADHD. Our colleagues Alenka Taslak and Ana Kandera as well as the speech therapist Maja Kelić helped us understand the problems that some of our students are facing. They put us in our students' shoes if only for a short time, but it was more than enough for us to realise how hard it must be to have to cope with these problems day after day, lesson after lesson. Our speakers also showed us how they are helping their students deal with these problems and what we could try to apply in our classrooms, too.

The presentations were followed by an interesting discussion and sharing of our experiences. I believe that all the participants felt encouraged afterwards, equipped with many great ideas and a lot of positive energy.

In case you weren't able to join us at the previous meeting, make sure you don't miss the next one!

Best regards,

Sara Salatić

HUPE Osijek Branch President



HUPE Rijeka

The second HUPE Rijeka Branch meeting was held on 14 November 2015 at Faculty of Social Studies and Humanities in Rijeka.

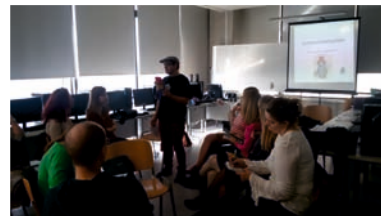
Mark Andrews was great as always. He gave an excellent workshop on migrants and refugees called Working with the here and now and responding to current events in the English classroom. He introduced the first migrant to the UK – a little bear named Paddington and we sang Molly Malone with him. Passports were a great material for further discussion as were the shells.

Arjana Blažić gave a lecture followed by a practical part on eTwinning. It was great to find out so many useful information from one of our eTwinning ambassadors. She managed to make something that seemed so complicated look so simple. She explained everything so everyone could understand and members felt very well after following Arjana's instructions and finding their way through the eTwinning portal. To revise what we did today, there will be a follow-up webinar in which everyone can participate.

The meeting was well visited, indeed. 21 teachers came. But the novelty is that the pupils also came- 5 pupils from Nikola Tesla Primary school from Moravice, Gorski kotar came and did interviews with Mark and Arjana. A thumb up for both teachers and pupils!

Still under the impression of the second branch meeting, I'm happy to announce the third meeting that is going to take place on 20 November in co-operation with County Professional Committee . You're all invited! Spend your Friday afternoon with us and let's have a blast!

Davorka Nekić, prof.
HUPE Rijeka Branch President



HUPE Rijeka

The third HUPE Rijeka Branch meeting was held on 20 November 2015 at Kostrena Primary School in co-operation with the County Professional Committee. 87 teachers came not only from Rijeka but also from Gorski kotar.

Rijeka members finally got a chance to meet notorious Lidija Kralj and hear something on Metoda 270. Lidija's presentation was educational, informative and motivating as well. She presented her teaching through different web tools her pupils use for making presentation, interactive quizzes, and so on. Teachers heard something about Office Mix, Blendspace, Sway, Kahoot and Zondle. Lidija made it sound so interesting and easy... not as complicated as people like to think.

The second workshop was delivered by two primary school teachers from Rijeka, Mia Mihaljević Ivančić and Jakob Patekar who tackled an interesting topic on punctuation and its usage. If you think you know it all when it comes down to English, think twice or simply invite Mia and Jakob to enlighten you about words which are so similar and yet so different. If you think it's easy to put a comma within a sentence, you should try to do the test they have made for Rijeka teachers. It wasn't so easy to do it. But it was a lot of fun and challenging at the same time. The last thing mentioned was a trip to the UK for which I'll give more details within a week or two. So stay tuned!

Davorka Nekić, prof.
HUPE Rijeka Branch President



HUPE Rijeka

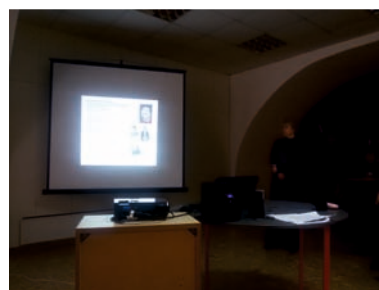
The fourth HUPE Rijeka Branch meeting was held on 6 February 2016 at Školska knjiga, Korzo 38. 31 teachers came and spent their Saturday morning with other cartoon and music lovers.

The Rijeka members had a blast listening and learning about a process of cartoon making which was presented by a Cartoon Network lover Dora Božanić. She explained the very process of making your own cartoon and which programmes to use. But she saved the best part for the end – her students' cartoons! We watched three cartoons about Gruffalo, Ten little aliens and Two little birds which were enriched by introducing an alien in Peter and Paul's story (from Dip in 1).

Cartoons were followed by music and acting presented by the two greatest artists who left us at the beginning of 2016. As you probably guessed, they are David Bowie and Alan Rickman. The two magnificent ones were presented by a music diva among teachers – Marina Hadžiomerović. We listened to the songs, recitations, did exercises, loved the quiz in which we eagerly participated and won several CDs! I would like to thank Sanja Ivoš, the English language editor at Školska knjiga and the entire Školska knjiga for their support and willingness to come to Rijeka and spend a sunny morning with us!



Davorka Nekić, prof.
HUPE Rijeka Branch President



HUPE Slavonski Brod Branch 2nd Meeting Report

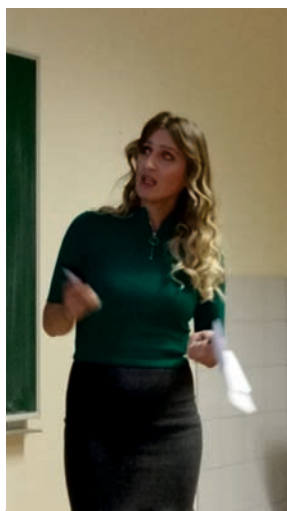
The second HUPE Slavonski Brod Branch meeting in this school year was held on **November 19, 2015** at 5 p.m. The venue was Ekonomsko-birotehnička škola in Slavonski Brod.

This time 22 teachers of English from primary and secondary schools were willing to find the time for professional development and attend the meeting on a Thursday afternoon, after they had finished their work at schools.

The first workshop, **Proverbs as Spices in Classrooms**, was run by **Antonija Šarić** and **Lidija Obad** from Faculty of Food Technology in Osijek. We tested our knowledge of English and Croatian proverbs, and learned some new ones as well. I am sure that our students will enjoy the activities when we present them in our classrooms.

The second workshop was **Hands-on with Special Ed Learners of English**, by **Ivana Kuna Raguž** from Požega. She shared with us her experience in working with special education learners and the difficulties they encounter in learning English. These difficulties have been successfully reduced with the help of specially designed materials published by Profil-Klett. I am extremely pleased that a lot of young colleagues attended the meeting and recognized it as a form of quality professional development and that they will also attend our next meeting in March 2016.

Mirta Kos Kolobarić
HUPE Slavonski Brod Branch President



SPLIT BRANCH MEETING REPORT

The second HUPE Split branch meeting for the school year 2015/16 was held on 16 November, 2015 at Primary School Spinut in Split. The agenda included a practical talk by Vanja Fazinić and a workshop by Mark Andrews. The meeting was attended by 21 people.

After having given numerous talks and workshops on international conferences on this topic, Vanja Fazinić joined us for our second meeting in Split and made a practical talk titled 'Pedagogical benefits of filmmaking in the English classroom'. Her talk introduced us to the idea of using digital video production and filmmaking projects in the classroom. It highlighted pedagogical and educational benefits of creating short films and explained how it supports all important components of learning. Vanja explained how such projects enhance the relationship between students and a teacher and enable the teacher's role to grow into a role of adviser, mentor and coach. Apart from the mentioned, she presented some of her own videos made by her students which were an inspiration to all of us.

The second part of the meeting maintained an 'international' tone as we had an opportunity to participate in the workshop by Mark Andrews 'Working with the here and now and responding to current events in the English classroom'.

By covering the topic of migration and refugees and by working with texts, pictures and a number of different props relevant for the subject, Mark presented how learner's vocabulary range increases and their reading and critical thinking skills improve. Consequently, the learners are able to interpret the information with more clarity and respond to it with more humanity.

The meeting continued with socializing and exchanging impressions on what was seen and heard. Since it lasted for more than three hours, it is safe to say that the participants were provided with new knowledge and skills and that the exchange of impressions and knowledge in relation to this meeting is yet to be continued.

Branka Šegvić, HUPE Split



The Second Zagreb Branch Meeting

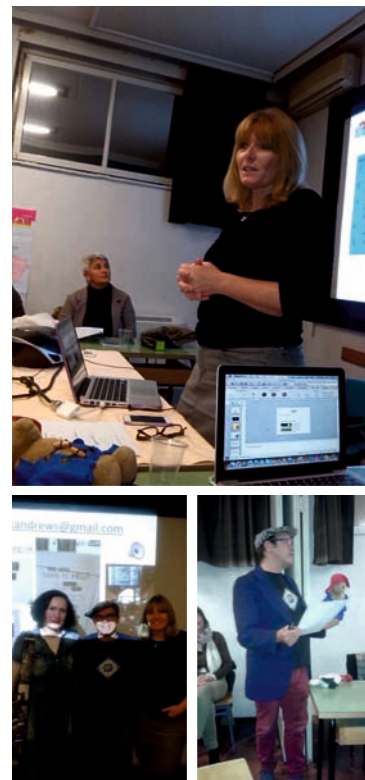
The second Zagreb Branch meeting took place on Friday 13, in Svijet jezika and it was a wonderful evening. The speakers were Ms Arjana Blažić and Mark Andrews. Ms Blažić gave an overview of what eTwinning is all about and why it is one of the most exciting teachers' society. She explained step-by-step how to become a member of this group of enthusiasts and gave examples of successful cooperation from teachers around Europe. Ms Blažić is one of the most prominent eTwinning ambassadors in Croatia.

Mark Andrews spoke of foreigners, refugees, Croatian emigration and many more up-to-date topics. He brought many passports that evening that we shared and talked about various materials that can be used in the classroom. He also drew sad parallels of people drowning then and now, trying to find freedom and security.

As one of the colleagues wrote, by always asking the right questions, Mark gave a very inspiring talk.

Forty teachers attended the meeting. I announced the HUPE Conference which will take place in April. It was a very entertaining and inspiring evening.

Lana Duka Zupanc
HUPE Zagreb



BESIG Satellite event in Zaprešić



This is the fourth year that the satellite event in Croatia has been organised at the University of Applied Sciences in Zaprešić. Usually the same teachers come – around 10-20 and that is our opportunity to watch workshops and talks together, to comment and share our experience. This year, some of the students joined us – they were curious what we were doing and they liked what they saw – a group of enthusiasts who spend their free time gaining some new insights into their profession. Although some of the teachers teach at primary schools and one even owns her private language school, they find this event an invaluable experience. We heard some things about digitally literate business English

trainers, speed networking, future-proofing business English to name just a few of the workshops.

At our other conferences there are more teachers, it is difficult to mingle and you rush from one session to another. Here, the situation is completely different. The atmosphere is quite relaxing – we watch, discuss, especially during lunch break when we order some food, and share ideas stimulated by workshops or talks. The premises where the event is held are well equipped with the state of the art technology. The only disadvantage might be the distance from Zagreb (20 km), but it does not prevent our teacher Irena from Karlovac, which is even further away to come to our every event. Although it would be nice to be on the spot, we are all aware that it is impossible to be present at every single conference. Also, we could watch these events at home, but it is not the same. You cannot concentrate and are frequently disturbed by members of the family or think about the chores you have to do. Therefore, I hope we will continue organising such events in the future, at least once a year.

Evelina Miščin
BESIG representative for Croatia

My Devon Adventure

Sunday, July 5th, 2015. It's boiling hot in Croatia, another unbearably sticky day... Fortunately, what I'm facing right now is not wall to wall sunshine, but a slightly overcast sky with some intermittent rain. Suddenly, Stonehenge appears on my right! As we pass by I get that 'wow' feeling. Just like that... I feel great! I'm on a coach heading towards Barnstaple, Devon, UK. Keeping me company is a jolly group of 15 teachers coming from 9 different countries of Eastern and Central Europe. I've never met them before but somehow I don't think of them as strangers. They all seem very pleasant.

How did I get here? Well, I was the luckiest participant of the 23rd Annual Hupe Conference held in Šibenik in April 2015. Almost everyone who went there took part in a raffle organized by SOL and only two names were called out. One of them was mine. I won the main prize - the chance to attend one of the training programs for teachers of English. And that's how I ended up in Devon. I chose to join the Authentic British Language and Culture course. It was the perfect choice I assure you!

SOL (Sharing One Language) is a non-profit organization and registered UK charity which was set up in 1991. It is committed to supporting teachers of English in their professional work and providing language, methodology and cultural courses for teachers and students. The courses offer complete immersion in the language and culture. SOL is not a language school in the traditional sense. The aims of each program are to enhance cultural awareness, social interaction and develop communication skills. This is

achieved through visits to nearby places of interest and time spent with host families. Teachers gain confidence in understanding the culture and using the language that they teach. And as far as the students are concerned this trip brings their passive knowledge of the language to life, without any regular classrooms. This is the key aim.

As the bus approached Barnstaple I started to feel a bit anxious. I could see a group of people waiting for us at the bus stop in front of Tesco. Those were our host families. When the man from my host family said that his name was Ivan, I started to feel at home. I shared my room with Liana, a teacher from Slovakia. We got on quite well and soon discovered that we had a lot in common. Our hosts, Mandy and Ivan, are really loving and caring people. They didn't treat us as guests but as a part of their family. Our after dinner talks were priceless. No course book or dictionary could ever provide the chunks of language I picked up from them daily. There is no way I could ever learn those everyday real life English expressions otherwise.





On the first day our course was launched in a pub! What a great way to start. Watergate is a national chain of pubs but this one displayed many aspects of local life in Barnstaple on the walls. We talked to the manager and I took notes on the language he used. He 'always takes on board what the customers wants' is one of them. I learnt that a 'free house' means that a pub is not tied to a brewery and that it can sell any type of beer. The expression 'Where's your watering hole' means what's your favourite place to go for a drink. The names of the pubs I saw on the way were particularly interesting and each told a story.

Tom Evans, the local town crier guided us through his hometown, and gave us an overview of the history of the main town of North Devon and possibly the oldest borough in the UK. He was excellent. The way he announced our presence to the people of Barnstaple, by standing on a litter box, is absolutely unforgettable. It was one of the nicest cultural experiences.

Fieldwork played a very important part of our course and was an invaluable experience for me. I met the Atlantic Ocean for the first time. Every day we stopped at one of the many headlands to admire the stunning views or walked down the amazing sandy beaches. I realized how important the sea is in understanding the British. We visited Woolacombe, Ilfracombe, Bideford, Instow, Appledore, Croyde, Westward Ho!, Clovelly, Tintagel, Lynton and Lynmouth. Along the way we met the local people and were encouraged to talk to them, to interview them about their work and related issues and to record our conversations. We brushed up on our English and improved our self-esteem at the same time. We talked to a Barricane Beach Café owner, a Greenpeace girl, a lady in the fair trade shop, a Green Party politician, a Scottish bus driver, a surfing instructor, life guards, a coxswain at RNLI, a church bell ringer, a pastor, stall holders, a Hocking's ice cream seller, a Cornish pasty-maker, volunteers at the Heritage Center and some students among others. We were learning while out and about. "The classroom" was never confined to a single room, but was wherever there was something to see, listen to or discuss.

I really admire the way the people care about each other and the community. There were signs of it everywhere. It is an important part of British culture that I wasn't aware of before now. It is amazing how much work people do for free. They volunteer and run events to raise money for different purposes. The RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution) for example is one of the most successful British charity organizations and it is committed to saving lives at sea. They don't seek funding from the government. Their work is based on and driven by their values. The locals and the holiday makers support the RNLI and donate money that enables their work and covers all the running costs. We were lucky because we visited one of their 236 lifeboat stations, the one in Clovelly.

Our outstanding teacher trainers were Mark Andrews and Uwe Pohl, both passionate Devon lovers. They are enthusiastic, supportive, playful and truly inspiring. Simply wonderful. They helped us get a glimpse under the iceberg, into the values, beliefs and attitudes of the Britishness and the people we meet. The whole SOL team and especially Grenville Yeo, the executive director and Josie Devi-Knight, the course director took good care of the teachers providing us with whatever we needed.

All in all, if you are looking for a course, and want to invest in your language and professional development, choose SOL Devon. You will get a warm welcome, benefit from the total immersion in the language and culture in a supportive and positive environment and from the intercultural experiences. Being exposed to different cultures, you will also learn to understand your own culture better. It was a real an eye-opener for me. You will undoubtedly be able to capture the real life experiences of language and related regalia for use in your own teaching. This course will give you an opportunity to explore Britain in a way which is very different from most people's stereotypical images. It is a way of getting inside the picture, putting together the pieces of a big jigsaw puzzle.

Go for it! This is not "just another course".

Darija Klepec, II. osnovna škola Vrbovec

A SNEAK PEEK INTO OUR CLASSROOMS UNITED IN DIVERSITY

The Week of Australia
November 23rd 2015 – November 27th 2015

Those who stop dreaming are lost.
(Australian Aboriginal proverb)

On November 23rd 2015 two 6th class pupils, **Valentina Alinčić** and **Roberta Vučinić**, opened our "Week of Australia" in both the English and Croatian languages so that everyone could understand it. With the last words of the opening speech the national anthem, ***Advance Australia Fair***, started playing and the pupils stood still until the very end of the anthem showing their respect in this way. A guided tour was led by a 6th class pupil, **Vanja Vučinić**, who was dressed as Felix the Cat, a famous Australian cartoon character.

At the school entrance there was a desk decorated with a **Welcome** sign and Patrick White's picture was next to it. Why Patrick White? Because he's the first Australian to have been awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. There was a *golden wattle* bouquet on the table since it is the official flower of Australia as well as a kangaroo as the official animal of the country. Next in line to represent the land Down Under was a little kangaroo who greeted the visitors in a typically Australian way with *G'day, mate!*



Opening of the Week, Vanja or Felix the Cat and the Welcome desk

At the very beginning of the tour our Felix took the visitors on a journey through the geography of Australia. They got to know how many regions make up the country and which are their capitals. They found out that even though the two largest cities are Sydney and Melbourne, neither is the capital. In fact, the capital is Canberra which is often referred to as the *bush* capital. They also found out that Australia is the 6th largest country in the world but besides being a country, it's also an island and a continent. It is called the land Down Under because it's in the southern hemisphere. Regarding the history of Australia they found out about the Aborigines who are the native people of Australia. They saw an original boomerang and learnt that it was used for hunting and that they come in different shapes and sizes. They also heard of an Aboriginal instrument which was new to them – the didgeridoo. But what impressed them the most was the fact that the Aborigines are the oldest living population on the planet.

They learnt something about the Australian government and how it functions – who makes the laws, who enforces them and what the highest court in the country is. They found out that Australia is a republic monarchy. This means that the head of government is the Prime Minister but it has got a Queen as well. The newly elected Prime Minister is Malcolm Turnbull while the Queen is actually Queen Elizabeth II which was interesting for them to hear. There was also a poster

containing all 28 Prime Ministers of Australia. The current PM, Malcolm Turnbull is the 29th one. They could see which political party they belonged to as well as the list of all the political parties in Australia.

There was a poster about the top 5 Australian universities including the University of Sydney, the University of Queensland, the University of Melbourne, Monash University and the Australian National University. They learnt that each of these universities has got its own coat of arms and a *motto*.

They learnt about many Australian landmarks such as Saint Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne, Adelaide Gaol, the Wheel of Brisbane, the National War Memorial, the Old Mill in Perth, Port Arthur in Tasmania, the State Library in Queensland, Uluru, Kangaroo Island and many more.

They got to know something more about the Australian wild life and animals such as a kookaburra, a large flying fox, a kangaroo, a wombat, a Tasmanian devil, an emu, a platypus, a koala, a dingo, an echidna, and many more.

They enjoyed learning about the film industry and TV shows including names such as Mel Gibson, Nicole Kidman, Hugh Jackman, Chris Hemsworth as well as TV shows like Neighbours, Mother and Son and Dame Edna Everage. Music introduced them to some of the greatest Australian artists such as AC DC, Savage Garden, Olivia Newton-John and Kylie Minogue. Literature was represented by three great writers – Patrick White, Ethel Turner and „Banjo“ Paterson, referred to as the *bush* poet.

The last poster in line was the red one as is the colour of poppies. This is because the battle fields of Normandy were covered with poppies when the Australian soldiers lost their lives in the First World War. Poppies became the emblem of Remembrance Day which is celebrated on November 11th.



Posters throughout the school corridors

Some traditional dishes such as Pavlova, Damper and the Anzac biscuits were mentioned as well. Pupils had a chance to read an Aboriginal legend called *The Creation of Life* thanks to which they found out about the „Dreamtime“ and the „Dreamings“. During each break there was a pupil in charge of playing a CD with Australian music. The list included the Bee Gees, AC DC, Savage Garden, Olivia Newton - John and Kylie Minogue.

The 6th class pupils had a film workshop *Ned Kelly* thanks to which they found out about one of the most famous Australian bushrangers. They also made a Powerpoint presentation about him presented by Roberta Vučinić as well as about Ben Hall, another bushranger presented by Roberta's twin sister Vanja or simply *Felix the Cat*. Doris Klaić from the 1st class and her brother Sanjin from the 4th class presented an Aboriginal story for children titled *How the Birds Got their Colour*. Sanjin was reading the story while Doris was presenting her drawings that follow the story. Michael Mladenović, Zoran Mamula and Igor Polovina from the 8th class gave a detailed presentation on Aboriginal Australians while Mirjam Golik and Roberta Vučinić from the 6th class said something about the Aboriginal art for children. Vanja Vučinić from the 6th class introduced the Australian flora and fauna to the visitors after which 10 more pupils told the visitors a sentence or two about the endemic animals that live in Australia. They even had the stuffed animals.



Pupils' presentations

There was also a very important visit from the representatives of the Australian Embassy on 23rd November. **Mrs Dijana Padežanin** was one of them. She's the one with whom we made all the arrangements regarding **Australian Education Kit** which we recommend to everyone. It's a great teaching resource. The other guest from the Embassy came from Canberra and his name is **Mr Andrea Carlo Biggi**. He's the Policy Officer for the Southern European Section at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade within the Australian Government. He went on the tour through Australia guided by our own Felix after which he watched the presentations made by pupils from the 5th to the 8th class. He was so impressed that he even participated in the presenting of the stuffed animals. He told the pupils stories about kangaroos that live close to his house as well as a kookaburra who was so cocky that it even stole his steak! He also told them about large flying foxes that can be seen in Canberra. Vanja also did an interview with Mr Biggi in front of all the pupils from the upper classes.

For all the effort that we put into the project, Nikola Tesla Primary school from Moravice received a certificate from the Embassy for promoting Australia and the Australian culture.



Mr Biggi with Vanja, the certificate given to the school and our Australian cake

I'll finish this beautiful journey with lines from ***I Still Call Australia Home*** which Michael Mladenović from the 8th class read to our guests:

*I have been to cities that never close down
From New York to Rio and Old London Town
But no matter how far or how wide I roam
I still call Australia home.*

Davorka Nekić
HUPE Rijeka Branch President

UNITED IN DIVERSITY

The Week of the United States of America

December 7th 2015 – December 11th 2015

Certain things catch your eye. But pursue only those
that capture your heart.
(Native American proverb)

On Monday, December 7th two 6th class pupils, **Vanja** and **Roberta Vučinić** opened the "Week of the USA" in both the English and Croatian languages. The pupils from the lower classes as well as some teachers don't understand English that well, so they did the opening speech bilingually. With the last words of the opening speech the national anthem *The Star - Spangled Banner* started. A guided tour was led by a 6th class pupil **Valentina Alinčić** who was dressed like Cinderella, a famous Disney cartoon character. Not to get lost on the way...they just needed to follow Olaf, the most notorious snowman in the whole world who likes warm hugs and dreams of summer. At the school entrance there was a desk decorated with the Welcome sign and Ernest Hemingways's picture was next to it. There was also a red rose there since this is the official flower of the USA as well as a bald eagle as the official animal of the country.



Opening of the Week, Valentina or Cinderella and the Welcome desk

The next in line to represent the USA was one of the most popular cartoon characters of all times, the one and only – Queen Elsa of Arendell and, of course, summer-loving Olaf!

At the very beginning of the tour she took them on a journey through the geography of the USA and they got to know how many federal states make up the USA and which are their capitals. They found out that there are 50 stars on the US flag that represent 50 federal states. Although each state has its own capital, the capital of the whole USA is Washington, DC. Regarding the history of the USA, they got to know many interesting facts about the Native Americans and some of the most famous warriors such as: Geronimo, Crazy Horse, Cochise, Tecumseh and a woman named Pocahontas who married a white man and even met the King of England. Which one, you wonder. It was James I. The Battle of the Little Bighorn was mentioned as well. Pupils were able to see the symbols used by the Native Americans to communicate, so there was a symbol of a snake which meant defiance. All the chiefs were presented with their own figure. We travelled through history thanks to the presidents of the USA. We mentioned some such as: George Washington as the 1st president of the USA, Benjamin Franklin as one of the Founding Fathers, Thomas Jefferson as one of the authors of the Declaration of Independence, Theodore Roosevelt as the youngest US president at the time of the election, Abraham Lincoln during whose presidency slavery was finally abolished and Franklin D. Roosevelt and his New Deal. John F. Kennedy got his own poster representing him and his family as well as the curse that follows them wherever they go. So

the pupils got to know of all the tragedies that had happened to the members of the Kennedy family. They saw a world famous photograph of little John John saluting his father. The last among the presidents was Barack Obama as the current president and the first African – American President of the USA. A special poster was made with famous quotes such as Lincoln's "Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves"; and many more. They learnt something about the US government and how it functions – who makes the laws, who enforces them and what the highest court in the country is. They got a chance to see three seals: the President's seal, the Vice-President's seal and the seal of the US Senate. They noticed the bald eagle on each of the three seals. There was a poster about the Ivy League and all of the eight universities that are a part of it. They saw each university's coat of arms as well as its motto.



Posters throughout the school corridors

They revised many well-known landmarks thanks to the poster containing information about them. But there were also many paper models of those landmarks such as the White House, Capitol Hill, Saint Patrick's Cathedral, the Golden Gate Bridge, the Brooklyn Bridge, Independence Hall, the Lincoln Memorial, the Statue of Liberty, and so on.



Paper models of the most famous US landmarks

They enjoyed learning about the film and music industry including names such as: Marilyn Monroe, James Dean and Elizabeth Taylor, the old Hollywood glam as well as the notorious Dynasty, and then the more recent Gilmore Girls, Seinfeld and their favourites The Big Bang Theory and Dr Sheldon Cooper's „Bazinga!“. We also presented a Barbie doll representing Eliza Doolittle from the film My Fair Lady which is the exact replica of Audrey Hepburn. There was a special corner dear to children as well as adults. It was the Disneyland corner with a poster and many figures representing Disney's princesses, and the first Disney characters such as Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Donald and Daisy Duck as well as more recent ones such as Anna, Elsa, Olaf, and many more. Music introduced them to some of the greatest artists such as Elvis Presley, the king of rock 'n' roll, Madonna, a true queen of pop as well as the king of pop and the creator of the Moonwalk, Michael Jackson. Literature was represented by two great writers – Ernest Hemingway and Mark Twain. The last poster in line was a black one to show the most tragic event in recent US history, 9/11. Each class paid its respect with a moment of silence for the innocent victims of that tragedy. May they rest in peace! They were introduced to Jackson Pollock's art and the way he created his paintings.



Figures throughout the school corridors

Since we all love to eat, we had to mention some traditional dishes such as Yankee pot roast, chocolate chip cookies, red velvet cake, meatloaf and so on. Pupils had a chance to read an American legend on Rip van Winkle as well as a Native American story/legend on The Creation of the Navajo People.

The 4th class pupils had a music/dance workshop during which they danced the polka which is the official state dance of Wisconsin. The song to which they danced was Oh Susana. Thanks to that song they learnt the names of two federal states – Alabama and Louisiana. They also learnt what banjo is. And the most important – they had fun! The 1st, the 2nd and the 3rd class pupils had a cartoon workshop based on Disney cartoons after which they made drawings of their favourite Disney cartoon characters.

On 10th December our school was visited by a representative from the US Embassy. On behalf of the Embassy, Ms Marica Bahlen and the Embassy's intern Jacob Greenberg came. They took a walk through our exhibition guided by our own

Cinderella after which Mr Greenberg gave a presentation on Atlanta, Georgia. Afterwards the pupils got the chance to ask him some questions about his life, education, work at the Embassy and his favourites (writers, books, music, food, etc.). Pupils were given US flags so they could always remember this visit. After the official part of the visit, we had a little party. And guess what!? The „American“ cake was there too and it was delicious! The US Embassy gave us a photo of Capitol Hill which represents the US government.



Mr Jacob Greenberg, Valentina, Ms Marica Bahlen and Davorka Nekić, pupils after Jacob's presentation with US flags and our US cake

Let's finish with another Native American proverb:

*Be strong
when you are weak.*

*Be brave
when you are scared.*

*Be humble
when you are victorious.*

Davorka Nekić
HUPE Rijeka Branch President

Stories and Legends of Moravice

February 19th was a very special day for Nikola Tesla Primary school and all of Moravice. It was a day when ***Stories and Legends of Moravice*** came to life.

Stories and Legends of Moravice is a bilingual book about the legends of the village told by the late **Marica Kosanović** who told the stories to her grandson **Aljoša Pošmuga**, and he kindly shared them with us. **Natalija Dokmanović**, **Refik Husić** and **Milica Milošević** did the translation of the legends which required a lot of effort and time as well enthusiasm. The cover photos are the work of **Natalija Dokmanović** and they present the natural beauty of Moravice.



During the book promotion **Suzana Pošmuga**, the late Marica's granddaughter, gave a touching speech about her beloved grandma which made some of us cry. **Natalija**, **Refik** and **Milica** presented some of the legends from the book while **Maja Milošević** and **Vedrana Vučković** were in charge of offering the book to the visitors at the price of 20 kuna. They were wearing traditional costumes to fit the occasion. After all, the whole event was about the cultural heritage of Moravice.

Thank you to all those who consider Moravice their home as well as all those who love Moravice regardless of where they live!

Davorka Nekić, prof.
HUPE Rijeka Branch president

Skype in the Classroom

I have been teaching English as a foreign language in primary school for more than 15 years. I strongly feel that educators are important role models for students and they have a big impact on helping to shape, create, support and establish students' strengths, goals and knowledge. Therefore, I am fully aware of my role and the impact I have on my pupils and the responsibility to my community in general. As Robert John Meehan once said: "We are not just teachers. We are the managers of the world's greatest resource: Children!" I truly believe in this.

Because I take my role as an educator seriously, I am constantly in search of engaging subject matter for my



pupils. I must admit it has not always been easy because every year I see new, more technologically savvy generations in my classroom. These new pupils are acclimated to technology, making me realize that if I want to keep up with them I have to bring something into my classroom that they find relevant.

This is why I came up with the idea of introducing Skype into my classroom. I thought that this tool could assist me in engaging my pupils in learning as well as making my teaching approach interesting to their generation. Since its 2009 launch, Skype in the Classroom has given students the ability to circle the globe, visiting places they once could only read about in books, and allowing them to connect with people of all ages and cultures around the world – without ever having to leave their classrooms.

In my case, it started on the 8th of April 2014, when I conducted my first Skype lesson. My seventh grade class had a project about Ireland and I arranged with an Irish teacher, Ms. Joanne Toal, to have a Skype lesson with her class from Dublin. My students were buzzing with excitement prior to the lesson. We had prepared to sing Molly Malone for them. The Irish class was a boys-only class and my students found this very interesting. The boys had to guess where we were from as it was a Mystery Skype lesson for them. For us, it was a lesson about Ireland and its culture. Both classrooms had fun learning about each other.

Since then, Skype in the Classroom has been a regular part of my curriculum. To date, we have had Skype lessons with classrooms from Ireland, the USA, Canada, the UK, Australia, Israel, Belarus, Kenya, Austria, India and Germany.

We have also had Skype lessons with guest speakers. Our guest speakers have included the writers Annie Fox and Heidi Schulz. We had a lesson with the Virginia Historical Society, from the USA, where Mr. Evan Liddiard talked about the American Indian Pocahontas and other Virginian Indians to my sixth grade students. We have had a lesson with software developer Trina Roy, who works for [Pixar Animation Studios](#). And, Mr. Željko Ivezić, a famous Croatian astrophysicist, has also spoken to my class.

The experience and knowledge that we have gained has been immensely valuable. My pupils simply love these lessons because they can speak English and have fun at the same time. They almost forget that they are at school. This tool allows us to explore beyond the four walls of our classrooms. Skype is an awesome international gateway for education. Imagine being able to bring in experts from anywhere on any subject to teach, inspire, and motivate your pupils. Imagine being able to [talk to an author](#) of a book your class just finished reading and ask him or her questions about the book. Imagine [conversing and collaborating with a class](#) half-way around the world.

Many of these lessons have taught my pupils much about other countries: their geographical positions, cultures, and traditions. These Skype sessions often integrate many subjects within one lesson. In one session, we have the opportunity to study English, Geography, Civil Education, Science, History, Music and other subjects. The best feedback I have received when I asked my pupils what they have learnt from these lessons is when one of them said: "I learnt that we are not different".

Skype has definitely brought a different perspective to teaching, learning and using English in my classroom. By bringing other classrooms and guest speakers from around the world into my classroom, Skype is helping my pupils become more open and interested in other countries and cultures thus raising their cultural awareness. It has also contributed to reducing language anxiety as some pupils have overcome their fear of speaking English.

Every lesson is a valuable experience but there are a few that are my favourites. One of them is the lesson with Mr. Željko Ivezić where we learned about his current project, the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST), for which he serves as the Project Scientist and the chair of the LSST Project Science Team. Another favourite was when we celebrated the



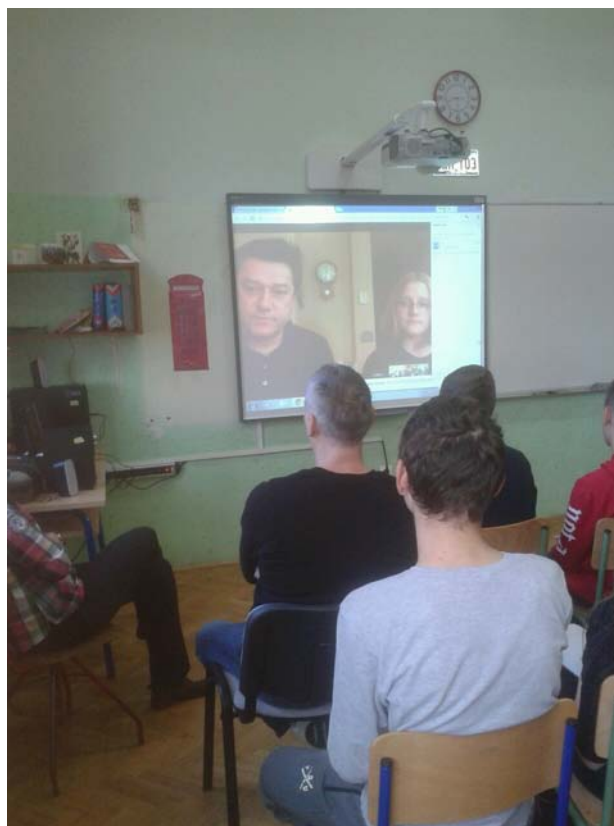
European Day of Languages with a class from Kendal in the UK. We taught the British pupils the Croatian version of the first verse of the song "If you are happy." Ms. Helen Thwaites, the British teacher, said after the lesson: "Thank you so much for Skyping with us; it was a really fantastic experience for both me and the children. Please thank your students, they were fantastic teachers. My class is now buzzing with excitement and is getting ready to sing that song to our school!"

Skype is an instructional tool that provides boundless opportunities for authentic teaching and learning. Integrating Skype into my lessons brings the curriculum to life for my students in ways never before possible. Can you imagine that special moment when you announce a class activity and it's greeted with claps, screams, and cheers? Well, in my case that's my students' reaction when I announce we are going to have a Skype lesson. It brings pure joy, wonder, and intrigue to my pupils.

Over 400,000 teachers from 265 countries and regions have joined Skype's mission to bring real life teaching to over 6 million students around the globe. This says it all, doesn't it?

Gordana Novak

OŠ Vladimir Nazor, Križevci



Why are E-twinning projects, Comenius and Erasmus+ school partnerships and In-Service Trainings valuable for my teaching and how have they strengthened the European dimension in education?

Some people used to ask me why I got involved in Comenius, now so called Erasmus + projects. The answer has always been easy, the involvement raises the intercultural competence of my pupils as well as of my colleagues and staff who joined the project. It definitely has a positive influence on everyday life in schools even though there are still teachers that can not realize why an understanding of the diversity of European cultures and languages is important and motivating for learning foreign languages, for showing more tolerance towards other cultures and people. I have to admit that those teachers are still admirers of the traditional way of learning and teaching and have no interests in involving themselves and their pupils actively into any aspect of creative work. So, be prepared to work with enthusiastic teachers who want to improve their methods of teaching in order to ensure a successful project.

My pupils have boosted their social skills and their ability to work in teams through many activities and tasks. Many of them have gained some knowledge and ICT competencies and became more self confident and motivated to learn. My school OŠ Borovje as well as our partner schools got the opportunity to explore different countries, cultures, ways of



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

thinking and living. The projects have become a part of our curriculum and interests. They have helped in developing our creative approaches. Integrating a European project into the curriculum has not been always easy. Sometimes we have had to rearrange some plans and have posed some difficulties and problems to the management of the school, but we have always managed to find a successful solution. So do not be discouraged.

We have produced many end products such as booklets, brochures, DVD/CD-s, exhibitions, videos, artistic performances and others. We have improved our teaching and learning methods and other pedagogical approaches and have added additional resources, ideas and skills to our school. Also, I have been lucky to have a few colleagues who have been familiar with Information and Communication Technology, so we've managed without an ICT teacher to monitor our progress and self-evaluation, as well as our dissemination of results which are crucial for the success of the project.

You may ask yourself what are the benefits of the mobilities that we have had so far. They are of great importance to us because we have deepened the sense of European identity and citizenship among our students by travelling with them to France, Bulgaria and Portugal. They have met new friends, improved their language competences, discovered new cultures and seen sights of national importance.

My **preparatory visit to Portugal** (Escola Secundaria Rafael Bordalo Pinheiro) located in Caldas da Rainha enabled me to meet a potential partner institution and to agree upon the topic of the project. Preparatory visits usually last up to five days and they enabled me to meet coordinators from Italy, Finland, Poland, Germany and Portugal. Our main interests were finding ways to preserve forests as well as how to protect the environment.



My in-service trainings, courses abroad to Ireland and Scotland also contributed to the improvement of my knowledge, skills and attitudes. I met many colleagues and made new friendships, exchanged ideas and problems. I loved Cork and Dublin, Irish stew and Guinness beer. Irish islands and the sweeping landscape of Cliffs of Moher are places where beauty, laughter and music come together, wrapped up in myths and legends. Also, the Scottish picturesque landscape, golf courses, lakes and majestic scenery of St. Andrews, Stirling and Culross made my course even more attractive. I instantly fell for the charms of Edinburgh, a gracious capital city, and Dunfermline where our training took place..



My E-twinning projects facilitated the cooperation between ourselves and the other European schools through the Internet. In fact they have helped me realize how to organize the project and how to manage its activities. The projects I've realized were "**Unite Balkans**", "**Let's Discover Europe**" for which we got **The European Quality Label**, "**The Source of Life-Water**", "**The European Day of Languages**" and "**Following the Preassigned Outlines of Project 2 Books**". All these projects had an impact on both my students and myself. In other words, the students started to value themselves and their work, they got more interested in learning even though they were not aware of studying. If you engage your students in such work they will be excited

and they will try to get into contact with peers from other countries and exchange the experiences and school facts.

Such cooperation among the teachers of European countries and their pupils enhanced the

quality of school education and emphasized the greater inclusion in the European society. My experience through E-t winning projects encouraged me to carry on with the idea of becoming a coordinator for one of the Erasmus+ partnership schools projects.

I got involved in the Comenius partnership project "**Europemix**" 2012-2014 and became the coordinator of the Erasmus+ partnership project "**The Healthier the Happier**" 2014-2016.

Both projects changed my way of teaching. Once you get hooked up, you can't stop doing it! This is because participating in such international projects and organizing student exchanges, like it or not, inspire you to acquire professional knowledge and skills and undergo professional development.

In those two projects we visited many countries, got familiar with different school systems and cultures. We visited Cyprus, France, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Greece, Turkey, Poland, Italy, Portugal and the upcoming mobility is in Romania.

We've participated in many activities such as surveys among students regarding healthy habits, organized numerous lectures and presentations about healthy nutrition and addictions. We have compared active and non-active life, organized a jogging campaign and active breaks in order to promote exercise and sports. We recorded a video (a play "Healthy Life"), organized an exhibition of creative works displaying sports, advertised the consumption of natural water, did research on GMO/ORGANIC foods, presented healthy recipes, organized competitions in hygiene, and planted an organic garden as well as a variety of other things.

Among other activities we wanted to promote healthy food items so we had a strawberry day, an apple day, filmed an interview with our young football star Marko Pjaca and much, much more.



I hope I've motivated you to apply to The Agency for Mobility and European programs financed by the European Union, because you get inspired and motivated. You start to find yourself looking for ways to improve your lessons and it's a wonderful thing to know that you have friends beyond the borders of your country, whom you can always visit or who can come to visit you. Enjoy the opportunity to change your professional, personal and social life.

Romana Šimunić Cvrtila, prof

OŠ Borovje, Zagreb

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **TESOL-SPAIN 39th Annual National Convention**
11-13 March, 2016 - Palacio Europa, Vitoria-Gasteiz
www.tesol-spain.org
2. **37th TESOL Greece Conference**
19th & 20th March 2016
Theme: Join the Education R-Evolution
Venue: Goethe Institut, Omirou 14-16, Athens Greece
www.tesolgreece.org
3. **24th Annual HUPE Conference**
8-10 April 2016
Hotel Ivan-Solaris Beach Resort –Šibenik, Croatia
www.hupe.hr
4. **50th IATEFL Conference Birmingham**
Broad Street, Birmingham, B1 2EA
13th-16th April 2016
www.iatefl.org
5. **14th ELTA Serbia Conference**
20-21 May 2016, Singidunum University, Belgrade
www.elta.org.rs
6. **BETA Bulgaria**
3-5 June 2016, Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", Bulgaria
www.beta-iatefl.org