

ECML Project C.7 - TrainEd

Training Teacher Educators

National Training Event – Zagreb

30 September – 1 October, 2005

Report

The fifth National Training Event for the TrainEd project took place in Croatia, at British Council Croatia, 12, Ilica St., Zagreb, on 30 September – 1 October, 2005. The two-day workshop was organised locally by Natalija Andraković Kostanjevac, Head of the English Language Department of the Croatian Military Academy, Zagreb. Prof. Kostanjevac managed to considerably raise the profile of this National Training Event by acquiring the support of the Croatian Ministry of Education and of the British Council. The workshop was co-facilitated by the local organiser and Dr. Gabriela Matei, of EduPlus Consulting, Timisoara, Romania, coordinator of the TrainEd project for the European Centre for Modern Languages, Graz.

The workshop was opened by official addresses made by Adrian Chadwick, director of the British Council, and Mrs. Natasa Nikpalj Juraic, Senior Adviser in The Institute for Education. The representative of the Ministry took an active part in the first day of the workshop. The 20 participants were in-service and pre-service teacher educators, as well as mentors. They came not only from Zagreb, but also from Dubrovnik, Osijek, Pregrada, Sesevete, Zapresic, Krasic, and Velica Gorica.

Our main objectives for the workshop were:

- To familiarize participants with the TrainEd project;
- To pilot some of the TrainEd Kit materials;
- To examine the teacher education context participants find themselves in;
- To raise awareness of and reflect on teacher educators' practice, roles and responsibilities;
- To enrich teacher educators' repertoire of skills and activities needed to plan, organize, lead and review different training formats.

The structure of the two-day workshop was the following:

Day 1	Friday, 30 September 2005
9:00 – 9:30	Welcoming the participants – speeches
9:30 – 10:30 Session 1	Presentation of the TrainEd Project Objectives of this workshop
11:00 – 12:30 Session 2	<i>Teacher education – training, mentoring, development</i> Questions/expectations

	My first training/mentoring experience Levels of confidence
13:30 – 15:00 Session 3	<i>Teacher education skills: facilitation</i> Lecturer vs. facilitator Can I facilitate? Self test The trainer as facilitator Dealing with incidents in groups
15:30 – 17:00 Session 4	<i>Teacher education skills: running workshops</i> How to run a disastrous workshop → features of a successful workshop and how to do it well Stages of workshops Feedback for the day
Day 2	Saturday, 1 October 2005
9:00 – 10:30 Session 5	<i>Teacher education activities</i> Training activities and formats
10:50 – 12:20 session 6	<i>Teacher education skills: Observation</i> Presentation and activities (“when it comes to observing a (student) teacher, I am abecause....”; “Being observed makes me feel...”)
13:00 – 14:30 Session 7	<i>Teacher education skills: Feedback</i> Presentation and activities (When is feedback effective; helpful feedback language)
14:45 – 16:15 Session 8	<i>Evaluating training</i> Ways of evaluating training used during this workshop Final evaluation of the TrainEd activities and of the workshop

After the official welcoming of the participants, we presented the European Centre for Modern Languages, Graz, its projects, activities and website, and continued with a presentation of the TrainEd project. The workshop continued with interactive presentations, as well as tasks for participants, pair and group activities, all of them exploring teacher education at pre-service and in-service levels. The presentations and activities, as well as the TrainEd materials, were well received by the participants, who cooperated fully with the facilitators and with one another.

Participants mentioned in their feedback questionnaires that they took away from the workshop, first and foremost, a raised awareness of what teacher education entails, as well as of areas where they need to develop in order to become effective teacher educators; then, participants also mentioned higher levels of confidence and motivation to learn more about teacher education, as well as a “completely new approach to teacher training activities and workshops”; finally, participants mentioned going away with a feeling of achievement and success.

Participants appreciated the “thorough preparation and the well organised sessions”, and were surprised by “how wide and deep the area of being a teacher trainer was”; they also appreciated that they were “able to see an excellent model of facilitation in practice. It was fun and worthwhile.”

Participants were unanimous in their recommending the two trainers to organise follow-up training workshops to this NTE; “to organise a wider and longer course”. They also recommended that Natalija take a position in the “Croatian Ministry of Education and make a huge difference in our part of the world”.

The feedback we received from participants at the end of the event made us as facilitators confident that we achieved the outcomes we expected from the workshop: participants mentioned that they left the workshop with a raised awareness of not only what teacher education involves, but also of the importance of developing their own competence. The participants also appreciated the usefulness of the TrainEd project work and of the TrainEd Kit for less experienced teacher educators, like themselves.