

## The future of language education in the light of Covid – lessons learned and ways forward

### Case study 2 on experiences of foreign language teaching during the Covid pandemic by Luljeta Malaj, Albania

- A. Please write briefly about a memorable language teaching experience, either particularly challenging or especially successful, as an example of your practice during the pandemic:

*What is the national context? What kind of institution? Who were the language learners?*

During the pandemic last year my second-year students made a project which was really impressive. Students did research related to Covid 19. They did research about the virus, which are the symptoms and how can we protect ourselves?

What made their project a good one was the fact that after the project a lot more students were much more careful respecting the anti-Covid rules. Leaflets that they prepared raised awareness among peers, and almost everybody was being more cautious.

*What were the aims of the session/lesson/project?*

To identify the symptoms of covid 19 and come up with a solution to protect ourselves.

*Please write a brief description – the ‘story’ - of what you did/what happened that made this an especially memorable experience:*

The best part of the project was the leaflets about the rules we should follow in order to prevent being infected and the meetings they had with their peers to raise awareness among young people about the potential dangers of Covid.

*What lessons might there be in your experience for language teaching in general beyond the pandemic?*

*Interactive classes are one of my strongest points. Creating a friendly environment and motivating my students have always been my goal. Role playing and discussions about interesting topics are always part of my classes.*

- B. In your context, how have teachers and other colleagues supported each other’s professional practice during the pandemic?

Sharing and supporting each other during the pandemic was very helpful. Online classes required a lot of extra videos, quizzes and activities, so we shared with each other additional materials we had prepared ourselves. This made our job easier.

- C. The pandemic has now lasted almost two years and is not over yet. How is it affecting your professional practice at present?

It has made our job even more challenging. Not having the right equipment, and reduced time makes teaching and learning process even more difficult. We had to adapt our teaching skills and try to make them as effective as possible to suit the online teaching and learning process as well as our students needs, but still I don’t think that online teaching and learning is as effective and enjoyable as face to face classroom interaction.