

The future of language education in the light of Covid - Lessons learned and ways forward

Case study on experiences of foreign language teaching during the Covid pandemic by
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- 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:*

Who were the learners?

Pupils aged 10 to 14 throughout Croatia, pupils I have never met in person or taught.

What were the aims of the session/lesson?

Different aims according to Croatian national curriculum for French language dealing with communicative competence, intercultural competence, and language learning autonomy.

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

March 2020, schools closed, and distant learning began in Croatia. The Ministry of Education organised support for teachers, providing video lessons for each school subject targeting pupils in elementary schools as well as in high schools. That was an unexplored situation for me but from March 2020 until now, I have made more than 45 video lessons uploaded on the webpage of Ministry of Education <https://i-nastava.gov.hr/>, on YouTube channels of Ministry of Education: [YouTubeŠZŽ MZO i-nastava](#) as support to colleagues during COVID 19 pandemic. Each video lesson has the activity outcomes presented to students at the beginning of the lessons and several languages activities always followed by formative assessment. For assessment, I used different digital tools like: Edpuzzle, MS Forms, Wordwall, LearningApps, Bookwidgets, Genially and Thinglink.

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

Interactive lessons made with the aid of different digital tools proved to be effective in developing learning competences but also keeping students motivated for language learning in classrooms as well as in virtual classrooms.

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

They shared their knowledge and experiences concerning the use of digital tools, lesson plans, digital activities using social networks.

- C. *What especially important thoughts, experiences or insights have you had about language education during the Covid pandemic?*

Teachers in Croatia shifted to online teaching rather quickly, due to well organised teaching and learning platforms that have already existed (before the Covid pandemic) and supported each other in different challenges.