

The „Language Educator Awareness, LEA project aims to develop a **training kit** aimed at making language teachers reflect on the diversity that characterizes the process of linguistic and communicative education.

Nominated by the national authority at the Ministry for Education and Science, I attended the first workshop in January 2005 at the ECML in Graz and got involved in the project activities. The second step was developing activities for the LEA training kit, which had to be approved by the LEA project team. After the second meeting and the approval of the activities, I am supposed to try out the activities and the LEA questionnaire on the local level with a group of teachers or teacher trainees and evaluate the effectiveness of the activities before they are published as part of the CD with all the other activities for teacher training.

My plan is to perform **two sessions of training** at the Faculty of Philology in Skopje during the second part of October 2005, with teacher trainees at their final year of university. Nevertheless, this training

sessions will be open to any interested teacher, member of ELTAM who would like to be part of it and is strongly motivated to develop his/her awareness of cultural and linguistic diversity.

If you are interested in participating at the two sessions (3 hours each), please write to me at gordiana@mt.net.mk. You will be sent further information about the venue of the training sessions. The number of places will be limited, so do get in touch sooner if you are interested.

If you want to learn more about the other projects and activities of the ECML, you can open their web page <http://www.ecml.at>. Some of the documents and publications can be accessed online. It will be a chance to learn more about the most contemporary research in the area of modern languages within the ECML and the Council of Europe.

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ELTAM IS ESTABLISHING ITSELF AS TRAINING PROVIDER

After five years of successful performance on the educational scene in Macedonia in the area of networking of EFL teachers, organizing workshops and events for its members and international conferences, ELTAM has managed to become a partner of the Ministry of Education and Science in providing teacher training for elementary and secondary state school teachers in the region of Skopje.

The Ministry of Education and Science has started a project called Project for Modernization of Education within which a very important component is development of professional skills of teachers. There are several areas in which professional skills of teachers are developed, among which are: developing skills for basic communication in English with use of terminology for information technology and internet.

There was an open call for providing project proposals for the pilot teacher training in January 2005 announced in the national daily newspapers. At the meeting of ELTAM local coordinators in Skopje held on February 4, it was decided that a group of teachers from ELTAM executive committee should prepare a project proposal.

Among large number of applicants, ELTAM was selected with five other providers of training to

compete in the second round and prepare a project proposal designing a programme for teacher training. The selection criteria were very competitive and it was essential that the people who were chosen for the project had considerable working experience and teacher training experience.

Considerable effort was put into the project proposal prepared by the working team composed of five ELTAM executive committee members led by Gordiana Gjorgova and the proposal was submitted on time. Towards the end of April, the ELTAM team was selected on a public opening of tender documentation as the best provider for the proposed teacher training as a pilot project.

The training started in May and lasted for six weeks for the first group of primary and secondary school teachers. Due to the summer break the training for the second group of the first cycle started on 15 of August and will finish last week of September. The implementation of the training was a great challenge for the team members starting from the design of the programme to planning every single detail of the training, which was closely monitored by the unit for the coordination of the project from the Ministry of Education and Science. One of the requirements of the pilot project was external evaluation of the

training provision, which was performed twice, as well as submission of reports about the implementation of the project.

The evaluation by the trainees was very positive and all the participants expressed satisfaction with the quality of the programme, expertise of the trainers and the progress they have made. Satisfaction was expressed also by the unit for coordination of the project after the inception report and mid-term reports were submitted. The ELTAM team of teacher trainers had been praised for the quality of their work and the seriousness in performing all the required elements of the pilot project. The feedback from the schools which were trained was also very positive.

The training is going to end in the last week of September and on September, 30th there will be a conference organized by the Ministry of Education for the award of certificates for teachers who have been trained. The considerable effort put in the implementation of this project has been rewarded to the members of the team, but what is more important it has brought to ELTAM as a teachers' association informal recognition from the Ministry of Education and Science as a serious partner for provision of quality teacher training.

The first pilot phase of the project included 10 schools from the Skopje region. The project is going to continue in five more cycles of training with 10 to

12 schools in each cycle all over the country. There will be again an opportunity for ELTAM to compete on an open call on national level. In order to do so ELTAM will have to build a large pool of teacher trainers who will be able to perform the training not only in Skopje but in other towns as well.

So if you are interested in participating in the possible future training and if you have a teaching experience of at least 8-10 years, as well as experience as teacher trainer and workshop leader, you can send your CV electronically to any of the ELTAM executive committee members. Firstly, ELTAM will have to compete with a new project on the open competition, and then if it succeeds it will have to build a quality team of trainers. The selection of trainers will depend on many circumstances, years of teaching experience, participation in teacher training and organization of workshops, as well as the location for training.

Finally, it must be concluded that participation in such a project for teacher training is a great challenge for ELTAM and its members and will help ELTAM establish itself as a serious provider of teacher training in the future.

Gordiana Gjorgova
President of ELTAM and
Coordinator of the project for teacher training

BETA-IATEFL, Bulgaria, Fourteenth National conference

Fourteenth National BETA-IATEFL conference took place at the New Bulgarian University, Sofia on May 7-8, 2005. The New Bulgarian University is settled in the part Ofca Kupel about 12 km from the center of Sofia, capital of Bulgaria. The University with its facilities was well suited for this conference. It was an event to remember and another opportunity for English teachers to meet and share ideas. Six teachers from Macedonia attended the conference, two of them Elena Simeonova and Valentina Kikerkova (ELTAM representative) had their presentations. The three plenary speakers were Gary Anderson (Eurasia, Cambridge University Press), Adrian Tenant (Macmillan University Press) and David A. Hill (E LT consultant, Budapest). In the first plenary, "Which come first: the chicken or the egg? Language development or Exam training?" Gary Anderson spoke about the quality of the language courses and systematic language development, skills work and learning strategies as

well as exam tasks, training, and tips. Adrian Tenant gave the second plenary talk, "Getting it right" in which he focused on the pressure on students to get things right in grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciations. Besides, there is a pressure on the teachers to get it right, too. They should teach the students to higher and higher levels, from a younger age using up-to-date methods and ideas. David A. Hill presented his ideas in the third plenary, "ChickLit, LadLit and Toby Litt: An overview of the very recent British prose and poetry." He spoke about the changes in the modern English prose and poetry. Being himself a poetry writer he gave a full review of the modern poetry and fiction trends.

Various topics were presented during the sessions. The role of the teacher to create supportive environment, where learners feel confident and good about themselves and each other, where they feel safe to try things out to take risks, make