



# TESOL-UKRAINE NEWSLETTER

**Dear TESOL-Ukraine members and their friends!**

Welcome to the spring-summer joint issue of TESOL-Ukraine Newsletter!

This issue presents:

-  2024 TESOL International Convention;
-  Association with IATEFL;
-  TESOL-Ukraine Convention-2024;
-  Minutes of TESOL-Ukraine Leaders' Meeting;
-  The Summer Course "Storytelling with a Purpose";
-  TESOL-Ukraine Professional Development Program.

We wish you a productive completion of the academic year! Inspire and be inspired! Stay safe!

TESOL-Ukraine Executive Committee, August 2024

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# Resilience and Progress: A Message from TESOL-Ukraine President Olena Ilienکو



**OLENA ILIENKO**

**TESOL-Ukraine President**  
**Head of the Department of Foreign Languages**  
**O.M. Beketov National University of Urban Economy in Kharkiv**  
**(Kharkiv, Ukraine)**

Dear TESOL-Ukraine Community,

As we begin a new academic year, now entering the third year of the ongoing Russian aggression, I extend my warmest greetings to each of you. These times have tested us all, yet our community has demonstrated remarkable resilience, solidarity, and a steadfast commitment to education and each other.

I am incredibly proud of the strength and spirit of our members. Despite the challenges we face, you have come together, supporting one another and fostering a sense of unity that transcends the difficulties of the present. Our shared dedication to education, language, and the betterment of our society continues to inspire us all.

This year, TESOL-Ukraine has been vibrant and active, hosting numerous online and offline events. We had online trainings, gathered for our annual Convention in Lviv, engaged in enriching discussions at the Summer School in Hungary, and held productive Board meetings. Our members also represented us on the international stage, participating in the TESOL Convention in Tampa, Florida. These events have not only strengthened our professional ties but have also fortified our resolve to stand strong together.

Our focus on teacher development remains a cornerstone of our resilience. Through continuous learning, collaboration, and the sharing of best practices, we are not just weathering the storm but actively shaping the future of education in Ukraine. Each lesson taught, every connection made, and all the efforts invested in professional growth contribute to the broader narrative of our community's strength and perseverance.

As we move forward, let us continue to support one another, embrace new opportunities, and strive for growth. Together, we are not just surviving; we are thriving. I am confident that the coming year will bring even greater achievements for TESOL-Ukraine.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment and resilience. Let us move forward with hope, determination, and the belief that our collective efforts will contribute to a brighter future for our beloved Ukraine.



# The TESOL-Ukraine Members at the 2024 TESOL International Convention and Language Expo in Tampa, Florida



**HANNA PODOSYNNIKOVA**

**Head of the Department of English Philology and Linguodidactics, Sumy State  
Pedagogical University named after A.S.Makarenko  
(Sumy, Ukraine)**

In March, 2024 through funding and support from the U.S. Embassy's Regional English Language Office in Kyiv, the Ukrainian English language educators traveled to the conference from various regions of Ukraine. Fourteen Ukrainian teachers gave presentations on professional development topics in the field of English language teaching to conference attendees from all across the world. The Ukrainian TESOLers also presented their publications – the results of the Ukraine TESOL Faculty Professional Development Project supported and funded by RELO in 2023-2024.





The Ukrainian educators received an overwhelmingly positive response from the international teaching community that expressed appreciation for the presenters’ collaborative approach and sharing of practical examples and resources.

Ms. MacArthur, the regional English language officer in Ukraine, Poland, Moldova, Romania and Hungary, expressed appreciation for the Ukrainian educators’ professionalism and commitment to the field of English language teaching during a time of war.

“The Ukrainian educators’ stories of resilience and their engagement in professional development during such challenging times to benefit their students, their communities and the future of Ukraine is truly inspiring,” Ms. MacArthur said.



The leaders of the TESOL Ukraine Association – Maryna Tsehelska, Lilia Kuznesova and Olena Iliencko – gave a presentation titled “Using Metacognitive Schemes for Teaching Young Learners.”



Serhii Petrenko together with Lyudmyla Hnapovksa co-presented a session titled “Bridging English for Specific Purposes and English as a Medium of Instruction at Ukrainian Universities.”



Mr. Petrenko also co-presented with Iryna Zuyenok on “Building relationships through cross-cultural endeavors: Ukrainian Outlook.”

Tracy Mannon, a virtual English language educator through English language programs teamed up with her Ukrainian colleague, Violetta Panchenko, to deliver the presentation “Creating ‘normal’ in English language courses in war-torn Ukraine.”



The presentations by Ukrainian educators at the convention also included: “Empowering learners through activism: fostering critical thinking, creativity, and citizenship” by Lidiia Aizikova and Alla Spichenko; “Dynamic assessment of ESP students’ reading competence” by Tetiana Korol; “Creating culturally responsive inclusive EFL classroom environment through visual arts” by Nataliia Lazebna and Natalia Marakhovska; “The smart observation app to support peer observation” by Laura Baecher (USA, the Hunter College), Yulia Datsko, Antonia Devitska and Inesa Melnyk; “Socio-emotional response in preservice classrooms: changing teachers to change curriculum” by Ms. Datsko, Ms. Davitsa and Ms. Melnyk; “SEL technique to suit students’ abilities and preferences in crisis” and “SEL in formative assessment in the English language classroom” by Natalia Dmitrenko, Olena Hladka and Ms. Panchenko; and “Contextualizing and integrating learning for Ukrainian students via new curriculum” by Oksana Lozhnikova, Bohdana Saliuk, Alla Spichenko and Heather Tatton-Harris, an English language specialist with the U.S. Department of State’s English Language Programs.

The Ukrainian TESOLers also presented to the international teaching community their publications – the collective monograph “Digital Technologies for Teaching English as a Foreign / Second Language” by Iryna Shkola, Bohdana Saliuk, Nataliia Antonenko, Tetiana Korol, Hanna Podosynnikova, Nataliya Prokopchuk, Maryna Shevchenko, and the manual “Reading and Analyzing Short Stories: Focus on SEL” by Juliia Korobova and Hanna Podosynnikova.

The Convention in Tampa was a great chance for TESOL Ukraine members to communicate with TESOL Affiliates Leaders from all over the world, to meet with friends and colleagues from sister-affiliates TESOL Hawaii, TESOL Turkey and TESOL-Italy, our



great friend from CATESOL Chris Stillwell, and Roxanna Senyshyn-Ksenzenko, who is doing so much to promote Ukrainian teachers.



The TESOL Ukraine is grateful for these abundant precious opportunities and empowering experience to the State Department of the USA, the Embassy of the USA in Ukraine, and Regional English Language Office, U.S. Embassy, Kyiv – Jen MacArthur, Lottie Baker, John Silver, Lilia Shylo, Alyona Sukhinina.



Cited from: [https://subscription.ukrweekly.com/2024/04/ukrainian-educators-deliver-professional-development-presentations-at-international-convention-in-florida/?fbclid=IwY2xjawFIBptleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHcZ4GsGRJKKWgunIK-AfTJG3TQn274pOwQjkyJcio5TI3UOb9ZS6Nf71\\_g\\_aem\\_NJrzQQ\\_INjq5YNLa0Re\\_tA](https://subscription.ukrweekly.com/2024/04/ukrainian-educators-deliver-professional-development-presentations-at-international-convention-in-florida/?fbclid=IwY2xjawFIBptleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHcZ4GsGRJKKWgunIK-AfTJG3TQn274pOwQjkyJcio5TI3UOb9ZS6Nf71_g_aem_NJrzQQ_INjq5YNLa0Re_tA)



# TESOL-Ukraine Renews Associate Agreement with IATEFL: A Promising Partnership for the Future

We are delighted to announce that TESOL-Ukraine has officially renewed its Associate Agreement with the International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language (IATEFL). This agreement, now active until 2027, marks a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to professional development and international collaboration in the field of English language teaching.

## Benefits of Our Renewed Partnership

This renewed agreement brings numerous benefits to TESOL-Ukraine and our members, including:

- **Access to Resources:** Our members will now have access to the IATEFL Associates' Handbook and a variety of other valuable resources. These materials will support our mission to provide high-quality professional development opportunities and enhance our educational programs. This partnership enables us to bring the best global practices and innovative teaching methodologies to our community, enriching our members' professional journey.
- **Special Membership Discounts:** As part of our agreement, IATEFL is offering a special discount code for TESOL-Ukraine members to join IATEFL at a reduced rate of £27. This discount makes it more affordable for our members to benefit from the wide range of resources, events, and networking opportunities that IATEFL offers. Becoming a member of IATEFL opens doors to a global network of ELT professionals, allowing our members to connect, collaborate, and grow alongside colleagues from around the world.
- **Use of IATEFL Associates' Logo:** TESOL-Ukraine can now proudly display the IATEFL Associates' logo on our website and marketing materials, highlighting our association with this prestigious international organization. This visible endorsement emphasizes our alignment with IATEFL's standards of excellence and reinforces our shared commitment to advancing the field of English language teaching.

## A Message of Gratitude

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the IATEFL team for their continuous support and dedication to advancing the field of English language teaching. Their commitment to fostering professional growth and development aligns perfectly with our goals at TESOL-Ukraine. We are grateful for their partnership and look forward to the mutual benefits this collaboration will bring.

## Looking Forward

We are excited about the opportunities this renewed partnership will bring. The collaboration with IATEFL will undoubtedly enhance our ability to provide top-notch professional development, resources, and support to our members. With access to IATEFL's wealth of expertise and global connections, we are well-positioned to continue making significant strides in our mission to empower English language educators across Ukraine.

Together with IATEFL, we will continue to drive forward innovative approaches to teaching and learning, create meaningful professional connections, and provide our members with the tools and knowledge they need to excel in their careers. We are confident that this renewed partnership will serve as a powerful catalyst for growth and success for both TESOL-Ukraine and our dedicated members.

Let's look forward to a future of shared learning, professional growth, and continued excellence in the field of English language teaching!



*TESOL-Ukraine Executive Committee*



# 2024 TESOL-Ukraine National Convention: Compassionate ELT - Voices of Resilience and Diversity in a Time of War

Lviv, May 24-26, 2024



**OLGA ZELINSKA**

**Associate professor with Foreign Languages Department of  
Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University (Kharkiv, Ukraine)**

The 2024 TESOL-Ukraine National Convention, titled "Compassionate ELT: Voices of Resilience and Diversity in a Time of War," was a landmark event held in Lviv from May 24-26, 2024. Supported by the Regional English Language Office and the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine, the convention brought together educators from across Ukraine and beyond to share their experiences, insights, and innovative practices in the field of English language teaching.

This year's convention was a testament to the resilience and dedication of the English language teaching community in Ukraine, especially in the face of ongoing challenges posed by the war. The event provided a platform for educators to discuss and address the unique needs of their students, many of whom are navigating the complexities of learning in a conflict-affected environment.

### **Key Highlights and Sessions**

The convention was markedly enriched by the quality and depth of the presentations. Educators from diverse backgrounds shared their expertise on a range of topics, focusing on fostering resilience, promoting diversity, and implementing compassionate teaching practices in the EFL classroom. The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with many highlighting specific sessions as the highlights of the convention.

### **Voices of Resilience**

One of the central themes of the convention was resilience. Sessions under this theme explored strategies for helping students cope with trauma and stress, emphasizing the importance of creating a supportive and nurturing classroom environment. Presenters shared practical tips for building students' emotional resilience, helping them to not only survive but thrive academically and personally.

### **Celebrating Diversity**

Another significant focus was on celebrating and leveraging diversity in the classroom. Educators discussed the benefits of culturally responsive teaching and the importance of acknowledging and valuing the diverse backgrounds of their students. Sessions highlighted innovative approaches to inclusive education, ensuring that every student feels seen, heard, and respected.



## Compassionate ELT Practices

The convention also emphasized the need for compassionate ELT practices, especially in times of crisis. Presenters provided insights into trauma-informed teaching methods, showing how educators can support their students' mental health and well-being while maintaining high academic standards. These sessions were particularly relevant given the ongoing war and its impact on the educational landscape in Ukraine.

## Support and Collaboration

The support from the Regional English Language Office and the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine was instrumental in making this convention a success. Their commitment to advancing English language education in Ukraine and their unwavering support for the teaching community was evident throughout the event. The collaboration between Ukrainian educators and international partners underscored the importance of global solidarity in education.

## Conclusion

The 2024 TESOL-Ukraine National Convention in Lviv was a powerful demonstration of the strength and resilience of the English language teaching community in Ukraine. The dedication and passion of the presenters and participants were palpable, and the convention provided a much-needed space for professional growth, collaboration, and support.

As we continue to navigate these challenging times, the insights and strategies shared at the convention will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on English language education in Ukraine. The commitment to compassionate ELT, resilience, and diversity showcased at this event serves as an inspiration to educators everywhere.

TESOL-Ukraine extends heartfelt thanks to all who participated and supported this convention. Your contributions have made a significant difference, and we look forward to continuing this journey together, empowering our students and enriching our communities.





# X Forum for Researchers: Research and Education in the Global World - Eurointegration Processes During Wartime

**O. M. Beketov National University of Urban Economy in Kharkiv, TESOL-Ukraine, and the Center of Foreign Languages (O. M. Beketov NUUE) May 10, 2024**

On May 10, 2024, the O. M. Beketov National University of Urban Economy in Kharkiv, in collaboration with TESOL-Ukraine and the Center of Foreign Languages, hosted the X Forum for Researchers titled "Research and Education in the Global World: Eurointegration Processes During Wartime." This event provided an essential platform for scholars, educators, and researchers to discuss the challenges and opportunities presented by the ongoing Eurointegration processes amidst the backdrop of war.

## Key Themes and Discussions

The forum addressed the intersection of research and education in a global context, with a particular focus on how wartime conditions affect these processes. Participants from various academic and professional backgrounds came together to share their insights, experiences, and research findings on several critical themes.

## Eurointegration During Wartime

A central theme of the forum was the impact of the war on Ukraine's Eurointegration efforts. Presenters discussed the resilience of the Ukrainian education system and its alignment with European standards despite the challenges posed by the conflict. The discussions highlighted the importance of continued collaboration with European institutions and the integration of best practices in education and research.

## Innovations in Research and Education

The forum showcased numerous innovative approaches to research and education that have emerged during the wartime period. Speakers presented on a variety of topics, including the use of technology to facilitate remote learning, the adaptation of curricula to meet the needs of displaced students, and the implementation of new methodologies to ensure the continuity of research activities.

## Resilience and Adaptation

Resilience and adaptation were recurring themes throughout the forum. Educators and researchers shared their strategies for maintaining academic excellence and research productivity under challenging conditions. The exchange of ideas and best practices underscored the collective determination to overcome obstacles and continue contributing to the global academic community.

## Collaboration and Support

The forum also emphasized the importance of international collaboration and support. Presenters highlighted the role of global partnerships in sustaining educational and research initiatives. The contributions of international organizations, academic institutions, and professional associations, including TESOL-Ukraine, were acknowledged as vital to the ongoing efforts to support Ukraine's educational and research sectors.



## Conclusion

The X Forum for Researchers at O. M. Beketov National University of Urban Economy in Kharkiv was a significant event that brought together a diverse group of educators and researchers committed to advancing research and education during wartime. The discussions and presentations provided valuable insights into the Eurointegration processes and highlighted the resilience and innovation of the Ukrainian academic community.

As Ukraine continues to navigate the complexities of war, forums like this are crucial for fostering collaboration, sharing knowledge, and supporting the country's integration into the European educational and research landscape. The organizers extend their heartfelt thanks to all participants and supporters, whose dedication and contributions made this forum a success.

TESOL-Ukraine remains committed to supporting the academic community in Ukraine and looks forward to future collaborations and initiatives that further the goals of research and education in the global world.



# Empowering Students with a Supportive and Healing Environment: Theoretical and Practical Tips for EFL Teachers



**ANNA GUSEVA**  
**Associate Professor at V.N. Karazin National University**  
**(Kharkiv, Ukraine)**

The 4th Conference for Associations organized by TESOL-Turkey in Izmir was a remarkable gathering of educators and professionals dedicated to advancing the field of English language teaching. Representing TESOL-Ukraine, President Olena Ilenko and I had the privilege of participating in this event, which brought together a diverse group of individuals committed to sharing knowledge and best practices.

Our presentation, "Empowering Students with a Supportive and Healing Environment: Theoretical and Practical Tips for EFL Teachers," highlighted the pressing issue of trauma among students and its impact on their learning experiences. Trauma is a significant public health concern, especially for children, and can manifest in various ways, including difficulty in self-regulation, negative thinking, hypervigilance, and inappropriate social interactions.

Students who have experienced trauma often struggle to express their emotions healthily, leading to behaviors such as aggression, avoidance, or withdrawal. For educators, understanding these behaviors and their root causes is crucial for providing effective support and interventions. Our session aimed to equip teachers with the knowledge and tools needed to create trauma-informed and culturally responsive learning environments.

During the presentation, we emphasized several key points:



**Understanding Trauma:** We provided foundational knowledge about trauma and its effects on students' emotional and cognitive development. Recognizing the signs of trauma and understanding its impact on behavior is the first step in addressing the needs of traumatized students.

**Creating Safe Spaces:** Establishing a safe and supportive classroom environment is essential for students to feel secure and ready to learn. We discussed strategies for building trust and fostering positive relationships between teachers and students.

**Implementing Trauma-Informed Practices:** We shared practical strategies for incorporating trauma-informed care into teaching practices. These include being mindful of triggers, using positive reinforcement, and creating predictable routines that provide a sense of stability for students.

**Culturally Responsive Teaching:** Understanding and respecting students' cultural backgrounds is crucial in providing effective support. We highlighted the importance of culturally responsive teaching practices that acknowledge and value students' diverse experiences and perspectives.

**Supporting Emotional Expression:** Helping students learn to express their emotions healthily is vital for their overall well-being. We discussed techniques for promoting emotional literacy and providing opportunities for students to process their feelings in a safe and constructive manner.

The feedback from our session was overwhelmingly positive, with many attendees expressing their appreciation for the practical tips and insights shared. The conference also provided a valuable opportunity to network with other professionals and exchange ideas on how to best support students in the EFL classroom.

Overall, the 4th Conference for Associations organized by TESOL-Turkey was a significant and enriching experience. It underscored the importance of collaboration and knowledge-sharing in the field of English language teaching. TESOL-Ukraine is proud to have contributed to this event and remains committed to empowering educators and supporting students through innovative and compassionate teaching practices.

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# Minutes of TESOL-Ukraine Leaders' Meeting

Held on July 2-3, 2024

**Place:** 16 Velyka Vasylykivska St., Kyiv, Ukraine

**Date:** July 2-3, 2024

**Acting Chair:** Ms. Olena Ilienکو, TESOL-Ukraine President

**Acting Secretary:** Ms. Oksana Chugai, TESOL-Ukraine Secretary

## TESOL-Ukraine Leaders present:

1. Ms. Olena Ilienکو, TESOL-Ukraine President, Executive Committee Member;
2. Ms. Maryna Tsehelska, TESOL-Ukraine Vice-President, Executive Committee Member;
3. Ms. Liliia Kuznetsova, TESOL-Ukraine Treasurer, Executive Committee Member;
4. Mr. Sergii Petrenko, TESOL-Ukraine Newsletter Editor, Executive Committee Member;
5. Ms. Oksana Chugai, TESOL-Ukraine Secretary, Executive Committee Member;
6. Ms. Ganna Gusieva, TESOL-Ukraine National Coordinator;
7. Ms. Lyudmyla Hnapovska, Sumy Oblast;
8. Hanna Podosynnikova, Sumy Oblast;
9. Ms. Liudmyla Sinna, Kharkiv Oblast;
10. Ms. Vitalina Biletska, Cherkasy Oblast;
11. Ms. Iryna Zuyenok, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast;
12. Ms. Olena Halapchuk-Tarnavska, Volyn Oblast.

## AGENDA

I. Registration (Olena Ilienکو, Maryna Tsehelska)

II. Greetings (Olena Ilienکو)



III. Reports of the Executive Committee Members (Olena Ilienکو, Maryna Tsehelska, Liliia Kuznetsova, Sergii Petrenko, Oksana Chugai)

IV. Planning TESOL-Ukraine events (moderators - Olena Ilienکو, Maryna Tsehelska)

V. Summary

VI. Adjourn

## DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS

### I. Registration (Olena Ilienکو, Maryna Tsehelska)

The participants of TESOL-Ukraine Leaders' Meeting registered as soon as they arrived.

### II. Greetings (Olena Ilienکو)

**Olena Ilienکو** welcomed TESOL-Ukraine Leaders' Meeting participants and provided information about the agenda. Voting was conducted and the agenda was approved.

### III. Reports of the Executive Committee Members (Olena Ilienکو, Maryna Tsehelska, Liliia Kuznetsova, Sergii Petrenko, Oksana Chugai)

**Olena Ilienکو**, the President, presented the report of the events and activities during 2023-2024 years. She said that TESOL-Ukraine website contains all the information about conferences, seminars, webinars, online courses and other events, as well as the lists of participants, photos, certificates, Newsletters, Boos of Papers, etc. Olena Ilienکو added that TESOL-Ukraine is widely presented on social media (Facebook, You Tube, Instagram), which is important for disseminating the information about professional development events during wartime. Some of the events include:

- Online EMI Basics Course: "Empowering Educators in Eastern Ukraine" held from 01 April 2024 – 31 May 2024 hosted by Linguistic Centre of Dnipro University of Technology, DniproTECHub, Coordinator and E-Moderator: Iryna Zuyenok;
- The 2024 TESOL-Ukraine National Convention "Compassionate ELT: Voices of Resilience and Diversity in a Time of War" held in Lviv from May 24-26, 2024. The event was supported by the Regional English Language Office and the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine;



- TESOL-Ukraine Teacher Development Spring 2024 (Certificate for 30 academic hours) “Developing Intercultural Communicative Competence in the Foreign Language Classroom”;
- the X Forum for Researchers “Research and Education in the Global World: Eurointegration Processes During Wartime” held in Kharkiv on May 10, 2024, hosted by the O. M. Beketov National University of Urban Economy in Kharkiv, in collaboration with TESOL-Ukraine and the Center of Foreign Languages;
- “Launching Your Canvas Course: Tips and Tricks”, an online course held in January - March 2024 by Luidmyla Hnapovska and Yuliia Klymovych;

**Maryna Tsehelska**, the Vice-resident, provided additional information about the events and activities during 2023-2024 years and added that it is crucial to involve more educators from different regions of Ukraine who will be oblast leaders and coordinate work of their team members. Maryna Tsehelska also shared information about corporate culture and tribal leadership, the basics of any NGO.

**Liliia Kuznetsova**, the Treasurer, presented a report of her activities during this period. She also spoke about financial sustainability of TESOL-Ukraine to conduct professional development events for its members.

**Sergii Petrenko**, the Newsletter Editor, briefly described work of the Editorial Board and thanked all those who contributed to the Newsletter issues. He also shared his experience of successful applications for TESOL-international events.

**Oksana Chugai**, the Secretary, shared her experience of organizing and taking part in the professional development events and expressed hope that more TESOL-Ukraine members will support the initiatives of TESOL-Ukraine Executive Committee.

#### **IV. Planning TESOL-Ukraine events** (moderators - Olena Iliencko, Maryna Tsehelska)

The participants of TESOL-Ukraine Leaders’ Meeting (Lyudmyla Hnapovska, Hanna Podosynnikova, Liudmyla Sinna, Vitalina Biletska, Iryna Zuyenok, Olena Halapchuk-Tarnavska) shared their experience, spoke about the lessons they learned and discussed future TESOL-Ukraine events.



**Lyudmyla Hnapovska** shared her experience of hosting in-person Professional development school for EFL teachers as well as online PD events, which demonstrated secondary school teachers' willingness to get hands-on practical experience rather than have theoretical input. Her commitments: 1. facilitating 2nd online course "Launching your Canvas course: tips and tricks" for university teachers (January - March 2025). 2. Organizing and coordinating TESOL Ukraine SIG on LTA (Language testing & Assessment).

It was pointed out that:

- Next TESOL-Ukraine Convention will celebrate the jubilee – 30 years. There will be elections of the Executive Committee Members. Therefore, all the profile of the candidates will be published in next issues of Newsletters;
- Online EMI Basics Course: "Empowering Educators in Eastern Ukraine" will be held in November – December 2024 hosted by Linguistic Centre of Dnipro University of Technology, DniproTECHub, Coordinator and E-Moderator: Iryna Zuyenok;
- TESOL-Ukraine Winter school (Storytelling or Coaching), the venue to be chosen later;
- "Launching Your Canvas Course: Tips and Tricks", an online course will be held in spring 2025 by Luidmyla Hnapovska and Yuliia Klymovych.

## V. Summary

**Olena Iliencko** summarized the results of the discussion and thanked the participants of TESOL-Ukraine Leaders' Meeting for their contributions to developing strategic plans for the coming year.

## VI. Adjourn



## The Summer Course “Storytelling with a Purpose” for Ukrainian and Hungarian ESL Teachers (Siófok, Hungary, 15-19 July, 2024)



**OKSANA CHUGAI**

**Associate Professor, National Technical University of Ukraine**

**“Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute”**

**(Kyiv, Ukraine)**

Continuous Professional Programs (CPD) for teachers aim not only at mastering the latest teaching methods, technologies, and educational research, but fostering a culture of collaboration in an international environment. CPD also plays a crucial role in supporting the well-being of teachers, contributing to a healthier, more balanced professional life.

Ukrainian and Hungarian teachers took part in the Summer Course “Storytelling with a Purpose” in Siófok, Hungary between 15-19 July, 2024. This event was co-hosted by [Angoltanárok Nemzetközi Egyesülete - Magyarország](#) (TESOL Hungary) and TESOL-Ukraine, sponsored by [Regional English Language Office, U.S. Embassy, Kyiv](#).

**Day one of the Summer Course “Storytelling with a Purpose”.** First day was devoted to Community Building, Sessions “Storytelling from the Soul”, “Performance: Body Semiotics”, “Professional Stories”, and “Identity Wheels”. Each session started with ice-breaking activities which allowed the participants to learn more about each other. It was then the ESL teachers from different countries could meet their old friends and make new ones. It was then the rules and routines were established, and the participants were

familiarized with the location of the Conference Rooms various sessions were held in. Remarkably, timing was one of the main features of this event, the schedule being never violated. Another distinctive feature of this Summer Course was creating new groupings not only each day, but sometimes each session. Thus, there were so many opportunities for the participants to learn about others not only as individuals, but as professionals, their experiences and backgrounds. In addition, ESL teachers were able to develop their teambuilding and intercultural communication skills.



At the opening ceremony in Room Balaton of Sungarden Hotel

At the end of the first working day the participants had a Scavenger Hunt exploring the sights in Siófok, taking pictures at each and then composing stories using their background knowledge, imagination and creative writing skills. Those stories were presented at the beginning of the following days, creating connections between the aims of the Summer Course, its location (Siófok, Hungary), the participants and facilitators.



Doing a Scavenger Hunt in Siófok



**Day two of the Summer Course “Storytelling with a Purpose”.** The second day started with a warm-up activity “My Granny in Brazilia”. It’s a fun activity based on TPR. The participants should stand in a circle and do the task in turns. One should think about a real or imaginary relative and what they usually do in the morning. Sharing this information with others should be accompanied by body language – gestures, movements, noises, etc. The point is for everyone to mirror those movements.

This warm-up activity was followed by sessions “If Only I Knew”, “Healing Power of Storytelling” and “Follow-up to morning reading”. Practically all the sessions were based on or inspired by the book “If You Only Knew” by Emily Frances, an immigrant teacher, who shared her experiences through the letters to her students, each chapter devoted to one particular student. The facilitators were sure to provide enough time for the participants to read a couple of chapters of this book and share their opinions. Discussions were not only about the book and the issues described there, but about the participants’ experiences and lessons they learned.

**Day three of the Summer Course “Storytelling with a Purpose”.** Day three was special as the first session was outdoors in the Terkep park. The participants explored and shared the ways of managing well-being by freewriting, doing breathing exercises, walking in the park, working individually and in small groups. It was fun to become part of this town everyday life at least for a short period of time.



Some participants and facilitators at the outdoor session in the Terkep park

Next session “Silent Books” presented strategies and tools of using various techniques in teaching English. Imagination, critical thinking, creative ways of solving problems are needed to decode a story using pictures, body language or sounds. In addition, the participants had a hands-on experience of creating their own silent books in groups. The final session “Storyboarding” provided a framework for the participants to explore the potential of this tool in ESL. They completed their storyboards individually and after that shared them with others.

Remarkably, the participants of the Summer Course spent their individual time not only exploring Siófok, but preparing their Final Group Projects to be presented at the end of the Course.

**Day four of the Summer Course “Storytelling with a Purpose”.** Day four started with Springboard Session “Multimodality and Storytelling” which focused on the use of multiple modes or channels of communication to convey information in storytelling. These modes can include a combination of text, images, audio, video, gestures, and other forms of representation. Other sessions revealed tips and tricks on “Science in Stories”, “Boosting Students’ Soft Skills”, “Storytelling for Future Success”, and “Professional Persuasion”. Each of the sessions provided plenty of opportunities for the participants to reveal their

creativity and teambuilding skills. Meanwhile, they continued working on Final Group Projects.



Working in small groups at the sessions

The organizers of the Summer Course planned a movie night and demonstrated the film “If”, a beautiful movie for both, kids and adults, that takes viewers on a nostalgic journey, exploring life through a child’s eyes. It celebrates imagination, family, and friendship, reconnecting forgotten imaginary friends with their grown-up creators. Besides, it was another effective way of demonstrating how to tell stories.

**Day five of the Summer Course “Storytelling with a Purpose”.** Day five, the last day of the Summer Course, was devoted to sharing Final Projects. The participants had some time to finalize their presentations, skits, roleplays, whatever they decided to choose. Presenting their Final Stories aimed at answering the question “What’s Your story?”. It wasn’t easy to do as it had to be a group performance which presented each individual takeaway. However, all the groups coped with that task brilliantly, each in their own unique way. Finally, American, Hungarian and Ukrainian facilitators demonstrated their skit illustrating what they may do after the Summer Course is over.



Ukrainian and Hungarian ESL teachers on the completion of the Summer Course  
“Storytelling with a Purpose” in Siófok, Hungary

This Summer Course “Storytelling with a Purpose” in Siófok, Hungary was special as Ukrainian participants shared their wartime stories with others, spreading the word of what is happening in Ukraine. All the participants had an opportunity to grow professionally, co-operate with like-minded people and recharge their batteries preparing for next academic year.

Special thanks to the Summer Course facilitators, Laszlo Katona (Hungary), Lori Edmonds (The USA), and Tetiana Konovalenko (Ukraine), who devoted their time, efforts and expertise to creating this amazing experience. Special thanks to the Summer Course organizer, **Barbara K. Horváth**, Main Organizer, TESOL Hungary [partnering@iatefl.hu](mailto:partnering@iatefl.hu), **Jen MacArthur**, Regional English Language Officer, U.S. Embassy Kyiv, [KyivRELO@state.gov](mailto:KyivRELO@state.gov) together with **János Ujlaki**, President, Angoltanárok Nemzetközi Egyesülete (TESOL Hungary) and **Olena Iliencko**, President, TESOL-Ukraine. Without the support of the Regional English Language Office at the U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Angoltanárok Nemzetközi Egyesülete (TESOL Hungary), TESOL-Ukraine, and the U.S. Embassy Budapest this remarkable event would be impossible. Thank you!!!



**Reflections from the Frontlines: Insights from  
Leading the TESOL-Ukraine Professional  
Development Program "Designing Your Canvas  
Course: Tips & Tricks"**



**LYUDMILA HNAPOVSKA**  
Associate Professor at Sumy State University, Department of Foreign  
Languages and Linguistic Didactics



**JULIA KLYMOVYCH**  
Lecturer at Zhytomyr Ivan Franko State University, Department of Cross-  
Cultural Communication and Foreign Language Education

In today's fast-paced world of educational technology, it's essential to be able to create a captivating and efficient online course. While developing and delivering the professional development program "Designing Your Canvas Course: Tips & Tricks," we had the unique opportunity to assist 20 educators from Ukrainian universities in mastering Canvas, one of the leading Learning Management Systems. The course took place from January 3 to April 2, 2024, and spanned 180 hours (equivalent to 6 ECTS credits). In this article we would like to reflect on our experiences as trainers and share some of the valuable insights gained from leading this transformative course.



Throughout the development process, our primary aim was to create a course that will be highly practical and hands-on. We understand that educators have varying levels of familiarity with Canvas, so we carefully designed the course to accommodate a wide range of skill levels. Each module was crafted to offer not only theoretical knowledge but also actionable strategies that participants could put into practice immediately.

During the training, it was eye-opening to recognize the diverse needs and expectations of the participants. Some were experienced users seeking advanced tips, while others were beginners in need of foundational knowledge. Tailoring the content to meet these varying needs was a challenge, but it ultimately resulted in a more enriching learning experience for all involved.

A key focus of the course was practical application. We organized eight interactive workshops within the program, and designed an online course on Canvas LMS specifically tailored to allow participants to actively experiment with Canvas tools and features. This hands-on approach was extremely valuable as it enabled educators to see firsthand how the discussed strategies and techniques could be implemented in their own courses.

Encouraging collaboration among participants was a key element. By facilitating group discussions and collaborative projects, we observed how sharing experiences and strategies not only enriched individual understanding but also built a sense of community among educators. Creating this collaborative environment was challenging, but it led to

creative solutions and innovative ideas that might not have emerged in a more isolated setting, which was truly rewarding.



Throughout the course, several recurring challenges emerged. These included issues related to course navigation, creating engaging content, ensuring accessibility, etc. By addressing these common pain points directly, we were able to provide targeted advice and solutions that resonated well with participants’ needs.

One of the most important takeaways from our role as trainers was the value of continuous feedback. Regularly soliciting feedback from participants helped us refine the program content and delivery. This iterative process not only improved the course but also highlighted areas where additional support or clarification was needed.



Hearing success stories from participants was incredibly rewarding. By sharing their insights from designing and piloting the Canvas courses tailored to various academic settings, participants highlighted how their courses helped them revamp their teaching

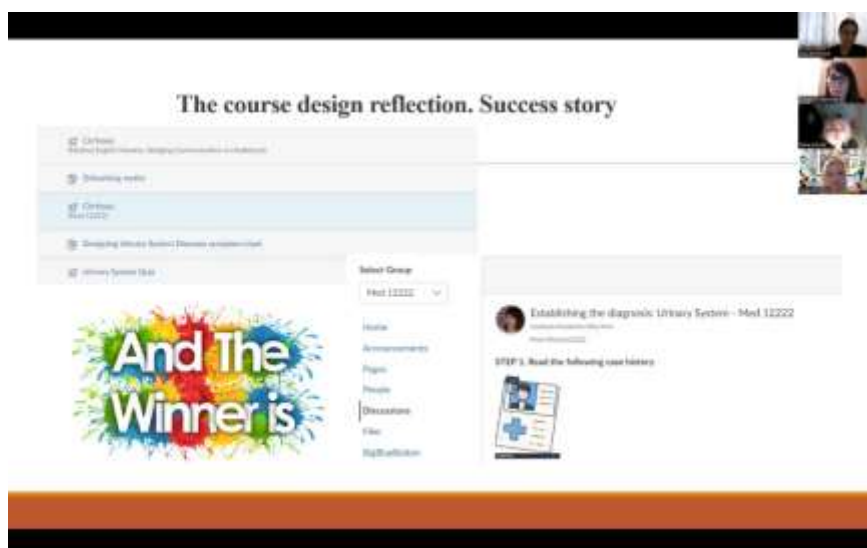


philosophies, which led to more engaging and effective learning experiences for students, their increased motivation, and enhanced interaction and satisfaction.

Below are several quotes from the feedback that our course participants provided upon completing this professional development program.

*“One of the highlights of the course was the hands-on approach. We weren’t just passive recipients of information; instead, we actively engaged with Canvas, applying what we learned in real-time. The interactive workshops allowed us to experiment with various tools and features, such as creating multimedia content, designing assessments, and structuring course modules.”*

*“From the outset, the course promised to demystify the intricacies of Canvas, offering practical strategies for designing engaging and efficient online courses. Our instructors were seasoned experts in educational technology who guided us through a series of modules designed to enhance our proficiency with the platform. The course covered a range of topics, from basic navigation to advanced features, and each module was crafted to address both common challenges and innovative solutions.*



In general, leading the “Designing Your Canvas Course: Tips & Tricks” program was a deeply fulfilling experience. It reinforced the importance of practical, hands-on training and the value of addressing the diverse needs of educators. The insights gained from both leading the course and engaging with participants will continue to inform our approach to online and blended learning formats.

The process of developing an effective online course is ongoing. Teachers willing to enhance their Canvas course design abilities should consider pursuing professional development opportunities of this kind. With the genuine support from the TESOL-Ukraine board, which was truly inspiring, and the outstanding commitment from the TESOL-Ukraine community as a whole, which was fantastic despite our wartime challenges, we can all work together to create more engaging and impactful learning environments."



**It's a great professional development opportunity!**

*TESOL-Ukraine Newsletter* invites all of you to submit articles on various subjects of the professional life of the English teachers and TESOL-Ukraine activities in your places.

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

***Dear TESOL-Ukraine members,***

On this page we bring to your attention the main rules set for submissions to the TESOL-Ukraine Newsletter. Following the requirements you will easily choose the field and format for your article. You will save your time and efforts while preparing it and ensure the best result for it as to be accepted for publication either in the TESOL-Ukraine Newsletter or in any other TESOL International journal. The Editorial Board may suggest the author to send the material for partner's TESOL-Hawaii Newsletter. You are always welcome in your articles to share research-based practices, to report on practice at all levels and in all contexts that is grounded in theory and has immediate relevancy to practitioners.

The main requirements to the material submitted:

1. The submission must be original and not a revision or restatement of research in the field.
2. The submission must not have been previously published or be under consideration for publication elsewhere.
3. Authors may use British or American spelling, but they must be consistent.
4. The authors should submit manuscripts electronically to the Editorial Board of the TESOL-Ukraine Newsletter. Submissions should be in Microsoft Word or compatible program. Please submit figures, graphs, and other graphic elements in a standard graphic format (e.g.: JPEG or Excel). Tables should be created in Microsoft Word or compatible program.
5. Authors who want to submit video or music files should contact [OChugai@meta.ua](mailto:OChugai@meta.ua) for further information.
6. All quoted materials must be cited in the text and in the following reference list.



7. All the submissions should be addressed to [OChugai@meta.ua](mailto:OChugai@meta.ua).

The Editorial Board will be thankful to both the authors of new rubrics and those of the traditional sections of the TESOL-Ukraine Newsletter.

# Editorial Board

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