




TESOL-UKRAINE NEWSLETTER

Dear TESOL-Ukraine members and their friends!

Welcome to the fall winter joint issue of TESOL-Ukraine Newsletter!

This issue presents:

-  TESOL-Ukraine Elections 2025;
-  TESOL-Ukraine Teacher Training Series;
-  TESOL Hungary Convention 2024;
-  IATEFL Conference in Poland;
-  MOSAIC Project: Advance Intercultural Awareness in ELT;
-  Teacher Mobility: Study Visit to Warsaw;
-  TESOL-Ukraine Convention 2025: Call for Participation.

Inspire and be inspired! Stay strong! Stay safe!

TESOL-Ukraine Executive Committee, March 2025

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Commitment and Resilience: 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 fourth 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, joining the TESOL Convention in Tampa, Florida. Our collaborative efforts, teaching dedication and enthusiasm evolved in partnering with IATEFL (Great Britain) and in participation and presentations at the top offline professional and educational events organized by Tesolers all over the world: Tesol Turkiye Affiliate Summit (Izmir, Turkey), Tesol Italy Annual Conference (Rome, Italy), TESOL2025



(Long Beach, the USA), Tesol Hungary Annual Conference and “Storytelling with a Purpose” summer school (Siofok, Hungary).

Staying engaged and empowered by the support of the global Tesol community, we celebrated our collaborative accomplishments as we continued launching more Ukrainian in-house trainings, seminars and programs. Teacher Development Institute “Mastering the Craft: Writing Techniques and Insights from Professional Authors and Educators” was the platform that united outstanding writers, artists, bloggers and poets. The Institute culminated in a heartfelt Christmas gathering in the American House that turned out to be a truly healing family session for Ukrainian Tesolers.

And then we got back to work again – to teach, to breath, and to live. To make our peer community and country ever more resilient and resistant. Our desires and will evolved into making of the Mentorship Program. We engaged top trainers to insightful professional trainings (“Positive Influence at Work” with Mark Powell). We started the training for Novice/Future Teachers “Introduction to CELTA”. And it has not stopped on that. In the middle of March we are initiating a new wave of the popular training “Using English as Media of Instruction”. 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.

TESOL-Ukraine Elections 2025

TESOL-Ukraine ELECTIONS

Nomination: TESOL-Ukraine President



Name of applicant: Olena Iliencko

Institute: O.M. Beketov National University of Urban Economy in Kharkiv

Education:

2020 – Doctor of Science in Education

1991 – PhD degree in Linguistics, Doctor of Sc. in Education

1980 – Kharkiv State University, qualification Philologist, teacher of English language and literature

Professional Work Experience:

2013 - present – O.M. Beketov National University of Urban Economy in Kharkiv, Head of the Department of Foreign Philology and Translation

1991-2013 – Kharkiv State Institute of Municipal Economy associate professor

1986 -1991 Kharkiv State Institute of Municipal Economy, lecturer at Foreign Languages Department

1983 - 1985 – Kyiv State Pedagogical University of Foreign Languages, post graduate student

1981-1983 Kharkiv State Institute of Municipal Economy, lecturer at Foreign Languages Department

Professional Affiliations and Recognition:

1998 – 2004 – TESOL Ukraine National Coordinator

2019 – present – TESOL-Ukraine President

Projects:

2019 – 2023 – TESOL-Ukraine member of the Erasmus project “Foreign Language Teacher Training Capacity Development as a way to Ukraine’s Multilingual Education and European Integration/MultiEd”

2009 – 2025 – organizing committee member of TESOL-Ukraine Conventions? trainings and webinars

2023 – administrative manager of Summer Institute "Teaching in a Time of Crisis: Innovative Tools, Strategies, and Approaches to Improving English Learning for Ukrainians"(Krakiv, Poland)

2024 – co-organizer of the Summer Institute “Storytelling with a purpose” (Shiofok, Hungary)

Conferences:

Presented at TESOL2023 in Portland (USA), TESOL2024 in Tampa (USA), TESOL Turkey Affiliate Summit 2024 (Izmir, Turkey), TESOL Italy Conference 2023, 2024 (Rome, Italy).

TESOL-Ukraine ELECTIONS

Nomination: TESOL-Ukraine Vice-President

Name of the applicant: Hanna Podosynnikova

Institute: Sumy State Pedagogical University named after A.S. Makarenko

Current position: PhD in Education, Associate Professor, Head of the Department of English Philology and Linguodidactics. Head of Inter-University Research Laboratory of Modern Technologies of Teaching Foreign Languages and Cultures

Education: PhD in Education



Year	Educational Qualification	Field	University
2003	PhD in Education	13.00.02 – theory and teaching methods: Germanic languages	Kyiv National Linguistic University
1996	Specialist	English and German Language	Sumy State Pedagogical Institute named after A.S. Makarenko

Professional Appointments

Dates	Position	Establishment
2023 - present	Head of the Department of English Philology and Linguodidactics	Sumy State Pedagogical University named after A.S. Makarenko
2021-2023	Associate Professor at the Department of English Philology and Linguodidactics	Sumy State Pedagogical University named after A.S. Makarenko
2013-2021	Associate Professor at the Department of German Philology	Sumy State Pedagogical University named after A.S. Makarenko
1996-2012	Lecturer at the Department of German Philology	Sumy State Pedagogical University named after A.S. Makarenko

Professional Affiliations and Recognitions

2024 – present – Head of Center for English Language Teaching Advancement

2015 – present – Head of Inter-University Research Laboratory of Modern Technologies of Teaching Foreign Languages and Cultures

2024 – present TESOL-Ukraine board member

1996 – present TESOL-Ukraine member

Projects:

2021– present – “Pre-Service English Teacher Methodology Program for Pedagogical Universities” held in collaboration with RELO Office of the Embassy in Ukraine

2024 – present - MOSAIC Project – Maximizing Opportunities for Shared Awareness and Intercultural Competence for Language Teachers held in collaboration with RELO Office of the Embassy in Turkey

2022-2024 – “Professional development program for instructors at pedagogical colleges and universities in Ukraine” held in partnership with RELO Office of the Embassy in Ukraine; “The Ukraine Teacher Exchange Program” (Michigan State University, USA), TESOL24 International Convention & Expo (Tampa, USA).

Awards:

2024 – Diploma from People's Deputy of Ukraine

2023 – Diploma from the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine

2013, 2019 – Diploma from the Department of Education and Science of the regional administration

2005 – Diploma from the Department of Education and Science of the regional administration

TESOL-Ukraine ELECTIONS

Nomination: TESOL-Ukraine National Coordinator

Name of the applicant: Ganna Gusieva

Current position: Associate Professor OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE V.N. KARAZIN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Education: MASTER OF PHILOLOGY

WORK EXPERIENCE

01/10/2022 - CURRENT Kharkiv, Ukraine

HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES FOR PROFESSIONAL PURPOSES, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR V.N. KARAZIN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

- general administration and management of the Department;
- organisation of the international conferences, workshops and seminars;
- PhD program administration and management, PhD entrance exams organisation and management;
- Master's degree entrance exams organisation and management;
- Yearly reporting;
- International projects participation.

01/09/2015 - 01/10/2022 Kharkiv, Ukraine

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE V.N. KARAZIN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

- teaching English for professional purposes at the School of Sociology (BA and MA Degree programs); teaching English for PhD students;
- organization of the Students' conferences, international methodological conference, workshops, seminars; Master's Degree entrance exams management;
- The Department's scientific and methodological results reporting.

SENIOR LECTURER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

- teaching English for professional purposes at the School of Sociology (BA and MA Degree programs); organization of the Students' conferences, international methodological conference, workshops, seminars; Bachelor's Degree entrance exams management;
- The Department's scientific and methodological results reporting.

01/09/2002 - 01/09/2005 Kharkiv, Ukraine

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LECTURER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE V.N. KARAZIN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

teaching English for professional purposes at the School of Sociology (BA and MA Degree programs); organization of the Students' conferences, international methodological workshops, seminars.

2002 – CURRENT

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS TESOL-UKRAINE MEMBER

Professional focus:

Multimodality in EFL Classroom Innovative ESP and EAP Methodology Digital Classroom and AI Technologies

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

ERASMUS + Erasmus + project «Developing Reading Skills With and Through Digital Technologies»

ERASMUS+ “DigiFLEd - Modernization of university education programmes in FL by integrating IT”



TESOL-Ukraine ELECTIONS

Nomination: TESOL-Ukraine International Coordinator

Name of the applicant: Sergii Petrenko

Current position:

Associate Professor at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

In my career as an English teacher and teacher trainer, I have tried to help students develop not only language skills (reading, listening, speaking, and writing), but also 21st-century skills (communication, critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, technology literacy, media literacy, and citizenship).



Education:

Cambridge Diploma in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (Delta) (2019)

Cambridge Assessment English

Ph.D. (Linguistics: Germanic Languages) (2014)

Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

Master of International Law (2012)

Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

Master of Linguistics (2008)

Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

Skills:

- Business English
- English as a Medium of Instruction
- English for Specific Purposes
- English for Academic Purposes
- Curriculum Development
- Lesson Planning
- Teacher Training & Mentoring
- Online Course Management
- Professional Publication Writing
- Negotiation

Professional Work Experience:

- Associate Professor (2018-Present) *Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv*
Teaching EAP, ESP, and EMI to political science, public administration, civil service, history, philosophy, and military students
- Corporate English Teacher (2017-Present) *British Council*
Teaching ESP to civil servants
- Senior Teacher (2019) *National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy*
Teaching Public Speaking to international relations students
- Assistant Professor (2011-2018) *Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv*
Teaching EAP, ESP to linguistics, translation, sociology, psychology, history, philosophy, and political science students

TESOL-Ukraine ELECTIONS

Nomination: TESOL-Ukraine Treasurer



Name of applicant: Liliia Kuznetsova

Institute: Lviv Ivan Franko National University

Education: PhD degree in Linguistics

1974-1979 Student of Lviv Ivan Franko State University, Department of Foreign Languages

1979 Graduated from Lviv State University, qualification Philologist, teacher of English language and literature, interpreter

Professional Work Experience:

1979-1983 Lviv Polytechnic Institute, lecturer at Foreign Languages Department

1983- 2011 Lecturer, Lviv Ivan Franko National University, Chair of foreign languages for humanitarian departments

2011-present Associate Professor, ESP, Lviv Ivan Franko National University, Chair of foreign languages for humanitarian departments

Professional Affiliations and Recognition:

2017– present TESOL-Ukraine Treasurer

2001 – 2017 Leader of Lviv TESOL-Ukraine community,

1995 – present TESOL-Ukraine member

2024 – present member of EULETA (European Legal English Teacher’s Association)

Projects:

2008 – 2011 Manager of the International Ecological Project for Sustainable Education “Snow Drops” sponsored by Matra (Netherland)

2012 – 2016 Content manager of the Estonian-Ukrainian educational environmental project for schools and kindergartens with NGO ‘Hared

2019 – 2023 TESOL-Ukraine Administrative manager in the Erasmus project “Foreign Language Teacher Training Capacity Development as a way to Ukraine’s Multilingual education and European Integration/MultiEd



TESOL-Ukraine ELECTIONS

Nomination: TESOL-Ukraine Newsletter Editor, TESOL-Ukraine Secretary

Name of the applicant: Oksana Chugai

Institute: National Technical University of Ukraine “Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute”, Kyiv, Ukraine

Current position: PhD in Education, Associate Professor, Associate Professor at the Department of Technical English № 2, National Technical University of Ukraine “Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute”

<https://kamts2.kpi.ua/chuhaj-oksana-yuriyvna/>



Education:

2012 - 2016 PhD – Thesis Title: “Professional preparation of teaching personnel for adult education system in the USA” Doctor of Philosophy

2002 - 2003 Master's degree in foreign philology (English language)
Dragomanov National Pedagogical University, Kyiv, Ukraine

1998 - 2002 Specialist degree in English language and literature

Dragomanov National Pedagogical University, Kyiv, Ukraine

Professional Work Experience:

2014 – present Associate Professor at the Department of Technical English № 2, National Technical University of Ukraine “Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute”

2013 – 2014 Teacher of English, Military Institute of Telecommunications and Information Technology

2002 – 2013 Teacher of English, Gymnasium “Euroland” of European university

1997 – 2001 Teacher of English, School-kindergarten “Ecoland”, Kyiv

Projects:

- Scientific-pedagogical internship as part of the NAWA Ukraine – European Universities project NAWA UKRAINA ENHANCE2, Language Study Center of the Warsaw Technical University (Poland, Warsaw, 2024);
- The Summer Seminar “Storytelling with a Purpose” professional development program supported by RELO U.S. Embassy Kyiv, TESOL Hungary, TESOL Ukraine, U.S. Embassy Budapest (Hungary, Siofok, 2024);
- The RELO Alumni Conference "Reclaiming Perspectives: Mindfulness and Social Emotional Learning in ELT" (Poland, Krakow, 2023);
- Professional development program of TESOL Ukraine Institute "Teaching in a Time of Crisis: Innovative Tool, Strategies, and Approaches to Improving English Learning for Ukrainians" (Poland, Krakow, 2023);
- Presentation at TESOL 2023 Convention (USA, Portland, 2023);
- Scientific and pedagogical internship MultiEd “E-Course Development”, program Erasmus+, the University of Tartu (Estonia, Narva, 2022);
- Scientific and pedagogical internship "Visiting Scholar Faculty of Arts" program Erasmus+ (Belgium, Leuven, 2018);
- Scientific and pedagogical internship "MELTA Teacher Development Program" at the University of Munich (Germany, Munich, 2017);
- TEA Pedagogical Skills Program (USA, Clermont, 2012).



TESOL-Ukraine Teacher Training Series “Mastering the Craft: Writing Techniques and Insights from Professional Authors”



LILIA KUZNETSOVA

**Associate Professor, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv
(Lviv, Ukraine)**

On December 12–13, 2024, TESOL-Ukraine hosted the much-anticipated **Teacher Training Series** at America House, Kyiv. This two-day professional development event brought together English language teaching professionals, passionate educators, and accomplished authors to delve into the art of writing and its role in fostering creativity, engagement, and growth in the classroom.

TESOL-Ukraine Teacher Training Series “Mastering the Craft: Writing Techniques and Insights from Professional Authors”



Natalie Sea



Jessica Zychowicz



Cecilia Woloch



Tetiana Starostenko

The program featured a diverse lineup of sessions led by seasoned educators and professional writers, each offering unique perspectives and tools to elevate teaching practices. The event also served as a platform for networking, collaboration, and sharing innovative ideas that will undoubtedly shape the future of English language teaching in Ukraine and beyond.

Day 1 Highlights

The event opened with warm and inspiring remarks from TESOL-Ukraine President **Olena Iliencko** and **Liliia Shylo**, Cultural Assistant at the U.S. Embassy's RELO office. Their introductory words highlighted the significance of storytelling in education and the power of writing to connect minds and hearts.

The first session, “**The Hormone Effect: Capturing Minds and Hearts Through Stories,**” led by **Olena Iliencko**, **Lilia Kuznetsova**, and **Maryna Tsehelska**, introduced participants to the emotional impact of storytelling. The session explored how educators can leverage the hormonal responses triggered by well-crafted narratives to engage learners and enhance their comprehension.



After a coffee break and a guided tour of the remarkable facilities at America House, participants returned for a series of engaging sessions. **Liudmyla Sinna** led an interactive session, “**Story Circle Icebreaker and Other Activities,**” demonstrating how collaborative exercises can spark creativity and build community in the classroom.



Yuliia Korobova’s presentation, “**Collaborative Strategies for Teaching Writing: Designing Purposeful and Engaging Group Activities,**” provided participants with actionable techniques for fostering teamwork and critical thinking through writing. The day continued with **Olena Halapchuk-Tarnavska’s** session, “**Fiction Text: What Is Hidden Behind,**” which captivated the audience with insights into the deeper layers of meaning within fictional writing.

Closing the first day, **Lyudmyla Hnapovska’s** session, “**The Power of Place: Stories Told for a Purpose,**” emphasized the importance of setting in storytelling, exploring how physical and cultural contexts enrich narratives and engage readers.



Day 2 Insights

The second day of the event began with an exciting presentation by **Serhiy Zaitsev** from Fulbright Ukraine, who outlined scholarship and exchange opportunities available to Ukrainian educators. His session was a source of inspiration, encouraging participants to explore new horizons in their professional journeys.



The first session of the day, **“Integrated Storytelling-Based Creative Methodologies and Practices in English Teacher Training,”** presented by **Hanna Podosynnikova**, showcased innovative storytelling techniques designed to enhance language learning. This was followed by **Bohdana Saliuk’s** session on **“The Set of Tools for Digital Storytelling and a Syllabus,”** which introduced participants to digital platforms and resources that make storytelling accessible and engaging for learners.

After a brief coffee break, the audience was treated to a collaborative session, **“Enhancing Language Teaching with Real Images and Capturing Culture through Photos,”** led by **Nataliia Pyliachyk, Iryna Malyshivska, and Olha Bilyk**. This session explored how visual storytelling can bring language lessons to life, making cultural connections more tangible and meaningful.

The final session, **“Making Writing Your Favourite Skill,”** delivered by **Svitlana Batsmai**, offered practical advice and motivational strategies to help students view writing as an enjoyable and rewarding activity.

The event concluded with a heartfelt closing ceremony, celebrating the dedication and creativity of all participants and presenters. Certificates of participation were distributed, marking the culmination of an inspiring and productive two days.



Empowering Teachers for the Future

The **TESOL-Ukraine Teacher Training Series** underscored the importance of storytelling and writing in education. By equipping teachers with innovative tools and techniques, the event empowered them to transform their classrooms into spaces where creativity and learning thrive.

TESOL-Ukraine extends its gratitude to all who participated and contributed to the event's success. Together, we are shaping the future of English language teaching, one story at a time.

The TESOL-Ukraine members at the 2024 TESOL Hungary Convention



HANNA PODOSYNNIKOVA

**Associate Professor, Sumy Makarenko State Pedagogical University
(Sumy, Ukraine)**

Twenty dedicated Ukrainian educators participated in the 34th annual international TESOL-Hungary conference “To infinity and beyond” (Siofok, Hungary, October 4-6, 2024), which was held with the support of the Regional English Language Office (RELO) of the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv and the US Embassy in Budapest, Angoltanárok Nemtzektion Egyesülete (TESOL-Hungary), TESOL Ukraine.





The event brought together educators from many countries of the world: Hungary, Ukraine, the USA, Slovenia, Croatia, Britain, Ireland, Spain, Serbia, Poland, Turkey, and Chile.



The conference started with heartwarming welcome words from the TESOL Hungary team and Jen MacArthur, the RELO officer for Ukraine, Poland, Hungary, and Moldova, based at the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw. The event schedule was carefully planned, varied, busy, and enjoyable. The conference featured four brilliant plenary sessions, with invited speakers from renowned professionals and recognized authorities in the field of foreign language teaching: Nora Tartsey Nemeth (Hungary), Jamie Keddy (UK), Sandra Vida (Slovenia), and Jen MacArthur (USA).



After the plenary sessions, numerous seminars and master classes from experts in the field of foreign language teaching were held in parallel, allowing participants to choose and attend the ones that interested them the most.



The conference offered 6 English language teaching topics the participants can dive into: Using AI in the classroom; Social-emotional learning; Inclusivity in the EFL classroom; Collaborative learning strategies; Exam preparation tips; The evolving role of the teacher.



With 5 session rooms – Balaton, Lavender, Bay, Camomile, and Business – English teachers had the chance to choose from 5 parallel sessions at any time to enjoy amazing workshops led by top professionals in language teaching. The suggested sessions were relevant,

interesting, informative, and interactive. The speakers were aspiring educators and experts in their fields.

The TESOL-Hungary team also provided opportunities for inter-sessional communication and organized unrivaled social events that created a friendly atmosphere and facilitated the establishment of personal contacts and the discussion of further cooperation with international partners. At the end of the day, the participants enjoyed the social events.



At the conference closing ceremony, the members of the TESOL Ukraine Executive Committee Anna Guseva, Hanna Podosynnikova, and Lyudmila Sinna expressed admiration and gratitude to the organizers and speakers of the conference for the high level of professionalism and a cordial welcome of the representatives of Ukraine. The participants of the conference received TESOL-Hungary certificates.

We express our deepest gratitude to the Regional English Language Office of the US Department of State and the Regional English Language Officer Jen MacArthur, the US Embassy in Kyiv and the US Embassy in Budapest, Angoltanárok Nemtzektion Egyesülete (TESOL-Hungary), TESOL Ukraine for the unforgettable experience of professional development and intercultural communication.

Presenting at IATEFL Conference in Poland



SERHII PETRENKO

**Associate Professor, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv
(Kyiv, Ukraine)**

In September 2024 TESOL-Ukraine members had the privilege of attending the IATEFL Poland Conference, organized by Stowarzyszenie Nauczycieli Języka Angielskiego w Polsce (Polish Association of English Teachers) in the historic city of Gdansk. The conference brought together English language practitioners and trainers from various countries, creating a dynamic platform for the exchange of ideas and professional development.

The event offered a range of sessions that focused on innovative approaches to language teaching. TESOL-Ukraine members were particularly drawn to workshops on critical thinking, place-based learning, social-emotional learning, coaching, and the concept of teaching unplugged. These sessions explored contemporary methods aimed at fostering deeper learner engagement and promoting skills beyond language acquisition, such as problem-solving and emotional intelligence. TESOL-Ukraine



members found these approaches highly relevant to their own teaching contexts and are excited to incorporate these new ideas into their classrooms.

During the conference, Serhii Petrenko, representing TESOL-Ukraine, delivered a presentation titled *"Co-Creation WORKshop for Professional Growth in ELT."* His session centered on the importance of collaboration among teachers as a tool for ongoing professional development. Petrenko emphasized the value of peer learning and co-creation as effective strategies for overcoming challenges and staying inspired in the profession. The workshop was well-received, offering practical insights on how English language teachers can support one another through collaborative growth.



Another TESOL-Ukraine member, Svitlana Danylina from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, presented *"In the Footsteps of Medieval Troubadours."* Her engaging session highlighted the use of music and poetry in English for Specific Purposes (ESP) classes. Drawing from the traditions of medieval troubadours, Danylina demonstrated how incorporating songs and verses could enhance students' understanding and retention of specialized vocabulary in an ESP context. The audience responded enthusiastically to her innovative approach, which combined creativity with language learning.

Gdansk provided a perfect setting for this enriching experience. Its beautiful architecture and vibrant atmosphere added an extra layer of inspiration to the conference. For TESOL-



Ukraine members, the city's cultural and historical significance made their time at the conference all the more memorable.

TESOL-Ukraine members returned home eager to apply the knowledge and techniques they gathered at IATEFL Poland. The focus on collaboration, critical thinking, and creative teaching strategies promises to bring new energy to their classrooms and further strengthen the professional community within TESOL-Ukraine.



MOSAIC Project: Ukrainian Educators Advance Intercultural Awareness in ELT



YULIIA KLYMOVYCH
Senior Lecturer, Zhytomyr Ivan Franko State University
(Zhytomyr, Ukraine)



HANNA PODOSYNNIKOVA
Associate Professor, Sumy Makarenko State Pedagogical University
(Sumy, Ukraine)

Three Ukrainian university educators – **Hanna Podosynnikova** (Sumy Makarenko State Pedagogical University), **Maryna Shevchenko** (Donbas State Pedagogical University) and **Yuliia Klymovych** (Zhytomyr Ivan Franko State University) – have been selected to participate in the **MOSAIC** (Maximizing Opportunities for Shared Awareness and Intercultural Competence for Novice Teachers) Project, an initiative sponsored by the Regional English Language Office (RELO) Ankara of the U.S. Embassy in Türkiye and

supported by RELO Kyiv, TESOL Turkey and TESOL-Ukraine. This transformative program, designed for emerging English language educators from Türkiye, Georgia and Ukraine, aims to integrate intercultural awareness, critical thinking, inclusive teaching practices and socio-emotional learning into language instruction to pursue the sustainable development goals of the modern multicultural world.



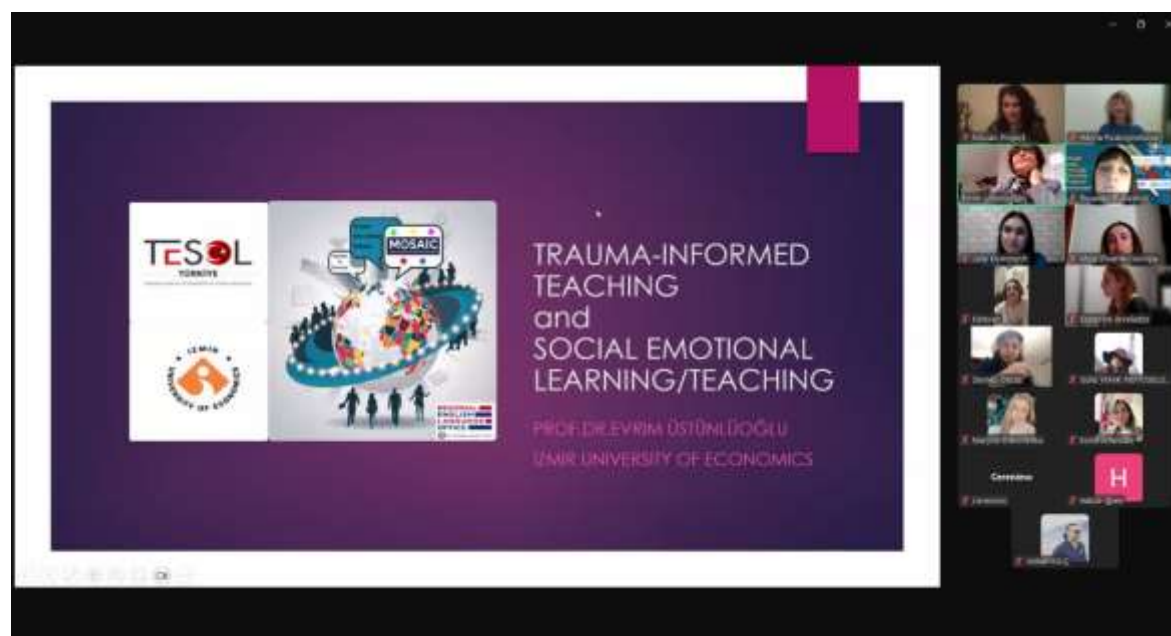
Over the course of four months (November–February), the MOSAIC Project Team engaged in a comprehensive **12-session Modular Training Program** led by distinguished experts in the field of English language education and intercultural studies. Each session provided valuable insights and pedagogical strategies to help participants foster culturally responsive classrooms and was followed by the range of reflective practical assignments.

Dr. Esen Metin (Çankaya University) introduced fundamental concepts of *intercultural competence*, laying the groundwork for understanding how culture influences communication and learning.

Dr. Hakan Tarhan (TOBB University of Economics and Technology) guided participants through *cultural beliefs, values* and *diversity* awareness, incorporating *Hofstede’s Cultural Dimensions Theory* and the DIE (Describe, Interpret, Evaluate) method to enhance cross-cultural understanding.

Beril Yücel (Turkish Education Association) led sessions on *intercultural communication*, *team building* and *active listening strategies*, addressing common barriers to effective communication in multicultural settings.

Prof. Dr. Evrim Üstünlüoğlu (Izmir University of Economics) focused on *trauma-informed teaching* and *social-emotional learning*, introducing the *CASEL framework*, cultural sensitivity in trauma awareness and strategies for integrating *critical thinking* into intercultural education.



Sinem Atamsoy Koşar (Ege University) emphasized *cultural intelligence*, *conflict resolution*, *motivation* and *well-being*, equipping participants with stress management techniques to foster a positive and inclusive classroom environment.

Assistant Professor Bahar Gün (Izmir University of Economics) concluded the Modular Training Program, introducing participants to *global citizenship*, *cultural adaptability skills*, *reflective thinking* and *action planning*, preparing the participants for further mentorship process.

The first phase of the program provided a balanced integration of theoretical frameworks and practical applications, equipping educators with the necessary tools to navigate cultural diversity and facilitate effective intercultural communication in the classroom. Engaging workshops, collaborative discussions and interactive activities helped broaden the

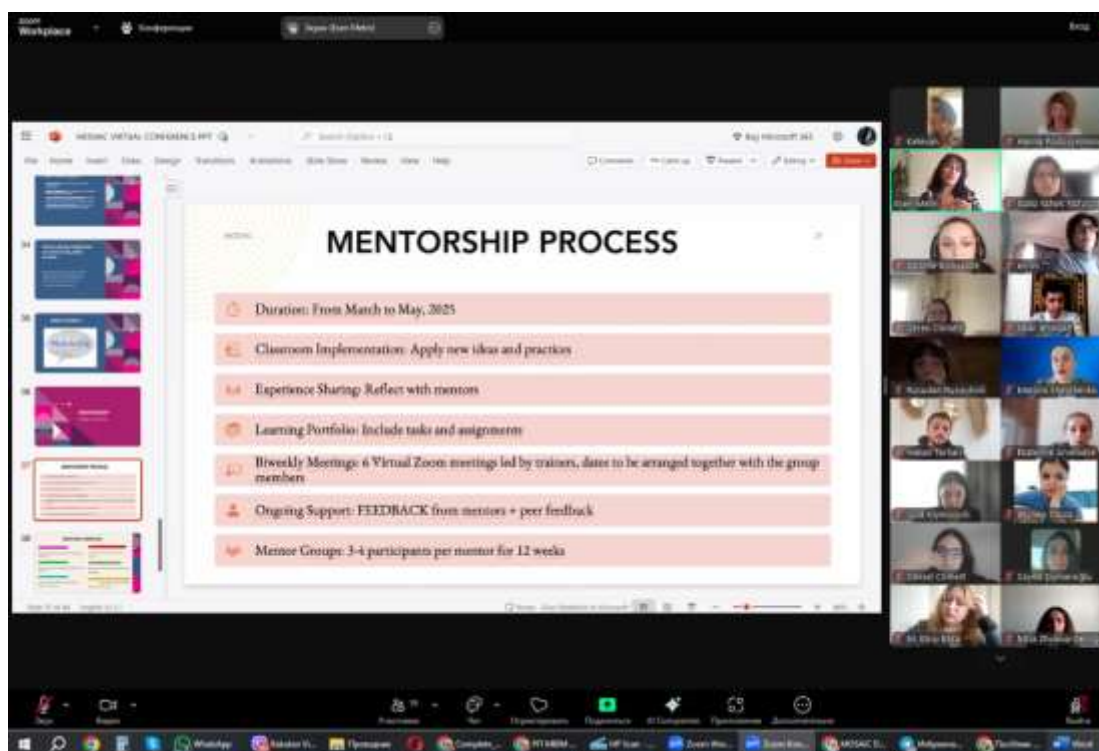
participants' perspectives and strengthen professional networks across Türkiye, Georgia, and Ukraine.



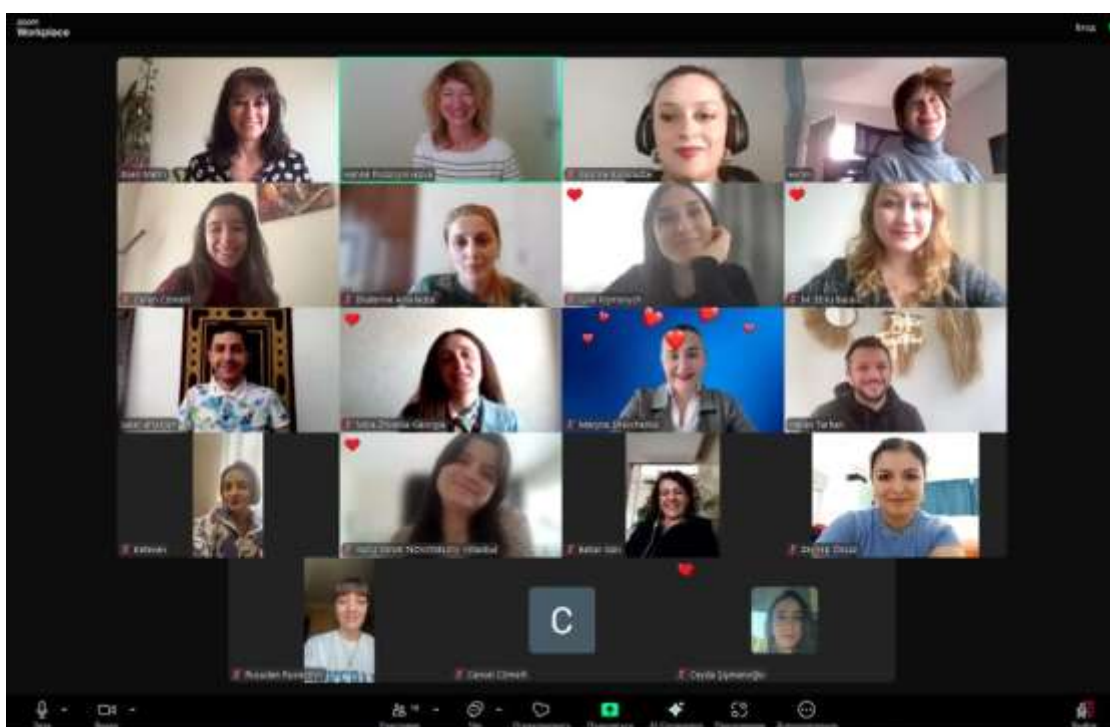
As the first phase of MOSAIC concluded, participants had the opportunity to engage in a **Virtual Mid-Project Conference**, featuring three distinguished TESOL professionals – **Bob Nguyen, Shannon Roach** and **Nuray Lük Grove** – who shared practical insights and innovative teaching approaches:

- **“DIVE’ing into Different Cultures like a Scientist”** – Bob Nguyen introduced ELT professionals to the DIVE method (Describe, Interpret, Verify, Evaluate), a structured approach to multicultural awareness and intercultural competence.
- **“Thinking Creatively to Think Critically”** – Shannon Roach guided participants through an adaptable classroom activity designed to cultivate creative and critical thinking skills in language learners.
- **“Sense of Self and Culture”** – Nuray Lük Grove explored identity formation within cultural contexts, presenting strategies for both students and teachers to enhance self-awareness and cultural responsiveness in ESL classrooms.

Reflecting on their experience, the Ukrainian participants emphasize **practical relevance** of the MOSAIC Project, **supportive learning environment** and **immediate applicability** of newly acquired knowledge in their teaching practice. The project has not only deepened their understanding of cultural dynamics in education, but also inspired them to implement inclusive, student-centered methodologies in their classrooms.



However, this marks only the midpoint of their journey. Participants will continue their professional growth through a structured **mentorship process** with experienced colleagues, culminating in a final project conference.



The MOSAIC Project has reaffirmed the critical role of intercultural competence in contemporary education, inspiring participants to integrate and share their insights within their institutions and professional networks. To be continued...



Teacher mobility: Study visit of university teachers to Foreign Language Centre, the Warsaw University of Technology NAWA UKRAINA ENHANCE2 Project

4-8 November 2024



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There is no denying that university teacher mobility is beneficial for everyone involved. It helps share ideas, spark collaborations, and bring fresh perspectives to teaching and research. It connects people across cultures, improves learning experiences, and keeps education dynamic and exciting. Teacher mobility is crucial for Ukrainian educators who, struggling with the COVID-19 quarantine and its aftermath, got into wartime turmoil on 24 February 2022.



To participate in a teacher mobility program you should be patient and search for an appropriate one, which is not easy for a teacher of English at a technical university – most of the programs are for bachelor, master, PhD students and university teachers of technical subjects. As soon as you find a mobility program for teachers of foreign languages, you should collect all the documents and apply to participate in a competition. The candidates nominated to join the study visit receive a confirmation letter and start preparing for their business trip. It is important to have all the documents officially approved and signed in advance.



A study visit to the Foreign Language Centre at the Warsaw University of Technology (Politechnika Warszawska) brought a range of professional and educational benefits for Ukrainian university teachers. First of all, learning about innovative methodologies and best practices of Polish teachers is sure to inspire new teaching content and stimulate research collaboration. Secondly, engaging with colleagues at the Warsaw University of Technology (WUT) fosters professional connections which results in collaborative research and co-authoring of publications. In addition, learning about interdisciplinary projects, and real-world applications allows improving curricula in Ukrainian universities.



Observing university teachers of WUT employing innovative teaching methods, including project-based learning, and problem-solving approaches enriches our teaching toolkits and enhances our students' learning experiences. Experiencing different academic cultures and teaching methods broadens university teachers' perspectives on education, fosters cultural understanding and tolerance, and encourages students to participate in international



exchanges. Study visits strengthen the reputation of higher education in general and universities in particular. We, Ukrainian teachers, return with new skills, and enhanced expertise.

Formal and informal meetings with university officials and teachers were conducted in a friendly atmosphere aimed at mutual understanding and finding common areas of interest. The lessons we observed were not „staged”, which was especially educational as teachers and students behaved naturally and solved real problems in the lessons. Polish university teachers generously shared their materials, experiences, tips, and tricks with us, they were interested in their students’ responses, motivated and encouraged them, and provided support when needed.



Combining the recommended tactics with Poland’s and Ukraine’s educational goals can create a more cohesive strategy for dealing with common problems. Both nations can use their distinct resources and strengths to solve challenges more effectively if they acknowledge common goals. Joint research initiatives, for example, might focus on specific educational gaps, giving both countries the benefit of individual approaches that consider their distinctive circumstances while sharing a common understanding of best practices.

Additionally, encouraging student and teacher exchanges will improve academic learning and promote tolerance and cultural understanding among youth. Students familiar with various learning environments and customs of culture are more likely to acquire global perspectives and skills in critical thinking, which are vital in our linked society. Supporting



these interactions can foster a sense of unity that cuts across boundaries, enhancing the educational process overall and equipping next leaders to value variety.

Finally and certainly not least, ongoing interaction between educators in the two nations will guarantee that the collaboration remains vibrant and current. Regular feedback sessions might be established to evaluate the success of tactics that have been implemented and inspire insights for new ones. We will be able to react quickly to new demands and difficulties thanks to this ongoing reflection and adaptation, which will promote an atmosphere of ongoing development and enhancement of teaching methods. By collaborating, we can create a strong foundation for cooperation that will eventually improve the standard of education for students in Poland and Ukraine.

We express special thanks to Grzegorz Robak, Director of the Center for International Cooperation, Patrycja Kluź, key specialist for international cooperation Centre for International Cooperation Warsaw University of Technology, and Dorota Chromińska, FLC Proxy for cooperation with ENHANCE and Centre for International Cooperation and all the teachers who opened the doors of their classrooms for Ukrainian university teachers.



Thinking about future projects we are ready to participate in follow-up meetings and discuss future cooperation. It was a unique experience, which was especially precious for us, Ukrainian university teachers working mostly online during wartime. It is easier for us to plan how to conduct our face-to-face lessons after the war, in peaceful times.



TESOL-Ukraine Convention 2025

Call for Participation

“Rising Together – Teaching with Hope and Strength”

May 23-25, 2025 (Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine)

TESOL-Ukraine, a national non-governmental association, is a community of passionate educators dedicated to improving English language teaching across the country. As an affiliate of TESOL, Inc., we are committed to bringing international standards to classrooms, supporting teachers in their professional growth, and fostering meaningful collaborations with colleagues in Ukraine and around the world.

The 2025 TESOL-Ukraine National Convention is about coming together to share ideas, strategies, and real-life experiences that help us teach with confidence, no matter the circumstances. This event is a space for inspiration, learning, and mutual support – where educators can exchange innovative methods, discuss challenges, and find strength in a network of like-minded professionals.

The Convention will be focused on the following topics: ESP/ ESL Methodology, Psychological and Pedagogical Challenges of EFL Teaching in Wartime, Social Emotional Learning, CALL, English Language Philology, American and British Literature, Media literacy, Teaching Young Learners, Writing as the 21st century skill, English Language translation studies. Registration and publication submission deadline: **May 01, 2025**. Notification of acceptance: **May 10, 2025**.

The Convention will be held at Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University, Shevchenko St.57, Ivano-Frankivsk. If you want to participate in the TESOL-UKRAINE CONVENTION 2025, please, fill in the GOOGLE FORM <https://forms.gle/q9JG23h4Cgo25gkt8>

For **publication** in the Book of Convention Papers, please, submit a two-page paper, as well as a receipt of payment to eng.contest@pnu.edu.ua (Please, note that the documents should contain the author's / authors' last name(s): Ivanchenko_paper, Ivanchenko_receipt).

Learn more here: <http://www.tesol-ukraine.com/event/tesol-ukraine-convention-2025-rising-together-teaching-with-hope-and-strength-offline/>



TESOL-Ukraine NEWSLETTER

Call for Submissions

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.

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 effort while preparing it and ensure the best result for it 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 and 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 for 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 a 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 a compatible program.

5. Authors who want to submit video or music files should contact 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.

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

Editorial Board

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