



# TESOL-UKRAINE NEWSLETTER

## Dear TESOL-Ukraine members and friends!

Welcome to the spring-summer 2023 issue of TESOL-Ukraine Newsletter featuring insights and experiences in the field of ELT in Ukraine. It focuses on a range of activities, events, workshops, teacher professional development institutes and conferences TESOL-Ukraine organized and TESOL-Ukraine members participated in.

This issue includes:

- TESOL-Ukraine projects and events in 2023;
- TESOL conferences and conventions;
- MultiEd Erasmus+ project;
- Educational linguistics across borders.

Have an inspiring academic year!

TESOL-Ukraine Executive  
Committee, September 2023

## In this issue...

*Olena Ilienکو. TESOL-Ukraine at the Time of russian Aggression.....2*

*Serhii Petrenko, Iryna Zuyenok, Oksana Chugai. TESOL 2023 International Convention in Portland, Oregon.....5*

*Maryna Tsehelska. TESOL-Ukraine National Convention in Lviv.....12*

*Tetiana Konovalenko. International Scientific Symposium in Moldova.....14*

*Iryna Liashenko. TESOL-Ukraine Professional Development Institute in Krakow, Poland.....18*

*Oksana Chugai. RELO Alumni Conference in Krakow, Poland.....20*

*Pauline Jones. UOW Teams Up with Ukrainian Partners to Boost Bilingual Skills of Students in Ukraine.....23*

*Olga Zelinska. MultiEd: Empowering Ukrainian Language Educators for Multilingual Education and Eurointegration.....26*

*Contribute to TESOL-Ukraine Newsletter.....28*

# TESOL-UKRAINE AT THE TIME OF RUSSIAN AGGRESSION



**OLENA ILIENKO**

*TESOL-Ukraine President*

*Head of the Department of Foreign Languages*

*O.M. Beketov National University of Urban Economy in Kharkiv*

The TESOL International Convention is an annual event that brings together educators, researchers, and professionals from around the world who are interested in teaching English as a second or foreign language. This year was the first time for me and my colleague Maryna Tsehelska to attend the Convention at present at Affiliate Leadership Workshop. We traveled for four days to and from Portland to use a unique opportunity to advocate for Ukraine and show how TESOL-Ukraine copes with challenges of war, crisis, migration and constant air alerts.



Ukraine members its board decided to continue professional development of for many it remained a safe place, that helped go through the hardest times.

April, May and June 2022 were rich in meetings with our foreign colleagues and gave Ukrainian teachers of English tangible support in this very difficult time for every person in

In the presentation titled “TESOL Ukraine in the ELT Professional Development in Times of War” we showed the hardships of wartime – ruined schools and universities, bombed cities and millions of teachers and students that had to relocate and start a new life from the scratch. To support TESOL-

our country. Thanks to the series of the on-line webinars under the umbrella term “Sharing Contexts Across Cultures” delivered by our colleagues from TESOL-Italy we got vitally important information and practical advices how to cope with difficulties we all faced unexpectedly and how to teach reducing stress. Due to Hawaii TESOL and TESOL-Ukraine Joint Project “Hawaii TESOL Webinars in Solidarity with TESOL-Ukraine” Ukrainian teachers of English had a chance to get mostly new and extremely necessary information how to teach in challenging circumstances. TESOL-Ukraine members were also supported by the colleagues from Turkey, Moldova and USA.

In spring 2022 life stopped, education was interrupted, students and teachers ran for their lives to find safe places to stay in Ukraine and abroad. Sadness, sorrow, grief, depression, pain, rejection, sometimes rage, and even hatred were the key emotions of those days. The most asked questions of our lives have become and still are “How are you doing?” which got a wider meaning: “I am asking to support, make you feel better and help, we care and hope”. And teachers could ask this question when they were at the online trainings – and that’s how many of us survived.



All these stories were delivered to the participants of the Affiliate Leadership Workshop, and we got enormous support from the colleagues from all over the world. Many offered us partnerships and assistance in continuing teacher development. Advocating for Ukraine involved networking with other attendees and building relationships that can help to promote Ukraine's interests in the field of TESOL. It also included connecting with representatives from educational institutions or organizations that have an interest in Ukraine, or engaging with policymakers or

fundlers who can support initiatives related to English language education in the country in times of war.

At the TESOL Convention, other Ukrainian attendees also participated in sessions that focus specifically on the challenges and opportunities of teaching English in Ukraine at wartime. They shared their experiences and insights, and engaged in discussions with other educators and professionals from around the world.

Overall, by highlighting the impact of the conflict on education and the challenges that Ukrainian English language teachers face, we helped to ensure that the needs of Ukraine's English language learners are not overlooked. This can promote a more inclusive and equitable approach to English language education, and support the development of a more peaceful and stable future for Ukraine.

**Bio:** *Olena Ilienکو is TESOL-Ukraine President, she has Ph.D. in Philology, and is also Doctor of Pedagogy, the Head of the English Philology and Translation Department at O.M. Beketov National University of Urban Economy in Kharkiv. In the fall 2022, Olena's University was destroyed by the Russian bomb, now they work online.*



# TESOL 2023 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN PORTLAND, OREGON



**SERHII PETRENKO**

*TESOL-Ukraine Newsletter Editor*

*Ph.D., Associate Professor*

*Taras Shevchenko National*

*University of Kyiv*



**IRYNA ZUYENOK**

*Associate Professor*

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**OKSANA CHUGAI**

*TESOL-Ukraine Secretary*

*Ph.D., Associate Professor*

*National Technical University of*

*Ukraine "Igor Sikorsky Kyiv*

*Polytechnic Institute"*



TESOL International Association held its 2023 International Convention & English Language Expo at the Oregon Convention Center, in Portland, Oregon, USA on 21-24 March 2023. The TESOL International Convention is the largest annual meeting of professionals in the field

of teaching English as a second or foreign language. Over 3,000 educators from across the world shared their knowledge, learned about successful practices and research, and discussed future trends in the field. The program included poster presentations, practical demonstrations and workshops, pre-convention institutes. Expo Hall featured up-to-date books, materials, audiovisuals, and computer-assisted learning aids. Participants had the opportunity to exchange ideas with colleagues from different backgrounds.

However, a trip to the USA would hardly be possible without financial support. Regional English Language Office, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy in Ukraine, sponsored twelve Ukrainian teachers who attended TESOL International Convention in Portland, Oregon. Three Ukrainian university teachers, Oksana Chugai, National Technical University of Ukraine “Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute,” Serhii Petrenko, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, and Iryna Zuyenok, Dnipro University of Technology, conducted a workshop “Emergency ESL Teaching



and Learning: Ukrainian Perspective” in the Oregon Convention Center. During the session, participants from different countries became aware of Ukrainian universities experience of transforming ESL teaching from face-to-face to distance learning by building open digital spaces and using IT to provide sustainability of the national higher education in the emergency caused by pandemics, military conflicts, and other challenges. The presenters shared their individual experiences, survival strategies and grassroots initiatives of their universities related to COVID-19 quarantine and wartime adversities. The participants provided positive feedback at the end of the workshop expressing their support of Ukraine, desire to help “in the middle of despair”, acknowledging dedication and resilience of teachers and students “carrying on as best as they can.”

Without any doubt, participation of Ukrainian educators in the events like TESOL International Convention allows them to be included in diverse and inclusive community of global professionals, opens opportunity to share their expertise and experience related to ensuring quality of education during the wartime.



*Reflections by Iryna Zuyenok:*

It was my first experience of participating in the event of such high level as TESOL International Convention as well as it was my first visit to the USA. Moreover, it happened so that good news about financial support from U.S. Embassy Kyiv came after my husband and his mother had been killed by a russian missile strike in their apartment block in Dnipro on 14 January 2023.



I am extremely grateful to Lottie Baker, RELO, U.S. Embassy Kyiv, and Alyona Sukhinina for their understanding, support and help at each stage of preparing to this business trip. Special thanks go to my co-presenters Oksana Chugai and Serhii Petrenko for their encouragement, inspiration, and involving me in the

process of designing our common product: a 45-minute presentation, that all together helped me to survive my personal tragedy.

Participating in this real Fest of Educators, ESL experts and professionals all over the world has revived me and returned the inspiration to teaching, learning and going further in my professional development. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet people all over the world, exchange experiences, challenges, and innovations during sessions and while socializing during lunchtime and coffee-breaks, find potential partners for future projects and make friends with some of them. In brief, the Convention is not only about sharing and raising awareness of innovations and modern trends in ESL teaching and learning, but about exchange of cultures of various countries at different continents of the Earth.



After a long journey to Portland, Oregon, USA, from Dnipro, I had only one day to adapt to the unfamiliar environment and explore some places nearby the hotel where we stayed, as 21 March our mini team: Oksana Chugai, Serhii Petrenko and I, had a meeting with the first-time presenters and the delegation from Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. It was so nice to see in person Lottie Baker and Alyona Sukhinina, people I knew well from online meetings and webinars, and to exchange the latest news in the countries, go together

to the *Welcome Meeting* for the first-time attendees. I was greatly impressed by the quantity of the participants, and the range of countries they represented. There were more than 100 ESL teachers from various corners of the world. During the meeting we had an opportunity to get acquainted with each other and the application *Eventsential* to be used during the Convention. Frankly speaking, from the very first days of preparation to participate in the Convention, I had been learning to do the things I had never done before, to use a variety of digital tools and instruments. In other words, the Pre-convention period was learning by doing and fulfilling various tasks necessary to make all the arrangements and create a team-presentation to be a success.

There was a variety of presentations and workshops during four days of TESOL 2023 International Convention & English Language Expo that makes it difficult to choose which one is preferable to attend. In general, the main topics discussed during the Convention were diversity, role of professional development, artificial intelligence (AI) and implication of IT in teaching/ learning ESL, SEL and Brain-Based Teaching, i.e., integration of the left and right brain for health and success, cognitive approaches to teaching ESL, etc. I had chosen presentations of the special interest to me, and as the result enjoyed both the sessions and the innovations presented there.

Concurrently with sessions, I had an opportunity to socialize with the foreign colleagues during the breaks, before and after the “working day.” I would like to say these



talk shops are rather precious, especially now during the wartime in Ukraine. As soon as people heard the word *Ukraine*, they hugged us, some asked questions how we were surviving in this hard time, others were having tears in their eyes.

Our team-presentation “Emergency ESL Teaching and Learning: Ukrainian Perspective” caused interest among the participants, mostly those who work with refugees from Ukraine and who wanted to raise their awareness of the Ukrainian experience. Initially the presentation was planned to cover the challenges in ESL teaching and learning during pandemics and the wartime which we had thought would be over before the Convention. But as soon as new challenges appeared, we had made a decision to narrow the focus of our talk to three groups of challenges; psychological, air raid alerts and blackouts, which were identified as specific ones for the wartime by the Survey made for questioning 100 Ukrainian University teachers and 300 students. We are grateful to TESOLers who contributed to this survey and engaged their students in this research. Your voices were heard in Portland via our presentation, the main idea of which was to share how we deal with various emergencies and what approaches we use in our virtual learning classrooms. Participants were impressed by the “virtual flight” to Kyiv and Dnipro to see what and how are being done in the Ukrainian universities during the wartime. After the applauses at the end of the presentation, many of them proposed voluntarily co-operation both for teachers and students. Professor Christopher Stillwell proposed to engage TESOL-Ukraine members in the work of webinars of Saddleback College, Cynthia Cross from Citrus College – Students’ Friendship Club, representatives from Egypt shared the materials of a SEL course, etc. There were many follow-up talks with the participants during the Convention.



English Language Expo as an integral part of the Convention impressed me by the variety of the events proposed by famous Publish Houses, universities, developmental companies, assessment centres, etc. There you could find valuable materials, interesting proposals for co-operation, have a cup of coffee or tea with EL Fellows, RELO. you met in Ukraine, and other participants you have known online or just got acquainted.

The warm meeting with Sarah M. Howel and Lisa Dodgson, representatives of TESOL Italy, listening to the way how they have been implementing *Oracy Skills Project* in their school, and the coursebook written by them, was unforgettable as well as meeting Ruslana Westerlund at her session on Systemic Functional Linguistics in Language Education. It goes without saying that socializing in person differs greatly from communicating online. Thus, the lunch with representatives of Hawaii TESOL, who were the first to launch a supportive project for Ukrainian ESL teachers, contributed to better mutual understanding and closer relations with this affiliate been so close to TESOL-Ukraine.

It is impossible to describe all the events in detail. Time is needed to digest innovative ideas and materials shared, pilot coursebooks bought and presented by the authors, TESOL International and some publishers, launch joint projects, etc.

Participating in TESOL Convention by yourself is worth a thousand words. Being a part of the TESOL International community is priceless. That is why, do not hesitate to apply to the coming TESOL International Conventions, win a scholarship, and be a success in ESL teaching, and learning from your colleagues worldwide.



*Reflections by Serhii Petrenko:*

This year I had an opportunity to present together with my colleagues Iryna Zuyenok and Oksana at the TESOL International Convention on “Emergency ESL Teaching and Learning: Ukrainian Perspective.” We tried to make our speech interactive and meaningful. A metaphor of



# TESOL-UKRAINE NATIONAL CONVENTION IN LVIV



**MARYNA TSEHELKA**

*TESOL-Ukraine Vice President*

*Ph.D., Associate Professor*

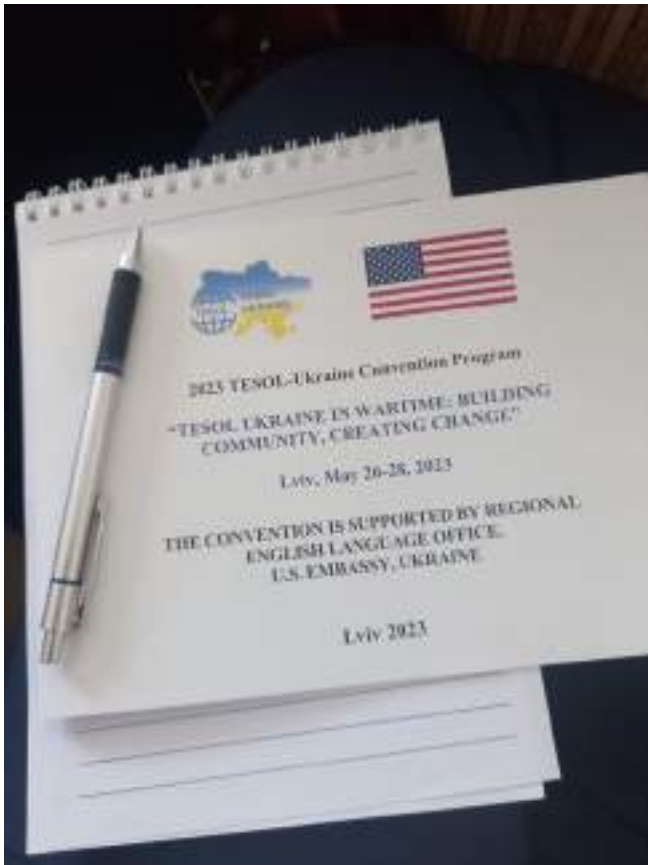
*Kyryvi Rih State Pedagogical University*

The 2023 TESOL-Ukraine National Convention was successfully held at Lviv Professional College of Hospitality Tourism and Restaurant Service from May 26 to May 28, 2023. This significant event was organized for English language teachers from secondary schools and universities, with the primary goal of promoting continuous professional development and fostering networking among EFL teachers in Ukraine.



The convention aimed to bring together Ukrainian educators in person and foreign educators online, marking the first offline gathering of Ukrainian educators since 2019. This gathering was a testament to the association's growth, which has expanded its

membership from 50 to an impressive 450 members since 1995. It is worth noting that a couple of decades ago, there were no Ukrainian presenters at such conventions due to their lack of experience in presenting at this level. However, times have changed, and many participants have evolved from mere attendees to become internationally recognized speakers, with the majority of Ukrainian presenters now being trained by TESOL-Ukraine.



The theme of the 2023 Convention was “Teaching English in Wartime and Conflict-Affected Contexts.” The program was carefully designed to offer participants a comprehensive and engaging professional development experience. This included expert-led presentations, interactive workshops, peer-to-peer discussions, cultural activities, and networking opportunities. Through these activities, participants gained valuable knowledge and skills, established new professional connections, and contributed to positive change within their educational communities.

The Convention commenced on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, with a total of 198 participants from various parts of Ukraine, including 15 teachers from the frontline war zone. Over the course of three days, the attendees had the opportunity to take part in the Plenary meeting and 34 workshops led by esteemed speakers, including Regional English Language Officer Lottie Backer, TESOL-Ukraine Vice-President Maryna Tsehelska, and Alyona Sukhinina (RELO Assistant, U.S. Embassy Kyiv), American and Ukrainian presenters. Ukrainian presenters were teachers from higher education establishments, secondary schools, and private institutions made impactful presentations, and shared their experiences regarding the implementation of innovative and effective methods for teaching English with their colleagues.

The Convention’s final day concluded with the Closing Plenary and a Book Lottery, where books were generously provided by the Regional English Office of the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine.



# INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM IN MOLDOVA



## TETIANA KONOVALENKO

*Doctor of Education*

*Department of Methodology of Teaching Germanic Languages  
Bogdan Khmelnytsky Melitopol State Pedagogical University*

Since 2018 I've been a participant of the International Scientific Spring Symposium organized by the English and German Philology Department of Alecu Russo Bălți State University. Since then I am always looking forward to this great event which inspires me with new ideas, contributes to my professional development and professional networking.

This year the IX International Scientific Spring Symposium "Quality Teaching for Future" was organized as a hybrid event within the framework of the Youth Voices Matter Project and took place on March 24-25, 2023. As always, the organization of the Symposium was engaged by the the administration of Alecu Russo Bălți State University and supported by the U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section in the Republic of Moldova.

The scale of the Symposium is amazing as the co-partners of it are represented by the academic communities from the University of Arkansas (USA), English Department, Faculty of Letters, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University from Iași (Romania), Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (Georgia), TESOL (Ukraine), Kryvyi Rih Pedagogical University (Ukraine), Bogdan Khmelnytsky Melitopol State Pedagogical University (Ukraine), Pavlo Tychyna State Pedagogical University (Ukraine), ELTE University (Hungary), Yerevan Gladzor University, Armenia.



Alecu Russo Balti State University  
Faculty of Philology  
English and German Philology Department



# QUALITY TEACHING FOR FUTURE

March 24-25, 2023



## IX international Scientific Spring Symposium

The participants from all over the world joined the event, they were teachers, scientists, students from Bălți, Chișinău, Cahul, Ungheni (Republic of Moldova), Hanover, Fayetteville, San Antonio, Columbus (The USA), Iași (Romania), Uman, Kyiv, Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv, Kryvyi Rih, Ternopil, Poltava, Dnipro (Ukraine), Budapest (Hungary), Baku (Azerbaijan), Tbilisi (Georgia), Yerevan (Armenia), Marseille, Paris (France) and Incheon (South Korea).

The IX International Scientific Spring Symposium “Quality Teaching for Future” became the space for fruitful work and constructive dialogue between educators, researchers and practitioners striving for better quality teaching in the fast-paced, dynamic and full of challenges modern education.

The Symposium was opened with greetings from Alecu Russo Bălți State University authorities Dr. Lidia Pădureac, Vice Rector for Education; Dr. Lilia Trinca, Dean of the Faculty of Philology; Dr. Oxana Chira, Head of the English and German Philology Department; Brian Asmus, the Cultural Attaché of the U.S. Embassy in Chisinau; and Dina Puiu, APLIS President.

In the atmosphere of active professional communication participants of the Symposium were having great opportunities to share their best practices on how to improve the quality of language education for both nowadays and future generations of students. Keynote speeches were delivered by outstanding linguists, language educators, professors

Anca Cehan (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania), Michael Daugherty (University of Arkansas, U.S.A.), Danielle Aldawood (U.S. Department of State, U.S.A.), Nathan Meyer (University of Utah, U.S.A.), Manana Rusieshvili (Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia), Bob Eckhart (Fulbright Scholar, U.S.A.), Margit Szesztay (ELTE University in Budapest, Hungary). They outlined the tendencies of modern education development and emphasized the importance of 21st century skills to provide quality education for future.



The workshops organized within the Symposium program contributed to the development of participants' professional skills and knowledge and transferred them to the latest teaching methods and technologies space. The attention was paid to the practical issues of creating and adjusting the lessons content to students' needs, creating brave spaces to support their learning and immerse them in language learning, rethinking lesson planning, developing students' 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, their social and emotional learning.

One more collaborative platform was represented by the concurrent sessions devoted to the approaches and methods in language education, teaching English for special purposes and intercultural education, transdisciplinarity in language education, literature and culture, language studies in the 21st century. The researchers and educators from all over the world



presented a wide range of topics contributing to each other's professional development and shared a lot of creative ideas inspiring the educational community to transform and improve the quality of teaching and learning.

The IX International Scientific Spring Symposium "Quality Teaching for Future" up-scaled the network of international cooperation, developed the partnership between universities, schools, professional organizations and governments, prepared a platform for further researches, innovations and discoveries in education.



Symposium proceedings can be found here:

[http://dSPACE.usarb.md:8080/jspui/bitstream/123456789/6128/1/Simpozion\\_ed\\_IX\\_2023.pdf](http://dSPACE.usarb.md:8080/jspui/bitstream/123456789/6128/1/Simpozion_ed_IX_2023.pdf)

# TESOL-UKRAINE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE IN KRAKOW, POLAND



**IRYNA LIASHENKO**

*Ph.D., Associate Professor*

*Sumy State University*

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 32 Ukrainian university instructors gathered in Krakow to attend the 5-day TESOL-Ukraine Professional Development Institute “Teaching in a Time of Crisis: Innovative Tools, Strategies, and Approaches to Improving English Learning for Ukrainians” funded by the U.S. Embassy Kyiv, and organized through a collaborative effort of the OPEN Program alumna Iryna Liashenko and TESOL-Ukraine Teacher’s Association.



The event brought together 32 participants from Ukraine who traveled to Krakow to attend the first stage of this project, and engage in in-person sessions in a friendly and unifying atmosphere. After missing out on live communication, laughter, and hugs, this chance to meet in a safe and sightful place felt like a blessing.

A team of 2 American and 2 Ukrainian trainers were leading the sessions focused on four essential blocks of online and blended education, including Teaching Methodology, Designing Online or Blended Courses, Systemic-Functional Linguistics, and Social Emotional Learning. The sessions were designed to provide specific tools, techniques, and strategies for designing effective online and blended courses and incorporating the best practices from national and international experts.

Dr. Iryna Liashenko, Sumy State University, Dr. Maryna Tsehelska, Kryvy Rih Pedagogical University, Meagan Abrahamson, EL Resident, America House Kyiv, and Dr. Stuart Carroll, College of New Jersey in Ewing, joined the efforts to provide professional and emotional support, and foster the confidence of Ukrainian instructors that continue teaching during the full-scale war in Ukraine.



The TESOL Ukraine Institute fostered a friendly and supportive atmosphere, encouraging collaboration and communication among participants. The picturesque attractions of Krakow provided a backdrop for cultural experiences, further enriching the learning environment.

The second phase of the project will include individual facilitated development of online EL courses on Canvas LMS by each participant.

# RELO ALUMNI CONFERENCE IN KRAKOW, POLAND



**OKSANA CHUGAI**

*TESOL-Ukraine Secretary*

*Ph.D., Associate Professor*

*National Technical University of Ukraine*

*“Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute”*

During wartime English language classes focus not only on teaching and learning English as a second language, they also structure, connect and comfort students and teachers who have experienced trauma. The issues related to teachers’ mental health and well-being directly correlate with their ability to create a safe environment for students by using social-emotional learning (SEL) as a pedagogical approach.



The RELO Alumni Conference “Reclaiming Perspectives: Mindfulness @ Social Emotional Learning in ELT” (22-24 June, 2023) consisted of training sessions aimed at teaching the participants how to:

- Stabilize and manage attention;
- Gain perspective on different ways of being and knowing;
- Understand differences between reaching and responding;
- Learn about social-emotional learning (SEL);
- Develop skills to plan, integrate, and monitor SEL;
- Explore applications of SEL in English learning spaces;
- Infuse trauma-sensitive practices in English language teaching;
- Share with each other experiences and practices of teaching during wartime.

In addition, the participants experienced mindful daily practices like breathing exercises, yoga, meditation exercises and cultural experiences.



Training sessions conducted by expert presenters, Patrick Kozakiewicz and Luis Javier Pentón Herrera, were designed for a large group and small-groups for about 60 participants, teachers of English from various educational institutions from all over Ukraine. Patrick Kozakiewicz is a Trained and Certified Mental Health First Aider, Mindfulness Teacher and Supervisor, Coach and Agile Thought Leader. Luis Javier Pentón Herrera is a Full Professor as the Akademia Ekonomiczno-Humanistyczna in Warsaw, Poland, the Coordinator of the Graduate TESOL Certificate at the George

Washington University, United States.

Needless to say that relaxing, friendly and supportive atmosphere enhanced university teachers' well-being while providing them with cultural experiences in Krakow, the second largest city in Poland. Besides learning from the expert trainers, the participants of the RELO Alumni Conference learned from each other as they presented various educational institutions from all the regions of Ukraine.

The RELO Alumni Conference was sponsored by the U.S. government, arrangements for the participants were made by WorldLINK Foundation, Kraków, Poland.

The participants of the RELO Alumni Conference were extremely grateful to WorldLINK Foundation





Team – Anna Krzemińska-Kaczyńska, Mariana Nadolska, Rafał Pieprzyk, Gabriela Kuźmik, Caroline Kuźmoczka & Izabela Płazińska, who shared the links for some educational projects.



Useful materials:

The photos of and from Kraków: [Global Students & Cultural Showcase from Poland - YouTube](#)

An online session with Patrick Kozakiewicz recorded during the Virtual Global Conference by WorldLINK Foundation and Partners,

at the times of COVID to support students' success through Covid-19 disruption: [Strengthening Academic Engagement: Mindfulness in Education - From Theory to Practice - YouTube](#)

Program details: [RELO ALUMNI WORKSHOP | PDF to Flipbook \(heyzine.com\)](#)

Facebook RELO Krakow Event: <https://fb.me/e/QelGAyH7>

LinkedIn: [WorldLINK Foundation Website & media & projects](#)

# EDUCATIONAL LINGUISTICS ACROSS BORDERS

## UOW Teams Up with Ukrainian Partners to Boost Bilingual Skills of Students in Ukraine



**PAULINE JONES**

*Associate Professor, School of Education*

*Faculty of The Arts, Social Sciences & Humanities*

*University of Wollongong, Australia*

*President, Primary English Teaching Association Australia (PETAA)*

The Universities of Kryvyi Rih and Kharkiv, TESOL-Ukraine, a US partner and the team of linguists at the University of Wollongong (UOW) have joined forces for the groundbreaking “Bilingual Ukrainian English Primary Schools in Ukraine” project. It aims to enhance Ukrainian students’ proficiency in English, equipping them with the necessary language skills to thrive in international contexts.

The collaboration was inspired by a meeting between Dr. Ruslana Westerlund from Wisconsin Cooperative Educational Service and Bethel University, USA, and Assistant Professor Maryna Tsehelska from Kryvyi Rih State Pedagogical University, Ukraine.

Born and raised in Ukraine, Dr. Westerlund describes herself as a product of the Soviet’s transmission pedagogy, an old-fashion and one-directional method of teaching a foreign language, which has proved inefficient in the modern world. Therefore, in her academic career, she has become an avid advocate of systemic functional linguistics (SFL) and genre pedagogy.

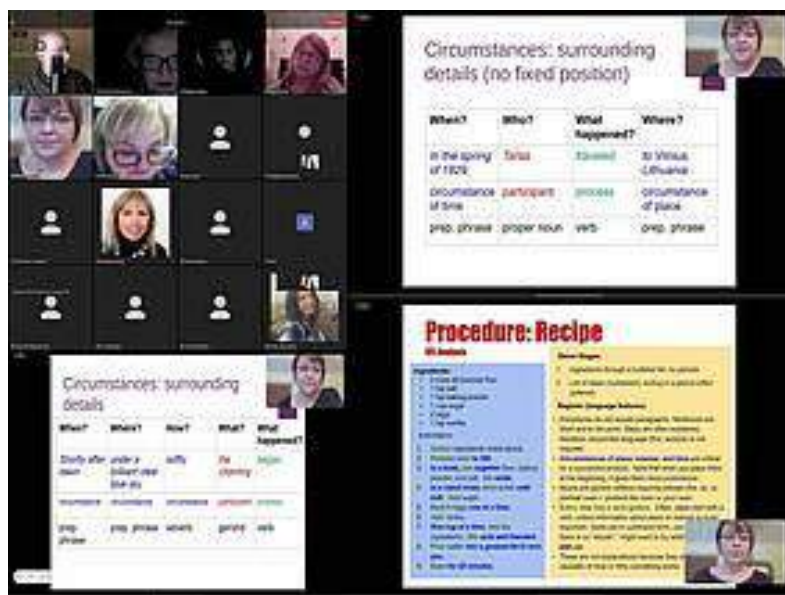
“In SFL, language is understood as a resource for making meaning rather than a set of rigid rules. For example, if I am talking informally to a friend, I’m not so worried about accuracy than if I were writing a university assignment,” Dr. Westerlund said.

Yet, it was after Dr. Westerlund’s trip to Australia in 2016 and meeting with UOW’s [Associate Professor Pauline Jones](#) and [Emeritus Professor Beverly Derewianka](#), two leading figures in educational linguistics and authors of the best-selling book *Teaching*

*Language in Context*, that she became eager to bring these innovative approaches to her home country of Ukraine.

The multi-institutional project’s journey began with a series of webinars on systemic functional linguistics organized online for Ukraine’s TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) professionals at the end of 2022. Despite the challenging circumstances during the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Ukrainian teachers and professors demonstrated remarkable dedication, attending the webinars amidst power outages and airstrikes.

“Many evenings, participants couldn’t join because the electricity was out, there was shelling and air raids. A couple of webinars had to be rescheduled because of airstrikes. One of the participants lost her husband and mother-in-law in the merciless attack at the apartment complex in the city of Dnipro. Yet, everyone continued to stay engaged, and some attended on their phones in complete darkness due to the massive attacks on Ukraine’s electric power grids. These monthly webinars gave teachers a distraction and served as an inspiration to continue learning and educating for the future of Ukraine,” Dr. Westerlund said.



Based on systemic functional linguistics and genre pedagogy, the Australian educational linguists’ approach offers a fresh perspective on literacy education, focusing on context and authentic tasks rather than rigid grammatical rules and equipping students with practical language skills applicable to real-life situations.

Associate Professor Pauline Jones explained that the project offers numerous benefits to English language learning in Ukraine. “We live in a global, interconnected world where good English language skills are often the ticket to better education, career and life prospects. Students need to be able to order coffee when travelling abroad, participate in a job interview at a global company or call a doctor when they’re in a foreign country. The



functional side of learning a new language is crucial to successfully navigate different social settings,” Associate Professor Jones said.

The *Bilingual Ukrainian English Primary Schools in Ukraine* initiative has also been endorsed by the Australian Systemic Functional Linguistics Association and the Primary English Teaching Association Australia, who have provided resources and professional development opportunities.



The project will implement the ‘train-the-trainer’ model, educating teachers in bilingual Ukrainian-English schools to effectively deliver English language instruction based on SFL and genre pedagogy. The initial group of Ukrainian teacher educators and teachers will work with the UOW and US partners to adapt existing materials for the Ukrainian context.

According to the organizers, the project’s success could potentially influence language education policies in Ukraine, leading to the integration of bilingual education approaches and effective language teaching methodologies into broader educational policies and reforms.

Despite being delayed by the difficult political situation in Ukraine, the project is now set to begin in September 2023, marking a significant milestone in advancing bilingual education and English language proficiency in Ukraine.

<https://www.miragenews.com/educational-linguistics-across-borders-1048444/>



## MULTIED ERASMUS+ PROJECT

# MultiEd: Empowering Ukrainian Language Educators for Multilingual Education and Eurointegration



### OLGA ZELINSKA

*Ph.D. in Linguistics, Associate Professor*

*Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University (Kharkiv, Ukraine)*

*TESOL-Ukraine member since 1995*

**Introduction:** The Erasmus Plus #MultiEd project has been making significant strides in empowering language educators in Ukraine. Over the course of three weeks, a series of enriching seminars were held under the umbrella of the #MultiEd project, aimed at fostering multilingual education and promoting Eurointegration in Ukraine. With a total of 36 workshops focusing on various essential themes, the project has successfully advanced the development of educational programs and enhanced the skills and competencies of educators.

**Workshop Themes:** The workshops were carefully designed to address four key themes that are crucial for the advancement of language education in Ukraine. These themes included:

1. **Development of Educational Programs and Skills in Graduates:** One of the core focuses of the workshops was to explore innovative approaches to developing educational programs and cultivating essential skills and competencies in students. Language educators delved into effective methodologies to encourage critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective communication among graduates. By equipping students with such skills, the workshops aimed to prepare them for the challenges of the globalized world and facilitate their seamless integration into the European academic landscape.

2. **Subject-Language Integrated Learning: Challenges and Prospects:** Language educators participated in insightful discussions on the subject-language integrated learning approach. By integrating language education with other academic subjects, teachers seek to



enhance language proficiency while simultaneously deepening students' understanding of various subjects. The workshops examined the challenges faced in implementing this approach and explored strategies to maximize its benefits in Ukrainian classrooms.

3. **Blended Learning and Continuous Education:** With the rapid evolution of technology, blended learning and continuous education have emerged as powerful tools in modern teaching practices. European experiences in this domain were shared, and attendees explored how these practices can be seamlessly incorporated into the Ukrainian education system. The workshops emphasized the importance of lifelong learning and how it contributes to building a well-rounded and adaptable workforce.

4. **Multilingual Education in Europe and Ukraine:** The final theme centered on multilingual education, comparing European and Ukrainian perspectives. Participants engaged in discussions on the benefits of multilingualism, including cultural enrichment and improved cognitive abilities. The workshops highlighted the role of language educators in fostering language diversity in Ukraine and aligning with European standards.

**Appreciation for Participation:** The success of the #MultiEd workshops would not have been possible without the enthusiastic participation of Ukrainian educators. Their active involvement and passion for enhancing language education have been commendable. The number of attendees and their overwhelmingly positive feedback reflect the relevance and urgency of the topics covered during the seminars.

**Certificate Registration:** As a gesture of recognition for their dedication, participants were awarded certificates for their attendance and active engagement in the #MultiEd workshops. To view and verify the certificate registration numbers, participants can visit the website of the TESOL-Ukraine Association.

**Conclusion:** The Erasmus Plus #MultiEd project has left an indelible impact on language education in Ukraine. By providing a platform for insightful discussions, sharing European best practices, and fostering professional development, the workshops have empowered language educators to contribute effectively to the advancement of multilingual education and Eurointegration in the country. With continued efforts and collaborations, Ukrainian language educators will continue to play a vital role in preparing the next generation for a globally interconnected world.



**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 Hawaii TESOL 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 [serge.v.petrenko@gmail.com](mailto:serge.v.petrenko@gmail.com) 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 [serge.v.petrenko@gmail.com](mailto:serge.v.petrenko@gmail.com).

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

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