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Dear BETA-IATEFL member,

Welcome to the first edition of the electronic Newsletter for 2012 of the Bulgarian English Teachers’ Association (BETA). The purpose of this free e-Newsletter will be to keep you informed about some of the latest news and upcoming events from the world of English language teaching in Bulgaria and abroad.

Read on and find out a brief interview with the plenary speakers of the 21st Annual International BETA-IATEFL Conference held between 30 March – 01 April 2012 at the University of Ruse.

If you are looking forward to doing some professional training and joining IATEFL SIG Events, look at the information provided about them in the current issue. We would also like to provide information about annual conferences of other IATFEL Associate Organizations in Europe and updates of events organized by SEETA and other organizations involved in teachers’ professional development and training.

Enjoy reading and watch out for our September e-Newsletter which will give information about upcoming events and teacher development opportunities.

Best wishes,
Tsvetelina Harakchiyska and the Committee of BETA-IATEFL

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The conference in a snapshot

The 21st Annual International BETA-IATEFL was held at the University of Ruse “Angel Kanchev” from 30 March to 01 April 2012. It was organized in cooperation between BETA-IATEFL and the Department of Bulgarian Language, Literature and Arts at the University.

The event was attended by a total of about 200 participants from all levels of education – primary and secondary school teachers of English as a foreign language from state and private schools, university lecturers, PhD students and students. There were participants from 10 European countries, as well as from the USA, Argentina and Kazakhstan. Associate IATEFL organizations, partners of BETA-IATEFL, had also sent an official representative to the conference – ELTAM (Macedonia), AMATE (Czech Republic), etc.

The conference topic was Innovative Teaching, Active Learning, Effective Assessment Practices in Language Education and it included presentations covering a broad variety of domains such as:

- Teaching young learners and teenagers;
- Teaching Adults;
- Teaching ESP;
- Teaching Business English;
- Teacher Education and Development;
- Mentoring;
- Bilingual Education;
- Literature, Media and Cultural Studies in ELT;
- Global Issues;
- Learning Technologies;
- Content and Language Integrated (CLIL);
- Blended Learning;
- Testing, Evaluation and Assessment.
In total there were four plenary sessions, 47 presentations (19 workshops, 24 talks and 1 talk+workshop format) and 5 promotional presentations.

The plenary speakers were renowned names in the field of teacher education and professional development:

**Plenary: A Black Belt at Learning from Experience?**
Adrian Underhill – consultant with schools wishing to develop their organizational intelligence, and a trainer conducting programmes on facilitation and leadership skills. His current positions include educational consultant to Study Group UK, principal tutor on the Oxford University summer seminar for EL teachers, and trainer on Pilgrims teacher programmes. Series editor of the Macmillan Books for Teachers, author of Sound Foundations: Learning and Teaching Pronunciation, and recently brought out SOUNDS: The Pronunciation App.

**Plenary: The Mad, Bad, Crazy World of English**
Tim Bowen – trainer and teacher trainer in more than 20 countries, including Russia, China, Brazil, Germany, Hungary, Switzerland and Poland. Co-author of The Pronunciation Book (Longman) and Inside Teaching (Macmillan) and author of Build Your Business Grammar (Heinle), as well as co-author of the student portfolios for the Straightforward series (Macmillan) and author of the teachers’ editions for the Attitude, Expressions, Open Mind, Master Mind and New Inspiration series (Macmillan). A regular contributor to the Macmillan Onestopenglish site (www.onestopenglish.com) since its inception in 2001.

**Plenary: Cross-curricular Projects for the Language Classroom**
Keith Kelly – an experienced teacher and teacher trainer and a team member of Science Across the World. Founder and coordinator of the Forum for Across the Curriculum Teaching (FACT), Keith was
coordinator of the English Across the Curriculum project for the British Council in Bulgaria. Author of the Macmillan Science and Geography Vocabulary Practice Series and consultant to Macmillan’s onestopclil website - www.onestopenglish.com/clil/ . Author of resources and textbooks for the Zurich Educational Publishing House and OUP. A Fellow of IUPAC (The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry) for contributions to the programme.

Plenary: Multilingualism in the Classroom
Assoc.Prof. Dr Galya Mateva – Lecturer at Sofia Technical University. Cambridge CELTA and DELTA tutor, CELTA assessor. Actively participating in EAQUALS activities and European projects. Author of numerous publications and conference presentations. Founder Chair of the Bulgarian Association for Quality Language Services, OPTIMA and Assoc. Prof. Dr Svetlana Dimitrova-Gyuzeleva – Lecturer at the New Bulgarian University. She has long and varied experience of teaching English as a foreign language, as well as of teacher and mentor training in both pre- and in-service contexts. She is the author of some ELT coursebooks, several resource and reference books, and a couple of teacher training manuals.

Special participants in the Conference were also British Council Bulgaria and the American Embassy in Bulgaria which presented information about their educational programmes and teacher training opportunities.

A Pre-Conference event, held with the kind support of the British Council Bulgaria, focusing on Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL). The aim of the event is to generate
ideas on CLIL & ELT: What does CLIL mean to English teachers? was held on the 30th March 2012. On the programme there were two plenary sessions (delivered by Phil Ball and John Clegg) and 10 presentations with a focus on CLIL and ELT.

A moment from Phil Ball’s plenary session “Do you want your students to learn language? Then stop teaching it”

John Clegg and his plenary session “English teachers in CLIL programmes: acquiring new skills”

An ELT book exhibition of major ELT publishers and service providers accompanied the conference. The participating ELT publishers were: Pearson Longman Bulgaria, Educational Centre, Oxford University Press, Macmillan, Express Publishing, Prosveta Publishing, PONS Bulgaria, Helbling Languages etc. and the service providers included: British Council Bulgaria, Infolink, SOL (UK), Trinity College, AVO-BELL Language and Examination Centre etc.
We have interviewed four of the plenary speakers of this year’s BETA-IATEFL conference. We asked them three questions and we are happy to share their answers with you.

**Question 1: How did you decide to start a career in English Language teaching?**

**Tim Bowen**

Actually, I didn’t decide to start a career in ELT. It all happened quite by accident. I was studying for a postgraduate degree at the University of Brno in what was then Czechoslovakia. I had a rather modest grant from the British Council and, when I was asked to teach some private lessons, I jumped at the chance to supplement my meagre income. After a few months, I was offered a job teaching evening classes at the local Jazykova Skola. I soon realised that just speaking English was insufficient when it came to teaching it effectively, so when I returned to the UK after my studies, I did a one-year teacher training course at the University College of North Wales. On completing this I spent 5 years as a
British Council lector teaching English at universities in Serbia and I've been in the profession in one way or another ever since.

Galya Mateva
It was destined to happen. One morning after defending my thesis in English Language at Sofia University I was awoken by the telephone. A male voice explained that he had read my CV and would like to invite me to work as an English teacher and translator at the Research Institute of Suggestology and Suggestopedia. I was dumbfounded by the odd-sounding words and half-awake and almost speechless asked for more information. It all appeared new and exciting and it didn’t take long before I said YES. I have never regretted that half-conscious decision. Nowadays I consider it a great privilege to have worked 17 years as a suggestopedic teacher and researcher under the guidance of Prof. Lozanov and his team.

Svetlana Dimitrova-Gyuzeleva
I have always known I would become a teacher one day - I could only not decide what I wanted to teach :) So, at the end of my English Philology studies at Sofia University I jumped at the first opportunity that there was for me and have never regretted my decision. I still find teaching very rewarding and inspiring.

Keith Kelly
I was a modern foreign language teacher in a secondary school in the UK. I was teaching French and German when the government began to introduce the National Curriculum and I wanted to make a change. I applied for VSO, Voluntary Services Overseas and I came as a volunteer English teacher to Bulgaria in 1993 and this was the start of my career as an English teacher.

Question 2: Was there a time in your career that you felt you have made the wrong choice? What or who inspires you to move on?

Tim Bowen
After 7 or 8 years in teaching I was offered a job by the BBC Monitoring Service as a translator. The money was good but the prospect of working in shifts and spending my working life wearing headphones was not particularly appealing. It would also have been a rather isolated existence with no travel and not much contact with others. Teaching has provided me with both of these elements in abundance, so I have stuck with it.

Galya Mateva
I have never thought of changing my profession. It was later, after obtaining my Ph.D. when I moved to the English Department of Sofia Technical University. Unfortunately the Institute of Suggestology had been closed down by that time. Ever since I have been working as a
teacher, teacher trainer and researcher in the area of ELT. I have enriched my experience with CELTA and DELTA tutoring and assessment.

**Svetlana Dimitrova-Gyuzeleva**

There are always ups and downs in anything we do, but what really inspires me to move on is the success and the gratitude of my students - nothing can compare to that deep feeling of satisfaction at a job well done, shared pride in the achievement and long-lasting bond built on trust.

**Keith Kelly**

No, not really. My career as an English teacher has been so diverse that I've never felt the need to change. As well as teaching I've been lucky to be involved in teacher training, book authoring, course writing, project work, summer school management, running FACTWorld (www.factworld.info) a global teacher’s network and now I’m opening my own school (www.anglia-school.info) and there literally is never a dull moment!

**Question 3: What does it mean to you to be a plenary speaker at the BETA-IATEFL conference?**

**Tim Bowen**

It means a great deal. It is an honour to be invited and a humbling feeling to think that teachers in Bulgaria think that some of what I say is worth listening to! I hope to come to Bulgaria and to BETA-IATEFL again in the not-too-distant future.

**Galya Mateva**

Whenever I participate in BETA events, first of all, I feel proud of the invariably high quality of the conference event. Next, I feel part of a large professional community dedicated to a noble cause. Last but not least, I learn a lot and I will always remain an eager learner.

**Svetlana Dimitrova-Gyuzeleva**

That's definitely a great honour - a bit daunting to stand in front of such a knowledgeable and seasoned audience of colleagues and friends, but the challenge itself is immensely motivating, esp. if you know you have something worth sharing with other like-minded people whose enthusiasm and commitment to the profession is the sheer force which drives it forward. It's all about becoming better [BETA] together!

**Keith Kelly**

It means a great deal. It’s an opportunity to connect with the wider teaching community in Bulgaria and in this case on a theme which is particularly important for me and that is cross
curricular language work which I still feel is in its infancy in Bulgaria and the plenary allowed me to engage with colleagues on this topic.

MORE INFORMATION on the event will be provided in the next issues of the e-Newsletter!

22\textsuperscript{nd} BETA-IATEFL ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

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The 22\textsuperscript{nd} BETA-IATEFL Annual International Conference will take place between 21-23 June 2013 in VARNA in the Department for Information, Qualification and Lifelong Learning (DIQLL), Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen.

MORE INFORMATION on the event will be provided in the next issues of the e-Newsletter!
Belgrade – a town so close and yet, so distant. Or what it means to be a representative of BETA-IATEFL at the conference of the English Language Teacher’s Association (ELTA) in Serbia?

Belgrade, 17-18 May 2012, Serbia

As a member of BETA, I received a bursary from our association to attend the 10th ELTA conference ”Teaching Outside the Box” in Belgrade Serbia, where I had a session on ”Jeopardy Games in ELT”. As a warm up I presented the school life in Galena High School, Reno, Nevada, US; where I had my internship during the Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program in the fall 2011. The main part of the workshop was a Jeopardy Game on the US, with subtopics History, Geography, Literature, Quotes by famous Americans, and Sport; played by participants.

The 10th ELTA conference title derives from a metaphor and the theme "Teaching outside the box" was discussed and interpreted throughout the different sessions. In accordance with the title, the event focused on innovative teaching methods. The conference venue was Teachers Training Faculty, which is part of University of Belgrade. It is an impressive building, which dates back to the end of the 19th century and has been recently renovated. The Main Hall and six other classrooms were used for presentations and workshops and the second floor gallery provided the exhibition area for ELTA partners and sponsors. There were about 200 participants and guests, among whom were HE Mary Warlick, US Ambassador in Serbia;
HMA Michael Davenport, UK Ambassador; Tony O’Brien, Director of the British Council Serbia, Dr Aleksandar Jovanovic, Dean of the Faculty of Education and a Representative of the Ministry of Education.

Teachers and teacher trainers at state and private schools and universities in Serbia; and representatives of IATEFL partner organizations were helped by student volunteers throughout the whole event.

There were about 50 presentations: plenary sessions, and workshops. The latter events were divided under the headings of the following SIGs:

- Making original teaching materials;
- Innovations in teaching language skills, vocabulary and grammar; Teaching English for specific purposes;
- Teaching young learners;
- Teaching teenagers;
- Teaching adults;
- Preparation for international examinations (Cambridge ESOL, IELTS, TOEFL).

The plenaries were delivered by:

- Jayme Adelson-Goldstein, Professional development specialist and ESL author at Lighthearted Learning;
- Geraldine Mark, Freelance author and editor: EFL and applied linguistics;
- Sophie Ioannou-Georgiou, Lecturer/teacher trainer, researcher, materials developer (EFL);
- Danae Kozanoglou, Teacher trainer, author and owner of PROFILE Teacher Training School in Athens;
- Steve Oakes, Head of Teacher Training at International House, Budapest;
- Tony O’Brien, Director of the British Council Serbia;
- Steve Lever, Senior ELT consultant at various publishing houses;
- Graham Hall, Senior lecturer in applied linguistics/TESOL at Northumbria University, Newcastle UK
The special dinner and the raffle party event was in Leonardo restaurant, at an impressive location - on the mouth of the Sava River into The Danube. The amazing view of the two rivers and the fortress on the opposite side supplemented the prize draw and the quiz about Charles Dickens, dedicated to his 200th anniversary. Most of the teachers went home with a useful book, which would remind them of the conference. During the warm evening I could talk to teachers from Serbia and some other countries and got a little relieved listening to the same stories about lack of money for education, yet a lot of motivated teachers and good practices to share.

The last evening I stayed in Belgrade was the museums' night, celebrated all over Europe. While waiting for my bus at midnight, I could visit 4 museums and learn more about the Serbian life, culture and traditions. Friendly and helpful Serbians made me realize how close we are, and how little we know about each other.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to BETA for supporting my participation at the Conference in Belgrade, Serbia and keeping me motivated with my work.

Tsvetelena Taralova,
Head of Foreign Language Department
at School No 88 in Sofia
E-mail: ts_taralova@abv.bg
School No 88 in Sofia took part in the Bulgarian Spelling Bee Competition (http://www.spellingbee-bg.com/). On 29th March 2012, at the school level 26 students, aged 12-14, compete for the prize "School Winner" and Iveta Dimitrova got it.

Spelling Bee is a traditional American competition in which participants spell an English word aloud letter by letter and are eliminated for wrongly spelt word. The U.S. spelling competitions are held in many other countries all over the world and have been implemented as an effective English-language teaching tool.

More than 4500 students aged between 9 and 14 from about 200 schools all over the country competed in three stages for the 2012 Bulgarian National Spelling Bee Champion. To prepare, participants learned the spelling of about 500 English words. One winner in each school qualified for the second regional stage which was held at the end of April in ten big Bulgarian cities. Contestants in the second stage studied a longer list of words. Only two from each region qualified for the final national level, which was held on May 12 in Sofia. The 20 finalists competed to be the 2012 Champion, one of whom was Iveta Dimitrova from school No 88 in Sofia.
The event lasted more than three hours and during the break there was a Spelling Bee Competition in Bulgarian, where Peace Corp volunteers spelt Bulgarian words.

The Bulgarian National Spelling Bee Champion 2012 is Rumen Dimitrov, aged 12 from Ruse. He says: "It's great to know languages as they help you communicate with people all over the world". He got the big prize, a kindle e-reader, and all the 20 finalists and their teachers will go on a summer camp in Bansko.

The competition was organized with the support of the America for Bulgaria foundation by the centre for inclusive education and the Peace Corps and was under the patronage of the Ministry of Education and Science and the US embassy.

Tsvetelena Taralova,
Head of Foreign Language Department
at School No 88 in Sofia
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88 School in Sofia is one of the prizewinners in Generations Hand in Hand Competition.

The European Commission has designated 2012 as the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations. In May 2012 two institutions: Human Resource Development Centre and Europe Direct announced the winners in the competition "Generations Hand in Hand", dedicated to the Day of Europe, 9th May. A team of four students and a teacher from School No 88 in Sofia won free places at the summer camp especially organized for all 8 prizewinner schools in the traditional Bulgarian town of Koprivshtitsa.

On the meeting day in June 2012 all 8 schools demonstrated their work on the topic Solidarity between generations. Participants from school No 88 presented three activities done together with teachers and parents:

- The eco school in the Pirin Mountains, organized within the eTwinning project "The trees of Friendship" (http://my.twinspace.etwinning.net/trees?l=en, http://friendshiptrees.blogspot.com/);
- The film about Roald Amundsen and the North Pole reach, part of the eTwinning and Comenius project "The Quest for the European Grail" (http://new-twinspace.etwinning.net/web/p18453/welcome, http://thequestfortheeuropeangrail.blogspot.com/);
- The trip to the Dragalevtsi Monastery, part of the eTwinning project "Photography Freaks".

On the second day students participated in workshops making potteries, bread, and dyeing yarn; planted a camp tree and bushes. There was a guided tour round the old town and participants could visit houses of prominent writers and revolutionaries, born or lived in Koprivshtitsa. Students had lessons on Bulgarian national dances, could make new friends and enjoyed themselves while experiencing Bulgarian traditions.

Tsvetelena Taralova,
Head of Foreign Language Department
at School No 88 in Sofia
E-mail: ts_taralova@abv.bg
The woolen emblem of Human Resource Development Centre made with by students in the workshops

Potterymaking isn't difficult

 Students' presentation
In preparing materials for their classes, teachers may wonder whether they are hitting the right reading level. Are the words level-appropriate? Are the vocabulary items worth learning? If not, how can the materials be improved? This webinar looks at tools such as lists, profilers and readability measures, which help teachers answer these questions. On-line applications are highlighted and demonstrated. The presenter offers advice about the usefulness of various tools.

And much more at [http://www.seeta.eu](http://www.seeta.eu)
The Association of the Teachers of English at the Czech Republic (ATECR) invites you to join the 8th International and 12th National Conference (14/09—15/09/2012) entitled New Ways to Teaching and Learning which is jointly organized by ATECR and the University of Hradec Kralove.


BETA-IATEFL has already announced a call for sending an official representative to the conference (http://www.beta-iatefl.org/3523/calls-for-official-representatives/official-representative-call-atecr-conference/)

IATEFL POLAND Conference

The organizers propose the following topics:

- Current trends in language teaching and learning
- Teacher development – teachers as lifelong learners
- Lessons students and teachers actually like
- Good practices in teaching English
- ESP – English for the workplace and current events in various ESP fields

www.iatefl.org.pl
• Academic English – teaching English in academic contexts
• CLIL and English for subject teachers
• Young learners and teenagers
• English as a lingua franca – what aspects of English should we teach?
• Special needs students – how to teach students with different disabilities to help them make the most of the language class
• Autonomy in language learning, promoting learners’ autonomy
• ELT Management
• Using modern technology in teaching
• Teacher’s resources and resourcefulness
• Testing, evaluation and assessment

The list of conference speakers includes:
• Carol Read (IATEFL UK)
• Michael Swan (OUP)
• Jeremy Harmer (IATEFL)
• David Hill (City & Guilds)
• Hugh Dellar (International Geographic Learning)
• Philip Kerr (Macmillan)
• Mark Hancock and Annie McDonald
• Jeremy Day (CUP)
• Hanna Kryszewska
• Grzegorz Śpiewak

Important dates:

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For more information, please visit: [http://iatefl.org.pl/wroclaw2012/invitation](http://iatefl.org.pl/wroclaw2012/invitation)

The selected official representative of BETA-IATEFL is Ms. Tsveta Vrabcheva from Sofia. Her presentation topic is Students’ Autonomy and Involvement – Vitally Important for Students’ Motivation

Stay tuned for her report!
The English Language Teachers’ Association of Macedonia (ELTAM) invites you to participate in their 7th International Biannual Conference in Skopje on 27th – 28th October 2012.

Please note that the deadline for your registering and for sending your speaker proposal is 15th July 2012.

For more information check: http://www.eltam.org.mk/home/home.php or contact the Conference Secretary Jagoda Trajcova at jagoda.t@eltam.org.mk

Important note

According to the partnership agreements, BETA members can attend the partner association events at the members' rates. BETA members can also apply for a bursary that can cover their travel expenses or fees for attending these or other national and international ELT events. If you would like to receive a bursary to attend a professional event in Bulgaria or abroad, contact Zarina Markova at beta.iatefl@gmail.com.

Language Learner Autonomy and Today’s Technologies

The Pre-Conference Event of the Learner Autonomy Special Interest Group (LASIG) under IATEFL, entitled Language learner autonomy and today’s technologies: challenges and possibilities will take place on Monday 8 April 2013 in Liverpool. We are happy to announce that our two keynote speakers are David Little (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland) and Jo Mynard (KUIS, Japan).

The deadline for proposals for the PCE is 1 December 2012.

After the great success this year, there will again be two 300 GBP grants available towards attending the LASIG Pre-Conference Event (PCE). The goal is to support and encourage teachers / students / researchers interested in and fairly new to the field of learner autonomy. For further information on the PCE as well as on the grants, see the LASIG website: http://lasig.iatefl.org
Contribute to the e-Newsletter!

The BETA-IATEFL Committee would like to invite you to contribute to the Newsletter content with information about local, national or international events related to ELT education that you have taken part in. We would also like to receive feedback, comments and suggestions that will help us make the e-Newsletter more informative. Here are some guidelines to help you:

1. What types of information do you expect to read about in the Newsletter?
2. Which are your favourite sections of the Newsletter?
3. What are the areas of improvement that you identify? What are your suggestions in relation to that?

The Editor and the BETA-IATEFL Committee are happy to receive your comments, suggestions and ready materials at the following address: beta.iateflbg@gmail.com

Details and guidelines on the format of your submissions will be provided in one of the next issues of this e-Newsletter.

Established 1991 in Sofia, BETA seeks to build a network of ELT professionals on a national and regional (Southeast Europe) level and establish the association as a recognized mediator between educators and state bodies, public and other organizations.

BETA members are English teaching professionals from all educational sectors in Bulgaria – primary, secondary and tertiary, both state and private. BETA activities include organizing annual conferences, regional seminars and workshops; information dissemination; networking with other teachers’ associations and NGOs in Bulgaria and abroad; exchange of representatives with teachers’ associations from abroad.

We are on the web:

http://www.beta-iatefl.org

Thank you for reading and supporting BETA-IATEFL by being a member!