



Co-funded by the
Tempus Programme
of the European Union

544543-TEMPUS-1-2013-1-RS-TEMPUS-JPCR	
Work package 3	Activity 3.1
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Report on the English Language Course Held at the Business and Technical College of Applied Sciences in Užice

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Užice, June 2016

INTRODUCTION

Project task:

3.1 Attended language courses

Task description:

In order to improve the competence of the staff to communicate successfully with other TEMPUS 544543 project partners, the initial testing of both teaching and non-teaching staff interested in attending the English language course is to be organized at the Business and Technical College of Applied Sciences in Užice. Teaching materials will be selected in compliance with the results achieved at the initial testing, and the level of the English language knowledge demonstrated at the testing, and the English language course will be organized.

Description of outcomes:

The report on the English language course organized in the 2015/16 academic year at the Business and Technical College of Applied Sciences in Užice.

In order to accomplish the Activity 3.1 of the MHTSPS 544543 TEMPUS project “Modernization and Harmonization of Tourism Study Programmes in Serbia”, the English language course was organized at the Business and Technical College of Applied Sciences in Užice during the period from 1st September, 2015 to 27th May, 2016. The aim of the course was to improve the attendees’ linguistic competence and their ability to communicate in English both with other project partners and in everyday situations and work. It was designed so as to further develop their reading and writing ability, as well as speaking and listening skills.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

In May 2015, the teaching and non-teaching staff of the Business and Technical College of Applied Sciences in Užice were invited to attend the English language course organized within the framework of the 544543 TEMPUS project, which is implemented by this college and other project partners.

The interest in attending the course was shown by 15 teaching and non-teaching staff members. In order to group them according to the level of their English knowledge, a placement test was organized on 20th May, 2015.

The Oxford Placement Test (grammar, reading and listening comprehension test) by Dave Allan was used for this initial assessment. According to the obtained results, most of the attendees were at the beginner’s level. Therefore, the New Headway – Third Edition course book (elementary), published by the Oxford University Press, was chosen as the most convenient.

Two classes a week were held during the period from 1st September, 2015 till 27th May, 2016, and they were regularly attended by the following five professors: Mr Miloš Jovanović PhD, Mrs Olivera Novitović PhD, Mr Dragoljub Drndarević PhD, Mrs Vesna Marjanović PhD and Ms Biljana Đuričić MSc.

The course focused on English used in everyday communication, and speaking activities were aimed at helping the attendees achieve fluency and good pronunciation in spoken English. The classes were interactive and student-centered, and each attendee was encouraged to work both individually and in pairs. Owing to the small size of the group, the teacher was able to give each attendee individual attention and each attendee could actively participate in all the activities.

During the course, the attendees acquired the following grammar-related knowledge:

- Pronouns (personal, possessive, relative)
- Possessive forms
- Numbers (dates...)
- Present Simple, Present Continuous and Past Simple Tense
- There is /are
- Word order
- Plural nouns

They have also developed the following skills:

- Writing emails/letters and short texts relating to personal information
- Describing people and things
- Understanding and using simple vocabulary, sentences, expressions, and basic phrases useful for everyday conversations in English
- Introducing themselves, asking and answering questions about personal details and daily needs, such as where they live, what they do, family information, shopping, eating, the local area...
- Making phone calls – exchanging information
- Reading and understanding straightforward information and simple texts

CONCLUSION

The course provided the attendees with an opportunity to both revise and improve their knowledge of English. They managed to master the basic grammatical and lexical structures, as well as useful phrases and expressions aimed at building their competence and self-confidence in using English in everyday situations. The course provided the attendees with a solid basis for further language acquisition and increased their capacity for international cooperation, both within the framework of the project and in their everyday work.