

JOINT REPORT ON REALIZATION OF *EMI Training Course for University and College Teachers*

General data: In order to develop and adopt guidelines for providing language support to teaching staff at Serbian partner universities (WP4.2) the WP4 team has designed a specialist course entitled *EMI Training Course for University and College Teachers* (EMI = English as a Medium of Instruction). The course was based on the material carefully selected to cover crucial aspects in teaching academic courses in English (the use of class language, instructions for effective lecturing, organizing interactive lectures, the use of teaching tools and visual aids, etc.), and supplied with a variety of additional materials for self-studying.

The course material was uploaded as: **English as a Medium of Instruction EMI specialist course material scan. pdf** and is available at: <http://mngt.fuse.ni.ac.rs/projects/wp4/dmsf>.

EMI Training Course for University and College Teachers is an intensive, specialized course intended for teachers in universities and colleges who are teaching/ going to teach their courses in English. It combines language and methodology elements strictly selected to meet their needs and to support their teaching in English. Besides the written material, the course is provided with two videos: a tutorial video on how to use English as a medium of instruction (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPYMsE_HU9I) by Branka Milenkovic, PhD and a video which illustrates such a class taught in English by Professor Miodrag Lazarevic. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyvEPiAUwXg>).

The objectives of the course: by receiving appropriate language and methodology tools in the form of a tailor-made course, university and college teachers (non-native speakers of English) are helped to build their confidence and skillfulness in delivering lectures in English. Additionally, the information how to use various pragmatic strategies can compensate for language proficiency of teaching staff and enable them to deliver their lectures effectively to their students.

The realization of the course: The course was realized at three Serbian partner universities (University of Niš, University of Belgrade and University of Kragujevac) and at the College of Tourism – Belgrade, while at the State University of Novi Pazar and the University of Novi Sad the course material was sent to university teaching staff for self-study. \

A total number of teaching staff involved in EMI training course was **62** (47 female and 15 male participants): 21 from the University of Niš, 8 from the University of Belgrade, 18 from the University of Kragujevac, and 15 from 10 from the College of Tourism – Belgrade. After the training course had been completed, the participants filled out a questionnaire.

The reports on the course realization were sent to the WP4 leader, supported by the analysis of the results of the questionnaire filled out by the course participants. Both the form of the questionnaire and the instruction for analyzing results of the survey (in Serbian), as well as the the translation of the questionnaire in English, are uploaded and available at: http://mngt.fuse.ni.ac.rs/projects/wp4/dmsf?folder_id=111

The attendance lists of participants, photos taken during the courses and short reports on the courses are also uploaded and available at WP4 MNGT.

COURSES HELD AT SERBIAN PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

1) University of Niš

The course was held within 6 sessions (12 hours/ 18 classes) from 14th of October to 18th of November 2016, and was conducted by Professor Savka Blagojević, PhD. A total number of participants who completed the course and received certificates was 21.

The survey based on the questionnaire completed by the course participants shows:

- The majority of participants (66.68 %) answered that their expectations from the course included all three stated possibilities, while 14.28% of them expected to get useful suggestions/instructions how to organize their lecturing in English.
- All participants stated that the course either met their expectations (52.38 %) or was even above their expectation (42.86 %)
- Most of them (90.48 %) agreed that the supplied material is useful for teaching the course
- The teaching material motivated 90.48 % the course participants, while only 9.52 % of them stated that they were not enough motivated
- All participants (100%) think that learning tasks have been useful and interesting
- Almost all participants (90.24 %) would recommend this type of course to their colleagues
- All participants (100%) think that they can directly and practically benefit from this course

Comments and recommendations of the course participants:

Besides expressing their appreciation for attending this course and strong belief that this type of course should be organized each academic year at each faculty of the University of Niš (so that a bigger number university teachers could be included), the participants suggested that the number of teaching sessions should be at least 8, and more time for exercises and practice should be provided during the course.

2) University of Kragujevac

The course was held from 08.11.2016. – 23.11.2016. (15 classes) and was conducted by dr Branka Milenković. There were 24 participants who applied for the course, 18 attended the course (fluctuating number), while 8 filled out the questionnaire.

The survey based on the questionnaire completed by the course participants shows:

- Half of the participants of the training course (50%) stated that their expectations from the course were to become acquainted with the English phraseology applicable in teaching a lesson. The second most prominent group (25%) illustrated that they expected the course to combine English grammar use, English phraseology and advice on how to plan and conduct a lesson in English.
- More than half of the participants (62.5%) claimed that the course partially met their expectations and the rest of them (37.5%) responded that the course was fully in accordance with their expectations.
- Most of the course participants (87.5%) believed that the course textbook was adequate for the training, whereas only some of them (12.5%) indicated that the course textbook only partially covers the purpose of the training.
- Most of the course participants (87.5%) believed that the teaching material motivated them during the course, whereas only some of them (12.5%) indicated that the course material did not motivate them enough.
- All of the course participants (100%) believed that the training course was interactive and that they were fully able to engage in all activities.
- All of the course participants (100%) would recommend this type of course to their colleagues.
- Most of the course participants (75%) confirmed the applicability of the course, whereas only approximately one fifth of them (25%) believe that the course would only partially benefit them.

Comments and recommendations of the course participants:

The course participants were extremely satisfied with the opportunity to be involved in the course and all of them suggested that this course should last longer and be evenly distributed on weekly basis for an extended period of time due to its usefulness. The participants also emphasized the necessity of courses for developing academic skills and they suggested that suchlike courses should be organized and supported by the University of Kragujevac.

3) University of Belgrade

The course was held from 31st of October until 3rd November 2016., (4 days x 3 classes = 12 classes), at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Postgraduate lecture room and was conducted by Milica Abramović, lecturer. A total number of participants was 6, while the questionnaire was filled out by 5 out of 6 course participants (83%).

The survey based on the questionnaire completed by the course participants shows:

- All of the participants who completed the questionnaire joined the course in order to revise their knowledge of the English language, to become familiar with specific terminology used at lectures and gain useful advice on teaching in English (100%).

- All participants agreed that the course had met their expectations (100%), that the course books were suitable for the course, and that the program provided sufficient motivation (100%).
- Likewise, all participants agreed that the tasks they had been given during the course were interesting and useful (100%),
- The participants agree they would benefit from the course to a great extent (60%) and to a certain extent (40%).
- Finally, all participants would recommend this course to their colleagues (100%).

Comments and recommendations of the course participants:

The comments of course participants included compliments to the lecturer, Milica Abramović, and the following suggestions: that the course should be extended, that it should be organized more often, that a certificate should be issued upon course completion, and that in future classes could include some examples of native speakers giving lectures in their native tongue.

4) College of Tourism – Belgrade

The course was held from 14.11.2016. – 16.11.2016. (12classes), and there were 12-15 participants, while 12 filled out the questionnaire. The course was conducted by Dr Smiljka Kesic, lecturer.

The survey based on the questionnaire completed by the course participants shows:

- The minority of the participants of the training course (8%) stated that their expectations from the course were to become acquainted with the English phraseology applicable in teaching a lesson. Two thirds of them (67%) answered that they expected the course to combine English grammar use, English phraseology and advice on how to plan and conduct a lesson in English.
- The minority of the participants (8%) claimed that the course partially met their expectations and the majority (92%) responded that the course was fully in accordance with their expectations.
- Most of the course participants (83%) believed that the course material was adequate for the training, whereas some of them (17%) indicated that the course textbook only partially covers the purpose of the training.
- Most of the course participants (67%) believed that the teaching material motivated them during the course, whereas a smaller number of them (25%) indicated that the course material did not motivate them enough (and 8% did not reply).
- The majority of the course participants (92%) believed that the training course was interactive and that they were fully able to engage in all activities, while the minority (8%) did not find it stimulating enough.

- The majority of the course participants (92%) would recommend this type of course to their colleagues, while the minority (8%) would recommend the course with some reserve.
- Most of the course participants (83%) confirmed the applicability of the course, whereas only approximately one fifth of them (17%) believe that the course would only partially benefit them.

Comments and recommendations of the course participants:

The course participants were highly satisfied to have attended the EMI course. The participants also emphasized the real and practical need for this type of courses and they also suggested that the EMI course should be organized by the College of Tourism for more teachers from other colleges in the future.

General Conclusion

Although originally planned within WP4.2 as designing guidelines for providing language support to teaching staff at Serbian HEIs who is planning to teach their courses in English, this activity was extended into organizing a specialist language course, *EMI Training Course for University and College Teachers*, which was held at Serbian partner universities and College of Tourism in Belgrade. Thus, the organization of this course can be considered as an added value to WP4.2, which directly leads to improving conditions for language support to teaching staff at Serbian partner HEIs.

According to the questionnaire filled out by the course participants, this course was greatly appreciated by all course participants who had an opportunity to be provided both with methodology and language knowledge required for successful teaching academic courses in English. The participants were thoroughly satisfied with the content of the course material, the types of activities they were involved during the course and self-presentations they had at the final session of the course, which encouraged them to apply for teaching academic courses in English at their faculties. They also suggested that this course should be extended (8 – 10 sessions) and organized at least once a year so that a bigger number of academic staff can be involved, while those who have already attended it may have opportunity to practice delivering lectures in English in front of their colleagues and a competent language professional.

All this leads to reliable predictions about the life of the course after the project has been completed: being estimated as highly adequate, the material designed for the course can be reused for suchlike courses organized in future, while the initiative that these courses should be supported by all Serbian high education institutions, and in future organized at each faculty in Serbia, has been already launched and taken in consideration by the managements of Serbian HEIs.