

# ETAG e-Newsletter

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## The 46th International IATEFL conference in Glasgow



One of the biggest conferences for English Language Teachers in the year is IATEFL, which this year was held in Glasgow, Scotland. Over 2300 delegates attended the conference from all over the world; ETAG and the British Council in Georgia gave chance to five delegates to represent our country at the conference; there were 500 presentations and more than 50,000 people attending online through Glasgow Online, to allow people, who were not able to attend the conference, to watch the plenaries and sessions live. Five delegates from Georgia had a chance to meet face to face a wonderful professional learning network of like-minded, equally passionate educators from lots of different countries. Glasgow conference became a week of building relationships that will hopefully last for a long time. It was a week of connecting with people who have the love and passion for the same jobs and immersing in an environment where everyone wants to improve.

## Basics in Test Design: a new training course



**ETAG started to implement the Hornby Fund supported project Basics in Test Design** which implies design of the training course and training of the core team of trainers. The course will be ready by June and 12 trainers from different ETAG branches will review the course and provide constructive feedback. The training course will go live from September, and every member wishing to learn more about the basics of Classroom testing can take it. The project is co-funded by the US Embassy, and Emily Tichich, the English Language Fellow, is one of the co- designers of the course.

## Conference in Rustavi



The first Kvemo-Kartli Regional Conference was held in Rustavi Gymnasium on April 29. The Conference was funded by the American Embassy. The project has been managed by Galina Dugashvili, Head of ETAG of Kvemo-Kartli Region and Walter Gaddis, Senior English Language Fellow in the USA Embassy. About one hundred people attended the conference. The topic of the conference was Task-based Learning and the trainers discussed a number of themes such as Personalization-How to get more from our Students, Designing and Planning TBL Lessons, Keeping the Classroom in English-Young Learners, and others. At the same time participants of the conference discussed the new textbook "English World". They shared their ideas about the book. Certificates of attendance have been delivered to the participants at the

end of the conference. English teachers from different schools expressed their wish to make this kind of conference regular.

## English Language through Civic Education in Zugdidi



The fifth training in Zugdidi within the framework of English Language through Civic Education project was held on April 21. It was led by Peter Bohan, English Language Teacher Trainer. The topic of the training was Reading Strategies. Brainstorming of procedure showed that the participants of the training were quite familiar with the theme. Later the trainer helped the teacher to design the follow-up activities which led to the writing process.

The sixth training was held on May 5 and the topic was Volunteerism. The trainees discussed Holistic and Analytical Rubrics and kinds of Assessment.

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## English Language through Civic Education in Gori and Kutaisi

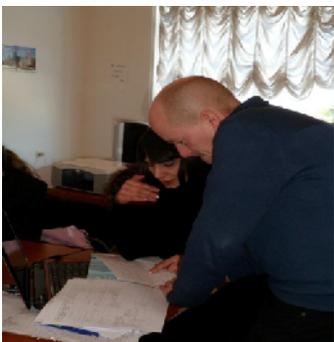


The fourth training in Gori within the framework of English Language through Civic Education project was held on March 24, 2012. It was conducted by Kirsten Mashinter, English Language Teacher trainer. During the workshop participants learned about content-based instruction. They worked together to prepare and present microlessons for their peers on the topic of vocational and life choices. To culminate the microteaching experience, Ms. Mashinter and Peter Bohan, Kutaisi ELTT, connected Gori and Kutaisi workshop participants via Skype to allow one pair of teachers from Gori and another pair of teachers from Kutaisi to present lessons to each other.

On April 21, 2012 Kirsten Mashinter conducted the sixth module. Twenty teachers from Gori attended the six hour workshop. During this workshop, participants learned about creating criterion-based rubrics for formative assessment in the English language classroom. In addition to this, they discussed importance of civic engagement through volunteer activities. At the end of the session they created and delivered 15-minute microlessons for their peers based on workshop instruction.

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## English Language through Civic Education in Batumi



The third training in Batumi within the framework of English Language through Civic Education project was held in March. It was conducted by Charles Kinney. The topic of the training was National Symbols and it was focused on the language and cultural skills outlined in Georgian English Language Curriculum. Trainer and participants discussed together important buildings, flags, historical sites associated with the nations of Georgia and the USA. Teachers also worked in pairs and wrote down the lesson plans for micro teaching. Working in groups and sharing ideas with invited TLGs (teach and learn with Georgia) appeared fruitful for the participants.

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