

ETAG e-Newsletter

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Updates on ETAG Batumi

Neli Kukhaleishvili, Head of ETAG Batumi



ETAG Batumi continues to contribute to the teacher development process in the region. Apart from our regular training sessions which ETAG Batumi conducts for school and university teachers, we started running training for newly-qualified teachers of the region. The Ajara Ministry of Education entrusted ETAG Batumi to train newly-qualified teachers for the mountainous regions of Ajara and we have been running trainings for them since 2011. ETAG Batumi conducted almost all the ETAG training courses such as NQT, Classroom Language, MLLT, MELT and LD. Some of our trainees have passed teacher certification exams and one of them Ketiv Verulidze wrote a letter of gratitude to ETAG Batumi and its trainers saying “all your

training courses helped me immensely to pass the exams and become certified.”

The new academic year starts with another round of trainings for the teachers recruited by the Ministry of Education which is Developing Writing Skills scheduled for September 28. Another important event which took place in Batumi, on May 2013 was the EFL/ETAG conference “Inspiring and Empowering EFL Teachers: Practical Ideas for the Classroom.” Teachers from different parts of Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkey attended the conference which was extremely productive. Finally, the last but not the least news is so inspiring and overwhelming that I can't help sharing with you. Giuli Mikeldaze, ETAG Batumi office manager, was chosen to participate in the conference on “Best Practices in Running and Administering Professional Teachers' Associations ” which is held in Budapest October 6-11. We look forward to new ideas and putting them into practice !

USA-based training of trainers' summer institute (TOTSI) finalists visit to the USA

Tinat Kutivadze , ETAG Kutaisi Head



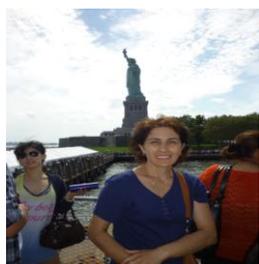
In July 2011 PH International started the implementation of ELCE (English Language through Civic Education) programme. This really ambitious programme funded by the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi was implemented in six regions of Georgia. Georgian schoolteachers of English and their students were the direct beneficiaries of the project. In August 2013 thirty ELCE graduates, chosen as TOTSI finalists, visited the USA. An intensive 18-day experience helped us upgrade our professional teaching and administrative

skills. It also gave us first-hand cultural experience and knowledge of American life and prepared us to work with our colleagues and peers in learner-centered and content-driven modern approach to English

Language learning. The Summer Institute took place on the campus of World Learning – School for International Training (SIT) in Brattleboro, State of Vermont, USA. Apart from trainings and workshops we had a very interesting cultural programme and travelled to spend some time in New York City, Washington DC, and in old New England to visit Historic Deerfield and other sights. To be frank, we were really impressed with everything we saw. We arrived in Georgia at the end of August but TOTSI still goes on. Now we are working on our follow-on action plans and getting ready to deliver our own training sessions.

The American memories

Ketevan Barkhudanashvili. ETAG Telavi trainer



We, TOTSI finalists, arrived in Boston airport on August, 4. It was already late evening, and everybody was deadly tired after a tiring 8-hour flight and 8-hour stay at Munich airport. I was glad to see the people waiting for us. They were our trainers. Although being very tired, I tried very hard to keep my eyes open to see what Boston was like, and also tried to characterise my feelings, how I was feeling, whether I was surprised, amazed, shocked or not. During the first week we had intensive training sessions which were extremely productive. The trainers did their best. The sessions covered the topics like analysing the teachers' needs, moving from teacher to teacher trainer, effective presentation skills, planning sessions, writing clear objectives, how adults learn, how to create learner-centered classroom, how to teach different skills and other important aspects. Every session was the model of the experiential cycle, we were taught the way adults are considered to learn and how we have to teach our future trainees. The second week we got used to the local time and we felt much better. What is more, we were more active because it was time for micro teaching, we had to plan our 20 minute sessions and teach in groups. In my opinion, that was the most productive part and what made it useful was that during the micro teaching we were observed by one of our teammates and a trainer. After the session we received the feedback from other members of the group and from the trainer as well. In Washington DC, we had a chance to visit the head office of World Learning, where we had a very emotional meeting with the Georgian girls who work for World Learning. We also visited the head office of TESOL where we were introduced to the main fields where TESOL works and what is more important we became the members of TESOL. **I was very proud to hear from one of the officials of TESOL that ETAG is one of the TESOL's partner organisations.** Actually, ETAG played an invaluable role in my professional growth and a factor that I was chosen to go to the States was determined by the thing that I had been working with ETAG for about 11 years. What is more, ETAG is the first organisation which started implementing the new methods of language teaching and gave me a chance to develop my professional skills and also to become a teacher trainer as well which is a great honor as well as a great responsibility. Finally, besides having the chance to experience American culture, attending an interesting training course, the most valuable thing about this trip is that now I have 29 new friends, and 29 experienced colleagues around Georgia whom I have contact with and we can share our ideas and experience with each other.

News, News, News!!!

Listening part and a new writing part have been added to National Exams Test in English as well as in other foreign languages. This has been stimulated by the fact that Listening as a language skill occupies a substantial part in the National Curriculum, also by the fact that every approved textbook has a rich collection of listening activities accompanied by CD. Practice material will soon be distributed in schools and put on NAEC website. So, dear teachers, keep your eyes and ears sharp!!!



Michael Berman, an old and dear friend and colleague of English language professionals in general, and ETAG in particular, **has passed away**.

We are deeply saddened by this fact! Despite his severe illness, Michael always showed a great love of Georgia, a perfect example of dignity, positive attitudes and high professionalism. Let him rest in peace.

ETAG Tbilisi starts in-service training courses! Hurry up, the places are limited!!

These courses are available to all ETAG members. To book your place on any of these courses, please speak to the ETAG trainings coordinator Lali Mdinradze.



Tel.: (995 32) 2 25 08 56 (995 32) 2 47 51 91 E-mail: lalimdi@yahoo.com

See our in-service training courses schedule below for Sept-Dec. 2013

- 1. Basics in Language Testing (BILT)** 20 hrs, dates Oct 5, 6, 12, 13, 19
- 2. Academic Writing** 20 hrs, Nov 23, 24, 30, Dec 1, 7
- 3. Cambridge First Certificate English FCE/B2** (16hrs), Oct 26, 27, Nov 2, 3.
- 4. Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English CAE/C1** (16hrs), Nov 9, 10, 16, 17
- 5. Classroom Language**, 16hrs, Dec 7, 8, 14, 15. Testing (BILT) 20 hrs
- 6. Developing Writing Skills (DWS)**, 32 hrs, Oct 26, 27, Nov 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17
- 7. Language Development (LD)** 40 hrs, Nov 23, 24, 30, Dec 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22
- 8. Certificate in Primary English Language Teaching (CiPELT)- a British Council course** - 30hrs. Oct 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27; **9. English for Teaching 2(EFT2)- a British Council course** - 30 hrs, Nov 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24
- 10. Business English (BE)** 40 hrs, starts in January, 2014. **11. Teaching Knowledge Test (TKT)** 32 hrs, Nov 30, Dec 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22

In order to be certified you must not miss more than 2 hours of the 30/ 32/40 hrs course, actively participate in all classroom activities and successfully complete the tasks.

Editor: Tsisana Tsiskaridze

Advisor: Trevor Cartledge

ETAG office: 3 Chavchavadze Ave. TSU building N2, r. N102 Tel:(+995 32) 225 08 56

E-mail: etag.tbilisi@caucasus.net

www.etag.ge