

# ETAG e-Newsletter

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*ETAG is finishing a very successful training course in Language Development (LD) on April 27 and is starting to run Teaching Knowledge Test (TKT) BC training course May 10  
Take your chance and join us!*

**Support for Continuing Professional Development (CPDF) of English Teachers in Georgia  
Maya Rogava. ETAG trainer & BC ELT projects consultant**



To accomplish this goal, the British Council has invited a UK expert to visit Georgia twice. During the first visit, the UK freelance expert Mr Robert Lewis was in Tbilisi for three days and met all those key people involved in the Scheme design and revision process. The meetings were very informative and useful for both parties. Mr Lewis shared his views on the new scheme and presented the British Council CPDF. Apart from the policy-makers, Mr Lewis had several other meetings with teachers of English and organisations, which provide teacher development opportunities in the country. One of the meetings was held in Tbilisi State University, building 2, where the English Teachers' Association of Georgia is based. **ETAG hosted Mr Lewis, the UK expert, Tamar Kvachadze, British Council ELT projects manager and Maia Rogava, ETAG trainer & BC ELT projects consultant.** After a nostalgic introduction about the route this organization has taken together with its long-terme and dedicated members, the Head of ETAG, Manana Rusieshvili, covered the main activities completed so far, the reasons for maintaining a low profile for some time and the plans for the future. Mr Lewis found the wide variety of courses designed by the ETAG trainer cohort very interesting, learned about the performance of 9 regional branches in Kutaisi, Batumi, Gori, etc. Tsisana Tsiskaridze, manager, talked about the interest of teachers in professional development reflected in the constantly increasing number of members, as well as in the number of teachers trained and certified. Lali Mdinardze, training courses coordinator, shared with the visitors the information about INSETT and PRESETT courses prepared and delivered by the ETAG team of trainers, US Embassy English language

fellows, and BC teacher trainers so far. Moreover, in addition Ms. Mdinardze outlined the concerns the association has in terms of the existing training courses. The meeting was highly informative, clearly focused on the main challenges of the ELT profession in Georgia and the opportunities the newly developed TPDS, if aligned with the CPDF, can open not only to practicing teachers offering them continuing professional development activities, but also to those who have not yet decided which profession to pursue. The second visit of Mr Lewis coincided with a joint conference the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and the British Council. The aims of the conference were two-fold: first, to raise awareness of teachers and school authorities of continuing professional development concept and second, to show what development opportunities are available for teachers of English in our country.

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### Access: English Teacher Leadership Institute



The US Department of State initiated the workshop – Access: English Teacher Leadership Institute. English teachers and Access programme managers from 23 countries participated in a two-week programme, March 16-30, which was administered in two stages: 1) English language teaching methodology sessions at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), and 2) TESOL International Convention in Portland, Oregon. The programme aimed at enhancing Access teachers and managers’ understanding of modern trends and methodologies in English language teaching. **Georgia was presented by ETAG (English Teachers’ Association of Georgia) trainer and Associate- Professor of the International Black Sea University Nikoloz Parjanadze.** Other participants were from Brazil, El Salvador, Chile, Russia, Kosovo, Mongolia, South Korea, Myanmar, India, Pakistan, etc. All programme participants are or will be involved in the English Access Microscholarship Programme which provides a foundation of English language skills to young people from disadvantaged sectors around the world through after-school classes and summer sessions. The first week of the programme was hosted by UCLA and the programme participants were introduced to new trends in EFL and ESL methodology, peer review and assessment, issues in corpus linguistics and applied linguistics. At the second stage the participants had a wonderful opportunity to attend a TESOL convention and expand their understanding of the issues in English language teaching and learning. Knowledge and expertise acquired through the programme is sure to assist present or future Access teachers and managers in their effort to better facilitate and administer the English Access Microscholarship Programme.



**Teaching speaking with the help of video** The English Teachers’ Association of Georgia, Batumi Branch has been actively involved in the project “Teach for future success” initiated by the Adjara Ministry of Education. This round of training was devoted to the training course “Teaching speaking with the help of video.” The aim of this training course is to help teachers of English to reflect on their skills in teaching speaking and to familiarise the participants with different techniques and activities they might use when conducting speaking. On April 5-6/12-13 ETAG trainers Tamar Mgeladze and Natia Katamadze conducted a four-day training for secondary school teachers from the mountainous regions of Adjara. The training sessions were productive as the teachers were actively involved in sessions,

reflected on the given tasks and gave feedback. Participants were highly satisfied with the training as they not only acquired new knowledge, but also were able to try out the experience gained at the training sessions.



### **An exciting challenge. Tamar Lomidze ETAG Tbilisi intern**

Being a graduate student of English philology at Tbilisi state university, I had a wonderful opportunity to become an intern at ETAG- English Teachers' Association of Georgia. ETAG conducts training sessions for English teachers to develop their language and professional skills and to improve the standard of English teaching in Georgia. Working at ETAG helps me to enhance my communicational skills as well as become more self-sufficient and career-orientated. I had the great chance to participate in successful training courses. In winter an FCE training course was held for three days. I can say with certainty that both trainers, Nona Chavchavadze and Nick Parjanadze performed their jobs excellently. Now I am taking part in 40 hour training course in Language Development (LD). The main aim of this course is to improve our language skills and to use English more effectively. The trainers are the above mentioned Nona Chavchavadze and Nick Parjanadze and also two others: Lela Abdushelishvili and Nana Kachabava. Each of them does his/her best and thanks to them the participants are eager and motivated to get the most from this course.

**I would say that ETAG is the best place for English teachers and generally for those who wish to learn more about English language teaching to raise their professional level.**

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**Thanks to TESOL conference Diana Miller, former Senior Fellow teacher in Georgia 2004-2006, Rusudan Tkemaladze, ETAG director & Nikoloz Parjanadze, ETAG trainer felt on top of the world to meet each other, share and recall their memories of the events planned and carried out together and wish one another success in their future work.**

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