



Catholic
University
in Ružomberok

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



ULCA PATHWAY TO EXCELLENT SCHOOLS

KNOWLEDGE-SHARING & NETWORKING IN EDUCATION

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND PRACTICAL CONFERENCE

9th– 10th November 2022
Catholic University, Ružomberok, Slovakia

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LEAFLET





ITS GOOD TO KNOW THAT ...

- is open for up to 90 participants
- connects managers, trainers, teachers, customers (pupils, students, parents), representatives of public and private training institutions
- organized by the Catholic University in Ružomberok
- is part of the Erasmus+ project Upgrade with Learner-Centred Approach, project no. 2020-1-SK01-KA203-078306

REGISTRATION

Registration is free for all participants.

You just need to fill in the registration form here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/RGyUZ3hnua>

After your registration we will contact you with the details about your arrival and accommodation.

ACCOMODATION

Accommodation is possible in nearby hotels and apartment-hotels that offer single and double rooms.

You can find more information about accomodation here:

<http://ulca.pf.ku.sk/en/conference/accomodation/>

CONTACT

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at: ulcaconference@ulca.eu

FOOD

Coffee breaks and refreshments are served during the Conference for participants outside the project partner organizations.

Lunch is served in the university cafeteria.

Buffet dinner is served on the premises of university on 9th November 2022.

BASIC INFORMATION

This conference is the key event organized by the team of project partners led by the team from the Faculty of Education, Catholic University in Ružomberok, Slovakia within the KA Erasmus+ project “Upgrade with Learner-centred Approach” (project no. 2020-1-SK01-KA203-078306).

Teachers from 5 European countries were involved in the project: Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Slovenia.

The main objectives of the project are:

- to increase the quality of University education through the implementation of the learner-centred approach,
- to develop excellent schools based on the EFQM model of excellence,
- to develop the Learn&Lead functional self-management and development pathway of a teacher within the school environment

AIM OF THE CONFERENCE

Our aim is to present the ideas and intellectual outputs of the Erasmus+ KA203 project and to launch an innovative network of schools encompassing primary schools, secondary schools, universities and private training institutions - the ULCA teachers and schools' network. We offer all of you a unique experience and tools for teachers and school managers development in the learner-centered approach.

VENUE

Date: 09th – 10th November 2022

Address: Pedagogická fakulta, Katolícka univerzita v Ružomberku, Hrabovská cesta 1, 034 01
Ružomberok, Slovakia



SPEAKERS

Markéta Rusnáková



Assoc. professor Markéta Rusnáková is a university teacher, guarantor of the Social Work study program at Faculty of Education, CU and the International Joint Masters Erasmus MUNDUS program European Social Worker with Children and Youth. Currently, she is the coordinator of the Etasmus+ Strategic Partnerships Upgrade with Learner - centered Approach project and a member of the project team in the area of supporting the culture of knowledge sharing in learning organizations - KNOWLO. She is a member of the research team in the project of the Ministry of Education "Kto vie, nech učí" aimed at increasing the quality of student internships. Currently, she is also involved in international projects on the quality of education and innovative methods of education in a higher education environment. She is a graduate of several educational courses oriented to this area (Building Excellent School - EFQM).

Jana Chynoradská

PaedDr. Jana Chynoradská studied English language and literature from 1993 to 1997 and in 2006 she obtained the title "PaedDr." in didactics of teaching English. From 2000 to 2005, as a volunteer, she led the Women's Club in Trnava, whose main focus was education, charity and culture. She also served as president of the Association of Language Schools of the Slovak Republic. Since 2000, she has headed the HARMONY ACADEMY and at the same time works as the principal investigator of the Learn & Lead development concept and expert consultant for various educational organizations at home and abroad. Jane wrote three books, "I can because it's my life," "I choose because it's my life," and "The 9 principles of a Smart Person Learn & Lead!"



Gabriela Lojová



Prof. PhDr. Gabriela Lojová, PhD. works at the Department of English Language and Literature, Faculty of Education, Comenius University in Bratislava. She is a recognized expert in teaching the English language, author of several textbooks for teachers. She regularly speaks at domestic and foreign conferences dedicated to the development of teachers in an approach focused on the needs of the pupil. Since 2001, she has been working at Harmony Academy as a professional guarantor of teacher education programs. Gabriela is a tenacious, receptive, supportive mentor of teachers and lecturers who understand that their development is in their own hands and they need to constantly work on themselves, develop and grow professionally and personally.



Mateja Todorovski

Mateja began developing the didactics of early teaching back in 2000 as a teacher at a primary school. Later worked as an adviser at the National Education Institute Slovenia (NEIS) and as an assistant in the field of didactics at the Faculty of Education in Ljubljana. She has been involved in Erasmus programmes for over a decade, her work being recognised and awarded quality labels nationally and internationally wise.

Today, as an English teacher to young learners and Erasmus coordinator, she is closing the gap between theory and practice in Education.



Daniel Markovič

Daniel is the Head of the Department of Social Work at Faculty of Education, CU, his research focuses on career counselling and minority issues. He teaches courses on social work, minority groups, social work in the online environment, pedagogy, and didactics. He is the department's pedagogical practice methodologist. He is a frequently invited speaker in Slovakia and has delivered lectures in the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Latvia, Bulgaria, Spain, France, Portugal, and Poland. Daniel is passionate about international project cooperation.



Branislav Kl'uska

Assoc. professor Branislav Kl'uska graduated as a teacher of Slovak language and literature and religious education at the Catholic University in Ružomberok in 2000. Subsequently, he completed doctoral studies at the Institute of Biblical Sciences, Faculty of Theology, John Paul II Catholic University in Lublin. During his studies, he completed professional internships and guest studies at the universities of Vienna, Freiburg and the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. Since 2005, he has been working at the Faculty of Education, CU, where he teaches biblical and theological subjects as part of the religious education teaching program. He focuses on the theology of the New Testament, narrative and rhetorical analysis of biblical texts and didactics of teaching religious education. He is the author of ninety publications, which he published in Slovakia and abroad and for which he received more than a hundred responses.





Adela Vitkovska



Adela Vitkovska is a project manager of Erasmus+ projects and the director of Biedrība Eurofortis with almost 20 years of experience working with EU projects. Adela started in 2001 as an assistant for a Regional agency in the Czech Republic. Since 2004 she continued her career working on Lifelong Learning projects under Leonardo da Vinci call and later Erasmus+. Adela is a trained EFQM AIT Assessor with experience in Latvian award assessments.

Inga Grigaityte



Inga Grigaityte is a Lithuanian language teacher and teaching assistant in Vilnius Prano Mašiotų primary school, in Lithuania. She has experience working with children with special needs and their integration in the classroom. Since participating in the ULCA project, she started implementing learner centered approach in her classroom. Inga is finishing up her Master's degree in Heritage studies, she is interested in culture, history, architecture, literature, education and student motivation.

Gjorgjina Dimova



Gjorgjina has been working as an Informatics teacher since 2001 in primary school "Strasho Pindjur" – Negotino, North Macedonia. She was also director of "Pascal Line" (2001 – 2008) – academy for training in applicable software and coding for students and adults. Her main responsibility was curriculum development and methodology. She's National Geographic certified teacher, Scientix ambassador, eTwinning ambassador, Microsoft Innovative Teacher Expert and British Council trainer, also master trainer for Ministry of Education. In 2019 she received e-innovation award and has been awarded three times by Scientix for promoting STEM among students. She received the highest award in her town "8th November", awarded by the Municipality of Negotino.

Published several papers on innovative teaching and games in the classroom.



Lenka Krasul'ová

Mgr. Lenka Krasul'ová graduated from the UMB Faculty of Philology in Banská Bystrica in English translation and interpretation. She completed her pedagogical education at the Faculty of Education, CU in Ružomberok. She completed her German language studies at the State Language School in Žilina. Currently, she works as a teacher of English and German at the Primary School, Bystrická cesta 14 (detached workplace Dončova 4) in Ružomberok. She increased her qualification with the 1st and 2nd attestation papers. She also participates in various international and educational seminars aimed at personal development and improving her pedagogical skills. Lenka is currently participating in the ULCA international project. She leads the Student Council, is actively involved in school life and, last but not least, loves to teach.



Zuzana Fileková



PaedDr. Zuzana Fileková graduated as a 1st grade teacher at the Faculty of Education, UMB in Banská Bystrica. She works at the Primary School, Bystrická cesta 14 (detached workplace Dončova 4) in Ružomberok, where she has been teaching intellectually gifted students since 2001. She completed the specialized innovative study Creative drama. She increased her qualifications with rigorous and 2nd attestation work. Zuzana is the head of the Methodical Association of intellectually gifted students of the 1st grade. She participates in various educational seminars aimed at increasing the quality of teaching. She is currently participating in the ULCA international project.

Mirjana Jankulovska

Dr. Mirjana S. Jankulovska is associate professor in scientific area of chemistry at Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food - Skopje, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, North Macedonia. She gives lectures to the university students, and participates in various national and international projects related to chemistry. Mirjana is co-founder of NGO Center for innovations and digital education Dig-Ed, where she collaborates with teachers and university professors in implementation of different projects, workshops and trainings, aimed to improve the quality of education. Her experience as a teacher in primary and secondary school enables her to understand different levels of educational system and has improved her ability to transfer knowledge and skills on different audience during trainings, establishing successful communication and collaboration with the participants.





Maja Videnovik

Maja Videnovik is a Computer Science teacher in primary school "Krste Misirkov", Skopje and co-founder of the NGO Center for innovations and digital education Dig-Ed in North Macedonia. She has received her master degree in educational management and she is an author of around 20 papers concerning ICT integration in the classroom. Maja is dedicated to lifelong learning and has participated in more than 100 different conferences, workshops, seminars, trainings, courses and webinars. She has been a teacher master trainer on different topics; local expert for development of standards and professional competences for teachers, teacher mentors and teacher advisers; team member for curriculum development. Her work in Dig-Ed is dedicated to finding different ways for teachers' continuous professional development, enabling high quality teaching and student-centered learning.



Irena Žemaitaityte

Irena Zemaitaityte is a full professor at the Institute of Education Science and Social Work, head of Lifelong Learning laboratory at Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius, Lithuania. She is involved as researcher and trainer in the fields of lifelong learning and non-formal education. She is a member of the European Society for Research on the Education of Adults and an Editor in chief of the Scientific Journal "Social Inquiry into Well-Being". Research experience: presented more than 40 presentations in scientific forums, published more as 50 articles in scientific periodicals. She took part in 12 international projects as coordinator (group leader).



Slavomíra Bellová

PhDr. Slavomíra Bellová, PhD. works as an assistant professor at the Department of Pedagogy and Special Pedagogy, at the Faculty of Education, Catholic University in Ružomberok. She focuses on the issue of undesirable student behavior, teaches subjects focused on general pedagogy, free time pedagogy, alternative education and intercultural education.





Mykhaylyna Kl'usková

ThDr. Mykhaylyna Kl'usková, PhD. took her MA in Catholic Theology at the Catholic University in Lublin, Poland, in 2001. In 2009 she defended her PhD. thesis and received PhD. in Biblical Theology at the same university. From 2006 she works at the Catholic University in Ružomberok at the Department of Catechetics and Practical Theology. She teaches introduction courses to biblical literature (Old Testament), biblical languages and Judaism. She also works as a student adviser. Her actual research is focused on biblical psalms. She is a member of the exegetical group preparing Slovak commentary on the Book of Psalms.



Jana Jacková

Ing. Jana Jacková, PhD. received the Ing. degree in Electronic Computers, and the PhD. degree in Branch Didactics from Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava. Her educational activities and research focuses on didactics of informatics/computer science, teacher training in informatics, ICT in education, teaching programming, database and information systems and participation in computing education research. Dr Jacková is a member of the Central commission for the Informatics subject at the State Pedagogical Institute, Slovakia. She is a co-organizer of the international conference DidInfo about teaching/learning of Informatics in all levels and forms of education.



Štefan Tkačik

RNDr. Štefan Tkačik, PhD. has completed his Master's studies at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Pavol Jozef Šafárik in Košice in the field of mathematics-mathematical informatics. In 1998, he completed his doctoral studies in the field of Applied Mathematics at the Faculty of Management and Informatics of the University of Žilina. Until 2022, he worked at the Department of Mathematics at the Faculty of Education, Catholic University. He taught the subjects Discrete Mathematics, Mathematical Analysis, History of Mathematics. dr. Tkačik is the co-author of 2 monographs, author or co-author of several articles. He participated in the processing of mathematical analysis textbooks designed by prof. Igor Kluvánek, on the translation of Galileo's work The Discourses and Mathematical Demonstrations Relating to Two New Sciences, The science of materials and The motion of objects.





Gabriela Hrkľová



MVDr. Gabriela Hrkľová, PhD. is an assistant professor at Department at Biology and Ecology, Faculty of Education, CU in Ružomberok. She participated at teaching General Biology, Cytology and Human Anatomy. Her research is devoted to ticks, their spreading and the diseases they transfer to people. The other part of reserach is didactics of Biology.

Renata Bellová



Ing. Renata Bellová, PhD. completed her studies at STU, Faculty of Chemical Technology in Bratislava, in the field of study: Processes and equipment of chemical and food productions. She completed her doctoral studies in the field of Theory of Teaching Professional Subjects at the Armed Forces Academy in Liptovský Mikuláš. Since 2004, she has been working as a university teacher at the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Education, CU. In pedagogic and scientific activities, she deals with didactics of chemistry and innovations in science education. Her publication activity is mainly aimed at streamlining the educational process of natural science disciplines. She actively focuses her field of research on the training of future and current chemistry teachers, also as a member of the administrative board of ACHT (Association of Chemistry Teachers) of Slovakia.

PRESENTATIONS

Gabriela Lojová

Why and how to become an LCA teacher

In today's world it is necessary for schools to become places of support, understanding, wisdom and encouragement for children. Teachers play a key role in forming their pupils and their perceptions of learning as such. Learner-centred approach leads teachers to be more centred on the needs of their pupils and offers them a clear guidance in their further career and professional development. In this plenary I will share the why and how to become a LCA teacher based on the latest research, my personal professional experience and the ULCA input we have created in the Upgrade with learner-centred approach project.

Jana Chynoradská

Teacher Learner-centered Approach Teacher Development Framework

Teacher Learner-centered Approach Teacher Development Framework was created in order to support and assist teachers, lecturers and administrators in education in the implementation of this modern pedagogical approach in schools of any type. In total, we have built in it 11 professional competencies that clearly link the findings contained in the 7 principles of the learner-centered approach according to Gabriela Lojová (active learning of pupils, learning content, cognitive and affective (emotional and personality) domains, class climate and learning atmosphere, classroom relationships, assessment and feedback and teacher roles, relationship with pupils) and the findings contained in the 9 principles of a Smart Person Learn & Lead from Jana Chynoradská (self-knowledge-metacognition, directing their further development, communication and cooperation, resilience and stress management and orientation in a global context).

Markéta Rusnáková

Branislav Kluska

Innovative training of future learner-centred teachers

As part of the ULCA project, we realize that it is necessary to work with future young teachers from the beginning of their university studies in a pupil/student-oriented approach. That is why we have built 3 new courses in the bachelor's degree, where students will get a broader picture of this approach. It is not only about courses that inform about the learner-centered approach, but which are taught by educators through this approach. It is not possible to build a modern school of the 21st century without lifelong self-development of the teacher, which is why we have also built 2 new courses aimed at teacher self-development into the master's degree in the education of future teachers. In this way, the future teachers will acquire a complex of tools, competences and knowledge, which they will use later in practice. These subjects also include practice in model ULCA schools.

PRESENTATIONS

Mateja Todorovski

GPS to Learner-centred schools

The title is a play of words. Namely, GPS stands for Guidelines for Primary schools in Learner-centred approach. The main purpose of the document is to support pre- and in-service teachers in their professional development and personal growth. Moreover, the aim is to support schools as organisations when developing the whole school LCA approach. In this talk the structure of the guidelines will be presented.

Jana Chynoradská

Daniel Markovič

Innovative life-long learning programs for in-service teachers and managers,

Mirjana Jankulovska

Inga Grigaityte

Gabriela Hrkľová

Gina Dimova

Teacher-training Summer Schools – Sharing experience

Personal stories and experiences of participants in the "Learner-centred Approach" and "Learn&Lead" courses, which were held at the Faculty of Education, CU in Ružomberok and Mykolas Romeris University in Lithuania.

PRESENTATIONS

Lenka Krasul'ová

Maja Videnovik

Irena Žemaitaityte

Train the LCA Teacher-trainer - Expert Facilitators personal stories

Personal stories and experiences of participants in the "Train the LCA Teacher-Trainer" course in North Macedonia.

Adela Vitkovska

Excellence in practice for schools

Excellence means understanding the purpose, striving to be better than yesterday, and bringing real added value to your pupils/students and parents. In this presentation you will get to know the excellence approach and the implementation steps and learn how you and your organization can benefit from it.

Mateja Todorovski

Funding options to become an ULCA school

Best changes are driven from within us but we have to face reality as well. And finances always are a reality check. Therefore, we will present some possibilities, how to fund your professional or organisation development. What is more, concrete support system and groups will be introduced for anyone interested in further cooperation.

WORKSHOPS

Lenka Krasulová

Zuzana Fileková

Slavomíra Bellová

Workshop SK 1 Teachers' motivation

Let's go back in time and come and experience with us what it was like to be a child. Would you like to be a linguist or a mathematical genius? Nothing is impossible. With us, everyone finds their own way. We believe that with us you will experience a taste of these finest teaching tastes and we will succeed in awakening your imagination and the need to realize yourself as a teacher. Let the children's feedback be your reward. After all, children are reflection of us.

Branislav Kluska

Mykhaylyna Klusková

Jana Jacková

Workshop SK 2 Why to change?

Maja Videnovik

Gina Dimova

Workshop ENG 1

Integration of digital tools to support active learning

The main aim of the workshop is to empower participants' knowledge and skills concerning integration of digital tools to support active learning. Discussions about the integration of the technology during class activities in order to increase students' interest and motivation for active participation will be carried out. Different digital tools will be presented and the ways how they can be used in the classroom will be discussed. Participants will have an opportunity to experience some of those tools through hands-on work and to analyze them. Participants' experience in using different digital tools for active learning will be presented and the list of most useful tools will be created as a workshop outcome. Main benefits as well as drawbacks from implementation of this approach during teaching will be discussed.

WORKSHOPS

Jana Chynoradská

Workshop SK 3

Creating visions in schools

Transformational leaders for change are one of the prerequisites for a school to become a happy place for all its players. This course introduces new approaches that inspire people working in schools to create their own visions that will allow them to grow and develop for the desired results.

Daniel Markovič

Štefan Tkačík

Renata Bellová

Workshop SK 4

Future teachers for modern schools - the role of universities

Adela Vitkovska

Workshop ENG 2

Excellence in practice for schools

Do you want to understand how to structure your organisation, know how to inspire and lead better, develop your personal skills, or just want to improve communication between the teams? Excellence approach can support this and much more. During the workshop we will touch some of the basics of excellence approach, EFQM model and with a help of different practical activities learn how to implement the excellence culture in your school.