



## ULCA - Upgrade with Learner-centered Approach

Erasmus + KA203 - Strategic Partnerships for higher education

International ULCA Conference "Pathway to Excellent Schools, Knowledge-sharing & Networking in Education" was held in Ružomberok, November 9-10, 2022



On November 9 and 10, a big international conference, ULCA: **Pathway to Excellent Schools, Knowledge-sharing & Networking in Education**, was held at the Faculty of Education, Catholic University in Ružomberok. The event brings together teachers, managers and students and aims to present the project's findings in the field of Learner-centred Approach. The Learner-centered Approach is a game-changer in classrooms: it empowers students to take responsibility for what they learn. They focus on how to use new knowledge to solve a problem or create added value. Instead of simply imparting information, the teacher assigns the students a task and guides the class in creating solutions. Students "discover" new information and come up with solutions instead of passively waiting for the teacher's answers.



We started the final stage of the project with the Ružomberok conference. Teachers from abroad led workshops and showed how it is in their classroom. They were watched by teachers from all over Slovakia and various countries around the world, and they can put their new experiences into practice after completing other courses.

The conference was attended by over a hundred participants from many countries around the world (Slovakia, Lithuania, Latvia, North Macedonia, Slovenia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Philippines, Nigeria, Indonesia, etc.). Almost all participants from the project organizations spoke at the conference, where they presented their experiences and newly acquired knowledge from the project to their colleagues in the plenary.

For example, Mateja Todorovski presented GPS - Guidelines for Primary Schools. The name is a play of words. Specifically, GPS stands for Guidelines for Primary School in a Learner-centered Approach.

At the conference, teachers from partner project schools also led workshops. Zuzana Fileková and Lenka Krasulová brought the teachers back to the past and tried out what it would like to be a child again. Would you like to be a linguist or a mathematical genius? Nothing is impossible. With them as teachers, everyone can find their own way. As part of the workshop, they made a tasting of the finest teaching tastes in an effort to awaken the imagination and the need to realize oneself as a teacher in all present participants. Let the children's feedback be our reward. After all, children are reflected in us.



From organizers' point of view, the conference fulfilled our goals and we look forward to cooperation with new schools that would like to become ULCA schools.

**Markéta Rusnáková, project coordinator**

## Reflections on the “Train the LCA Teacher-trainer” training

We all met on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 in the small town of Negotino where the Strashno Pindjur Primary school has its residence. Despite a few difficulties we all got together well and experienced a week full of professional training led by experienced teachers coming from Slovenia, Macedonia, Lithuania, and Slovakia. Every day was full of new original training courses led by the LCA teacher-trainers-to-be, feedback given by the participants (google forms), by LCA observers working along with the elaborated LCA observation sheet and two LCA expert – assessors, me being one of them and Gabriela Lojova, the author of the 7 principles of LCA that forms the base for this project idea. What was by far the most important component of this teacher-training process was the self-reflection of the LCA teacher-trainer-to-to after s/he had heard all the feedback.



In the whole week there were 21 participants in person and 1 participant online. Out of these 12 got qualified as LCA teacher-trainer (one with recommendation after further developing their LCA teacher-training skills) and 2 were active as ULCA expert assessors.

If we take a closer look at the feedback provided by the participants, we can see that 49,7% of the respondents came from Slovakia, 21,1% from Lithuania, 17,4% from North Macedonia and 11,8% from Slovenia.

The participants viewed that 58,4% of the LCA teacher-trainers-to-be delivered their session as excellent, 28,6% as very good and 13% as good.

The participants viewed that 60,2% of the LCA teacher-trainers-to-be overall approach as excellent, 27,3% as very good, 11,2% as good and 1,2% as poor.

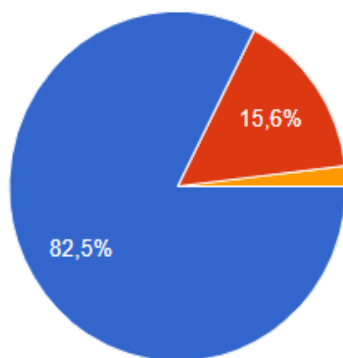


The most crucial feedback from the participants was about their recommendation of the LCA teacher-trainer-to-be to become an LCA teacher-trainer and here the feedback is that 82,5% as “yes, sure”, 15,6% as “yes, in the future, after further developing their LCA teacher-training skills” and 1,9% as “no, I would recommend further study and training (LCA, Learn & Lead...) to become qualified for the LCA teacher-trainer.

Would you recommend this teachers to become an LCA teacher-trainer?

Kopirovat

160 odповіdi



- Yes, sure
- Yes, in the future, after further developing their LCA teacher-training skills
- No, I would recommend further study and training (LCA, Learn & Lead...) to become qualified for the LCA teacher-trainer

There were always 2 LCA observers viewing one LCA teacher-trainer-to-be and they all follow the LCA observation sheet comprising of the key areas of a successful implementation of the LCA approach in the classroom. Namely, the following: 1. Active learning, learners ‘participation, 2. Learning content, 3. Balancing cognitive and affective domains, 4. Social climate and learning atmosphere, 5. Evaluation and feedback and 6. Teacher performance.

All in all, this week was a very special time spent with great friends, professionals and showed me the next course of action in my professional development. I am more than ready and willing to be supporting, guiding, and encouraging great, learner-centred teachers to step out and become LCA teacher-trainers in the future. My journey is now enriched with a lot of warm-hearted, authentic, original experiences which will stay in my heart for the rest of my life.

The LCA teacher-trainers-to-be, and we all managed to set up the foundation for the following “Train the LCA teacher-trainer” training courses for the future. If you are interested in becoming another LCA teacher-trainer, be ready to apply for our training in the summer 2023. Places, dates, and program to be announced before Christmas 2022.

**Jana Chynoradská,**

**Skopje, North Macedonia**