

Sixth European and Central Asian Language Projects Meeting

Graz, 15th – 18th January 2003

I was invited and sponsored by the British Council Prague to take part in their annual meeting in Graz as an AMATE observer and main partner in the Czech Republic. I joined Olga Kolovratova who represented the BC Czech Republic. There were representatives from 28 countries and people from the BC Headquarters in London and Manchester. It was a very intensive meeting where the representatives talked about the policy of the BC generally and in individual countries. The countries represented at the meeting were divided into Launch, Transition and Diversification countries. The Czech Republic belongs to Transition countries where the BC hands over their projects to local partners in our case it is AMATE and other educational bodies. However, the Council does not leave us without any support. As we know, we get training in management and project development skills (TRANSKELT). I understood that this support would continue for some time but we should really aim for the independence. It was very interesting and useful to hear about all the projects that are in progress in other countries. There will be a lot of events and projects in the future, many of them international. If you are interested in any of them you should follow ELTeCs list and also our Web page. There were representatives from Balkan states who were very much interested in our trainers whose reputation is very good thanks to people who presented on Hornby Schools in Hungary. At the end I would like to point out some of the most impressive events that are going to take place in Europe and might be interesting for us:

1. IATEFLNOTEAST – a conference for young teachers (up to 3 yrs. of experience) to share their problems and encourage them to stay in schools. September 2003, Zagreb
More info. findingyourself@britishcouncil.hr
2. Hornby Regional Schools – Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania
Follow ELTeCS for more info. about recruitment of trainers and participants

I would like to thank the British Council for inviting me as a representative of AMATE and I hope that we will be able to benefit from the information I got at the meeting. For my AMATE colleagues I have got two messages – the British Council is a reliable partner for us and we should do our best to be the same for them. And a personal message – Sue Mace is sending her love to everyone.

Nada Vojtkova