

Report on the British Council Seminar - EVENT 0458 by Dana Hurtová and Zdena Hartingerová

Seminar title and main themes: [Strength in Numbers: increasing the impact of English Language Teacher Associations](#)

Conference location: [Bournemouth UK](#)

Conference dates: [20-25/6 2004](#)

What it was like:

This seminar was for English Language Teaching professionals who have been involved in setting up, leading, managing and developing Teacher Associations. It took the form of input sessions from the course director George Pickering and a number of contributors and course facilitators (see Appendix 1). In addition to plenary sessions, there was extensive group work in which we - all the participants - had the opportunity to share experiences and network with our colleagues from 21 countries.

Our reasons and aims for attending the seminar:

As members of the newly established teacher educators association - AMATE, moreover as newly elected joint presidents of the association, we wanted to share our experience and learn about the practices in other countries, especially in the following areas:

- developing and maintaining sustainable networking to enable the continuing independence
- ensuring involvement of individual members - how to make them interested in getting them involved and being active
- developing effective communication among all the members
- getting the reputation we need
- dealing with uncertain situation in further development of teachers, no career structure so far although promised for quite a while
- mutual co-operation of the associations from different countries
- innovate our menu of services

During the seminar all the participants worked in groups together to make projects on various topics according to their associations and countries needs. In our project we started planning the process of preparing 'a baseline study in ELT in the CR' for the BC in the CR.

Dissemination plan

How we intend to disseminate information and ideas from the seminar to a wider audience

- **A) Write a report for AMATE website**
- **B) Prepare an action plan and inform the AMATE board members about the outcomes of the seminar (see Appendix 2)**
- **C) Implement all useful ideas about running and managing the association (see Appendix 2)**

Appendix 1
Conference programme

Monday 21 June

0900	Seminar aims – George Pickering
1000	Missions of Teachers Associations - Adrian Underhill
1100	Coffee/tea
1130	Leadership and Management - Adrian Underhill
1230	Group photograph
1245	Lunch
1400	Change management frameworks - George Pickering
1530	Coffee/tea
1600	Project management - George Pickering
1730	Close
Evening	Presentation on ELT books by John Walsh, the bookseller

Tuesday 22 June

0900	Products and Services - George Pickering
1000	Running effective conferences - Magali de Moraes Menti
1100	Coffee/tea
1130	Newsletters - George Pickering
1230	Lunch
1400	New services/websites - Gavin Dudeney
1530	Coffee/tea
1600	Discussion lists - Gavin Dudeney
1730	Close
Evening	Fish and chips supper

Wednesday 23 June

0900	Teachers Associations and best practice George Pickering
1000	Marketing and membership - Magali de Moraes Menti
1100	Coffee/tea
1130	Finance and Resources - George Pickering
1230	Lunch
1400	Free afternoon for organised sightseeing
1730	Close

Thursday 24 June

0900	Networking - George Pickering
1000	Strategic Partnerships - Magali de Moraes Menti
1100	Coffee/tea
1130	Regional Links – Margit Szesztay
1230	Lunch
1400	Role of Teachers Associations in Reform and Development Programme – George Pickering
1530	Coffee/tea
1600	Project Presentation – all participants
1730	Close
1900	Closing drinks reception
1930	Closing dinner

Friday 25 June

0900	Event overview – George Pickering
1000	Presentations and Action Plans
1100	Coffee/tea
1130	Event evaluation
1230	Lunch
	Close of event

Appendix 2

Action plan (the outcomes of the seminar)

We would like to develop the following areas:

Increase the effectiveness and impact of AMATE

- Restructure the current structure
- Evaluate and adjust the constitution, aims...etc and make essential changes
- Prepare an action plan for 2 years

Improve the traditional menu of services offered

- Continue in organizing conferences
- Publish newsletter (quarterly) – on the Internet

Broaden the services beyond the above mentioned menu

- Organize events accredited by the Ministry of Education for teachers (independently – without the educational institutions)
- **Establish OFFICIAL (contracts of cooperation) links** with the educational authorities (the Ministry of Education, institutions providing continuous teacher education)
- Provide professional expertise for the MoE and other educational authorities
- Continue to apply for **grants** (try Eltecs, Socrates....) – doing so provide opportunities to our members = teacher trainers for their professional development

Provide a safe, warm environment for free exchange of ideas and opinions

- Develop **website – interactive not only informative**
 - **provide discussion lists** (yahoo groups)
 - **invite experts for discussions with teachers** (in cooperation with the publishers)

Provide international networking opportunities for AMATE members

- develop international networking in cooperation with ATECR

PS More detailed plan with names and dates will be published on our website www.volny.cz/amate.cz after the executive board meeting in July.

Try to read this...

THE OPPORTUNITY IS NOWHERE

Do you read it the same way as we do: OPPORTUNITY IS NOW HERE?
Yes? GREAT! We can move forward.

28/6/04

Dana Hurtova, Zdena Hartingerova