

ETAG e-Newsletter

An e-publication of the English Teachers' Association of Georgia

ETAG is an associate of IATEFL and an affiliate of TESOL



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TIE -a new B1/B2 exam coming to Georgia



ETAG has signed an agreement with Gnosis Assessment and took the responsibility to administer the Test of Interactive English(TIE).

TIE is an international English language exam developed in Ireland and quality assured by The Accreditation and Co-ordination of English Language Services (ACELS). ACELS is part of the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland. The TIE exam follows the requirements of the Common European Framework of Reference for

Languages and issues a certificate of A1/A2/B1/B2 levels. The TIE exam was launched in 2000 and since then it is available in several European countries where thousands of candidates take the test every year. From October, 2012 Georgian learners of English will have the chance to take the TIE exam locally and get an international, life-long certificate in English.

Basics in Language testing – a new training course



A new 20- hour training course *Basics in Language Testing* developed with the support of the Hornby Trust, UK will go live from September. The course is a combination of theory and practice and addresses such issues as *kinds of test, validity and reliability, test techniques and task types, testing language skills*, etc. This is an essential course every teacher of English- school and university - should take. 12 top level trainers have already been trained and are authorized to conduct the training in various parts of the country. The course was written by Rusudan Tkemaladze and co-written by Emily Tichich, an English language

fellow from the US Embassy. The course was co-funded by the US Embassy. Those, who wish to take the course may apply to ETAG from 15 September.

Summer institute in Ureki



Summer Institute for the teachers participating in the project English Language through Civic Education (ELCE) was held on June 7-11 in Ureki. American trainers and Georgian teachers had an excellent chance to combine English language teaching with the civic education and cultural issues. Each presentation was thoroughly prepared and well-managed in terms of time as well as in terms of its content. There was a great atmosphere of friendship and networking. Special thanks should go to our American colleagues, teacher trainers, who put their hearts and souls in preparing the summer institute. And, of course, special thanks go to Project Harmony staff and

especially, Nana Ioseliani. Things went smoothly, without any problems, and this was the result of a very careful and thoughtful preparation of the activities of the summer institute.

Ureki summer Institute was preceded by year-final seminars in Gori and Kutaisi. In Gori this was led by Kirsten Mashinter.

Teachers practiced writing extra-curricular activities that promote civic engagement at a grassroots level. Kutaisi and Zugdidi seminar participants came together in Kutaisi to discuss critical literacy and media awareness. The seminar was led by Peter Bohan. One day training in Kutaisi ended with excursion to Promete Cave which was absolutely unforgettable for all participants.

The project continues and next year will cover two more towns: Ozurgeti and Rustavi. The overall number of teachers participating in the ELCE project will grow up to 150 teachers.



ETAG-British Council joint project in action



Within the framework of the ETAG-British Council joint project “In-service Teacher Development” the first workshop on Reflective Practice was held in Tbilisi, on July 20. Reflective practice is the process of thinking evaluating, analyzing and reviewing what takes place in the classroom. It is an action-oriented process the goal of which is to improve and transform our teaching. The training was led by Khatuna Gelashvili, our novice trainer. Participants discussed some reflective tools, such as, team teaching, classroom action research, etc.



The project actually started in June, when the workshop on Learning Styles was led in Gori and another one – on Process Writing in Khashuri. The trainers were the British Council trained trainers Natia Tlashadze and Nino Bunturi. The participants were introduced to pre-writing, drafting and editing procedures and techniques. ETAG-British Council joint project “In-service Teacher Development” continues until April 2013. It will cover over 15 regions and 470

English teachers will get involved in it.

Conference in Samtskhe-Javakheti



Conference in southwestern region of Georgia, Samtskhe-Javakheti, was held in June. It brought together a lot of teachers from various towns and villages throughout the region. The topic of the conference was “Designing and Delivering Effective lessons”. The aim of the conference was to improve teachers’ pedagogical skills, to encourage a spirit of cooperation, networking and good fellowship among teachers. The participants were divided into small groups and attended four separate hour-long workshops presented by American and Georgian teacher trainers. Walter Gaddis, an English Language fellow from

the US Embassy was the initiator and financial supporter of the conference.

A good-bye party



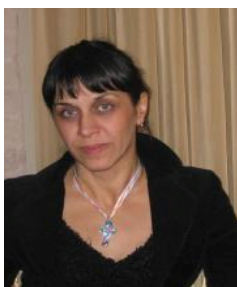
On June 22, 2012, ETAG held a small 'good-bye party' for ELF's from US Embassy Walter Gaddis, Emily Tichich and Tatiana Gabrielson. Cooperation with Walter and Emily was especially fruitful. Among many other things, Emily managed to update the Academic Writing Course and co-write the Basics in Language Testing Course. Walter has been very successful in attracting more members to ETAG and initiating and supporting conferences and teacher trainings in different parts of Georgia. We want to thank Emily for

her donations to ETAG as well.

ETAG prize owners

It is the end of the academic year and we, as it is our tradition, summarize the number of trainings held and - people trained. We have also nominated the winner trainers, those who conducted the most training hours. From September 2011 to July 2012 ETAG held 30 teacher training courses and trained 508 teachers. The biggest number of trainings were held in Tbilisi 11, Batumi 7 and Gori 4. Nona Chavchavadze from Tbilisi and Ketik Barkhudanashvili from Telavi are the winner trainers as they were able to conduct the most number of training hours -56 hrs each.

Each of them will be awarded 100 GEL



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

ETAG will be closed from July 28 to September 10.

HAPPY SUMMER HOLIDAYS!

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