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Dyslexia for Teachers of English as a Foreign Language



Project

Dyslexia is a specific learning difficulty that has an effect not only on literacy skills in students' first language, but also on foreign language learning. In order to ensure that dyslexic students successfully acquire the necessary levels of foreign language competence, they need additional support.

In our project we have developed a face-to-face and interactive Moodle teacher training course as well as self-study materials for teachers of English in order to raise their awareness of the foreign language learning needs of dyslexic students and most effective teaching approaches and techniques. We have published the DysTEFL course, have organized (and are planning to hold) meetings with teachers, teacher trainers, teacher training curricula designers and all interested parties to publicize the course and encourage educational policy makers to incorporate it into teacher training schemes. One of such events, which was held in Łódź, Poland on October 11, 2013, was a one-day final DysTEFL international conference, which gathered about 140 participants from across Europe. Two keynote speakers and five experts in dyslexia have been invited for plenary and round-table sessions. In addition to that, ten workshops were offered, each of them devoted to a single unit of the DysTEFL course. More information about this event is available at the project website www.dystefl.eu. At this webpage you will also find out more about the DysTEFL project, you may try out a self-study course and download the DysTEFL Trainer's and Trainee's Booklets.



DysTEFL books and final conference

The **DysTEFL coursebooks have been published**, the Trainee's Booklet and Trainer's Booklet accompanied by the CD which includes both booklets and all the appendices, e.g. Power Point presentations, short DVDs, links to related websites and worksheets, are now available both in print and in an electronic form (pdf files can be downloaded from the project website www.dystefl.eu). The training materials consist of ten units that cover a variety of theoretical and practical issues. Each unit comprises several tasks, further divided into steps, which acquaint EFL teachers with a wide repertoire of useful teaching methods, techniques and tools to enhance the quality and effectiveness of foreign language teaching to learners with dyslexia.



The **final DysTEFL international conference turned out to be a great success**. The conference was organized under the auspices of Polish Ministry of Education and Oxford University Press by the Department of Pragmatics and the International Educational Projects Office of the University of Lodz with the support from the DysTEFL partnership, and was held at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Łódź, Poland. We received most positive and rewarding feedback and comments from the participants - pre- and in-service teachers of English, teacher trainers, policy makers and other interested parties.

During the conference distinguished specialists on foreign language teaching and dyslexia, Margaret Crombie and Anne Margaret Smith, delivered plenary lectures. Project partners and guest teacher trainers conducted ten workshops, each of them covering a single DysTEFL course unit. Finally, during an expert panel session, experts invited from different European countries discussed the exploitation possibilities of the DysTEFL materials in the countries outside the DysTEFL partnership.

The conference delegates left motivated, equipped with DysTEFL course CD including effective and innovative ideas and techniques of supporting dyslexic foreign language learners. If you were unable to attend this international conference, but are interested in the training materials, please visit the DysTEFL project website <http://www.dystefl.eu/>.

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