Different point of view - Slovak teachers at ITF Zagreb 08

In the beginning of March slovak teachers together with their colleagues from other European countries took part in ITF Zagreb. I would like to share a letter I have received from one of the Slovak teachers attending the event:

ITF Zagreb 2008 - different point of view – Lubica Steinerova

Even though I have already been to Croatia on holiday, I was really looking forward to Zagreb. From my personal experience: when I am looking forward to something, it usually goes wrong. However, mistakes often prove the rule. And this was the case – Zagreb was perfect!

I really appreciate the fact that I have been selected into the team of Slovak teachers from Innovative Teachers portal. It was a real honor for me. The same applies for my colleagues, and after Zagreb, my friends.

The forum of innovative teachers gave me a lot but also took something from me. Maybe it sounds strange but the forum really took something from me:

* I thought that school projects can be done according to precisely stated criteria given by didactic borders that are perfectly aligned with teaching plans. This is not the case. The teaching is supposed to offer students some freedom for their interests and willingness to find out how it works – technology often destroys these artificial borders.
* I thought that project teaching is individual work – of an enthusiastic teacher and his class that follows him (and other colleagues suppose that he will sooner or later loose his enthusiasm). Again, this is not the case. We have seen projects in Zagreb in which whole school and sometimes more schools cooperated. Sometimes even students and teachers from different countries took part in the same project. Technology connected them and that is important for the future.
* I thought that it is sufficient for me to master mother tongue. That is not true. Teachers from 36 European countries did not have any problems communicating with each other, discussing, laughing together...... I had to wait until translator translated what was said for me.
* I thought that modesty is a good characteristic. And it is not true in fact. Good work should be published; the results should be made public. Look, we can do it well, too! This is something that Zagreb took away from me. Finally!
* I became afraid a bit of belonging to the European community of innovative teachers. It was proved by the interest of others about our projects. Even though we did not achieve a victory, I am sure that it provided good experience for us for future successes. One of the biggest influencers for us were definitely Innovative Teachers portal and Microsoft projects. However, the actual undertaking of hard work was let on us – teachers.
* I gained lots of information from lectures but also it confirmed that many opinions are common, the same for everyone. After applause following the lecture of Ivan Kalaš, I was really proud to share the same nationality, Slovak. And by the way: Ivan Kalaš definitely cannot be labeled as a boring lecturer, he was perfect.

Zagreb persuaded me that cooperation is really helpful. In a team of teachers from different countries we were able to create cute video from rainy and cold sightseeing tour around Zagreb. But this was the case only for weather. The atmosphere among teachers was full of relax, understanding, laughter..., crazy ideas, creativity. This video was judged as one of the best 5 from 15. Zagreb is a beautiful city.

Therefore, I give you an appraisal on the behalf of teachers – A+..... and we cannot thank you enough from both teacher's and from man's perspective.







