Celebrating Teaching, Celebrating Learning

Lublin, Poland
27th September 2025

Opening Address 09:00- 09:15	**Thom Kiddle,** Director of NILE **Zbigniew Mazur,** Associate Professor, vice-dean for student affairs, Maria Curie-Sklodowska University **Joanna Soboń,** Head of Lubelskie Samorządowe Centrum Doskonalenia Nauczycieli		
Opening Plenary: 09:15 - 10:00	**Ludka Kotarska** Member of the NILE Advisory Board	**Changing the mindset – path to wellbeing**	The world has undoubtedly experienced challenging times in the last decade. We all have been impacted by changes at various levels - social, cultural, economic, political. Inevitably, they have filtered through to our classrooms, re-shaped them bringing new concepts to the limelight such as sustainability, diversity or inclusion. This coincided with generation Z entering the scene followed by generation Alpha who have already reached their teenage years. In this talk we will try to demystify some of the challenges teachers face and focus on the positive: wellbeing of teachers and learners.
Plenary Session: 10:00 - 10:45	**Magdalena Sowa** Associate Professor, Head of the Department of Applied Linguistics, Maria Curie-Sklodowska University	**The LSP Teacher's Competences: Between Expectations and Reality**	This talk explores the competences teachers of languages for specific purposes are expected to have, and those they actually need in everyday practice. Drawing on the literature, I'll outline the knowledge and skills most often recommended for teaching languages for professional or vocational purposes. I'll then compare these "ideal" competences with research into teachers' real experiences. Together, we'll consider which competences matter most in practice—and how teachers can continue to develop them in their professional growth.
10:45 - 11:15	**Coffee break, networking opportunity - sponsored by Russel Stannard**		
Plenary Session: 11:15 - 12:00	**Jamie Keddie** NILE Consultant Trainer, LessonStream founder	**Video as a springboard for storytelling**	Why do language teachers turn to YouTube, adverts and Instagram reels for material and inspiration? These videos might be fun and entertaining, but why bring them into our teaching spaces? The answer is simple: language learners need narrative. In this practical talk, I will present a simple technique called 'videotelling' that brings the story and the people to the front of the class. I will demonstrate how to use short videos to stimulate speaking, develop fluency – and make feedback and assessment easier.
Plenary Session: 12:00 - 12:45	**Russell Stannard** NILE Consultant Trainer, founder of www.teachertrainingvideos.com	**Where can AI really make a difference?**	In this highly practical talk, Russell will present how AI can really make a difference in our teaching and learning. Based around one basic concept, Russell will demonstrate a number of ideas that he and his large subscriber base have successfully experimented with. This is a real eye-opener into the impact that AI can have in generating materials for our lessons using really simple tools. What's more these ideas can be easily adapted to different levels and contexts.
12:45 - 13:30	**Lunch Break** (Participants' own arrangements)		
Parallel Workshops 13:30- 15:00	**Charlotte Aldred** NILE MA Teaching Young Learners Course Participant	**Teaching Outside the Coursebook**	Textbooks have long been the backbone of English language teaching within schools. They save time, provide structure, and give managers and parents visible evidence of progress. Yet, while convenient, they can also limit creativity, reduce learner engagement, and distance lessons from the realities of children's lives. This session will show how teaching beyond the coursebook can transform the primary classroom. We will look at practical strategies to make learning more relevant, motivating, and memorable to young learners — without losing the benefits of structure and accountability.
	Jamie Keddie NILE Consultant Trainer, LessonStream founder	**Videotelling: A story-based approach to video**	Conversational storytelling is a fundamental function of language. In this hands-on workshop, you will take away practical ideas and principles for using video to help your students acquire essential skills, develop spoken fluency, and build visual literacy.
	Marlena Deckert Centre for Foreign Language Teacher Training and European Education of The University of Warsaw	**Designing Tasks for Vocational Foreign Language Teaching Based on Industry-Specific Content**	This workshop is intended for, though not limited to, teachers of vocational foreign languages who wish to enhance their teaching practice by integrating industry-specific content from the core curricula of various professions, such as hairdressing, floristry, fashion technology, mechatronics, or culinary arts. Drawing on the task-based approach (CEFR, 2001), participants will design language tasks that reflect authentic communicative situations typical of these professions. By engaging with such tasks, learners are more likely to feel motivated to use the foreign language independently in contexts that resonate with their interests and career aspirations.
	Karolina Kasperska British Council, Head of English and School Education	**Understanding Every Student: From Diversity to Inclusion – How to Create an Inclusive and Emotionally Safe Classroom**	This session will share the latest data and findings from reports on multicultural classrooms in Poland, offering insights into the current challenges and needs schools are facing. In the second part of the session, teachers will reflect on their own experiences in multicultural settings and exchange ideas from their practice. Participants will be introduced to simple, practical strategies for responding to difficult situations and fostering a supportive and inclusive learning environment. The session will also explore ways to make the most of multilingualism in English language lessons.
15.00 -15.15	**Closing Ceremony** - with a raffle of a NILE Online course		