

ADRIES ●●●●

ADRIES

2026

**Adriatic
Education
Development
Research &
Innovation
Symposium**

22–24 October 2026 · Split, Croatia
Radisson Blu Resort, Split

adries.eu



The Legacy Continues

In 2026, we are not only meeting as colleagues, but also as friends and partners.

It has been almost a decade since the first ADRIES was launched back in 2017. The idea behind the conference was to bring together like-minded individuals with a passion for language education, teacher development and training, quality assurance and innovation, offering a unique platform for specialised professional development and networking.

The conference has always been primarily oriented towards key decision-makers in the language education sector. Because these decision-makers are drawn both to opportunities for collaboration and to opportunities for growing their business, ADRIES has developed two distinct focuses: collaboration and networking, and business development.

Collaboration and networking have always been closely tied to EU projects funding innovation development in education, mostly through Erasmus+. ADRIES has served as a platform for both project dissemination and idea development. Our previous events have yielded a number of

successful partnerships and funded grant proposals. This year's event continues that tradition, featuring several innovative projects and hosting brainstorming sessions where new ideas can take shape and grow into future proposals.

At the same time, we have prepared a number of sessions focusing on the business side of the industry. We will explore new marketing trends in the language teaching industry from three different angles. We will also look more closely at one of the fastest-growing segments of our industry worldwide: international exams. We hope our participants will gain practical takeaways they can implement directly in their schools.

It is safe to say that ADRIES has become something of a tradition for a number of European language teaching institutions. Therefore, in 2026, we are not only meeting as colleagues, but also as friends and partners.

We look forward to seeing you in Split!

Going Green

Environmental sustainability has always mattered to us. Since the very first ADRIES, we have made conscious choices about how the conference is organised, and this year is no exception. The Erasmus+ programme has also placed increasing emphasis on sustainability in recent years, and we are proud that ADRIES continues to reflect that same commitment.

This year, our partner and sponsor **Green Standard Schools** has worked closely with us to help make ADRIES as green as possible.

1

Check-in is fully digital. Every participant receives a unique QR code before the conference, which will be scanned on arrival.

2

Your name tag is printed on seed paper containing wildflower seeds. Once the conference is over, don't throw it away — plant it, water it, and watch it grow.

3

Even our lanyards are made from recycled cotton, so that every part of your ADRIES experience leaves as light a footprint as possible.

Guiding language schools towards a greener future



Green Standard Schools empowers any language school to become a leader in environmental sustainability, taking positive action and gaining a competitive advantage. GSS accreditation will help you strengthen your institutional brand and meet student and staff expectations.

Interested in joining? Speak to our GSS representative during ADRIES.

Attract more students

Retain and inspire staff

Save operating costs

Future-proof your school

Show the world you care

greenstandardschools.org



School at your fingertips.

Holistic and personalised IT solutions for language schools.

Amber School Manager

The most complete online tool designed for language school management.

amber-sm.com

Next Generation Placement Tests

Affordable online placement tests for six European languages.

nextgenplacement.org

Website design and development

- Custom-coded sites resilient to growing hacking concerns.
- Education and training for clients on hosting and maintenance.

Virtual Reality for Language Learning 2.0

Virtual Reality for Language Learning 2.0 is an Erasmus+ KA2 project aimed at the development and implementation of Virtual Reality technology in language teaching and learning. It is a direct continuation of the previous VR4LL project, which was one of the driving forces behind the ADRIES 2022 event. The original project was very successful — it was selected as an example of best practice within Erasmus+ at both national and European levels, and was also selected as one of the finalists in the Digital Innovation category of the British Council's ELTons Awards.

VR4LL 2.0 brings the most up-to-date Virtual Reality technology to language learning classrooms, delivering interactive and engaging content suitable for learners of all ages and languages.

Note

Participants will have the opportunity to try out VR technology live during the conference. You will be able to book 1:1 VR sessions with our specialist at designated times during the conference, with details to be provided in your confirmation letter.



Leaders in the Making

Leaders in the Making is an Erasmus+ KA2 partnership bringing together partners from Romania, Italy, Portugal, Serbia and Croatia. It grew out of a question language schools rarely ask out loud: our classrooms are one of the few places where adults regularly practise communication, collaboration, negotiation and problem-solving, so why do we so seldom teach those competences on purpose, and almost never assess them?

The answer is a complete toolkit for schools, built around five units: leadership identity, life and entrepreneurial competences, teamwork, social responsibility, and turning an idea into a project. Each unit comes with lesson plans, presentations, student handouts and hands-on materials, ready to drop into an existing course. Two features set the toolkit apart: the coaching layer and assessment, through a bank of self-assessment and team-assessment questionnaires, so that progress in life competences can be evidenced rather than assumed.

All of it is freely available at leadersinthemaking.eu.

Note

Two ADRIES sessions are dedicated to this project. On Friday morning, Palmina La Rosa will tell the story of how it began; the session that follows is a practical, hands-on walk-through of the materials themselves.





Into a world without language boundaries.

Your examination partner

Jantar is an authorised exam centre for Cambridge Assessment English exams in Croatia and Serbia, as well as IELTS exams in Croatia and Slovenia.

International teacher training

Teacher training courses designed for language teachers in European institutions. Suitable for Erasmus+ funding and organised in the beautiful coastal city of Split.

European projects and innovation

Implementation of projects funded through EU programmes, both as coordinator and partner. Contact us if you need a reliable partner for your next grant proposal.

Our story



Jantar – International House Split

Jantar – International House Split has been a family-owned and operated community language school since 1992. From humble beginnings, the school has developed into a consortium of businesses, catering to language learners of all ages in Croatian cities and beyond through our partnerships with international institutions. Our general and specialised courses for seven European languages are verified by the Croatian Ministry of Education and delivered by a team of extraordinary teachers, some of whom have been with us for more than 20 years.

In 2019, Jantar joined the International House World Organisation. We believe that both our business and educational strategies are closely aligned with the core values of the network. Working closely with like-minded individuals and teams over the last seven years has been a wonderful experience. We feel that International House has been a good fit for us and hope to continue cherishing this relationship.

In 2019, we became an official Cambridge Assessment English exam centre. At first, we operated as an internal centre,

providing exam opportunities for our students. In 2021, we took over the Croatian market, delivering Cambridge Assessment English exams to candidates nationwide. As of 2026, we are also operating as an exam centre in Serbia.

In 2025, we became an Independent Testing Centre for IELTS. We are the only such exam centre for the Croatian and Slovenian markets, providing IELTS General and Academic, UKVI and Life Skills exams as a partner of the British Council.

Since 2014, we have actively participated in a number of EU projects through the ESF and Erasmus+ programmes, both as coordinators and partners. We also host international teacher training courses in Split, providing learn-and-travel opportunities to professionals from our industry.

Whether through international projects, teacher training and job shadowing opportunities, or Cambridge Assessment English and IELTS exams, we pride ourselves on being a valuable partner focused on long-term sustainable collaboration.

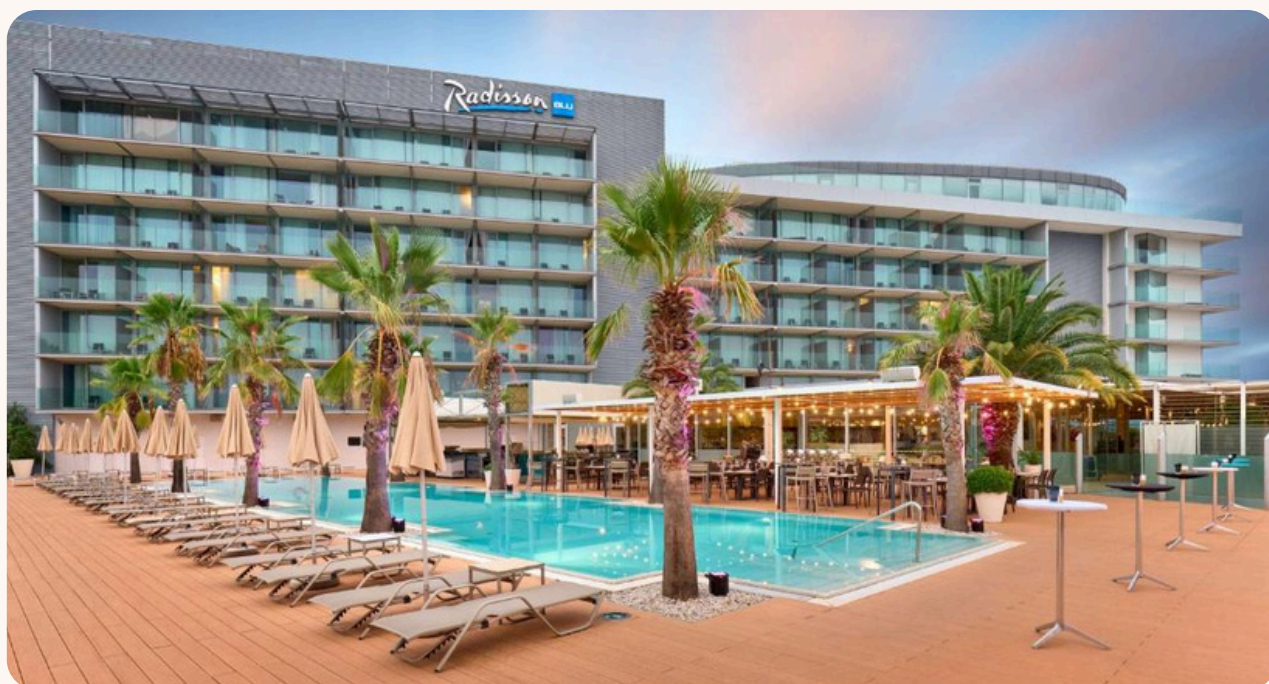
Wednesday

October 21, 2026

19:00

Welcome drinks on the Radisson Blu Terrace

The exact location will be shared with participants via our digital registration app several days before the event.





**Cambridge Assessment
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Why work with Jantar - IH Split?

**35 years' experience in
the industry**

**One partner; two
markets**

**The first digital CEQ
provider in the region**

**Reliable session calendar
and easier planning for
preparation centres**

**Excellent customer
service and support for
partner schools**

**A low-stress exam-day
environment for your
students**

**Our preparation centres are our best reference.
We are proud to work with every single one of them.**

Thursday

22 October 2026

8:00 – 8:45

Registration – Radisson Blu Resort, conference floor

Bring your digital QR code to one of our staff for check-in; talk to sponsors

8:50 – 9:15

Conference opening and welcome

Josip Sobin

9:15 – 10:15

A new reality in the language classroom

Josip Sobin, Simon Harris & Richard Twigg

During the ADRIES 2018 event, a small group of language teaching professionals started exploring the idea of using Virtual Reality (VR) technology in language learning classrooms. We postulated that VR could provide a platform for combining the Total Physical Response with other teaching approaches (such as task-based learning and problem-solving), while at the same time fostering communication in foreign language among students. The idea turned into an Erasmus+ project, which secured initial funding for five EU-based schools to develop VR materials for ELT classrooms. Due to the quality of developed learning materials and worldwide implementation of VR in language schools, the project received a number of recognitions and further funding. In this presentation, we will explore the full extent of our recently implemented Virtual Reality for Language Learning 2.0 project.

10:15 – 11:15**The evolution of language testing: lessons from the past, directions for the future****Roshan Patroo**

Language testing and assessment (LTA) has become increasingly important in recent decades, playing a critical role for governments, educational institutions, employers and learners worldwide. At a time when technological developments, particularly advances in artificial intelligence are transforming many aspects of education, language testing is under greater scrutiny than ever before. This keynote reflects on what innovation means in language testing and assessment and considers how the field can respond to continuing educational, social and technological change. It then considers the role of language testing and assessment from the perspectives of different stakeholders, including test takers, test users, educators and assessment providers. Sustainable innovation in language testing depends on responding to changing learner needs, educational priorities and societal expectations while maintaining trust, validity and relevance in an increasingly complex world.

11:15 – 11:45**Coffee break***Enjoy refreshments and visit our sponsor area***11:45 – 12:30****Applied resilience: a reflective journey for educators****Jana Chynoradská, PaedDr.**

This 45-minute interactive presentation addresses the growing emotional and professional challenges faced by teachers and learners in today's classrooms. It introduces applied resilience as a practical and accessible framework for turning everyday difficulties into opportunities for learning and personal growth. Grounded in the 9 + 0x0 Principles of a Smart Person, the session focuses on self-awareness, self-reflection, and mindful work with emotions in educational contexts. Through short guided reflections, pair discussions, and real-school scenarios, participants explore tools for identifying inner resources, reframing challenging situations, and maintaining emotional balance throughout the learning process.

12:30 – 13:30 The importance of teacher learning**Peter Lucantoni**

Every teacher needs to improve, not because they are not good enough, but because they can be even better (Dylan Wiliam, Emeritus Professor of Educational Assessment, IOE, UCL). Teacher learning is a critical element in any teacher's professional development, as well as for the organisations where they work. In this session we will discuss the aims of teacher learning, what we are striving for, and the benefits in terms of classroom impact. We will also consider a four-step process to support teachers' professional development and the organisations that they work for, and define three elements for successful teacher training input: personal, professional, practical (Ellman & Lucantoni, 2022).

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch**14:30 – 15:30 The school that gets remembered****Jasmina Šimić**

Most language schools offer quality teaching, experienced staff, and a welcoming environment. So does every other school in the market. In a sea of sameness, even the best schools struggle to be seen, chosen, and remembered. This workshop gets into why that happens and what to do about it. Through live exercises, real examples from the region, and a hands-on brand differentiation framework, participants will work out what actually makes their school different and how to say it in a way people remember. The session is practical, fast-moving, and built specifically for language schools. Everyone leaves with a Brand Voice Card for their own school, a concrete first step toward standing out in all the right ways.

15:30 – 16:30 More than just box-ticking: adding value through quality assurance**Emma Hoyle and Belle Dowber-Hawkins**

Quality assurance is often seen as a compliance exercise, but approached differently, it can become a powerful driver of improvement, innovation and new opportunities. In this session, International House World Organisation will share how it has rethought quality assurance to deliver real value to schools. We'll explore how a consultative approach – combining tailored guidance, sector expertise and practical pathways for growth – can turn external review into meaningful and lasting improvement. We'll also look at how recognised quality assurance can strengthen Erasmus+ applications, demonstrate a school's credibility as a reliable project partner, and open access to European funding that may help cover the cost of external inspections.

**VR****Don't forget to book your 1:1 session with our VR expert!**

Details will be provided in your welcome email.

For speaker bios, please visit adries.eu/speakers

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Friday

23 October 2026

9:15 – 10:15 **What if yours is next? How one idea became a movement in student leadership**

Palmina La Rosa

What if one idea could change not only the lives of young people, but your own? Every meaningful project begins with a moment: a question, a frustration, a conversation that refuses to leave you. Leaders in the Making began exactly that way. What followed was far more than an Erasmus+ project. It became a journey of courage, unexpected partnerships, personal transformation, and the opportunity for thousands of young people to discover that leadership is not about being in charge; it is about making a difference.

10:15 – 11:00 **Leaders in the making**

Iva Meštrović

The previous session tells you where Leaders in the Making came from. This one is about what to do with it on Monday morning. We will work through the toolkit the way your teachers and students would. Participants take part in one of the activities from the course, and then step back to examine the lesson plan behind it: the competence aim, the coaching technique it draws on, the interaction pattern. We will also look at how the self-assessment and team-assessment questionnaires work in practice, and how what they reveal feeds into a coaching conversation with a class. Find out how these materials fit into your school, what a coaching-informed lesson feels like from the learner's side, and what it takes to introduce the toolkit in their own school.

11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee break**

Enjoy refreshments and visit our sponsor area

11:30 – 12:15 Green Standard Schools – a win-win-win opportunity**Jonathan Dykes**

Green Standard Schools is a not-for-profit association that was established to help and encourage language schools everywhere adopt more environmentally sustainable policies and practices. GSS also offers an accreditation scheme that was designed specifically for the language teaching community. We currently have accredited members in 11 different countries, who can attest to the fact that obtaining GSS accreditation has been good for their schools – in several different ways – as well as being good for the environment. But that's not all – GSS accreditation can also help you achieve approval for your Erasmus+ applications. This talk will outline how our accreditation scheme works and how your school can also benefit from this win-win-win scenario.

12:15 – 13:00 The basics of AI – supporting teachers and learners**Charles Stewart**

Technology is constantly evolving, and it can be daunting knowing how to use it effectively as a tool in the language classroom. AI in particular has taken the world by storm, and it has many great uses to enhance language learning. At the same time, we need to remember that teaching “is a deeply human process that AI is hopelessly incapable of meeting in a meaningful way” (Satya Nitta, in Young, 2024). In this talk, we will look at what AI offers both teachers and learners, making reference to how we can implement it into our classes and addressing various concerns for its use.

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch**14:00 – 14:45 Miss-communication in social media marketing****Benjamin Rhys Bowkett**

The rise in popularity of social media marketing has changed the way language schools communicate their services to potential customers through their advertisements. It is therefore significant to address the questions of what characteristics language schools are presenting in their social media adverts, the key attributes language school customers value when choosing a language school, and what language schools should emphasise when developing advertising campaigns to create more effective advertising campaigns.

14:45 – 15:45 How to create an effective marketing strategy for your language school**Ana Nenadić**

In this workshop, we'll cover the key pillars of a successful marketing strategy for language schools. You'll learn how to clearly define your target audience, choose the right marketing channels, craft key messages, and identify your competitive advantage. We'll also focus on building an effective content plan and creating a marketing funnel that turns visitors into enrolled students, without relying heavily on paid advertising and spending a lot of time and money. You'll discover how to capture your audience's attention, build trust over time, and ultimately sell through valuable, strategic content.

18:30 – 21:30**Networking event**

On Friday evening, we will hold an interactive social event for all participants, followed by a closing dinner. This will be an opportunity to network with colleagues and prepare for future joint endeavours.

Details about the event will be shared with registered participants one week before the conference — we believe you will enjoy it!

For speaker bios, please visit adries.eu/speakers

IH OTTI - Professional Development for Every Stage of a Teaching Career

The IH Online Teacher Training Institute is the teacher training wing of IH World Organisation. We offer industry-recognised professional development courses for language teachers at every stage of their career.

All our courses are online and asynchronous. Apart from the new microcredential courses, they are all tutor-led and cohort-based, meaning participants get the benefits of a learning community as well as the flexibility to fit studying around a full-time job.

IH Certificate in Teaching Very Young Learners

IH Online Course in Teaching Young Learners and Teenagers

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IH How to Teach IELTS

IH Certificate in Online Tutoring



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Saturday

24 October 2026

The Saturday programme is entirely focused on Erasmus+ opportunities and networking.

9:30 – 13:00 Collaborative morning session

Our morning session consists of a number of short 10–15-minute introductory presentations on selected topics, followed by 30–45-minute discussions, brainstorming and collaborative problem-solving.

All participating organisations will have a chance to talk about their experience with the Erasmus+ programme and present their services relevant to each topic. This session is all about discovering opportunities, exploring potential issues and offering real solutions for language schools wishing to participate in Erasmus+.

Session topics include:

Erasmus+ KA1 opportunities for language schools

This session will cover teacher training courses and job shadowing opportunities for staff, mobility opportunities for learners and KA1 consortia. Teacher training centres will have an opportunity to talk about their services for staff, while study abroad schools can present solutions for challenging learner mobilities.

Erasmus+ KA2 – innovation trends in ELT

We will explore how current trends in the industry can be incorporated into the ever-changing landscape of KA2 projects. Participants will have an opportunity to talk about their own experiences with KA2 grant proposals from the past two years. We will also brainstorm project ideas and discuss possible partnerships between participating organisations.

Writing Erasmus+ grants in the AI era

We will discuss how grant writing has changed in recent years due to the exponential development of LLM technology, and how this has affected competition. Our focus will be on how to utilise AI tools to improve our workflows and processes, while keeping ideas and creativity as the key human factors in the process.

Going beyond Erasmus+

An EU project expert will present opportunities available through other EU grants, not only the Erasmus+ programme. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A session for all interested participants.

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

UNTIL NEXT TIME

The programme ends here. Split does not.

With the afternoon free, we hope you will stay on and give the city the rest of your Saturday. Walk the old town, find a table along the waterfront, and take your time before heading home.

Thank you for spending these days with us. We look forward to seeing you at the next ADRIES.

ADRIES ●●●●

See you in Split.

22–24 October 2026 · Radisson Blu Resort, Split, Croatia

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