



Mathematics Education -  
Relevant, Interesting and Applicable

Newsletter 11, May 2019

## MERIA – The final conference in Zagreb, Croatia

We are glad to share great impressions from the MERIA final conference that took place in Zagreb, on 27 and 28 May 2019 as the main dissemination event of project outputs. The conference was hosted by the project leading institution, the Department of Mathematics of Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb. More than 75 mathematics teachers and many members of the project team from all four partner countries participated in the event and contributed to exchange of ideas in stimulating and bright atmosphere. The conference was also attended by researchers in mathematics education from Croatia and representatives of local policy-making institutions.



The plenary part of the Conference was opened by the Croatian Minister of Science and Education, Blaženka Divjak, followed by the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Aleksandra Čižmešija, and the Head of the Department of Mathematics, Igor Pažanin, who all emphasized the importance of stimulating and encouraging approaches in mathematics teaching. Matija Bašić, the project leader, described how it all began three years ago and how the idea behind MERIA evolved and spread.



Project outputs, the MERIA scenarios for inquiry-based mathematics teaching, were introduced to the audience by Gregor Dolinar and Mojca Suban from Slovenia, and the project additional output, a research paper inspired by the MERIA scenario "Slide", was presented by Rogier Bos from the Netherlands.



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## Plenary talks

In her plenary talk, Britta Jessen from Denmark highlighted the benefits of sharing of teacher knowledge and how this idea is embedded in MERIA modules.



Britta and Michiel Doorman from the Netherlands argued also theories that support MERIA scenarios - Theory of Didactic Situations and Realistic Mathematics Education, and questioned the future of inquiry-based mathematics teaching – is it desirable and feasible, can it be made sustainable?

## Teachers sharing ideas

Different ways in which mathematics teaching can be designed, while discovering and learning relevant, interesting and applicable mathematics, were shared and discussed among participating teachers in subsequent workshops, pitches and the poster section.



Teachers discussed their experience in implementing MERIA-scenarios, students' reactions to a new instructional format, novelties that this format brought to them or to students, products they considered successful, etc. They also shared their own creative ideas and experience in designing math lessons from everyday practice.



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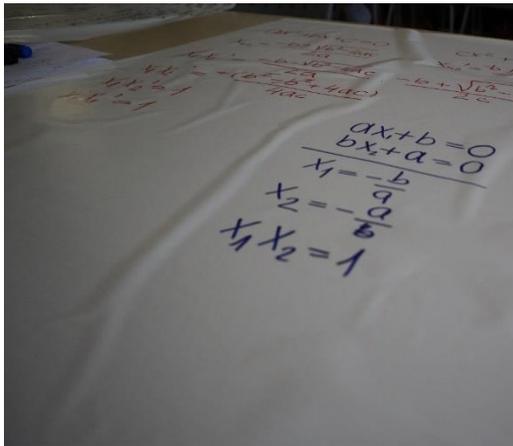




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## Public session

The last and the most popular (according to evaluation of participants) event at the Conference was the Public session conducted by Eva Špalj from the XV. Gymnasium in Zagreb with participation of students from the same school.



Students worked in groups on a task and elaborated their reasoning and results, after which present mathematics teachers, moderated by Željka Milin Šipuš and Matija Bašić, discussed phases of the lesson, teacher's actions, students' approaches, and other issues observed in the lesson. Enriching experience to all!



**We thank everyone for their participation and contributions to the joint work and motivating atmosphere during the Conference!**



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