

**THE RATE – QUEST CONFERENCE
CLUJ-NAPOCA, 28-30 OCTOBER 2005
FEEDBACK FORMS - RESULTS**

Number of feedback forms: 84

1. The conference as a whole

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----|------------|
| excellent | good | neither good nor bad | bad | didn't say |
| 62 | 19 | 1 | - | 2 |

2. The conference location

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----|------------|
| excellent | good | neither good nor bad | bad | didn't say |
| 52 | 29 | 1 | - | 2 |

3. The way the conference was organised

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----|------------|
| excellent | good | neither good nor bad | bad | didn't say |
| 63 | 21 | - | - | |

4. The plenaries

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----|------------|
| excellent | good | neither good nor bad | bad | didn't say |
| 53 | 28 | 3 | - | |

5. The workshops

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----|------------|
| excellent | good | neither good nor bad | bad | didn't say |
| 32 | 51 | 1 | - | |

6. The panel discussions

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----|------------|
| excellent | good | neither good nor bad | bad | didn't say |
| 28 | 44 | 4 | - | 8 |

7. The poster exhibition

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------------------|----------|------------|
| excellent | good | neither good nor bad | bad | didn't say |
| 27 | 44 | 8 | 1 | 4 |

8. The social programme

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----|------------|
| excellent | good | neither good nor bad | bad | didn't say |
| 44 | 33 | 4 | - | 3 |

9. The book exhibition and information stands

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----|------------|
| excellent | good | neither good nor bad | bad | didn't say |
| 62 | 22 | - | - | |

10. The meals / coffee breaks

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----|------------|
| excellent | good | neither good nor bad | bad | didn't say |
| 54 | 27 | 3 | - | |

11. What was the best session you attended? Why?

1. “*4 Eyes Are Better Than Two – Ways to Non-Threatening Observations*”
2. “Mario Rinvoluceri’s Plenary Talk (dense and attractive) / Workshop: *An Alternative to Alternative Ways of Evaluation*.- gave me ideas what to do next with optional.”
3. “Mario’s *How to Humanise ORAL TESTING!* Enjoyable”
4. “*Newly Qualified Teachers’ Needs* – Ana-Maria Florescu-Gligore and Monica Ralea – a topic that interests every teacher, whether young or old, which needs improvement”
5. “I cannot say that there was one session that was best or one that was my least favourite. Everything I attended was very good, high quality and useful.”
6. “*Humanising Testing* – for tackling problems I have been faced with several times.”
7. “Lydia Stack’s – clear, valid, practical, impact”
8. “Craig Dicker’s session”
9. “Mario Rinvoluceri’s - Interactive, Challenging, Humanising”
10. “Mario Rinvoluceri – because he was interesting and entertaining at the same time.”
11. “*Common European Framework*”
12. “Mario Rinvoluceri - because of his personality, the dynamism, practicality and lifelikeness of his performance”
13. “Peter Brown
Lydia Stack: *Assessing What Students Know*
Craig Dicker, Jen Macarthur – practical, well organised”
14. “Lydia Stack was splendid! Her presentaion was very good.
Plenary: Rick Millican- very organised and consistent
Workshop: Michael Carrier: I am interested in the topic presented”
15. “*Principles and Practice in Language Testing* – I clarified some problems in designing tests”
16. “Very interesting to know about local initiative, e.g 1) Poster Presentation (of Marta, Muresan, Breazu)
2) *Evaluation – a Right Indeed* – COLIBABA / POPOVICI
3) The Baccalaureate debate (VUSCAN / OSAN)
Thank you very much!”
17. “WONDERFUL: Suzanne Antonaros’s *Let’s Be Fair! Make What’s Important Measurable!* – inspiring and interactive”
18. “Hard to say. I enjoyed every minute of this event. Thank you! Congratulations!”
19. “Plenary – Lydia Stack – very useful”
20. “*Using Portfolios for On-going Classroom- based Assessment in EFL* – Jen Macarthur, very practical, useful information, down-to-earth presentation, suitable for our students’ needs”
21. “The Plenaries held by Mario Rinvoluceri, Lydia Stack”
22. “Plenary – Lydia Stack, Workshop – Craig Dicker – theory and applications”
23. “Michael Hoey’s – consistent, clear, really told me something new”
24. “The Stacks :) – I really felt I’d learned a lot”
25. “Jane Loudon’s workshop
Craig’s session: *4 Eyes Are Better than 2* – super, a real performance
Lydia’s presentation: clear, useful”
26. “ All plenaries and native speakers’ workshops”

27. "ART FOR EVALUATION – Laura Michaela Laurentiu: adult, grounded, calm, allowed me to experience and express MISTRESSLY – Brilliant teacher AND MATURE"
28. "Mario Rinvolucri – *Humanising Testing* and Alice Mastacan – lively presentations, excellent approach of the topic, food for thought"
29. "Mario Rinvolucri's workshop because I believe in taking students' emotions into consideration when teaching."
30. "*Using Portfolios for On-going Classroom-based Assessment in EFL* – it is very useful in my teaching career"
31. "*10 for Creativity* – it gave specific examples of how to use materials to encourage creativity
 - resembled a workshop, not a dull power-point one-sided presentation"
32. "Lydia's plenary met my expectations
Elena Gardescu's sessions and Jane's session – practical and good ideas, didn't beat the bush around"
33. "All plenaries were great. My favourite workshop: Craig Dicker's *Ways to Non-threatening Observation*. Made me think a lot and learn about presentation, self-control and judgement. And it was brilliant and entertaining"
34. "Loretta Mastacan's workshop on creativity. It was something about what I do in the classroom so it proved that what I do is good. Lydia Stack's plenary was the best because she offered a practical point of view that we can clearly use in the classroom with our students."
35. "Peter Brown – *The Future – the e ELP version*
Craig Dicker – *4 Eyes Are Better than 2*
Lydia Stack – *Assessing What Students Know*
- Well organised, clear aims of presentation, attractive approach, interactive"
36. "Peter Brown – useful and pleasant, Lydia Stack – very useful"
37. "All plenaries were very interesting"
38. "The plenaries, especially *Principles and Practice in Language Testing*; the presentation was completely professional and well illustrated."
39. "*Principles and Practice in Language Testing* - I've got answers to many of my questions. I loved Lydia Stack's presentation, too."
40. "Peter Brown: *The Future – the e ELP* – very clear, well organised"
41. "*Assessing Creativity* – original and practical"
42. "*The National Exam in Romania*. It was interactive. Our opinion counted! I really hope they will be taken into consideration and put into practice."
43. "*Using Art as an Alternative Way of Evaluation* – Laura Mihaela Laurentiu. I've discovered that art may be an excellent way to make my classes more attractive and relevant and also let my own and my students' imagination run wild."
44. "*Live or Playback* – Elena Gardescu. It was useful, right to the point. It gave solutions."
45. "*Using Portfolios...* - Jen MacArthur – very practical workshop and good ideas raised"
46. "*Plenaries* – Peter Brown, Lydia Stack – clear, attractive, new information"
47. "*The Practical Application of the Common European Framework* – very well organised, informative"
48. "M. Hoey – very enjoyable, not so relevant for EFL teachers"
49. "*-Humanising Oral Testing* – Mario Rinvolucri – exciting, 'new', yet not surprising
-Plenary – Michael Hoey – very useful"
50. "*Humanising Testing* – it made us conscious of how important candidates' feelings and states of mind really are."
51. "*Assessment and Quality of Teaching* – Teaching Education – E. Popa. Mrs. E. Popa was my teacher and she is an excellent pro-feminist."

52. "*Humanising Testing* – M. Rinvoluceri – interesting, interactive, important...GREAT SPEAKER"
53. "*Procust's Bed and Mentoring* – it was interactive from the beginning. I am going home with a clear idea of what I should do and where to start from."
54. "Plenary – Peter Brown – engaging, stimulating"
55. "*Let's Be Fair!* – Suzanne Antonaros"
56. "*The Future - ELP* – Peter Brown and *Are We Testing the Right Things?* – M. Hoey – interesting and entertaining"
57. "Professor Hoey's, because it was founded on clear examples, the demonstration was rigorous and it flowed logically."
58. "All the plenaries were very good and useful, very substantial!"
59. "*Assessing Creativity* – Jane Loudon – an excellent presentation, very useful things"
60. "*10 for Creativity* – creative, non-technological; it gave me a lot of practical ideas to use in class."
61. "*Principles and Practice in Language Testing, The Future – the ELP, Are We Testing the Right Things?* – new and very interesting things"
62. "M. Rinvoluceri's workshop – interested in affective teaching"
63. "Plenary – Lydia Stack – because she presented very useful things"
64. "All the plenaries were great – good presentations, interesting topics. Among the workshops I enjoyed *Assessing Personal and Academic Excellence*"
65. "In my opinion the best session was conducted by Lydia Stack because it went beyond general principles and it gave precise criteria for students assessment."
66. "Lydia Stack on *Assessing What Students Know and Are Able to Do in English* – because it included the practical component, which was what I had actually expected from all workshops."
67. "Craig Dicker – very fresh/refreshing views and presentation"
68. "Alice Loretta Mastacan's *Variety in the Students' Creative Work* – interesting ideas, students' oral and written production samples"
69. "Mario Rinvoluceri's, Jane Loudon's, Ovidiu Aniculaese's – met my expectations, well-planned/organised, crystal clear, professional"
70. "Michael Carrier's, for his expertise, which he was so willing to share"
71. "*Humanising Testing* – Mario Rinvoluceri – because of the useful information presented in a very interesting way"
72. "Craig Dicker – *4 Eyes Are Better than 2 – Ways to Non-Threatening Observations* – a totally new approach to teaching and peer observation"
73. "Craig Dicker – *4 Eyes Are Better than 2 – Ways to Non-Threatening Observations* – it was a new approach to peer observation"
74. "*Procust's Bed* – our colleagues presented a reliable programme for new/young teachers and it would help improve the teaching system on different subjects and levels"
75. "Peter Brown – very informative and fun at the same time"
76. "Peter Brown's Plenary, Craig Dicker's workshop"
77. "*I'm Attractive, you're Attractive! Using NLP for Evaluation* – Ana Iordachescu – very resourceful and interactive"
78. "*Assessing What Students Know and Are Able to Do in English* – because it was presented in a vivid manner with a lot of examples"
79. "The panel discussion – we could share a lot of experiences and I got much information on the topic I'm interested in."
80. "Michael Hoey – *Are We Testing the Right Thing?* – enlightening, inspiring, entertaining"
81. "Very difficult to say. So many excellent ones."
82. "Plenary – Rick Millican – eye-opener"

12. What was your least favourite session? Why?

1. "Assessing English Language Proficiency – lots of American Statistical Data"
2. "The European Language Portfolio – too dull; information that can be found on the INTERNET"
3. "Assessing English Language Proficiency and Academic Achievement – I found it not relevant to teachers in Romania"
4. "None."
5. "None, they were all very good."
6. "Charles Alderson's because the target of his speech did not address a large audience."
7. "Assessing Drama – plain, it started late; not very interesting."
8. "A workshop that could have been more interactive."
9. "The European Language Portfolio – plenary"
10. "Assessing Creativity – Jane Loudon: undertone of depressed, self-put-down. Low energy. Nice looks but 60% of the time she read from illegible OHT's. Really disappointing."
11. "Liana Arina Susan - The European Language Portfolio - too boring, slow pace, not organised, not relevant.
Jim Stack – Assessing English Language Proficiency and Academic Achievement"
12. "An Alternative Tool for Improving Quality Teaching of Literature – The Questionnaire – the person did not show up and made me waste my time when I could have attended another workshop."
13. "Liana Arina Susan – incredibly flat, not audience friendly, did not reach its goal, did not raise the audience's interest in the European Portfolio"
14. "some of the plenaries – boring, the manner of presentation – boring"
15. "Jim Stack - Assessing English Language Proficiency and Academic Achievement there was nothing for me to learn out of it; then again, might have been that I just chose the wrong workshop to go to. So, mea culpa. But apart from it, I really didn't think the presentation in itself could apply in any way to Romanian systems, or be of any use to education / evaluation."
16. "Alternative Ways of Assessing Students' Work – Rick Millican – boring, unstructured, useless."
17. "Assessing English Language Proficiency and Academic Achievement – Jim Stack – not relevant for our teaching reality."
18. "There was not such one for me."
19. "I can't name any"
20. "Rick Millican – workshop – improvised"
21. "Assessing English Language Proficiency and Academic Achievement"
22. "In Search of An Efficient Teaching Model – not interesting at all! Dull!"
23. "Hard to say. They were not bad."
24. "Mary Glasgow Magazines – badly-organised, it had no solid information"
25. "In Search of An Efficient Teaching Model – a far too traditional way of presentation, language mistakes"
26. "(no names) – the speaker wasn't able to handle the most well-meaning questions, the speaker smelled bad!"
27. "They were all interesting."
28. "There wasn't."
29. "Mariana Boeru, A. Stanescu – Speaking is Fun – no new elements"
30. "Entrance Exams – the speaker didn't answer the questions"
31. "Charles Alderson – Principles and Practice in Language Learning – too theoretical"
32. "The European Language Portfolio – Liana Arina Susan. It was quite plain, boring and the lecturer's level of English wasn't very good."

33. "I did not enjoy very much theoretical seminars, such as Professor Alderson's or Professor Millican's. Practical sessions would be more enjoyable and we would learn more from them."
34. "A workshop organised by UNISCAN – the quality of language wasn't satisfactory and the workshop wasn't to the point."
35. "*The European Portfolio – An Option or A Must* – Liana Arina Susan – not at all challenging, totally uninvolved"
36. "*Teachers Knowledge Test – A Practical Introduction* – M. Groves – because it didn't meet my expectations."
37. "*An Analysis of Teacher Talk in Romanian EFL Classes* – chaotic presentation, lack of clear objectives"
38. "I can't possibly name one but most of them were too theoretical"
39. "*The Assessor and the Assessed* – too theoretical"
40. "*ELP – An Option or A Must?* – overlapping with previous sessions"
41. "*Mary Glasgow Magazines* – nervous, confusing, irrelevant, annoying speaker, unfair distribution of handouts and magazines"
42. "*Critical Reading Through Portfolio Implementation and Assessment* – only two participants"
43. "Most workshops were not workshops at all but lectures. Ironically, some plenaries were more of a workshop than the sessions labeled workshops."
44. "One of the workshops seemed to me quite boring – I expected for something else to be presented."
45. "Michael Groves – *Teachers Knowledge Test – A Practical Introduction* – it wasn't practical at all, not entirely sure about its relevance."
46. "Can't say that I had a least favourite – something was taken from all!"

13. Suggestions for improvement:

1. "more practical workshops"
2. "too many concurrent sections – practise selection of presentations or if 4 or 5 presentations refer to very similar topics, allot only one slot for them and divide the time (eg 45min. for three presenters – 15min. for each)"
3. "no section presentation on the last day because the number of the participants is unpredictable; maybe only plenary and summing up."
4. "Ideally – everything – the same location"
5. "Fewer workshops or more time (5days)"
6. "Fewer workshops so that we wouldn't miss too many of them"
7. "Make speakers specify if it's really a workshop (practical) or a lecture."
8. "PROMOTIONAL PRICES FOR BOOKS"
9. "Congratulations for the team effort"
10. "Better workshops, a selection"
11. "Think more of the practical side. Teachers need examples. The workshops should be less theoretical. More experienced teachers should be given the chance to share their teaching experience with the newly-qualified ones."
12. "More about teachers, not only about plenary speakers"
13. "Workshops should be better chosen; more time to socialise, share opinions on the conference"
14. "Do not have incompetent speakers hold session in the plenary room with everybody present."
15. "We need interesting and useful workshops."
16. "Too many parallel workshops and unfortunately could only attend one at a time."
17. "Reduce the number of workshops and participants"

18. "Keep your enthusiasm"
19. "More practical ideas to use in classroom, practical presentations, examples"
20. "More social interaction, maybe!"
21. "Organise more cocktails."
22. "Who am I to say?"
23. "Limit the number of participants or think ahead more."
24. "You have been an example of excellent organisation under difficult circumstances."
25. "some workshops/plenaries on teaching English to adults."
26. "fewer workshops at the same time"
27. "A place for coats and heavier bags – they are extremely uncomfortable to carry around."
28. "Not to accept any more participants after the deadline."
29. "There always are better solutions."
30. "No smoking in any of the rooms or halls, not even in the restaurant"
31. "No suggestions – keep up the good work!"
32. "A careful analysis of the abstract for each presentation"
33. "A larger space for the book exhibition and promotional prices!"
34. "Seminars on teaching beginners – kindergarten"
35. "Maybe it would be nicer to have fewer workshops, but better prepared and more about the subject of the conference"
36. "Dinner for everybody!"
37. "Warm lunch; coffee at 9, not 11"
38. "Keep up the good work!"
39. "Some sessions, for example drama, were all concentrated on the first day. I'm not a member of RATE, so I don't know the facilities this association has, but I think it would be useful to create a DISCUSSION GROUP on the Internet – something like a yahoo discussion group – which would give the opportunity to share our experience, to find out new information, to ask questions or answer questions. (I don't know whether you are familiar with the "factworld group" which originally started from Bulgaria, but it would be a good idea to have a similar discussion group. This way one would have the feeling that he or she is in continuous contact with other teachers and with problems that concern us all.)

Another thing I would like to suggest is that all those people who have taken photographs should upload them on the Internet somewhere we could all access so that everyone of us could see them, maybe select the ones we are interested in and download.

Last but not least, I feel that except the few people I knew in advance – from my home city – I haven't had the opportunity to get to know hardly anyone. Is it possible to get a list of e-mail addresses, short introductions and interests of participants and organisers? Thank you for your patience. Ildiko Dobolgi"

40. "Try to create stable groups for a sense of belonging"
41. "Larger rooms so that everybody should be able to attend the workshop they choose."
42. "If the participants are too many, limit their number!"
43. "Representatives from the mass media should at least once pop in to inform the Romanian people about these meetings that represent the high standards in education. Since they are interested in other results – low marks for the Definitivat or other degrees – why shouldn't they publicize these very positive activities? A list of the conclusions presented at the end of the conference, after the panel discussion, would be extremely useful. Maybe handouts or e-mail letters sent 2-3 weeks later. Or any info about the place we should look for on the RATE site."

44. "Improve the social programme a bit."
45. "Fewer sessions at the same time"
46. "A better way of letting teachers know about the event"
47. "Native speakers – same slot; Romanian teachers – different time slots than those of English native speakers' slots"
48. "Discussion panels facilitators could have been given a special certificate. They were great!"
49. "Fewer seminars in larger rooms and more detail of seminar content"

14. Any other comments

1. "The organisation was very good – Congratulations!"
2. "Congratulations!"
3. "OK!"
4. "It would be better if the diplomas should be given in the end, I mean after the last activity; they should also have the name of the participants printed – it makes you feel important. I know it's time consuming, but I'm sure there are many people willing to do it in the pre-conference day, or on the first day.
 - An alternative solution: the diplomas to be finished as they are now; I'm sure there is a volunteer to write the names calligraphically;
 - To have tables for each sections where participants can put their names; in this way people who have no more room in the section they have chosen can think of a second or third variant, instead of accessing the nearest open door; it might be a wonderful activity, but an activity that is not particularly interesting for the participant;
 - diplomas should be handed in at the end of the last workshop, based on the lists"
5. "I appreciated the thoughtfulness of the organisers in looking after the participants' needs from all points of view. It was really very good. Thank you very much for all the effort."
6. "Thank you!"
7. "It has been rewarding. Thank you."
8. "It was wonderful! Thank you!"
9. "I liked the fact that it was the first RATE Conference concentrated on only one topic – Evaluation, and that the topic was approached from different points of view and perspectives. I think that Evaluation is a very important thing in teaching and it deserves all our attention. We know too little about evaluation in terms of rigorous ways of measuring an marking our students in an 'environmentally friendly' testing class. Many things are still to be done and said in this respect and that's why I think that another RATE Conference could be held on this topic. Thanks to all the organisers and all the efforts they made for this great event!"
10. "The theme of the conference should be less specific."
11. "Five minutes longer coffee-breaks! More social programmes."
12. "I'd appreciate to get a list with all participants, their schools and e-mail address (on e-mail, if possible). I'd like to read about the panel discussions in Romance."
13. "I want to thank the organisers for offering me the opportunity to disseminate a project with an important impact on future evaluation techniques."
14. "Venue and accommodation – excellent. The conference was a success!"
15. "I thought it was an excellent conference, full of energy, enthusiasm and expertise. THANK YOU!"

16. "-A list on the door where workshops are so that the organisers know who attends them.
-Teachers should be encouraged to stay to the end (not leave on Sunday morning)
-Presenting = expanding beside reading from slides"
17. "Keep up the wonderful work!"
18. "Thanks!"
19. "I wish I had been able to participate in many more workshops than I did. It's very difficult to choose one out of twelve. All in all, it was an excellent experience for me. Thank you!"
20. "Thank you for the effort!"
21. "The panel discussions were a very good way to have teachers' forums, to get us all exchanging concerns, thoughts."
22. "Great job!"
23. "It's the best conference I attended!"
24. "We appreciate your time and effort very much and I think it has been professionally organised, we have had a great time being here, we leave with a lot of inspiration and information. Big thanks to your staff and their availability!"
25. "Marvellous themed conference!"
26. "Looking forward to the next conference!"
27. "On the whole it was a successful event that I really enjoyed. Thank you!"
28. "Continue like this because it was great!"
29. "Notepads should have been included in the folder!"
30. "What was that poster exhibition? We didn't have the chance to talk to their owners. We couldn't run after them in the rooms! Their work was in vain."
31. "Thank you for the chance to attend!"
32. "An opportunity to meet fellow teachers and enjoy being together at a professional event; a very 'rich' event. Congratulations!"
33. "It was an excellent idea to have more plenaries with more guests who came with very interesting presentations!
EXCELLENT ORGANISATION! THANK YOU VERY MUCH!"
34. "Congratulations for the effort and achievement!"
35. "All my super positive compliments to the Organising Committee (RATE, QUEST, BRITISH COUNCIL and the other supporters). Thanks a lot for everything you did!"
36. "Thank you!"
37. "Congratulations for the organisers!"
38. "It was a pretty good conference on the whole! Congratulations!"
39. "Very good conference! All the little inconveniences were not critical so the overall impression is: very, very good!"
40. "Congratulations!"
41. "Good work!"
42. "I'm very happy I attended: In previous years Romanian workshop-leaders were (mostly) at a complete loss – meaning unprepared, sometimes revoltingly commonplace-ish,, a waste of time."
43. "Thanks to the organisers!"
44. "Very nice conference! Friendly, interesting, useful. THANK YOU for all your work and care. We could feel it all along."
45. "Congratulations!"
46. "More workshops related to young learners."
47. "Thank you very much for a nice and useful conference. All the best for the organisers!"

48. "Soap in every bathroom, please! Anyway, it was a very good conference. Thank you!"
49. "You collected the same conference fee from all the participants, but only some got dinner on Saturday?! (was that a Bed and Dinner?)
50. "A joint conference of Rate and Quest – a very good idea."
51. "It was a successful conference! Thanks!"
52. "KEEP ON at least like this. I feel that the conference was very useful."
53. "Try to find a large building so as to avoid overcrowding within workshop areas."
54. "I can't possibly regret I've come to this conference. I have learned about a lot of new things and the information offered by presenters is extremely useful. Thank you for offering us the chance to meet colleagues from different areas and share opinions with them."
55. "Lovely decorations. Thank you for paying attention to all the details. Congratulations for the organizing team. If you were overwhelmed by such a large number of participants, it is exactly the evidence you need to conclude that they were all pleased with everything. We go back home tired but rich in the world of ideas."
56. "The conference as a whole was very interesting and offered a lot but it was very tiring because of the large number of activities."
57. "I missed some of the sessions I wanted to participate at just because they were at the same time with some I needed to be at. But I enjoyed the conference."
58. "The student-assistants and their <<5-minute left>> cards were a great idea."
59. "The conference as a whole was excellent. I had a very good time! Thanks!"
60. "Excellent organization, venues, lodging and social programme! A success!!"
61. "A high standard conference! The organisers are excellent professionals! Congratulations!"
62. "Very well done, 10/10!"