

## ELTAS Event Review

Author: *Mihaela Tilinca*

### NON-DIGITAL VISUAL AIDS HACKS WITH MICHELLE HUNTER & CHRISTMAS EVENT 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2015, HELD AT ISM, STUTTGART

I know that "What happens at the Christmas party, stays at the Christmas party" but I need to tell you about the energy, the joy and the good ideas we had at this event, especially as it was all about sharing.

At this workshop, I don't know what impressed me more, Michelle's inviting and altruistic opening remarks "I did not come to teach you anything, but to share with you some hacks about Non-Digital

Visual Aids because I love doing them, I love using them and I love sharing these ideas with you" or the fact that she brought not only two dozen crafted, attractive and memorable posters, but also her trainer's toolkit which was as rich as Mary Poppins' trunk.

Michelle walked the talk and staged one of those behind-the-scenes or the-making-of types of training session: we examined her collection of posters and we acted as angels and devils evaluating the good and bad of non-digital visual aids (whiteboards, pin boards and flip charts).

I found the workshop a telling case of the difference between talking about things and enabling people to experience those things.

After seeing, touching and reflecting upon everything, from the practicality of using masking tape to the etiquette of presenting on whiteboard, flip chart or pin board, one of us said "I am impressed by how much effort you put into it; I don't do it, but now I think it's a great idea".

The choice of topic and presenter was smart (good work Committee! Thank you Michelle!); engaging, rich, colourful and dynamic – an excellent rhythm setter for the festive part of our end-of-year meeting. Around the Christmas tree we talked, laughed, danced, sang and had fun – the photos show this better than my words. The versatile space made elegant, the tasty food, the sparkling wine and the pace of the whole evening contributed to us all enjoying ourselves. Committee, although you didn't show it, we know how much hard work and time was behind it. A big thank you to all and last, but not least, a big thank you Krystyna Key!

Happy 2016, ELTAS!



MIHAELA TILINCA is a freelance trainer and researcher. She holds a Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Lancaster. In the past twenty years she has been training teachers and trainers, teaching Applied Linguistics and Research skills and examining policies and practices around literacy and adult education.