ASR – The Swedish Association of Accredited Language Training Providers

Event Report

Having been originally scheduled in November 2020 and then in March 2021, we finally held the latest ASR annual workshop. The theme this year was language skills development for professional adults through dialogues and digital tools on 18 November.

Following a short presentation of our Association and of Eaquals, the workshop was led by Swedish teacher trainer and regular conference speaker Annsofie Engborg. Over 70 participants attended the two half-day sessions, and they represented a broad range of languages, including Swedish as a Foreign Language. For many it was the first opportunity in a long time to network with fellow language trainers working with corporate and public sector clients, several of whom had travelled long distances to attend.

The practical examples presented and discussed in the workshop focused on a number of skills and approaches, from unpacking and deconstructing texts and phrases, through analysis of structure and genres using dialogues, role-plays and discussions to build awareness, understanding and active use, to formative feedback.

It also included advice on setting clear and relevant lesson, course and long-term goals, using participants' pre-knowledge and assumptions as a key resource and overcoming inequalities in the classroom. Time was also devoted to appropriate use of digital tools – not just for teaching and self-study, but also for preparation, lesson planning and continuous communication with course participants.

Feedback following the event has been overwhelmingly positive, both with regard to the content and the networking opportunities. We therefore look forward to continuing our annual workshop series.

The event was "*a great opportunity to bring together corporate language trainers from around Sweden to both develop competence and interact with colleagues. We are very grateful to Eaquals for their generous support for the event!*" Kieron Brown, ASR.

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