

Spotlight on Associates Project, 2022

ASSOCIATE MEMBER | YALS, Serbia

About YALS

YALS is the national association of language schools of Serbia and have been an Eaquals Associate Member since 2001. It was founded in 1998 and the main goals include the promotion of quality language learning and continuous professional development opportunities for teachers working in YALS schools. YALS were the first to introduce CEFR levels in Serbia. They have partnered with the local British Council on a number of projects such as English for International Cooperation and Increasing the Effectiveness of Employment Policies towards Disadvantaged Groups.

YALS were the first to realize an Erasmus + project for adult education in Serbia. They cooperate with similar organizations in the neighbouring countries and are proud to be Eaquals associate member. Thanks to the Eaquals membership, their association brought the CEFR to Serbia, back in 2002 and 2003.

YALS Representative & Liaison

Marija Pejatovic is the representative for Eaquals Associate Member YALS and is the current YALS President. She has been a teacher and teacher trainer for over twenty years and has organised and participated in numerous CPD events in Serbia and abroad over the years. Marija has been the president of YALS since 2008 and it has “given [her] a fantastic opportunity to grow professionally and learn beyond [her] education”.

YALS & Eaquals – Engagement through the years

Being Eaquals associate member has positioned YALS on the market in Serbia as an association striving for quality. Ever since YALS was founded in 1998, our aim was to constantly work on quality language services and Eaquals has been a tremendous support as we had guest speakers and presenters to each annual Conference we organized. Also, we regularly attend Eaquals workshops and conferences, and it always brings fresh ideas and new perspectives in our work.

When Eaquals established the members events fund, YALS was given the financial support on three occasions: first it enabled us to create a promotional film about the importance of quality education (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSZkCahwQD4>), next, we had 5 presenters at the national English teachers conference in Belgrade (<https://yals.rs/news/pet-predavacica-iz-yals-a-na-15-konferenciji-elta-srbija/?lang=en>) and finally, the fund made possible to organize first ever regional conference in Nis (<https://yals.rs/news/prva-regionalna-konferencija-yals-a-odrzana-u-nisu/?lang=en>)

Even though it is not easy to work under the current circumstances in Serbia as language schools do not belong to the education sector, being a part of a network has given us strength and courage to continue and it has opened new possibilities for us, so, at the moment YALS has been realizing a project funded by US embassy throughout Serbia and our teachers have even created materials for the course. More about the project can be found at (<https://yals.rs/news/yals-zapoceo-realizaciju-us-grant-projekta-za-zaposlene-u-lokalnim-samoupravama/?lang=en>)

Contact or Learn more about YALS

Members can find more information about YALS on our website: www.yals.rs, as well as on YALS facebook and instagram accounts.