



REPORT ON THE ACTIVITY 2.3
Material for the enhancement of English
proficiency of teaching staff
OF THE WORK PACKAGE 2
Upgrading educational infrastructure at the
PC HEIs



**Strengthening Teaching Competences
in Higher Education
in Natural and Mathematical Sciences**

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Project acronym:	TeComp
Project full title:	Strengthening Teaching Competences in Higher Education in Natural and Mathematical Sciences
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Coordinator:	Prof. dr. Jelena Ignjatović
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Aim of Task 2.3 activity was preparation of printed and electronic material for language support for teaching staff.

In order to increase capacities of teaching staff in natural and mathematical sciences for teaching and academic writing in English and thus provide better options for internationalization of the HEIs, both at the institutional and personal level, the team of three teachers from the University of Niš, Faculty of Philosophy, designed an intensive, specialist course (realised within WP3) entitled *Teaching and Academic Writing in English for Natural and Mathematical Sciences (TAWÉ)* and the appropriate teaching material for it.

TAWÉ course is based on the material carefully designed to cover crucial aspects in teaching academic courses in English and better academic writing in English in the fields of natural and mathematical sciences (the use of class language, instructions for effective lecturing, organizing interactive lectures, the use of teaching tools and visual aids, the forms of academic writing, differences between spoken and written academic genres, etc.).

The TAWÉ course has its predecessors in three series of EMI courses implemented at four largest state universities in Serbia (Belgrade, Novi Sad, Niš, Kragujevac). The first one was in 2016, within the Tempus project *Fostering University Support Services and Procedures for Full Participation in the European Higher Education Area (FUSE)*, coordinated by the University of Niš. The other two were within the National Erasmus+ initiative *Study in Serbia* (2019 and 2021). The participants and the EMI lecturers were university teachers from the same four participating Serbian universities as in TeComp project. A small portion of the open source material used for these courses was used for TAWÉ, but the majority of the TAWÉ material, primarily the handbook, was specially written, designed and adapted for this project.

The course (teaching/learning/training) material was prepared in the activity 2.3, and partly during the course implementation in the activity 3.4. The primary course material is TAWÉ course handbook, written by the three instructors (Mišić Ilić, Đorđević, Tatar 2021). It was printed and distributed to course participants, and also uploaded as a pdf in the Google classroom dedicated for the course implementation as Teaching and academic writing in English - TAWÉ.pdf, available for course participants at <https://classroom.google.com/u/0/w/NDY2OTA0OTc3ODcx/tc/NDY2OTA0OTc4Nzk3>. Volume

STRENGTHENING TEACHER COMPETENCES – TEACHING AND ACADEMIC WRITING IN ENGLISH have 6 themes (57 pages):

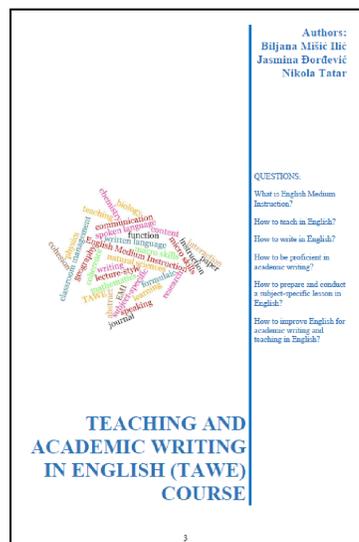
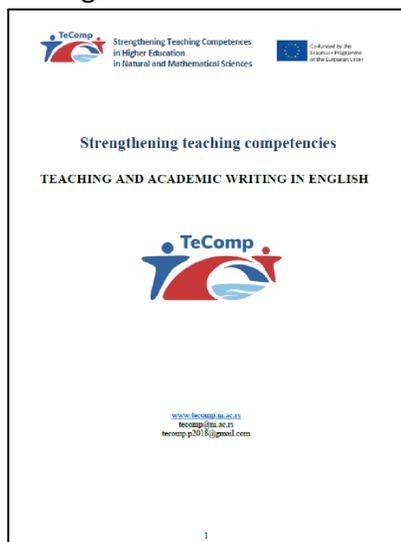
1. Introduction,
2. English medium instruction (EMI),
3. Focus on lecturing,
4. Academic writing,
5. Differences between spoken and written academic language,
6. Focus on language.

The course material was prepared in two phases. First, the three instructors designed the draft course syllabus, and wrote the first version of the TAWÉ handbook (July-September 2021). After



the needs analysis of the potential participants in September 2021, the final version of the TAWE course handbook was completed in October 2021. It was printed later in 2021. In the next stage, prior to the course implementation, the three instructors designed PowerPoint presentations and adapted other material (illustrative videos from open-access reliable and high-quality sources, open-source additional books and articles, and a list of useful links) to be used in online classes during the course (March 2022). All the material was uploaded in the TAWE Google classroom in March 2022.

The TAWE course, and the material prepared for it, is based on the theoretical principles of English for Specialized Purposes, ESP and English (as a) Medium of Instruction EMI. ESP is an approach to English teaching that identifies and targets current and/or future academic or occupational needs of particular learner populations, focuses on the necessary language, genres and skills to address these needs, and designs courses whose content and aims are oriented to the specific needs of the learners, using general and/or discipline specific teaching materials and methods. The subfield of ESP known as English for academic purposes (EAP) focuses on ESP in academic settings.



Figures 1-2. Cover pages of Volume **STRENGTHENING TEACHER COMPETENCES – TEACHING AND ACADEMIC WRITING IN ENGLISH**

The term *English Medium Instruction* (EMI) is usually defined as “the use of the English language to teach academic subjects (other than English itself) in countries or jurisdictions where the first language (L1) of the majority of the population is not English.”

As TAWE is a specially tailored course for natural and mathematical science, the teaching material makes use and includes authentic and adapted examples from reliable scientific sources in these scientific fields.

TAWE teaching material and the course for university teachers of natural and mathematical sciences, as specified by the *TeComp* project requirements, cover two main areas, to build two

different, but interrelated kinds of competences – university teaching in an English Medium Instruction (EMI) environment and discipline-specific academic writing in English. The components of TAWÉ include EMI topics, academic writing and focus on English, appropriate in genre, style and medium.

SUMMARY FOR TASK 2.3

Title	Universities equipped with technology-enhanced learning spaces	
Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teaching material <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Learning material <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Training material	<input type="checkbox"/> Event <input type="checkbox"/> Report <input type="checkbox"/> Service/Product
Achieved goals	Printed and electronic material for providing language support to professional development of teaching staff was prepared and used within the task 3.4. In this way it is increased the opportunity for Serbian and Albanian universities to be successfully involved in the mobility program for students and teachers.	
Conclusion	Aims are completely achieved.	
Sustainability	Prepared material stays available to the teaching staff and presents a good base for their further language professional development. Also, the course is officially accredited in the Centre for professional education at the Faculty of Science and Mathematics, University of Niš, the handbook may be published as a book by the University of Nis, and used for further courses.	