

The word "EDITORIAL" is centered within a white rectangular box with a thin black border. This box is part of a stack of three similar boxes, with the top two being slightly offset to the left and top, creating a layered effect. The background behind the boxes is a light gray with a fine grid pattern.

EDITORIAL

For this issue of **Synergy**, the Journal of the Department of Modern Languages and Business Communication (1/2012), we propose a diversity of articles in the fields of general education and language teaching, as well as on business and cultural studies.

In the section **Considerations on Educational Issues** we include the article TOWARDS INTERLANGUAGE DEFOSSILIZING – A LANGUAGE LEARNING AND USING STRATEGY BASED MODEL by Yolanda-Mirela Cately, who pertinently takes into consideration the issue of interlanguage fossilization in the technical academic context, with a view to identifying ways and means of defossilizing the learners - students of engineering in English, through a set of activities designed and implemented as a remedial model. The second article in this section - HELPING TEACHERS TO USE THE EUROPEAN LANGUAGE PORTFOLIO FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED by Diana Tsotova – deals with a version of the European Language Portfolio created especially for people with visual impairments and focuses particularly on building and making use of self-evaluation skills, while also presenting other initiatives in this area.

Sanja Marinov and Gorana Duplančić Rogošić's article included in the section **Considerations on LSP Teaching** - USING AUTHENTIC WEB-BASED MATERIALS TO TEACH DESCRIBING GRAPHS – is a very concrete example of internet based class activities; it presents the results of using web-based materials with first-year students of Tourism, at the Faculty of Economics, University of Split, designed as classroom activities (rather than homework) in order to combat plagiarism, to increase the students' motivation and to encourage peer-support and cooperation.

Another section is **Business, Cultural and Literary Studies**, and it includes three extremely interesting articles. In BRIDGING CULTURAL DIVIDES FOR EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MEETINGS, Virginia Mihaela Dumitrescu investigates the main cultural differences leading to problems in international business meetings, and analyses the possible theoretical tools and the practical strategies necessary to ensure a climate of cooperation and mutual understanding. In the article PRENDRE CONNAISSANCE DE LA CULTURE NATIONALE AFIN DE MIEUX ETUDIER LE FRANÇAIS DES AFFAIRES, UNE OPTION SOUHAITABLE? Ruxandra Constantinescu-Ștefănel presents her

experience of teaching business correspondence in French to students of both business French and business English, and proposes an original solution to deal with their errors, while increasing the students' cultural awareness and motivation. ORGANISATIONAL COMMUNICATION IN MODERN COMPANIES by Monica Condruz-Băcescu analyses the communication process within a company as a key element of business performance. OSCILLATING BETWEEN NIGHTMARISH REALITY AND IRRELEVANT STORY: JOHN BARTH'S BOOK OF TEN NIGHTS AND A NIGHT by Raluca Șerban and Mihai Șerban explore John Barth's constant preoccupation with today's social and political reality transposed fictionally.

We invite you therefore to read this issue of our journal and we thank our collaborators for their intellectually stimulating articles.

Roxana Marinescu