

5TH MEDITERRANEAN SYMPOSIUM

3RD EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

3RD - 4TH OCTOBER 2026 | LOULÉ, PORTUGAL

ELT ACROSS
BORDERS

ESCOLA SECUNDÁRIA DE LOULÉ

SATURDAY - ACD - 6H

SUNDAY - ACD - 4H



5TH MEDITERRANEAN SYMPOSIUM & 3RD EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

“ELT ACROSS BORDERS”

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the 5th Mediterranean Symposium & 3rd European Conference, Welcome to Loulé!

This is the first time APPI is hosting this Symposium, which has been a face-to-face meeting point of several European English Teachers’ Associations (TAs) since 2022. It began in 2022, organised by TESOL Greece, and as Georgios Chatzis, Chair of TESOL Greece, said at the time, it was “the beginning of a beautiful friendship” among EFL Teachers’ Associations.

Since then, the Mediterranean Symposium has been hosted by ETAI (English Teachers’ Association of Israel) in 2023; Tesol Spain in 2024; and ELT Council, Malta, in 2025. This year, it is APPI’s privilege to welcome colleagues representing several EFL Teachers’ Associations from across Europe: ELT Council, Tesol Greece, Tesol Spain, CyTEA and ETAI.

The theme of this year’s event is “ELT Across Borders”, as we want to celebrate the wider community of EFL teachers and the ways our profession connects us across languages, cultures, and borders. Just as music connects people, language can create spaces for encounter and understanding. At a time when division seems easier than dialogue, we believe in the importance of coming together, engaging openly and recognising our shared humanity.

The event is accredited by APPI as 10 hours of professional development (*duas Ações de Formação de Curta Duração*), which are recognised as relevant to teachers' development and careers. The event consists of 3 plenaries, 12 sessions and a Forum led by the seven representatives of the different TAs. From teacher well-being, citizenship, literature, AI and music to more practical teaching methodologies, there’s a wide range of topics to suit teachers working at all levels and in different contexts.

A huge thank you goes to our colleague Maria João Soares, who has liaised with her school board and APPI to make it possible to host the event in Escola Secundária de Loulé. We would also like to thank all the representatives of the participating TAs for accepting our invitation to take part in the event and present a session.

We hope you enjoy the programme, the exchange of ideas and, above all, the opportunity to connect with colleagues from across Europe!

Sónia Ferreirinha
APPI

5TH MEDITERRANEAN SYMPOSIUM & 3RD EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

“ELT ACROSS BORDERS” – DAY 1

3RD OCTOBER 2026 – SATURDAY

Reception to delegates and speakers opens at 8:45

Time	Session	
09:15 – 09:30	Opening session	
09:30 – 10:30	Opening plenary – DANIEL XERRI Leading and Teaching on Empty: Understanding Burnout in ELT	
COFFEE BREAK		
11:00 – 11:45	HELENA ISABEL SOARES Bots, Bytes & Bright Minds	SUSANA NASSA Teaching English in Portuguese Vocational Education
BREAK		
12:00 – 12:45	SVIATLANA KARPAVA Teachers' Perspectives on Multilingual Approach to Diversity in Education	CAROL READ How to develop global skills through storytelling with young children
LUNCH		
14:30 – 15:15	HELENA LOPES & TERESA MAIA Art. Assess. Activate.	DANIELLA COSTA The Engagement Toolkit: Practical Ideas for YL Classroom
BREAK		
15:30 – 16:15	KAREN MCDONALD 50 Ways to end your classes	
COFFEE BREAK		
16:45 – 17:45	Teachers' Associations Forum	

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“ELT ACROSS BORDERS” – DAY 2

4TH OCTOBER 2026 – SUNDAY

Reception to delegates and speakers opens at 09:00

Time	Session	
09:30 – 10:30	Plenary – CARLOS LINDADE Making AI Literacy Visible in ELT through Citizenship	
	Auditorium	
	BREAK	
10:45 – 11:30	RAWIA HAYIK Writing that Matters: PhotoVoice and Engaged Writing in the EFL Classroom	Auditorium
	HELENA LOPES & TERESA MAIA Art. Assess. Activate.	Room 1
	COFFEE BREAK	
12:00 – 12:45	JOÃO RODRIGUES A fresh (re)start?	Auditorium
	LYDIA STAVROPOULOU Giving Space in the ELT Classroom: Building Rapport and Community	Room 1
	BREAK	
13:00 – 14:00	Closing Plenary – ANNA PIRES The World Inside the Song: deeper thinking through music videos	
	Auditorium	
14:00 – 14:10	Closing session	
	Auditorium	

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3RD OCTOBER 2026 – SATURDAY MORNING

09.30 – 10.30

Daniel Xerri | ELT Council Malta



Leading and Teaching on Empty: Understanding Burnout in ELT

Burnout is an increasingly urgent issue in English Language Teaching, affecting not only teachers but also the school leaders who support and manage them. Drawing on recent research, this plenary explores the shared and contrasting experiences of burnout among teachers, Directors of Studies, and Academic Managers.

11.00 – 11.45

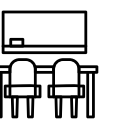
Helena Isabel Soares | APPInep / AEPAMOL



Bots, Bytes & Bright Minds

Discover practical, engaging activities that combine technology and educational robots to make English learning more interactive and meaningful for young learners. This hands-on workshop will showcase ready-to-use ideas that foster communication, creativity, CLIL and collaboration in any EFL classroom.

Susana Nassa | Agrupamento de Escolas José Belchior Viegas



Room 1

Teaching English in Portuguese Vocational Education

This presentation aims to present how English is structured in the Portuguese vocational courses and shares teaching experiences from several vocational courses: Computing, Restaurant and Bar Service, and Sports. It highlights the importance of connecting the national curriculum with practical communication skills, showing that English is a valuable tool for employability and lifelong learning.

12.00 – 12.45

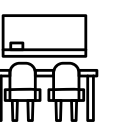
Sviatlana Karpava | University of Cyprus, Department of English Studies / CyTEA



Teachers' Perspectives on Multilingual Approach to Diversity in Education

This study explores Cypriot teachers' perspectives on the MADE framework and inclusive pedagogies amid increasing multilingualism and multiculturalism. Findings reveal most lacked formal training but gained skills through experience, emphasizing the importance of multilingual spaces, tolerance, and flexible language use to foster inclusive, diverse classrooms that meet students' linguistic and cultural needs.

Carol Read | Freelance



Room 1

How to develop global skills through storytelling with young children

Global skills are essential for children's education and future. But how can we teach them in a meaningful and age-appropriate way? In this workshop, we will explore what global skills are and discuss a pedagogical framework for developing them in class. The main focus will be on practical ideas to implement the framework through storytelling. The session will include an example of one of the presenter's own stories.

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3RD OCTOBER 2026 – SATURDAY AFTERNOON

14.30 – 15.15

Helena Lopes & Teresa Maia | APPI – Assessment & Evaluation SIG

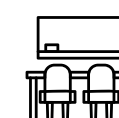


Auditorium

Art. Assess. Activate.

In this session we invite participants to visit "The Museum" by Susan Verde, illustrated by Peter Reynolds, and turn its vibrant energy into language learning. Through lively reading, responding and creating tasks, we offer fun, practical ways to activate and assess the four skills with art-powered learning.

Daniella Costa | RedBridge International School | APPInep



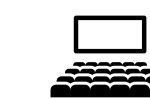
Room 1

The Engagement Toolkit: Practical Ideas for the YL Classroom

Keeping young learners engaged can be challenging, but the right strategies can transform any lesson. This practical, interactive session shares a toolkit of low-preparation activities that promote participation, confidence and meaningful learning. Teachers will leave with adaptable, classroom-tested ideas ready to use in their own classrooms.

15.30 – 16.15

Karen McDonald | TESOL Spain

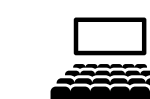


Auditorium

50 Ways to End Your Classes

Don't you ever just want the class to end? Students, teacher?? We'd like to think that it shouldn't be the case but what if the end of the lesson is planned and something to look forward to? In this session, I'll show you as many ways as possible to end the class in a fun and, who knows, perhaps even in an original way. Whether they're kids, teens or adults we want to make them leave with a smile!

16.45 – 17.45



Auditorium

Teachers' Associations Forum

The Teachers' Associations (TAs) Forum will be an informal and engaging opportunity to know more about relevant projects and initiatives of each association, exchange ideas, and discuss common challenges and concerns. Participants will have the opportunity to connect directly with TA representatives, share their own perspectives and experiences, and contribute to an open discussion on issues that matter to the teaching community.

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4TH OCTOBER 2026 – SUNDAY

09.30 – 10.30

Carlos Lindade | APPI EdTech SIG



Auditorium

Making AI Literacy Visible in ELT through Citizenship

Portugal's 2026 citizenship syllabus names AI literacy but where does it fit in the EFL classroom? This plenary offers a roadmap through the eight citizenship dimensions as entry points, with a sample activity per dimension and a framework teachers can adapt to their own contexts.

10.45 – 11.30

Rawia Hayik | Sakhnin Academic College for Teacher Education / ETAI

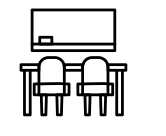


Auditorium

Writing That Matters: PhotoVoice and Engaged Writing in the EFL Classroom

This talk explores how PhotoVoice—a participatory method that combines photography, writing, and presentation—can be integrated into EFL classrooms to foster both language development and social awareness. By empowering students to capture images of their lived experiences, write about them in English, and present to an invited audience, educators can deepen engagement, enhance written fluency, and spark involvement.

Helena Lopes & Teresa Maia | APPI Assessment & Evaluation SIG



Room 1

Art. Assess. Activate.

In this session we invite participants to visit "The Museum" by Susan Verde, illustrated by Peter Reynolds, and turn its vibrant energy into language learning. Through lively reading, responding and creating tasks, we offer fun, practical ways to activate and assess the four skills with art-powered learning.

12.00 – 12.45

João Rodrigues | Polytechnic Institute of Beja

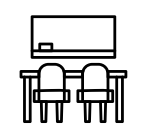


Auditorium

A fresh (re)start?

The beginning of an academic year is usually a particularly challenging time for teachers. The overwhelming number of tasks to be tackled often leaves teachers with very little time to design new classroom activities. Bearing this in mind, this workshop aims to share a range of practical, low-prep activities that teachers can easily adapt and implement to enrich their lessons from the very start of the school year.

Lydia Stavropoulou | TESOL Greece



Room 1

Giving Space in the ELT Classroom: Building Rapport and Community

This practical session explores how moving beyond routine classroom questions creates meaningful opportunities for authentic communication. Teachers will take away instantly applicable techniques to use in classes of Year 4 and above as they will discover practical techniques that foster learner agency, emotional safety, classroom community, and naturally emerging language in the ELT classroom.

13.00 – 14.00

Anna Pires | APPI Mindful EFL SIG



Auditorium

The World Inside the Song: deeper thinking through music videos

In the EFL classroom, the questions we ask learners shape the thinking we invite. This session uses music videos as rich multimodal texts to explore how learners can move from concrete observation to interpretation and wider reflection. Through sound, image, lyrics and silence, we will look at how questions can deepen thinking and open space for voice, empathy, purpose and human stories.

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SPEAKERS' BIODATA

Anna Pires is a teacher trainer, materials writer and coursebook author with over 30 years' experience in ELT. She is co-coordinator of the APPI Mindful EFL SIG and a regular speaker at national and international events. Her work explores music, mindfulness, multimodality, creativity and humanistic approaches to language learning, with a strong focus on voice, meaning and classroom community.

Carlos Lindade is a Portuguese-Canadian Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto (FLUP), where he teaches in the field of ELT and contributes to the education of future EFL teachers. He is also actively involved in the professional development of in-service language teachers through teacher education initiatives, workshops, and conference presentations.

Carol Read has decades of experience as a teacher, teacher educator, academic manager and international consultant. She is also an award-winning author. Carol's main area of expertise is in early years and primary language teaching and she has published extensively in this area. Carol is also a former President of IATEFL. You can find out more about Carol by visiting www.carolread.com

Daniel Xerri is an Associate Professor in Applied Linguistics and TESOL at the University of Malta, and the Chairperson of the ELT Council. He has published widely on different areas of English language education. His main research interests are teacher research and professional learning. www.danielxerri.com

Daniella Costa is an English teacher and has been teaching English since 2009. Currently she is teaching grades 1 to 4 in an International School in Lisbon. Daniella has an interest in using games, creative activities and technology in the classroom. She is also a member of the APPInep committee.

Helena Isabel Soares is an accredited teacher trainer and English teacher with experience in all levels, from very young learners to adults and university students. She works with APPI, as a member of APPInep and as a teacher trainer. She is also a teacher at AEPAMOL, where she teaches English, co-teaches Arts, Natural and Social Science and coordinates the bilingual programme.

Helena Mota Lopes is an EFL teacher in the 3rd Cycle of Basic Education and Secondary Education in state schools. She is also a teacher trainer. She holds an MA in English Studies and a PhD in the field of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, area of specialization in Foreign Language Didactics. She is a member of the APPI board, the Director of APPIforma teacher training centre and a co-coordinator of the APPI SIG "Assessment & Evaluation".

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SPEAKERS' BIODATA

João Rodrigues holds a PhD in Literary, Cultural and Interartistic Studies – specialisation in Literature and Culture – from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto. He is an Assistant Professor at the Polytechnic Institute of Beja, where he teaches several courses of English and German for Specific Purposes.

Karen McDonald is passionate about language learning and teaching. She started teaching English 30+ years ago. She has taught students of all ages (from 2 to 82) in many different types of institutions from kindergarten to University. She currently teaches a variety of ages & levels at a language school in Seville, Spain. Outside the classroom much of her spare time is dedicated to TESOL-SPAIN.

Lydia Stavropoulou is a BA (English Language and Literature) and MA in TESOL holder, an EFL/ESL teacher, teacher trainer and Zumba instructor with extensive experience in language education, SEND students and teacher development. She has taught at private schools and the British Council in Greece and specializes in communicative, learner-centred teaching, inclusive education.

Rawia Hayik, senior lecturer, is the head of the English Department at Sakhnin College. She finished her PhD at Indiana University in the United States. Recently, she was a visiting scholar at UCLA, USA. She is the recipient of several national and international awards, including the 2017 TESOL Teacher of the Year Award and the Spencer Post-Doctoral award.

Sónia Ferreira has a Degree in Teaching English and Portuguese to the 2º CEB and a Master's degree in Teaching English as a Foreign Language from Nova University, Lisbon. She's the President of the APPI Board and a teacher trainer at APPIforma.

Susana Nassa holds a degree in Educational Training, Modern Languages and Literatures (English and German) from "Faculdade de Letras" (University of Lisbon, 2004), and a Master's degree in Teaching English in Primary Education from "Escola Superior de Educação e Comunicação" (University of Algarve, 2018). In 2025, she joined the José Belchior Viegas School Cluster in São Brás de Alportel.

Sviatlana Karpava is an Assistant Professor at the University of Cyprus, specializing in applied linguistics, multilingualism, and language education. She co-directs labs, chairs the Cyprus Teachers of English Association, and is involved in COST Actions on CLIL and multilingualism. She has edited volumes on multilingualism and heritage language development.

Teresa Maria Costa Maia has a degree in LLM – Portuguese/English (FLUP) and an MA in Teaching English to Young Learners (ESE). Teresa has been an English primary teacher for more than twenty years, but has also taught teens and adults. She has produced some coursebooks materials and has written some articles for ESE and APPI. She is a member of the APPI board and a co-coordinator of the APPI SIG "Assessment & Evaluation".

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SYMPOSIUM ACCREDITATION / ACREDITAÇÃO DO SIMPÓSIO

Este Simpósio integra o plano de formação APPIforma e é acreditado pela APPI com duas Ações de Formação de Curta Duração, correspondentes à participação em cada um dos dias do evento:

sábado – Ação de Formação de Curta Duração de 6 horas

domingo – Ação de Formação de Curta Duração de 4 horas

As Ações de Formação de Curta Duração relevam para os efeitos previstos no Estatuto da Carreira dos Educadores de Infância e dos Professores de Ensino Básico e Secundário, de acordo com o número 1 do artigo 3.º, do Despacho n.º 5741/2015 de 29 de maio de 2015.

CRITÉRIOS:

Para obter a respetiva acreditação, os docentes deverão:

1. Assinar as folhas de presença no início e no final de cada dia. As folhas de presença estarão disponíveis na receção do evento.

2. Completar e submeter o questionário de satisfação que será enviado por e-mail, no final do segundo dia do encontro.

Os Certificados serão enviados por e-mail.

JOIN US FOR THE 40TH ANNUAL APPI CONFERENCE!

Teachers are warmly invited to attend the 40th Annual APPI Conference, taking place in Lisbon from 7 - 9 May 2027. With the theme “Honouring the Past, Empowering the Future,” the conference offers a valuable opportunity to connect with fellow educators, exchange ideas, discover new approaches to teaching, and be inspired by the latest developments in English language education.



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THANK YOU!

APPI would like to express their thanks to:

- Câmara Municipal de Loulé
- Escola Secundária de Loulé
- Leirilivro / Express Publishing
- ELT Council
- TESOL Spain
- TESOL Greece
- CyTEA - Cyprus Teachers of English Association
- ETAI - English Teacher's Association of Israel



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AND INTEGRATING
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CRITICALLY, CREATIVELY AND
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