# Second great innovative teachers competition in Slovakia

Microsoft and P-MAT has decided to cooperate on a diffucult task of the project Modern Teacher. Slovakia has thus joined group of countries, where the project Innovative Teachers is already in full swing. As in other countries, the goal of the project in Slovakia is to introduce innovative instructional methods in schools and use of ICT in education. Whole process of implementation of this project is based around the portal [www.modernyucitel.net](http://www.modernyucitel.net) which for this purpose uses competitions in virtual classroom tours that are held twice a year.

The previous one, the Second great competition of the best instructional material in the form of a virtual classroom tour on the portal was announced on September 1 and lasted till February 15. During this time could teachers registered on the portal, except members of the jury, submit their works on [www.p-mat.sk/modernyucitel](http://www.p-mat.sk/modernyucitel). Reviewers afterwards divided these works into cathegories and evaluated their functionality, originality and best design.

Results of the competition were decided during the weekend around the turn of February and March, when competing teachers met members of the jury on weekend seminar for Innovative teachers. This provided an opportunity for teachers to share their experiences and for reviewers to explain their decisions, present most common flaws with recommendations into the future.

The jury in the cathegory for first four grades of elementary and special elementary schools, Mgr. Martina Chalachánová, PaedDr. Ľubica Steinerová, Mgr. Ľubica Bezeková, composed results on the basis of given points. On the first place was a virtual classroom tour by Gabriela Kapjorová, depicting a home region and discovering its beauties, called Potulky po Orave (Walks around Orava). Students used information and communication technologies to process their findings, either in form of pictures, tables or presentations. Second and third place were taken over by fairytale motives. The virtual classroom tour “Loďka”(Boat) on the second place arised from the work of Janka Fábryová and the project by Jana Jakabová gained third price.

Most projects were in the second cathegory for higher grades of elementary schools and special elementary schools. Jury consisted of five members, Mgr. Ján Gmiterko, Mgr, Anna Prachová, Ing. Katarína Šafárová, RNDr. Emil Válek, PaedDr. ThDr. Terézia Žigová, PhD. It was not easy decision, but they finally came to the results. The first place was given to Lýdia Rezničáková with virtual classroom tour in the classes of Geography: America, come closer. Students could during these classes gain and strengthen their knowledge about American continent using presentations and computer tests. A virtual classroom tour in the area of chemistry, called Ions for health, conducted by Jarmila Tatarková was placed second. We could travel the capitals of Europe or learn about state authorities of Slovak republic with students of Gabriel Nehmanová and Milan Urda, whose effort gained them together third price. Last but not least, the jury in this cathegory awarded also special price for a virtual classroom tour of Jana Balážová named Drugs kill – sport joins. This project was exceptional, because it joins not only sport, and gathering knowledge about drugs but also presentation of students themselves in the form of presentations and lectures.

High schools had also two cathegories, but there was not as large number of competing projects as was in the cathegories for elementary schools. In the cathegory of general subjects had the best virtual classroom tour Renáta Milčáková. Her work in the classes of Slovak language consisted of introducing Avant-garde in words and pictures. My town, in the visual field of camera (Moje mesto, obec očami fotoaparátu) watched students of Marcela Jurčová, who took second price. Martina Malková for her students prepared more interesting guide for MS Excel 2003 and database, which gained her third position. These virtual classroom tours evaluated jury consisting of these members: Mgr. Júlia Illéšová, PaedDr. Jarmila Janisková, PaedDr. Ľubomír Konrád, Mgr. Miroslava Konrádová, RNDr. Dáša Škodyová and Ing. Kvetoslava Danková.

Last cathegory dealt with specialized subjects on high schools. This cathegory won Zdenka Biloveská with a virtual classroom tour not only for business schools, which she named Step by step from production to market. The second place was devoted to useful topic for every citizen of Slovak republic, Advertising, protection of consumer and claims from Mária Kotrusová. Jana Merkechová focused with her students on My profession, and this put her on the third place. As every cathegory, also this one had its jury which consisted of Ing. Mgr. Martin Hriňák, Ing Daniela Skladanová and PaedDr. Beáta Šenkárová.

In the Second great competition, about the best instructional material in the form of virtual classroom tour on the portal [www.modernyucitel.net](http://www.modernyucitel.net), took part 79 works, among which 71 met all the requirements and were registered in the competition. Quality of submitted materials hugely increased, among other reasons, because of reviewers, who tried to suggest improvements for individual works.

Since Modern teacher is a worldwide project, Slovak teachers had great opportunity to present their works on the international Innovative Teachers Forum. At this forum, which took place in Croatian Zagreb from 5th to 8th March 2008, participated five teachers: PaedDr. Ľubica Steinerová from elementary school Dolný Ohaj, Mgr. Gabriela Kapjorová from elementary school on Hviezdoslavova 8 in Trstené, Mgr. Milan Urda from elementary school of P. K. Hostinský in Rimavská Sobota, Ing. Maria Kotrusová from business school in Levice and Mgr. Lýdia Rezníčková from special school on Partizánska 2 in Poprad.

The end of the Second great competition about the best instructional material doesn’t pose the end to the opportunities for innovative teachers to show their skills. New projects will certainly find their place in the next Great competition and they can still be shared on the portal [www.modernyucitel.net](http://www.modernyucitel.net).

Translation of stories from the newspaper







