

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of MSSA (December 2008 – December 2009)

The Annual Assembly of MSSA (December 2008 – December 2009) took place on 25.12.2009, at the library of the Institute for Special Education and Rehabilitation, Faculty of Philosophy – Skopje.

The Assembly was attended by: Vladimir Trajkovski, Kristin Vasilevska, Dragoslav Kopacev, Ljupco Ajdinski, Risto Petrov, Jasmina Ivanovska, Vasilka Galevska, Zivka Dimitrovska, Goran Petrushev, Vladimir Ilievski, Magdalena Dimkova, Natasa Stanojkovska-Trajkovska, Bisera Mladenovska, Rozalija Davkovska and Kalina Jonchevska.

The Assembly officially started at 1 p.m. with the announcement of the MSSA' president, Dr. Vladimir Trajkovski of the planned timetable, which was accepted by the present persons.

First timetable issue was **the Adoption of the Annual Assembly 2008 minute book**. The present persons did not have any notices on the suggested minutes thus it was unanimously adopted.

Second timetable issue was the Report of MSSA activities in 2009 so Dr. Trajkovski noticed the following activities:

- MSSA members' meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in January 2009;

- Attendance of the second project forum „**Common Voice Network Project**”, held in Budapest on 19-20 March 2009 where MSSA was represented by Vladimir Ilievski who briefly reported the Assembly attendees about the respective forum;

- Participation of Prof. Dr. V. Trajkovski at the International conference “Contemporary Treatment of Children With Special Needs” held in Belgrade on 30 May 2009;

- Presentation of the master's work entitled “Attitudes, opinions and experiences in regard to the treatment of persons with autism in the Republic of Macedonia” by Jasmina Ivanovska, held on 02.06.2009;

- Participation at the Final conference for the „**Common Voice Network**” project, held in Budapest on 11 September 2009 where MSSA was represented by Vasilka Galevska, M.Sc. who briefly reported the Assembly attendees about the respective conference;

- Presentation of the master's work entitled "The need of establishing a system of protection, education and rehabilitation of the persons with autism in the Republic of Macedonia” by Vasilka Galevska, held 04.11.2009;

- Presentation of graduating work entitled: “Attitudes and opinions of the parents and students in regard to the sexual development, behaviour and sexual identity of persons with autism” by Bisera Mladenovska, held on 09.11.2009;

- Forum “My life with Down syndrome” held on 21.11.2009 at the Faculty of Philosophy;

- Submission and implementation of projects (the completed „**Common Voice Network Project**”, as well as the „**Welcome to my world**”, project submitted to the European Commission and EASPD);

- New paper about autism published and participation of Prof. Trajkovski at a seminar abroad.

Afterwards, there was time for questions and comments referring to the reported in the framework of the second timetable issue. G. Petrushev asked about the cooperation of MSSA with the Association of parents of children with autism realized in the last year so Dr. Trajkovski answered that there was joint media presentation realized with the new Association's president, as well as the attendance of MSSA members at the public lecturing for autism organized by the Association of parents. In the respective discussion Prof. R. Petrov took place as well, shearing his opinion that MSSA should focus its activities to establishment of daily centre for persons with autism in Macedonia instead of so-far efforts for organizing Centre for Autism. Prof. Lj. Ajdinski agreed with this opinion, at the same time underlining that it is necessary to intensify the cooperation and joint activities with the Association of parents of children with autism. In this regard m-r V. Ilievski suggested it would be nice to organize joint forum in purpose to start concrete joint activities between the both associations. Dr. D. Kopacev and m-r J. Ivanovska shared their opinions, as well.

Referring to the third timetable issue, **Financial report for 2009**, the MSSA treasurer, m-r J. Ivanovska, gave an overview to the MSSA account at the end of 2008 (7.563,50 MKD), total incomes (26,50 MKD) and total outcomes in 2009 (3.307,00 MKD) and the account condition at the end of 2009 (4.283,00 MKD).

The next timetable issue was the **Program of activities in 2010**, so D-r. Trajkovski mentioned the following activities planed to be implemented:

- Finding donors for the project "Welcome to my world" and submission of new projects;
- Meeting with the President of the Assembly of Republic of Macedonia as a lobby activity;
- Elaborate proposal for one master's work od MSSA members – students of post-graduated studies at the Institute for Special Education and Rehabilitation;
- Publishing of at least one paper about autism in foreign Journal;
- Publishing of schoolbook „Autistic spectrum of disorders”
- Detection of new cases of autism;
- Activities for establishing a national register of autism in Macedonia;
- MSSA participation as a partner in the participation of the EASPD Conference **“Towards community living: current realities, future challenges”**, that will be held on 7-9 October in Skopje, in cooperation with „Poraka” and „Open the windows”;
- Possible attendance of MSS member at the 9th international congress of Autism Europe on 8-10.10.2010 in Katania, Italy;
- Initiating awareness-raising campaign about autism through the electronic and printed media.

During the discussion of the fourth timetable issue, Prof. Ajdinski asked that the respective Program of activities in 2010 should be amended with initiating and organizing joint meeting with the Association of parents of children with autism in order to intensify the cooperation and coordinate the activities. Prof. Petrov informed that he and Prof. Ajdinski has been appointed as members of the advisory body by the Inter-party parliamentary lobby group, so there came a joint idea to organize presentation for the lobby group members in order to bring autism issues closer to the MP-s. At the end, M. Dimkova proposed joint elaboration of elaborate-proposal referring to the organization of daily centre for persons with autism.

As a fifth timetable issue there was a short presentation of the master's work entitled "Attitudes, opinions and experiences in regard to the treatment of persons with autism in the Republic of Macedonia" by Jasmina Ivanovska, M.Sc., and then, as a sixth issue, presentation of the master's work entitled "The need of establishing a system of protection, education and rehabilitation of the persons with autism in the Republic of Macedonia" by Vasilka Galevska.

The last timetable issue was **Various**. Prof. Vasilevska agreed with the statement that the physicians in Macedonia are not enough introduced with the issues of autism not prepared for work with autistic persons and underlined that she supports the idea of organizing daily centre for autistic persons. She also suggested that the activities for establishing national register for autism should be intensified, as well as that it should be based at MSSA or the Institute for Special Education, which was accepted by the other present MSSA members.

Within the frame of the timetable issue **Various**, G. Petrushev as a president of the Association of Special Educators in Macedonia, informed on the organization of the professional meeting on the occasion of 60 years organized education and rehabilitation for disabled persons in the Republic of Macedonia, planed to take place on 27-29 May 2010 in Bitola, so he invited all the present members to participate the meeting.

After the completion of the timetable issues, Dr. Trajkovski thanked to the present MSSA members for their attendance and wished them happy holidays and successful 2010.

Skopje,
25.12.2009

Minutes prepared by
Galevska Vasilka, M.Sc.