

Minutes of the Annual Assembly Meeting of MSSA (for the period December 2016-December 2017)

The annual assembly of MSSA was held on December 22, 2017, at the Youth Cultural Center's NGO Center in Skopje. The annual meeting was attended by: Prof. Dr. Vladimir Trajkovski, Assoc. Prof. Natasha Cichevska-Jovanova, Assoc. Prof. Zoran Kitkanj, Assoc. Prof. Anna Fritschand Assoc. Prof. Olivera Rasic Canevska, Jasmina Ivanovska-Trosanska, Ph.D., Assist. Prof. Vladimir Ilievski, Silvana Markovska-Simovska, MD, PhD, Rosalija Boškavska, M.Sc. Phillip Jurotoski, Nataša Jovanoska, Peco Stojanovski, Slavica Todorova, M.Sc., Stojan Andonov, Biljana Kujundžik Nastevska, Assist. Prof. Natasa Stojanovska-Trajkovska, Natasha Mladenovska, M.Sc., Vesna Kostic Ivanovic, Ph.D, Ivana Vasilevska Petrovska, M.Sc. Anita Stojcevska, Tanja Stankova, Zhivka Dimitrovska, Sonja Cokovic, Marija Avramovska, M.Sc. Adrianna Kukoska and Angel Mircevska.

Excused for their absence were: Prof. Dr. Ljupco Ajdinski, Prof. Dr. Risto Petrov, Anna Shikaleska and Meri Nolcheva.

The annual assembly officially started at 13.30. with the following:

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting for 2016;

The President of MSSA PhD Vladimir Trajkovski apologized to the attendees for his absence from last year's assembly for health reasons and thanked the attendees for their presence, and then presented the minutes of the previous year. After the minutes were presented in detail, the members were called to vote for the adoption of last year's minutes. After the vote, the participants unanimously adopted the minutes.

2. Admission of new members to MSSA.

Regarding the second point, the president announced that he has received two membership applications this year, and urged them to present themselves before the membership. After the introduction, the president called for a vote. New members of MSSA are: Adriana Kukoska and Angela Mirchevska.

3. Report on the work of the MSSA from 2017

The president said that 2017 was quite productive for the MSSA, filled with many activities that most closely related to the ESIPP project. The President began to highlight the activities in chronological order.

09-12.02.2017 – Prof. Dr. Vladimir Trajkovski, plenary lecturer at the conference "Days of special educators of Serbia" on the role of the project: "Equality and social inclusion through positive parenting" in Novi Sad, Serbia.

09-12.02.2017 – MSSA members with Cypriot counterparts organized training for parents at the Institute of Special Education and Rehabilitation and in the SPS "Idnina" within the ESIPP project.

13-15.03.2017 – the participation of the vice-president and Anna Šikaleska at the fifth project meeting and the conference within the project: "Equality and social inclusion through positive parenting" in Zagreb, Croatia.

04/11/2017 – support for the exhibition "Awakening" organized by the National Gallery of Macedonia.

17-18.06.2017 – MSSA members organized training for parents in the SPS Maca Ovčarova-Veles within the ESIPP project.

28-30.06.2017 – the participation of the vice-president and Ana Šikaleska at the sixth project meeting and the conference within the project "Equality and social inclusion through positive parenting" in Northampton, England.

02-03.09.2017 – MSSA members organized training for parents in the building of the municipality of Ohrid-Ohrid within the ESIPP project.

07-08.10.2017 – MSSA members organized training for parents at the Institute for Rehabilitation for children with hearing impairment, speech, voice and other problems in the development "Koco Racin" - Bitola within the ESIPP project.

01.11.2017 – organizers of the third conference: "Assistance and support to the parents of children with autistic spectrum disorders" within the ESIPP project at the Museum of the Macedonian Struggle for Statehood and Independence.

02-03.11.2017 – organizers of the seventh project meeting within the project "Equality and social inclusion through positive parenting" in the rectorate of UKIM in Skopje.

11/15/2017 – Ivana Vasilevska Petrovska defense of the master thesis: "Improving understanding of emotions among students with autistic spectrum disorders - evaluation of computer intervention".

From December 2016 to December 2017, three new efforts for autism were published:

1. Hansen DB, Orton LE, Adams C, Knecht L, Rindlisbaker S, Juratoski F, Traykovski V. A pilot study of a Behavioral Parent Training in the Republic of Macedonia. *J Autism Dev Disord* 47 (6): 1878-1889. DOI 10.1007 / s10803-017-3112-6.
2. Preece D, Trajkovski V. Parent education in autism spectrum disorder - a review of the literature. *Croatian Review for Rehabilitation Research* 2017; 53 (1): 118-128.
3. Trajkovski V. Macedonia and Autism. *Encyclopedia of Autism Spectrum Disorders*. Ed. Volkmar FR. Springer New York. pp. 1-6. DOI 10.1007 / 978-1-4614-6435-8_102172-1.

Participation in seminars and congresses in the country and abroad:

1. Trajkovski V, Preece D, Troshanska J, Mavrou K, Teodorou E, Stosic J, Fray Škrinjar J, Bramble P. Help for parents understanding and supporting their children with autism in Southeast Europe. Proceedings of the "Days of the Special Educator of Serbia" summary. Novi Sad, 09-12 February, 2017; 23.
2. Preece D, Stosic J, Frey Škrinjar J, Troshanska J, Symeou L, Mavrou K, Theodorou E, Trajkovski V. Education for families of children with ASD. Book of Abstracts "9th International Conference of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences University of Zagreb", Zagreb, 17 - 19 May 2017; 32.
3. Preece D, Aguila Munoz S, Capper A, Charalambous Darden N, Fortuna R, Frey Škrinjar J, Gerolemou C, Mavrou K, Ruzic A, Stosic J, Symeou L, Theodorou E, Trajkovski V. "Positive Approaches to Autism" - education for parents. Book of Abstracts "9th International Conference of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences University of Zagreb", Zagreb, 17 - 19 May 2017; 108.
4. Troshanska J, Trajkovski V. Audit and visual processing of students with autism in comparison with students with mild mental retardation and pupils of the neurotic population. Collection of the summary "Actualities in education and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities". Valjevo, May 19-21, 2017; 44.
5. Preece D, Symeou L, Stosic J, Theodorou E, Mavrou K, Troshanska J, Frey Škrinjar J, Trajkovski V. Listening to empowered parents: family education for children on the autism spectrum in South-eastern Europe. European Research Network on Parents in Education (ERNAPE), 11th Biennial Conference: "Intensification, constraint and opportunity: changing roles for parents, schools and communities. Addressing equity and diversity issues." London, 5-7 July 2017.

PhD Natasha Chichevska Jovanova again asked the question why it is necessary to defend a master's thesis at the annual assembly of MSSA. After a brief discussion, it is decided that the expression will be reworded in "presenting a defended master thesis in the field of autism".

4. Financial report for 2016 - 2017

The fourth item on the agenda referred to the Financial Report for 2017 and it was presented by Assist. Prof. Olivera Rasic - Canevska. The account balance at the end of 2016 is (69,219 MKD), total revenues (1,110,161.00 MKD), total expenditures (743,058.00 MKD), current account balance (MKD 114,640). The financial report was put to the vote, and after the vote, it was adopted by the participants.

Dr. Jasmina Troshanska asked a question about the foreign currency account of MSSA. After a brief discussion it was decided that the President PhD. Vladimir Trajkovski is to send the current state of the account to all present members of the Assembly.

5. Work program for the assembly in 2018.

The President called Assist. Prof. Vladimir Ilievski to present the program for the work of the assembly during 2018.

In the course of 2018, the Macedonian Scientific Society for Autism plans to perform several activities:

- Complete the education of the parents of autistic children within the Erasmus plus ESIPP project;
- Inclusion in activities for celebrating the International Day of Autistic People April 2;
- Maintenance of training in kindergartens and regular primary schools on the territory of the city of Skopje, and, if necessary, in the cities from the interior of the Republic of Macedonia;
- Participation of MSSA members at project meetings within the Erasmus plus EU project: "Equality and social inclusion through positive parenting", in Cyprus and Croatia;
- Intensify the cooperation with the local self-government, the line ministries and the NGO sector;
- Application for international projects (through EU funds, etc.);
- Defense of MAs related to autism by MSSA members;
- Publishing at least three autism works in a foreign magazine with an international editorial board;

Assoc. Prof. Natasha Cichevska Jovanova is asked to be included in the training section for teachers from the schools. Rozalija Boškavska, M.Sc. wants to be involved in primary school teacher training. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Trajkovski, PhD and Assoc. Prof. Zoran Kitkanj, stated that also it should be given others the chance to be involved in training.

6. Replacement of the MSSA Vice President Dr. Jasmina Troshanska for the establishment of a new association for autism, disloyalty and slander of MSSA and non-compliance with the interests of MSSA;

Prof. Dr. Vladimir Trajkovski stated that he is no more able to cooperate with Dr. Jasmina Troshanska as vice-president for the above reasons. After discussing the reasons for this decision, point 6 was put to the vote and it was voted the Vice-President Jasmina Troshanska to be replaced.

7. Proposal for a new Vice President of MSSA;

President of MSSA nominated candidate for vice-president, Assoc. Prof. Silvana Markovska Simoska, and asked if there are others who want to make a proposal, to do the same. No other proposal was given. The president's proposal to elect a new vice president was put to the vote and was unanimously voted. New Vice President of MSSA is Assoc. Prof. Silvana Markovska Simoska.

8. Improving of the understanding of emotions among students with autistic spectrum disorders - evaluation of computer intervention

MA Ivana Vasilevska Petrovska

Under the eighth item of the agenda, Ivana Vasilevska Petrovska, M.Sc. presented her research findings for the members with a full exhaustive presentation.

9. Miscellaneous

There was no discussion on this point.

With this at 15.15 ended the annual meeting held on 22.12.2017.

Date:
22.12.2017

Prepared by:
Philip Jurotoski