

## **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of MSSA (for the period December 2017-December 2018)**

The MSSA Annual Meeting was held on 21.12.2018, in the NGO Center of the Youth Cultural Center in Skopje. The annual assembly was attended by: Prof. Dr. Vladimir Trajkovski, Prof. Dr. Risto Petrov, Doc. Dr. Vladimir Ilievski, Dr. Vesna Kostic Ivanovic, M.A. Ivana V. Petrovska, M.A. Tanja Stankova, M.A. Maria Avramovska, M.A. Slavica Todorova, M.A. Natasha MladenovskaToshevska, Stojan Andonov, Peco Stojanovski, Zhivka Dimitrovska, Violeta Kunovska, Vesna Filipovska, Aleksandra Jordanov, Fiki Gaspar and Adrijana Kukoska.

The excused absences were: Meri Nolcheva, M.A., Doc. Dr. Olivera Rashikj Canevska, Angela Mircevska, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ana Fritzhand, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zoran Kitkanj, Magdalena Dimkova, M.A., Nikolche Neshevski, Rozalia Boskovski, M,A, and Natasha Jovanoska.

The annual assembly officially begins at 1:03 pm with the following:

### **Agenda:**

#### **1. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Assembly for 2017**

The President of MSSA, Prof. Dr. Vladimir Trajkovski in details presented the minutes of the last annual assembly held on 22.12.2017, and then the members were called to vote for its approval. After the voting, the minutes were unanimously approved by those present.

#### **2. Admission of new members to MSSA**

On the second point, the president announced that he had received three membership applications this year, urging them to introduce themselves before the membership. After the presentation, the president called for a vote. New members of MSSA are: Vesna Filipovska, Aleksandra Jordanov and Fiki Gaspar.

#### **3. Election of the new vice president of MSSA**

The president of MSSA first explained the need to elect a new vice president of the association. Namely, on 06.12.2015, the current Vice President Ass. PhD Silvana Markovska Simoska, resigned from her post by email, citing the large number of obligations she has. The President publicly thanked all the members for the cooperation so far and accepted her resignation. As a nominee for a new Vice President by Prof. Dr.

Trajkovski was pointed out Ivana Vasilevska Petrovska, M.A. for which she noted that she has excellent cooperation so far. As no other proposal was made, the president's proposal to elect a new vice president was put to the vote and unanimously voted. The new vice president of MSSA is Ivana Vasileva Petrovska, M.A., and she thanked for the trust and wished successful and fruitful cooperation.

#### **4. Election of the new MSSA technical secretary**

At this point the president first gives a brief introduction about the need to elect a new technical secretary. Namely, he pointed out that in December last year, the cooperation with the previous technical secretary Filip Jurtofski began to deteriorate, i.e. Filip interrupted the communication and stopped replying to the e-mails sent by the president. Because of this situation, the MSSA editorial board met and decided to give the technical secretary 15 days to state his stand and position. Since he did not do so, in February 2018, the President appointed Vesna Filipovska as Acting Secretary, who was put to the vote as a proposal in this Assembly. Since there was no other proposal, it was unanimously adopted by all members present. Vesna thanked the president and members for their trust and expressed hope for good and fruitful cooperation.

#### **5. MSSA Performance Report of 2018**

The President declared 2018 as very successful and productive for MSSA, filled with many activities and projects presenting them in chronological order:

21-23.03.2018 - participation of MSSA members at the eighth project meeting and conference as part of the project: "Equality and Social Inclusion through Positive Parenthood" in Limassol, Cyprus.

14-15.04.2018 - participation of Prof. Dr. Vladimir Trajkovski at the Reattach conference held in Eindhoven, The Netherlands.

22.05.2018 -President of MSSA at the Discussion Panel: "Cultural Inclusion of People with Disabilities in the Republic of Macedonia", Chifte Amam, Skopje. Rozalija Boskovski, MA and Ivana Vasilevska Petrovska, MA, participants in the project "Art for All" in cooperation with the National Gallery of Macedonia.

23.05.2018 - President of MSSA Lecturer at the Webinar via YouTube to colleagues at Kandahar University, India on the topic: "Etiology and pathogenesis of autism spectrum disorders.

04.06.07.2018 - participation of MSSA members at the last ninth project meeting within the project: "Equality and Social Inclusion through Positive Parenthood" in Zagreb, Croatia.

26-29.09.2018 - President of MSSA Scientific Board Member, Invited Lecturer, Panelist and Moderator of the International Scientific Conference: "Focus on Autism", Krakow, Poland.

02.10.2018 - MSSA members in the project Guide to the Museum Program for Children / Persons with Autism and their Families in the Museum of the Macedonian Struggle (authors: Dr. Jasmina Troshanska, Ana Shikaleska, consultant Prof. Dr. Vladimir Trajkovski).

1-2.11.2018 - President of MSSA Invited Lecturer, Moderator of 8th Interdisciplinary Scientific-Practical Congress with International Participation: "Cerebral Palsy and Other Movement Disorders", Moscow, Russia.

10-12.12.2018 - President of MSSA participates in the first project meeting within the project "Holistic approach to planning for people with autism", Patras, Greece.

### **From December 2018-December 2018 published 1 new e-book on autism:**

1. Weerkamp Bartolomeus P, Peter S, Srivastava A, Fitzgerald M, Marazziti D, Poletaev A, **Trajkovski V**. Autism: is there a place for ReAttach therapy? A promotion of natural self-healing through emotions rewiring. E-book Edition, Giovanni Fioriti Editore, 2018.

### **Participation in seminars and congresses in the country and abroad:**

1. Preece D, Stošić J, Theodorou E, Troshanska J, Mavrou K, Symeou L, Frey Škrinjar J, **Trajkovski V**. Impact of Parent Education on Families in South-East Europe. INSAR 2018 Annual Meeting. Rotterdam, 9-12 May 2018.  
<https://insar.confex.com/insar/2018/webprogram/Paper26189.html>
2. **Trajkovski V**. Health issues and health care in autism spectrum disorders. Book of Abstracts International Scientific Conference: „Focus on Autism“. Krakow, 27-29 September 2018; 128-129.
3. **Trajkovski V**. Association between cerebral palsy and autism spectrum disorders. Book of Abstracts VIII interdisciplinary scientific practical congress with international participation: „Cerebral palsy and other developmental disorders“. Moscow, 1-2 November 2018; 132-133

At this point, Zhivka Dimitrova also points out all the innovations and progress in the Institute for Hearing, Speech and Voice Rehabilitation where she is employed. She pointed to the enormous benefit of hiring new staff (special educators and speech therapists), attending numerous conferences and seminars, and also announced the plan of the institute for conducting early diagnostics. The president suggested that a presentation could be made to share information and news from these conferences and news.

At the end of this point the report was unanimously adopted by the present membership.

## **6. Financial Report for 2017 - 2018**

The sixth point on the agenda referred to the Financial Report for 2018 and it was presented by Dr. Vladimir Ilievski. The amount of expenses incurred during this period is 616.155,00 MKD, the positive difference is 112.493,00 MKD, and the current account balance at the end of 2018 is 108,290.00 MKD. The financial report was put to the vote, and after the vote it was adopted by those present.

## **7. Program of work for the assembly in 2019**

The President called on the new Vice-President Ivana Vasilevska Petrovska, MA to present the program of work of the Assembly in 2019.

During 2019 the Macedonian Scientific Society for Autism plans to carry out several activities:

- Activities under the Erasmus Plus Autism PCP project;
- Engaging in activities to mark the International Day of Persons with Autism April 2;
- Holding trainings in kindergartens and regular primary schools on the territory of the City of Skopje and, if necessary, in cities within the Republic of Macedonia;
- Participation of MSSA members in Erasmus plus EU project meetings: "Autism PCP Project", in Romania and Italy;

- Intensifying the cooperation with the local self-government, line ministries and the NGO sector;
- Starting preparatory activities for the Riatach conference to be held in May 2020 where MSSA is co-organizer;
- Applying for international projects (through EU funds etc.);

The President indicated that each member could participate in the creation of the MSSA's work program by giving suggestions and ideas. Since there was no supplement to this program, it was unanimously adopted by the members present.

## **8. Sexual education of persons with autistic spectrum disorder. Applying Technique - Social Stories Tanja Stankova, M.A.**

Under the eighth point on the agenda, Tanja Stankova, M.A., presented her master thesis before membership with her exhaustive presentation.

## **9. Miscellaneous**

At this point the first word is taken by Prof. Dr. Vladimir Trajkovski, who announced information about problems with the MSSA website that occurred several months ago. Namely, the company Ars Lamina that was in charge of maintaining the site while changing its servers did not back up the data, thus causing great irreparable damage to the website. Due to this, the cooperation with this company was terminated, and with the given efforts and work of MSSA President and Gjorgji Pop Gjorgjiev, was made a new redesign.

At the same point a word was taken by Dr. Vladimir Ilievski who suggested in the MSSA to introduce honorary members that would include the founders of the association as well as participants from abroad or persons from relevant institutions such as the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Labor; social policy. In doing so, he believes that these honorary members could contribute to their activity and contribute to new projects and activities. The President noted that a list of honorable members could be made on the proposal of membership, and this idea was also supported by Prof. Dr. Risto Petrov.

As a second proposal by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Ilievski, it was pointed out the need for MSSA to provide more support to parents of children with autism by creating a memorandum of cooperation with NGOs as well as conducting trainings for educators and teachers in kindergartens and schools. This idea was unanimously accepted by the membership.

After exhausting all the proposals outlined at this point, the annual meeting ended at 2:55 pm.

**Date:**

**21.12.2018**

**The minutes was prepared by:**

**Vesna Filipovska**