

## **Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the MSSA (for the period December 2019-December 2020)**

The Annual Meeting of the MSSA was held on 25.12.2020. Due to the current COVID 19 crisis, it was held through the ZOOM platform. The annual assembly was attended by: prof. Dr. Vladimir Trajkovski, Ivana V. Petrovska, M.A., Stojan Andonov, Peco Stojanovski, Viktorija Siljanoska, Meri Nolcheva, M.A., Liljana Ivanova, prof. Dr. Daniela Dimitrova-Radojicic, Natasa Jovanovska, Vesna Filipovska, Aleksandra Karagirova, Fiki Gaspar, M.A. Adrijana Kukoska, Dr. Vesna Kostic Ivanovic, Slavica Todorova, M.A., as well as the newly joined members Stefaniya Trajcevska and Bojan Bogdanovski.

Justifiably absent were: prof. Dr. Risto Petrov, prof. Dr. Dejan Trajkov, Tanja Stankova, M.A., Marija Avramovska, M.A., Natasha Mladenovska, M.A. and Angela Mircevska.

The annual meeting officially started at 13:00. with the following:

### **Agenda:**

#### **1. Adoption of the minutes from the annual assembly for 2019;**

The President of MSSA prof. Dr. Vladimir Trajkovski presented the minutes of the last annual meeting held on 27.12.2019, and at the same time reminded the members that they received the minutes at their e-mail addresses. Members were then invited to vote on its adoption. After the voting, the minutes were unanimously adopted by those present.

#### **2. Admission of new members in MSSA;**

Regarding the second point, the President announced that this year he has received three membership applications and called on them to present themselves before the membership. After they introduced themselves, the president called for a vote. New members of MSSA are: Stefaniya Trajcevska, B.Sc. special educator and rehabilitator, Bojan Bogdanovski, spec. clinical speech therapist and Elena Penovski, nurse.

#### **3. Report on the work of the MSSA from 2020**

The President declared 2020 as quite successful and productive for MSSA, filled with many activities and projects despite the COVID 19 crisis, due to which part of the activities of the current projects had to be reformulated and adjusted to their implementation, in accordance with the Covid 19 virus Protection Protocol.

He also called and encouraged everyone present if they want to write papers or apply for projects in NGOs and municipalities. Then all activities by the President were presented in chronological order (attached Report on the work of the MSSA-period December 2019-December 2020).

Considering that this year was mostly marked by the activities and webinars that were part of the Program for social skills and positive parenting for children and families with autism, the vice president of MSSA, Ivana Vasileva Petrovska, M.A., was invited as the project coordinator to express his opinion and impressions of it. She expressed her satisfaction with the reactions and positive criticism of the parents and professionals involved in that project, as well as the great presence and interest of the nine webinars that took place in the period May-June 2020. The final product of that project is the Manual which is published in three languages - Macedonian, English and Albanian. The President added that there is great interest in downloading the manual online. That is, over 1300 downloads in Macedonian, 368 in Albanian and 318 in English. Slavica Todorova, M.A., also asked for a word on this point and wished to express real congratulations for the achieved success of this project as well as the quality of the Manual.

#### **4. Financial report for 2018 - 2019**

The fourth point referred to the Financial Report for 2020, which was presented by Secretary Vesna Filipovska. The total income is 1,293,282.00 denars. The amount for the expenses incurred in this time period is 1,721,180.00 denars, and the realized negative difference is 427,898 denars. The financial report was put to a vote, and after the vote it was adopted by the present.

#### **5. Work program of the assembly in 2021**

The President invited the new Vice President Ivana Vasilevska Petrovska, M.A., to present the program for the work of the Assembly during 2021.

During 2021, the Macedonian Scientific Association for Autism plans to perform several activities:

- Finalization of the Erasmus Plus **Autism PCP** project;
- Activities within the Erasmus Plus **Autism Friendly Places** project;
- Activities within the project "**Strengthening the capacities of professionals for the problems and needs of children with autism spectrum disorders, in preschool and school institutions**"
- Involvement in activities to mark the International Day of People with Autism April 2;
- Holding trainings in the kindergartens and regular primary schools on the territory of the city of Skopje, and if necessary in cities from the interior of the Republic of Macedonia;
- Application for international projects (through EU funds, etc.).
- Regular maintenance of the MSSA website and social media

At this point, Stojan Andov spoke, giving brief information about the new project that MSSA will implement with the support of the Municipality of Karpos - Skopje. Namely, he noted that the goal of the project is to strengthen the capacity of professionals for the problems and needs of children with autism spectrum disorders, in preschool and school institutions. This project will cover the kindergartens in the Municipality of Karpos, as well as all 10 regular primary schools on this territory. This project includes four people from different fields and professions, i.e. an occupational therapist - Stojan Andonov, a special educator and rehabilitator - Aleksandra Karagirova, a professional in the field of social work - prof. Vladimir Ilievski and doctor of medicine - prof. Dr. Vladimir Trajkovski for an introduction to autism.

## **6. Dealing with people with autism during the COVID 19 crisis**

At this point, the special educator and rehabilitator Stefanija Trajcevska had a short presentation, introducing the participants to the results of her research, i.e. the difficulties that occur in people with autism in the Covid 19 crisis..

## **7. Miscellaneous**

At this point, the President of the association asked if anyone of the present wants to speak on any grounds. Since none of the attendees took the floor, the Annual Assembly ended with congratulations on happy holidays, more health and hope for even more constructive cooperation in the new year. The annual meeting ended at 14.25.

**Date:**  
25.12.2020

**Minutes prepared by:**  
Vesna Filipovska