

## REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE MSSA

(for the period December 2022-December 2023)

**January-December 2023** held 10 webinars with world experts on autism: Dr. Beth Melow, Prof. Dr. Beth Melow. Dr. Robert Hendren, vonr. Prof. Dr. Dr. Margaret Bauman, Dr. Lauren Moskovich, Dr. Dean Alexander, Kelly Barnhill, Prof. Dr. Dr. Judy Van de Water, Dr. Yasir Sayed, Dr. Paola Moltheni and Dr. Ivana Krstovska. The top six in co-organization with the Institute for Autism Research from the United States, the last four in an independent organization.

**February 2023** – The third project meeting of the ISEC-ADE project was held, at which mssaa members took a hybrid participation.

**March 2023** – The President of the MSSA moderated 3 autism sessions at the "It's all about the people" conference of Alma Mater Europaea - ECM held on March 13th in Maribor, Slovenia.

**April 2023** – An internet campaign was held on the occasion of April 2, World Autism Day, along with Autism Europe.

**25 May 2023-** The President of the MSSA, at Alma Mater Europaea - ECM in Maribor, gave a lecture entitled "Negative effects of Covid-19 on children with ASN".

**1–2 June 2023** – Mr Fiki Gaspar participated in the fourth meeting of the ISEC-ADE project held in Sofia.

**June 5–7, 2023** - Second meeting of the Project "Inclusion through Social Skills for Students with Autistic Spectrum of Disorder and Intellectual Disabilities" held at the FZF in Skopje. MSSA hosts: Prof. Dr. Vladimir Trajkovski, mr. Ivana Vasilevska Petrovska.

**September-December 2023** – Prof. Dr. Dr Vladimir Trajkovski consultant on the GOPa Pace project from Brussels in the social project: "Support in the protection of children with special needs in Macedonia.

**September 2023** – Vesna Filipovska responsible for testing the Teach Space app.

**29.09.2023** - Prof. Dr. Dr Vladimir Trajkovski led the session: "Autism and Mental Health" at the FZF Psychologists Conference in Nis. Second participant online M. Irena Stojanovska.

**October 2023** –Published "Manual for training of oriented social skills in primary school in students with an autistic range of disorders and/or intellectual disabilities".

**06.11.2023** – final web conference of the project "Inclusion through social skills for students with autism and intellectual disabilities" together with colleagues from Serbia. Presenter Mr. Ivana Vasilevska Petrovska, moderator Prof. Dr. Ivana Vasilevska Petrovska, Moderator Prof. Dr. Vladimir Trajkovski. About 150 participants present.

**11.12.2023** – Dr. Ivana Krstovska webinar "Our professionals abroad"

**From December 2022-December 2023, 3 papers were published in reputable magazines and 6 abstracts at conferences:**

1. Koceski A, Smith CJ, Syed YA, Trajkovski V. Understanding the Relationship between Distress Behaviour and Health Status of People with Autism Spectrum Disorder. *Healthcare* 2023; 11 (11). <https://doi.org/10.3390/healthcare11111565>.
2. Stojanovska I. Age of Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis and associated factors. *J. Heal. Rehab. Sci.* 2023 Apr. 24;2(1):60-72. Available from: <https://jhres.almamater.si/jhres/article/view/66>

3. Banković S, Brojčin B, Vasilevska Petrovska I, Antonijević M, Bukovica A. Social skills critical for success in elementary school: teachers and special educators' perspective. *J. Heal. Rehab. Sci.* 2023 May 4;2(1):16-25. Available from: <https://jhms.almamater.si/jhms/article/view/65>.
  4. Banković S, Brojčin B, Antonijević M, Vasilevska Petrovska I, Bukovica A, Trajkovski V. Applicability of practices for the development and improvement of social skills in primary school – the perspective of special educators. Proceedings 12th International Scientific Conference “Special Education and Rehabilitation today”. Belgrade, 27-28 October 2023; 169-176.
  5. Stojanovska I, Trajkovski V. Complementary and Alternative Medicine in Autism Spectrum Disorder: parents' experience from a middle-income European country, *International Journal of Developmental Disabilities* 2023; DOI: [10.1080/20473869.2023.2283646](https://doi.org/10.1080/20473869.2023.2283646).
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1. Stojanovska I, Trajkovski V. Age of Autism spectrum disorders (ASD) diagnosis and associated factors. Book of Abstracts 11th Scientific conference with international participation: „All about people: Social and Technological Development in Service of Security and Dignity“. Maribor, 10-17 March 2023; 177.
  2. Brojčin B, Banković S, Vasilevska Petrovska I, Antonijević M, Bukovica A, Trajkovski V. Social skills important for the functioning in school: teachers' and special educators' perspective. Book of Abstracts 11th Scientific conference with international participation: „All about people: Social and Technological Development in Service of Security and Dignity“. Maribor, 10-17 March 2023; 181.
  3. Trajkovski V. Mental Health Issues During The Covid-19 Pandemic in Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Book of Abstracts 19<sup>th</sup> International Conference: “Days of Applied Psychology 2023. Niš, 29-30 September 2023; 15.
  4. Stojanovska I, Trajkovski V. Overuse of Pharmacological Psychotropic Treatments and Polypharmacy in Autism Spectrum Disorder: a Substitute for Insufficient Psychosocial Interventions. Book of Abstracts 19<sup>th</sup> International Conference: “Days of Applied Psychology 2023. Niš, 29-30 September 2023; 19.
  5. Karastojanova E, Trajkovski V. Educational Assistance for Students with Autism. Book of Abstracts 19<sup>th</sup> International Conference: “Days of Applied Psychology 2023. Niš, 29-30 September 2023; 20.
  6. Banković S, Brojčin B, Antonijević M, Vasilevska Petrovska I, Bukovica A, Trajkovski V. Applicability of practices for the development and improvement of social skills in primary school – the perspective of special educators. Book of Abstracts 12th International Scientific Conference “Special Education and Rehabilitation today”. Belgrade, 27-28 October 2023; 195.

**President of MSSA**  
Prof. d-r. Vladimir Trajkovski