

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Macedonian Scientific Association for Autism (MSSA)

(for the period December 2023 – December 2024)

The Annual Assembly of the Macedonian Scientific Association for Autism (MSSA) was held on **27 December 2024**, in the meeting hall of the **Faculty of Philosophy at the University “Ss. Cyril and Methodius” – Skopje**.

The following members attended the Annual Assembly:

Prof. Dr. Vladimir Trajkovski, Vesna Filipovska, MSc Fiki Gaspar, MSc Rozalija Boskovski, Tea Petrusheva, Adriana Kukovska, MSc Tanja Stankovska-Papić, MSc Irena Stojanovska, Katerina Kalkova, Katerina Gaspar, MSc Mia Mitcevska, Prof. Dr. Dejan Trajkov and Prof. Dr. Vladimir Ilievski.

Excused absences were announced by:

Dr. Vesna Kostić Ivanović, MSc Ivana Vasileva Petrovska, Prof. Zoran Kitkanj, Zhivka Dimitrovska, MSc Meri Nolcheva, Emilija Trampevska, Angela Mirchevska, MSc Andrea Ivanovska and Natasha Jovanoska.

The Annual Assembly officially began at **13:33** with the following:

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Minutes from the 2023 Annual Assembly

The President of MSSA, Prof. Dr. Vladimir Trajkovski, presented the minutes from the last Annual Assembly held in 2023 and reminded the members that they had previously received them via email. The members were then invited to vote on their adoption. Following the vote, the minutes were unanimously adopted by those present.

2. Admission of New Members to MSAA

Regarding the second agenda item, the President announced that five membership applications had been received this year, but only two applicants were present. He first invited **Katerina Gaspar**, who stated that she is employed at the Gaspar Center for Psychophysical Health and that her work with children motivated her to become a member of the association. She also noted that she had already been involved in several activities organized by MSSA.

MSc Mia Mitcevska, a psychologist by profession, stated that her primary reason for joining the association was her interest in autism and the association's work with children and parents in this field, especially after returning from postgraduate studies abroad.

After their introductions, the membership unanimously accepted and approved their applications, thereby officially admitting **Mia Mitcevska** and **Katerina Gaspar** as members of the association.

Regarding the applicants who were absent from the assembly, the President noted that their applications would be voted on at the next assembly, as it would not be appropriate for them to be admitted without a personal introduction.

At this point, Prof. Trajkovski stated that due to inactivity and more than two absences from MSSA annual assemblies, the membership of **Dr. Vesna Kostić Ivanović**, **MSc Meri Nolcheva**, and **Emilija Trampevska** was terminated. He informed that he understands their obligations and that each of them had been notified of this decision via email, along with an expression of gratitude for their past membership and contribution to the association.

3. Report on MSSA Activities for 2024

The President declared 2024 to be a very successful and productive year for MSSA, marked by numerous activities and projects. This year was particularly distinguished by three webinars held by MSSA members as well as by prominent experts in the field of autism studies.

All activities were then presented by the President in chronological order (*Appendix: MSSA Activity Report – period December 2023 to December 2024*).

At this point, the President invited **Vesna Filipovska**, Secretary of the Association and an active contributor to the latest ISEC ADE project, to briefly inform those present about its outcomes. Filipovska emphasized that the project was highly successful and resulted in the **TeachSpace digital platform**, which facilitates education for students with ASD and intellectual disabilities, but can also be used with younger children with typical development. She invited those present to register on the platform free of charge and use it in their professional work.

The President also expressed gratitude to all participants involved in the activities and projects. After the presentation, the report was unanimously adopted.

4. Financial Report for 2023–2024

The fourth agenda item concerned the Financial Report for 2024, presented by **MSc Fiki Gaspar**, who noted that all financial calculations were prepared by the accounting service cooperating with MSSA.

The Financial Report was put to a vote and was unanimously adopted. The President also emphasized that all honoraria were earned by project participants and that all association funds are used responsibly and appropriately, without any misuse.

5. MSSA Work Program for 2025

The President invited **MSc Irena Stojanovska** to present the work program for 2025.

During 2025, the Macedonian Scientific Association for Autism plans to carry out several activities, including finalizing ongoing projects, marking World Autism Awareness Day, increasing membership, and maintaining the website and social media platforms (Appendix: *MSSA Work Program 2025*), as well as celebrating **25 years of MSSA's existence**.

At this point, **Vesna Filipovska** briefly presented details about a new project currently being developed by several MSSA members, focusing on promoting physical activity and education among children with autism in preschool, primary, and secondary education.

MSc Tanja Stankovska-Papić expressed satisfaction and praise for all association activities and suggested organizing dissemination of some MSSA projects in primary schools within the Municipality of Gyorche Petrov, noting that teachers and professional staff would greatly benefit from them.

Prof. Dr. Trajkovski added that MSSA members have already conducted training sessions for kindergarten and primary school staff in the municipalities of Karpoš and Kisela Voda, with excellent response and interest. He noted that if the education sector in Gyorche Petrov expresses interest, MSSA would gladly organize similar trainings.

MSc Rozalija Boskovski, an active member for approximately 15 years, expressed satisfaction with the increasing trend in membership, activities, and finances. She suggested applying to the Bureau for Development of Education's call for accredited training programs for teachers' professional development. The President agreed and asked that the information be shared once the call is published.

Boskovski also suggested creating a retrospective of MSSA's 25-year history through photographs and slides. The members agreed that this was an excellent idea and unanimously adopted the work program for 2025.

6. “Visual Support and Assistive Technology for Students with ASD” – Presentation

At this agenda item, **Vesna Filipovska**, special educator and rehabilitator, delivered a brief presentation, sharing experiences related to visual support and assistive technology for students with ASD, including practices from special schools in Lithuania. After a productive discussion, the President thanked her for the valuable information and presentation, which enriched the agenda of the assembly.

7. Miscellaneous

As no additional remarks or comments were raised, the Annual Assembly concluded with holiday greetings, wishes for good health, and hopes for even more fruitful cooperation in **2025**.

The Annual Assembly ended at **15:05**.

Date: 30 December 2024

Minutes prepared by: Vesna Filipovska