

# **Work Program of the Macedonian Scientific Association for Autism for 2026**

During 2026, the Macedonian Scientific Association for Autism (MSSA) will continue to actively work on improving the scientific, professional, and social aspects related to autism in Macedonia. Our activities will be focused on supporting children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), their families, professionals, and the wider community.

## **Main Program Activities for 2026**

### **1. European Educational and Development Initiatives**

- Continuation of the implementation of activities within the Erasmus+ project **“Physical Education for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder”**, through:
  - training for teachers and special educators,
  - development of teaching materials and manuals,
  - piloting new models of inclusive physical education in primary schools.
- Preparation of new project proposals and networking with European institutions in order to develop new partnerships.

### **2. Raising Public Awareness and Advocacy**

- Active participation in national activities marking **2 April – World Autism Awareness Day**, through:
  - organization of public forums, campaigns, and educational events,
  - involvement of institutions, schools, and civil society organizations,
  - promotion of acceptance, understanding, and support for persons with ASD.

### **3. Professional and Scientific Advancement**

- Organization of webinars, online lectures, and panel discussions with internationally renowned experts (autism specialists, psychiatrists, special educators, psychologists, etc.).
- Encouragement and support for MSSA members to publish professional and scientific papers in national and international journals.
- Participation in international and national conferences, seminars, congresses, and similar events.
- Continued development of professional resources and manuals for professionals working with children and adults with ASD.

#### **4. Project Development and International Cooperation**

- Application for new projects through:
  - the European Union (Erasmus+, COST, Horizon Europe, and other programs),
  - the City of Skopje,
  - national and international funds supporting vulnerable groups and scientific initiatives.
- Expansion of international cooperation with leading centers and organizations in the field of autism.

#### **5. Support for Families and the Community**

- Provision of professional advice, information, and guidance for families with children or adults with ASD.
- Organization of support groups, parent workshops, and educational sessions.
- Preparation of materials for parents with practical guidelines for everyday developmental support.

#### **6. Development and Maintenance of Digital Resources**

- Regular updating and enhancement of the official MSSA website ([www.mssa.org.mk](http://www.mssa.org.mk)), aimed at improving accessibility, informativeness, and user experience.
- Continuous maintenance and activation of social media channels for promoting activities, sharing resources, and communicating with the public.
- Publication of informative texts, news, educational content, and event announcements.

**President of MSSA,**

**Prof. Dr. Vladimir Trajkovski**