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ESIPP

EQUITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION THROUGH
POSITIVE PARENTING

MSSA, parents and autism in Macedonia

Conference and Multiplier Event, Skopje

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INTRODUCTION

- Autism is big mental health problem in Macedonia.
- Autism is big social medical problem in Macedonia.
- Autism is big education problem in Macedonia.
- Autism is epidemic in the world.
- Autism should be a national social, health and educational priority in Macedonia.
- Researchers estimate that the annual economic burden in the US for autism only in 2015 was \$ 162-367 billion.

MSSA - establishment and goals

❑ Professional NGO established 22.05.2000

❑ Goals of association:

- primary prevention of people with autism;
- research mechanisms that are related to autism;
- researching the effects of the rehabilitation of people with autism;
- treatment of people with autism;
- cooperation with the parents of children with autism;
- cooperation with international associations for ASD;
- coordination of governmental and non-governmental organizations dealing with autism.

MSSA-activities ⁽¹⁾

- Organizer / co-organizer of 7 seminars, congresses.
- Organizer / co-organizer on 5 tribunes.
- Organizer of 5 events: World Autism Day 2011-2017.
- Carrier or partner in 10 expert and scientific projects of which 4 are European
- Members published more than 50 papers in international journals, of which 6 with IF.
- Our papers are quoted in international journals.
- Organizer of the art workshop June 2010, co-organizer of the art exhibition in April 2017.
- Organizer of 3 Christmas parties for children with ASD.

MSSA-activities (2)

- ☐ Membership in international organizations:
 - EASPD: 2001-nowdays
 - Autism Europe 2001-2013
 - Global Autism Collaboration: 2010-nowdays
- ☐ Our members participate daily in the process of education and rehabilitation in the institutions where they are employed.
- ☐ Our members provide educational services at home.
- ☐ Our members perform diagnostics and give advice on treatment without financial compensation.

Autism in Macedonia in the 90's

- Only 2 professional papers published,
- One Symposium held in Struga,
- There was a parental-professional association for autism and
- Rare appearances of specialists on TV and print media.



Autism in Macedonia in 2000-2010

- Established MSSA;
- In 2000, the first web site Autism Macedonia was created;
- 30 scientific-scientific papers published;
- Monograph on autism published;
- Published brochure Rights of people with autism in the Republic of Macedonia;
- Introduction subject Autism of postgraduate studies at the Institute of Special Education and Rehabilitation;
- Participation of MSSA members at international conferences in Poland, Serbia, Croatia;
- Three seminars held in Macedonia;
- Three to four appearances of professionals on TV and texts in print media annually.

Autism in Macedonia 2011-2017

- There are 6 associations for autism;
- Published over 20 expert and scientific papers on autism;
- Published 1 textbook Autism and pervasive developmental disorders;
- Participation of MSSA members at conferences in Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Hungary, Great Britain.
- MSSA 5 times marks the International Day of Autism on April 2;
- In 2013 MSSA with children with autism and their parents at the reception with the President of the Republic of Macedonia;
- In 2014, on the occasion of April 2, the news was transmitted in over 40 portals. Presence of the Minister of Labor and Social Policy at the event organized by MSSA;
- Two day centers for children with autism April 2014 in Skopje, Shtip 2015.

Social policy and social dilemmas

- Our society is not sensible to persons with ASD;
- Many parents, especially from other ethnic communities, are still hiding and not publicly displaying children with ASD;
- There is a great social stigma in the fact that there is a person with ASD in the family;
- The authorities are not very interested in helping these families;
- Ministries do not allocate sufficient finance for this population of citizens;
- In the last 6 years, MSSA has greatly helped to raise public awareness of ASD in the Republic of Macedonia.
- In the first two years ESIPP project has a great impact on families who have a child with ASD.

Future activities of MSSA



MH3A
Македонско Научно Здружение
за Аутизам

- Successful implementation of the ESIPP project by August 2018;
- Work on the application of a new EU project for educating special educators and rehabilitators with the winning team;
- Combating the establishment of a national register of ASD in the Republic of Macedonia;
- Greater employment of the special educators and rehabilitators in the regular schools and kindergartens in the cities from the interior of the Republic of Macedonia;
- Sensitization of authorities who are not interested in the problem;
- There is a great need for rehabilitation and social inclusion of adults with ASD;
- Parents need better psychosocial support;
- Creating a national strategy for an autism spectrum of disorders.

Starting the idea of ESIPP

- Conference on autism in November 2008 in Krakow, Poland.
- ESIPP has been a success story for two years in five European countries.



Successful story continued...



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RESPECT, ACCEPTANCE AND INCLUSION!

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