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NORTH MACEDONIA

SHORT-TERM JOINT STAFF TRAINING EVENT
01.11.2021 - 05.11.2021



**SPECIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL
DR ZLATAN SREMEC - SKOPJE**

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After the period of pandemic restrictions we were finally able to meet „face to face“. Our first mobility was hosted by our North Macedonian partner and took place at the beginning of November 2021. All the partners visited Dr Zlatan Sremec Special Primary School.



The Special Elementary School "D-r Zlatan Sremec"-Skopje for children with intellectual disabilities was opened over 50 years ago and is one of the four public schools for students with intellectual disabilities in Macedonia.

Today the school provides education for over a hundred students with intellectual disabilities, students with multiple disabilities and students with autistic spectrum disorders aged 6 to 18 years.

The working team is composed from 37 special educators, 4 teachers



on subject (music education, technical education, ICT and physical education) and professional service that consists of psychologists, speech therapists, special educators and rehabilitators and social workers.

The students learn by adapted curriculum that the Bureau for Development of Education (BDE) requires with the exception of foreign language, physics and chemistry. Besides the mandatory classes the students are included in extracurricular activities, such as performances, creative workshops, school visits, walks, picnics, etc. The school has at its disposal a room for sensory integration, snoezelen room and an outdoor playground with big school yard. In working with the students educators use a combination of different kinds of methods to meet the childrens' needs and use their educational potential.



Professional development of the entire educational staff and therapists is accomplished through visits and participation in seminars, trainings, conferences, study visits, symposiums in the country and abroad. Teachers in the school make great

effort to promote tolerance and prepare their students to be as independent as possible and be a part of the society.

The first mobility dealt with exchanging experience and discussing teaching methods used in the fields of speech therapy, ballet and art. During the meeting there were used different working methods, such as workshops, presentations, observations, seminars and practical activities with a speech therapist. All the teachers participating in the meeting cooperated and performed the planned activities.

The hosting school prepared the activities and workshops in such a way so that they enhanced the exchange of good practices, experience and opinions concerning the use of theatre, music, dance, ballet, sport, art, literature, pantomime and recycling in the process of educating students with special needs.

During the workshops and activities we had a chance to feel the way disabled people do and experience the problems they face every day. We had to move around school blindfolded, move in a wheelchair to get to a nearby shop, try to communicate not hearing our partner or being unable to utter a single word. We saw the surrounding world with the eyes of an autistic child. This was a unique experience that let us shape a new perspective in perceiving students with special needs and understand them better.



One of the teaching methods adapted by the Macedonian teachers is the Montessori method. It was developed by Dr. Maria Montessori in the early 1900s. It's a specific child-centered method of education that involves child-led activities (referred to as "work"), classrooms with children of varying ages and teachers who encourage independence among their pupils.

Students at the host school are also offered speech therapy. Teachers help students who have difficulty speaking to communicate better and to break down the barriers that result from speech impediments. The goals of speech therapy include improving pronunciation, strengthening the muscles used in speech, and learning to speak correctly.



During the mobility we also had a chance to visit a State Secondary School of Music and Ballet. There, we discussed the methods used to teach dance and music to students with special needs. We also observe students present traditional dances and music.



Our first mobility in North Macedonia was not only a chance to get to know all the partners better but it also was a great source of inspiration and new experience which we will share with our colleagues and use it in practice to develop our professional skills.

Romania

Scoala Gimnaziala Alexandru Ciucurencu, Tulcea



Greece

20 Dimotiko, Arkalochoriou



Turkey

Mersin - Tarsus Emine Boro Ortaokulu



North Macedonia

Posebno osnovno uciliste "d-r Zlatan Sremec" - Skopje



Poland

Szkola Podstawowa nr 2 z Oddzialami Dwujezycznymi im. Marii Konopnickiej
w Jasle



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