

## **SPAIN**

### **Asociación Montessori Española**

The Asociación Montessori Española is still a very small society with limited resources, but heartened by growing interest. We are working hard to increase the Montessori world in Spain.

### **Mission**

The AME mission is to support the natural development of the human being from birth to maturity, enabling children to become the transforming elements of society, leading to a harmonious and peaceful world.

### **Events & Activities**

- In 2014 we celebrated our Spanish Montessori centenary, with a gathering of more than 200 people.
- In 2015 we held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of “Experiences sharing Montessori Seminar”, in Madrid. Over 100 people attended. We organised the Annual General Meeting combined with another encounter to encourage members to come to the Annual General Meeting and to be more active in the Asociación Montessori Española. One of the speakers at this meeting was Carmen Sanchidrian, Professor at the University of Malaga, who translated into Spanish *The Montessori Method* (El Método de la Pedagogía Científica aplicado a la Educación de la Infancia), by Maria Montessori. That is a review of the first translation of Juan Palau Vera. The date is 18 April 2015. Her speech has been uploaded onto the AME website.
- In May 2016, AME will celebrate the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of “Experiences sharing Montessori Seminar” with AMI teacher participation from new places, such as Bilbao, Valencia. We will be able to host more people (150).

### **Special Projects & Outreach**

- Gather all Montessori in Spain

We have contacted all other organisations related to Montessori and we now have a extensive and complete database. The current number is 98 organisations in 13 Comunidades Autónomas (State Communities). In addition, some 8 associations have claimed that they are applying/ teaching Montessori principles. Since then we have sent out a questionnaire to find out more about them, and in the meantime we have started the process of analysing the collected data.

We are now in the process of describing the characteristics of Montessori classrooms for all different ages, which has been inspired by the criteria used in AMI-USA. We understand that we have to help both the society and the parents, to recognise good Montessori education before they choose schools or activities. This has been met with some challenges, as we have had to negotiate and reach agreements with all those connected to Montessori.

## Future Expansion of Spain

Besides the above-mentioned projects, we have also appeared in different media and we see that as a result the media are showing more interest in discussing what Montessori education is.

### Following and coordinating Montessori training courses in Spain

There are courses that are not authorised and or recognised by any Montessori association. This is why we are in the process of listing the criteria to recognise Montessori trainings that are directed by AMI trainers. We also need criteria to help society to see the difference between a full training course and introductory workshops.

### Promotion of Montessori AMI trainings:

- University of Vic (Official European Master): 0 to 6 AMI Diploma. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition graduation on June 2015. We are studying the possibility of opening the Master to other training Centres in Europe. In addition, we are looking at the possibility of organising a Masters in Elementary Education.
- Primary training in Santiago de Compostela
- New: AMI Primary training in Málaga (Asociación Montessori Málaga) 2015-16
- New: AMI Elementary Diploma in Girona (at CCE Montessori-Palau) summers 2016-18
- New: AME has approved the criteria for introductory workshops with the purpose of expanding general knowledge to encourage people to enrol in the recognised AMI training courses.

### Become an association that is at the service of the members

We have improved our web site services and we are in the process of increasing the number of associates.

## Collaborations & Partnerships

Our first partner at this moment is the University of Vic, and the schools that are supporting the Asociación Montessori Española. The web supplier is also a great collaborator.

## Publications & Media

During this last year, the following media messages were given:

- Diario Vasco: Interview with AME president, Ana Juliá
- The Luxonomist, perteneciente a Mediaset, Interview with AME president, Ana Juliá about Montessori.
- El País: Interview with two AME board members.
- ABC: Interview the AME president, Ana Juliá
- Cuadernos de Pedagogía: Report on Primary Montessori Education
- Article: Montessori and Cosmic Education (published in Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR), Costa Rica) by Juan José Morales

In addition, we have been interviewed by two radio programmes

## **Board & Committees**

We have restructured the Committees and we have opened the Committees to voluntary members that are working with the board.

Montse Juliá Barnadas  
Secretary