

ROMANIA

Association for the Development of Montessori Education

Highlights

The Montessori movement has experienced visible growth in Romania, as in the rest of the world. New Montessori Primary and Infant groups have been opened in Bucharest and in other places throughout the country. This was possible due to the growing number of trained Montessori teachers. The Montessori Institute of Bucharest is the only institution in Romania offering AMI Montessori courses.

Mission

A.D.M.E.R.'s vision is to propagate, further and promote the Montessori pedagogy in Romania. Thus, we commit to setting and maintaining quality standards of Montessori education in Romania by supporting Montessori schools and centres of Romania that work according to AMI principles.

Events & Activities

In the summer of 2015, the Montessori Institute of Bucharest (MIB) joyfully offered AMI diplomas to 24 students who graduated from the Primary Montessori course held by Madlena Ulrich and Marja Leena Tyrvaïnen and to 20 students who graduated from the Assistants to Infancy course held by Patricia Wallner. In October 2015 a new Primary Montessori Course started with the same team.

Seminars. Mariana Ulita, as the President of Montessori Institute of Bucharest and trainer in training to become the first Romanian Montessori teacher trainer, is holding monthly refresher seminars for the graduates of the two Montessori courses.

Conferences. In November 2015, Carla Foster, Patricia Wallner and Mariana Ulita presented at a conference on the theme of the importance of movement in the child's holistic development. A month later, Steve Hughes came to Romania for two conferences. The first one, "Getting the Education Reform Out of the Box", was held at the University of Bucharest for graduate and post-graduate students in Education, being the first conference of this kind in Romania. Students were very open and asked for more future conferences on this topic. The second conference, "Building Better Brains", was given to parents and teachers.

Consultancy. Both Montessori teachers with a few years' experience or freshly graduated have greatly appreciated the useful advice offered by Patricia Wallner for 0-3, by Madlena Ulrich for 3-6, by Jean Miller and Carla Foster for 6-12.

Parents too had the opportunity to meet with the trainers who visited our country. In addition, Mariana Ulita organised a series of Montessori workshops for parents in several towns of Romania where graduates from the above courses opened new Montessori groups. All schools organise frequent parenting meetings based on Montessori principles of education.

The special project for the orphanage of Singureni, launched and supported by the Montessori Institute of Bucharest with Patricia Wallner's support, continued this year.

Collaborations & Partnerships

Miroslava Vičková invited us to join the Programme Evaluation Committee for the Montessori Congress that will be held in Prague in 2017. Four people from A.D.M.E.R. will collaborate with this Committee: Mariana Ulita, Ana-Maria Brezniceanu, Florina Silivestru and Luciana Gheorghiu.

Our collaboration with the National Commission for Alternative Education is getting stronger. Anca Trifu, the new A.D.M.E.R.'s President, was invited as a speaker at the conference organised by this Commission in October 2015.

Cristina Preda, one of the members of MIB's Board, was also a speaker at the Conference on Education and Parenting held in Oradea.

Our partnership with the University of Bucharest continues this year. Ana-Maria Brezniceanu and Florina Silivestru were invited for lectures on Montessori education given to students from the Masters of Alternative Education and Dramatic Art.

We also continue our collaboration with Teach for Romania. Ana-Maria Brezniceanu joined their Leadership Summer Academy sharing knowledge about Montessori principles of education.

Publications & Media

Maria Montessori's book *Il Bambino in Famiglia*, was translated into Romanian with consultancy from Mariana Ulita. Two events were organised for its launch: one at the biggest book fair in Romania, BookFest and one at MIB's headquarters. At the latter we were honoured by the presence of Mr Gheorghe Felea, the Vice President of the National Commission for Alternative Education from the Ministry of Education.

His Excellency, Mr Hans Klemm, Ambassador of the United States of America in Bucharest, congratulated Ana-Maria Brezniceanu on founding the first Montessori school in Bucharest authorised by the Ministry of Education and honoured her with the award Entrepreneur of the Month, in November 2015.

Board and Committees

Four years after the foundation of A.D.M.E.R. and our affiliation to AMI, we organised our first Board elections. We welcomed two new members: Gabriela Mihai, who trained for 3-6 with Maria Roth and Aura Cadis, trained for both 3-6 and 6-12 with Madlena Ulrich and for 6-12 with Kay Baker. The new President is Anca Trifu and the Vice-President is Ana-Maria Brezniceanu.

Anca Trifu or Mariana Ulita
President