

ROMANIA

Association for the Development of Montessori Education (A.D.M.E.R)

Highlights

The Montessori movement has continued to grow in Romania and new Montessori Primary and Infant groups have been opening in Bucharest and in the rest of the country. New cities such as Sibiu, Constanta, Oradea have joined the Montessori community. This was possible due to the growing number of trained Montessori teachers. The Montessori Institute of Bucharest is the only institution in Romania offering Montessori training courses.

Events and Activities

In 2016, the Montessori Institute of Bucharest organised Assistants courses for 3 age levels: 0 - 3, with Patricia Wallner handing out diplomas to 29 students in December, 3 - 6, with 37 persons trained by Madlena Ulrich and 6 - 12, course held by Carla Foster with all 16 participants graduating in March.

Seminars

A.D.M.E.R. organised several seminars over the last year. Madlena Ulrich talked to teachers and parents about "Creativity in a Montessori class". Aura Cadis, a new member of the A.D.M.E.R. Board of Directors, presented "Children love Mathematics", how math is introduced in the Montessori class and what materials are used. A.D.M.E.R. is also organising, on a regular basis, special events for founders of Montessori schools or kindergartens, aiming at enforcing relationships between kindergartens all over the country and at best practise sharing within the Montessori community.

As interest for opening new Montessori kindergartens is increasing, A.D.M.E.R. is offering support by organising seminars on "How to open a Montessori kindergarten".

Mariana Ulita, Executive Director of the Montessori Institute of Bucharest continued the Montessori tour for parents, together with Luci Gheorghiu, AMI educator for 0 - 3 level – a series of trips to different towns, offering interested parents the chance to meet experienced people and hear directly from them accurate information about the Montessori pedagogy.

The Montessori Institute organised different types of events for Montessori teachers of all levels such as: 'Reading and Tea', regular meetings where Montessori teachers read and discuss Maria Montessori's books, as well as seminars for refreshing the knowledge learned during courses and for revealing new perspectives on well-known information. All schools organise frequent parenting meetings based on Montessori principles of education.

Consultancy

Our experienced Montessori teachers, as well as those who have just graduated, have

greatly appreciated the useful advice offered by Patricia Wallner at the 0 – 3 level, by Madlena Ulrich for 3- 6 and by Carla Foster for 6 - 12.

Collaborations and Partnerships

Our collaboration with the National Commission for Alternative Education continued and the Montessori Official Regulation has been prepared and submitted to the Commission for approval. New meetings will follow for its approval.

In collaboration with the Romanian authorities in education, A.D.M.E.R. continued to promote the Montessori method in public schools and institutions either by visiting those schools or by organising inter-scholar exchanges.

The Executive Director of The Montessori Institute of Bucharest, Mariana Ulita, held a workshop on positive discipline within the series of events “Serile pentru mame” (Evenings for Moms) organised by a well-known Romanian parenting website www.totuldesprename.ro.

Publications and Media

Publications

Education and Peace was translated into Romanian, and the book was launched at the Bucharest Book fair, Bookfest, in June 2016. Agreements for translating two other books – *The Absorbent Mind* and *The Secret of Childhood* have been signed with the same publishing house. Their launch is expected for 2017.

Media

A.D.M.E.R.’s activities received media coverage in 2016 with regard to some of our important subjects and events. Anca Trifu, A.D.M.E.R. President, was interviewed several times on the subject of Montessori principles and Montessori education by reporters of Itsy Bitsy radio station, a radio station dedicated to parents. Mariana Ulita offered an extensive interview for “Totul despre mame” website (“All about mothers”) where she described what happens in a Montessori class and discussed the differences between Montessori and traditional education. Ramona Oros, A.D.M.E.R. member and co-founder of a Montessori school, gave another interview on Montessori principles to Wall - Street TV.

Board and Committees

The A.D.M.E.R. Board remained the same, with the following members:

- President, co-founder of Monterra School Anca Trifu
- Vice-President Ana Maria Brezniceanu
- Executive Director of Montessori Institute of Bucharest Mariana Ulita
- Founder of Montessori Schule Cluj Aura Cadis
- Director of First Step Montessori Kindergarten Ploiesti Gabriela Mihai,

Anca Trifu
President