

## **RUSSIA**

### **Montessori Public Fund (MPF)**

Montessori Public Fund, AMI affiliate in Russia, has been successfully operating for 6 years. Our regional office networks are located in 12 areas: Moscow, Bashkiria, Lipetsk, Ural, Moscow Region, Pskov, Yaroslavl, Voronezh, Krasnodar, Belgorod, Karelia, and Kabardino-Balkaria.

The MPF main priority is to enhance the life of as many children as possible, as well as promoting ideas of Montessori among adults. That is why the Fund is ready to cooperate and interact with all organisations and people sharing the same objective.

### **Events and Activities**

In order to enhance the educational level of specialists and parents, the Fund continues to do the following:

- Supporting the work of AMI Training centres in Russia. The Higher School of the Montessori Method is conducting its Fifth AMI Assistants to Infancy Training Course, having trained 100 Montessori-teachers at the 0-3 level so far.
- Providing the '10 steps Programme' to achieve the AMI standard that has been operating for 0-3 and 3-6 classes in various regions of Russia for several years and proved its value and use. The schools that have joined the Program recognised the quality of AMI education and are currently sending their teachers to enrol in AMI training courses.
- Conducting seminars and workshops led by AMI qualified specialists. The subjects vary from Montessori theory related issues to school administration.

In March, a workshop was given in Saint Petersburg on "Working with children with disabilities and their families", by Nancy Lechner, AMI Trainer 0-3 (North-West Montessori Institute, Portland, USA).

In November, Kathy Minardi (Head of Montessori school and Board member of the American Administrators Association) presented a seminar for administrators of Montessori schools, which took place in Moscow.

In May, our representative in the Ural region Tatiana Palkina (0-3 AMI Diploma holder) delivered a presentation at a Conference for Early Childhood Education at Moscow State University.

### **Publications and Media**

The Fund's website ([www.montessori-org.ru](http://www.montessori-org.ru)) publishes information about AMI, news about the events of Russian and international Montessori communities. The website has gradually become a popular resource of information for all Montessorians in Russia. We also run two popular Facebook groups: one is open for everybody and shares

information about the AMI approach and another is a professional resource for AMI trained teachers.

We continue to inform our members with Russian news and activities from global Montessori communities, in our monthly electronic INFO-bulletin, and in our free electronic *Journal for Parents*. The latter is issued twice a year and provides information about the most effective way to help the developing child from birth to 18. The Fund translates AMI Bulletins and AMI Journals into Russian for our Russian speaking audience.

#### AMI - Club

This professional community of AMI trained teachers called AMI-club of the Montessori Public Fund organised a cultural and educational Tour of Montessori historical sites in Italy (Milan – Bergamo – Gonzaga – Chiaravalle – Rome) in April 2016. They visited Montessori schools, AMI training centres in Bergamo and Perugia, the first factory of Montessori materials Gonzagarredi, the hometown of Maria Montessori - Chiaravalle, and the first Casa dei Bambini and the Opera Montessori in Rome.

#### The Montessori Fund Library

In the Montessori Fund Library series the Fund published books on the Montessori Method. It currently boasts four books by Maria Montessori, and three about the Method that had never been published in Russian before, but are currently being translated.

### **Special Projects and Outreach**

The Adolescents Programme started in September 2016, in the Moscow Region – the first one in Russia. GURANYA Montessori School (a Branch of MPF) organised the Adolescent Community. The School Director, Anna Gurariy, became the first person in Russia to receive a certificate for the Adolescent Orientation Programme, in which she participated in in Australia.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Russian Montessori Conference organised by the MPF and the State Academy of Post Professional Education and Occupational Retraining of Teachers took place in Moscow on November 12-13, 2016. The topic of the conference “The Montessori Method and the Languages of the Word” attracted more than 150 participants. Among the speakers were not only trained Montessori teachers, but also Russian scientists – physiologists, psychologists and neuroscientists whose area of expertise is the child.

In 2014 the Federation of Eastern European AMI Affiliates was created by the Montessori Public Fund and AMI affiliate in Ukraine. Both feel this is a beneficial initiative where the two affiliates can support and strengthen each other in their effort to promote the development of the authentic Montessori Method in both countries. This Federation will be joined by the Belarusian Montessori Foundation, which is finalising the affiliation process with AMI. The Federation is open to future participants.

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