

## **SPAIN**

### **Asociación Montessori Española (AME)**

#### **Events and Activities**

In May 2016, AME celebrated the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of “Experiences sharing Montessori Seminar” with a higher AMI teacher participation (from cities such as Bilbao and Valencia) with over 150 people attending.

The programme included workshops and lectures covering different topics, with Valencia Montessori School presenting on “Creating Community in Montessori: School & Family” and Montessori School La Florida (Madrid) delivering “The Planes of Development and the Human Tendencies according to the theory of Dr Montessori”.

The main lecture was given by Steve Hughes on “How Montessori Education Fosters Neurological Capabilities Necessary for Survival of Children from All Backgrounds and May Even Promote the Survival of All Life on Planet Earth.”

Montessori-Palau from Girona presented on “Interdisciplinary in the Montessori Primary Education classroom” and Palma Kids Montessori gave information on “From traditional school to Montessori school”.

#### **Special Projects & Outreach**

##### Gather all Montessori in Spain:

We have contacted all of the Montessori related organisations and have built a database. There are about 98 organisations in 13 Comunidades Autónomas (State Communities). We are in the process of writing the characteristics for a Montessori classroom of different ages, which was inspired by the criteria used by AMI/USA. Our aim is to help the public and parents recognise quality Montessori before they choose schools or activities. This has proven hard work since we have to negotiate with many Montessorians and reach agreements.

##### Accreditation for Montessori training

We are discovering new trainers and courses that are not recognised by any Montessori Association. Therefore we are in the process of creating criteria to recognise Montessori trainings that are directed by AMI Montessori trainers. We need the criteria to help the public recognise a training course from introductory workshops.

##### Introductory workshops

AME has approved the criteria for the introductory workshops with the purpose of expanding the general knowledge to encourage people to enrol on recognised AMI training courses. (We have completed one in Girona in July, and two in Bilbao in January and February).

AME has coordinated a total of 6 workshops of “Introduction to Montessori pedagogy” with a total of 165 participants, focused on the divulgation of AMI training in Spain.

## Collaborations and Partnerships

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

## Publications and Media

- The Luxonomist, part of a Mediaset, Interview with the AME president, Ana Juliá for one Article about Montessori method.
- El País: Interview with two members of the AME board.
- ABC: Interview with AME President, Ana Juliá.
- Cuadernos de Pedagogía: Report about Primary Montessori Education.
- Article: Montessori and Cosmic Education (published in Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR), Costa Rica) by Juan José Morales.
- We have also been interviewed in different digital media.

## Board and Committees

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

- President Ana Juliá Barnadas
- Vice President Luís Jorge García
- Secretary M Teresa Ariño
- Vice Secretary Juan José Morales
- Treasurer Amparo García

Ana Juliá Barnadas  
Secretary