

OMEP - Bratislava and Surroundings Regional Committee Annual Report 2009

Last year, the Bratislava and Surroundings Regional Committee of World Organization for Early Childhood Education - OMEP - pursued the goals and objectives defined in the plan for 2009.

In 2009, the Bratislava and Surroundings Regional Committee of OMEP was represented by:

Regional Director: Ing. Katarína Koledová, Bratislava

Executive Secretary: Mgr. Simonetta Došeková, Malacky

Financial Administrator: Anna Brániková, Bratislava

Other members of the Regional Committee: Mgr. Katarína Domastová, Gabriela Domeová

The Regional Committee focused on acquiring practical knowledge and exchanging teaching experience of its members through a 2-day visit to Prague's kindergartens in March 2009. During those 2 days, 45 of our members visited 4 kindergartens. Their aim was to get to know how the kindergartens are organized, observe the classes in order to compare the ways in which they work as well as look at their files, documents and planning processes. The visit was quite comprehensive and time consuming, but all the members appreciated it and have been using what they learnt in their day-to-day work.

In February, before the actual visit to Prague, the Regional Committee held a meeting for all its regional members. Apart from being given detailed information about the upcoming visit to Prague, the members were informed about the Regional plan for 2009, the bank account statements, collection of membership fees, changes in the Regulations, etc.

The goal to establish new international contacts was reached at the 2009 European Conference of OMEP which was held in April 2009 in Syros, Greece. Slovakia was represented by Ing. Katarína Koledová and Mgr. Viera Peciarová both of whom also participated in the OMEP Executive Committee Meeting, which followed the European Conference.

Two of the planned regional activities – the thematic exhibition of children's paintings and the presentation of the outcomes from the European Conference and Meeting in Greece – had to be postponed due to lack of time. Both these activities are planned for 2010.

At the beginning of the new school year, the members attended a seminar which focused on the changes in Slovak legislation and the need to start working according to the new School Educational Programmes. Apart from the specialist lecture, there was also a panel discussion to discuss the main topics. The workshop was attended by many members of the Bratislava and Surroundings Regional Committee of OMEP.

In autumn, our members attended a conference in Banská Bystrica organized by OMEP and Society for Pre-school Education. Our members found the conference useful not only because they gained new theoretical knowledge from the key speakers who delivered inspirational presentations, but also thanks to organisers' idea to include an example of good practice: one of the highlights of the conference was a visit to the first kindergarten (then called *care house*) in Slovakia which had been founded in 1829.

Networking of individual members was done through meetings, exchanging experiences and counselling.

OMEP has been presented to public as a highly qualified organisation, creating an important network of regional committees all around Slovakia whose role is to raise the standard of early childhood education and care.

Bratislava, 10 December 2009

Ing. Katarína Koledová