

## **The Slovak Day of Nursery Schools 2015 Report**

### **Slovak Committee of World Organization for Early Childhood Education OMEP**

**4<sup>th</sup> November, 2015, Slovak Republic**

Slovak Committee of World Organization for Early Childhood Education OMEP and its president PaedDr. Monika Miňová, PhD. initiated the establishment of the Slovak Day of Nursery Schools on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015. This year it took place for the first time.

The founders and organizers of the Slovak Day of Nursery Schools have set the date on the 4<sup>th</sup> November as the anniversary of the 4<sup>th</sup> November 1829 when the countess Mary Therese Brunswick opened the first childcare center in Banská Bystrica, the first center of this type on Slovakia's then-territory.

The celebration of the Slovak Day of Nursery Schools began on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015 as a part of the International Teacher's Day celebration. As a part of the celebration, an international scientific conference *The Theory and Practice of sustainability in the Nursery School* organized by the Slovak OMEP Committee and Faculty of Pedagogy of the University of Prešov was held. The three-day conference was attended by 110 guest and registered participants. At the beginning of the conference, the rector of the University of Prešov, PhDr. Peter Kónya, PhD., the dean of the Faculty of Pedagogy of the University of Prešov doc. Ing. Jana Burgerová, PhD., a Prešov municipality representative PaedDr. Jozef Muránsky and the director of State Pedagogical Institute (Štátny pedagogický ústav) Mgr. Petra Fridrichová, PhD. all addressed the plenum followed by the guest speakers' presentations. Prof. PhDr. Branislav Pupala, CSc., prof. PhDr. Mária Podhájecká, CSc., doc. PaedDr. Ivan Pavlov, PhD., PaedDr. Jana Kropáčková, Ph.D., and PaedDr., Monika Miňová, PhD. all presented their contributions. Included in the first part was also a number of the guest speakers: Bc. Matej Slováček, PhDr. Jarmila Sobotová, PaedDr. Ingrid Valovičová, Mgr. Viera Lengová presented their papers based on the practice of early childhood education. The first conference day ended with the reception held at the University of Prešov.

The second conference day focused primarily on workshops in nursery schools around Prešov. The workshops were destined to practical demonstrations of educational standards in Slovak nursery schools and led by specialists from the Faculty of Pedagogy and Faculty of Sports of the University of Prešov.

The *Autumnal Day of Nursery Schools* was one of the events held as a part of the Slovak Day of Nursery Schools by the Faculty of Pedagogy of the University of Prešov on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015. It was attended by 55 children from Prešov nursery schools. A theatre performance, music, dancing exercises, photography workshop and a dance routine was all a part of the day activities.

Another event connected to the celebrations of the Slovak Day of Nursery Schools was the seminar *Cyberbullying as the newly emerged threat for children* which was attended by the

teachers of the nursery schools. The seminar was led by university IT specialists and experts from the eSlovakia project.

The month of October up to the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015 was dedicated to various activities connected with the Slovak Day of Nursery Schools held in 294 nursery schools around Slovakia that joined the event. Activities directed at children, directed at teachers and directed at public were planned as part of the events. Some of these activities included *Open day*, *Workshops for parents*, *Kite day*, *School Recitals*, *Children's Art Exhibition*, *Lantern Parade* and various specialized seminars.

The children's art exhibition *The Rainbow Merry-go-round* was held in Banská Bystrica from 27<sup>th</sup> October to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Over 350 children's works from nursery schools all over Slovakia was displayed.

The main event of the celebration of the Slovak Day of Nursery Schools was the scientific conference held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2015 in Banská Bystrica. The opening ceremonial was dedicated to performances by Ján Cikker Elementary School of Art girls choir lead by the conductor Marin Kašša, Mgr. Kvietková's recitation of Ľubomír Feldek's poem and the children of Radvanská's Nursery School dance routine. The delegates of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of Slovakia, the municipality of Banská Bystrica, State Pedagogical Institute (Štátny pedagogický ústav), Methodology and Pedagogy Centre, State School Inspection, Organization for Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Education magazine and the President of the Czech Committee of the Organization for Early Childhood Education all greeted and addressed the plenum. The President of OMEP Europe Ass. prof. Nektarios Stellakis greeted the plenum by letter in which he congratulated the Slovak Republic for the very first Slovak Day of Nursery Schools and also acknowledged the Slovak OMEP Committee's contribution to the Slovak early childhood education system. The congratulation letter was sent in by the President of Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia Michal Sýkora. Ten leading personalities of the Slovak early childhood education were awarded as a part of the ceremony. The awards were presented by PhDr. Viera Hajdúková, PhD. on behalf of the State Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport PhDr. Romana Kánovská. The ceremonial was then continued by the launch of the book *Šikovné pršteky a nádej pre Terku* which was written by Slovak nursery school teachers led by Andrea Trubenová as a project in an attempt to help one of their colleagues. The launch was presented by Mgr. Michaela Vargová, PhD. After the opening ceremonial, the specialized presentations were delivered by guest speakers doc. PhDr. Zita Baďuríková, CSc. and PaedDr. Katarína Guziová, PhD. which were then followed by the visit to the Lazovova Nursery School in Banská Bystrica which once was the first childcare center in Slovakia founded by the countess Mary Theresa Brunswick. The conference was then closed by the theatre performance by the students of the Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica.

**10/12/2015, Prešov, Slovakia**

**Bc. Matej Slováček**  
RS OMEP Košice

**PaedDr. Monika Miňová, PhD.**  
President of the Slovak  
Committee of OMEP