

NEWSLETTER

- A VIEW FROM THE INSIDE -



Support by the Pestalozzi Children's Foundation

We are pleased to share the news that earlier this year, our organization received financial support from the Pestalozzi Children's Foundation, an international child welfare organization that has been working to support children and youths since 1946. Their support of our mission is very important to us, and it is our duty to make sure that the benefits of this collaboration are addressed to all children and youth with special educational needs who need our help the most.

We are honored to have the Pestalozzi Children's Foundation as our partners and we look forward to the great outcomes foreseen with this collaboration. We will make sure to update you on a regular basis about our activities.

Open the Windows team

Pestalozzi Children's Foundation

Education and Intercultural competence - worldwide



Meet new people at "Open the Windows"

We are happy that our professional and administrative team is growing, and so is our customer support! On behalf of all members of the Assistive Technology Association Open the Windows, we warmly welcome Ana, Krenar and Vlado!

Get to know our new colleagues through their short bios below.

Ana Donchevska Penchev – educator and project assistant

As an expert, I come from the segment of early intervention from the public health system. Lately, I that I need to apply my experience in project activities and in the development of new practical forms of work with children that are in their early and preschool age. I hope that my employment in the association will contribute towards finding new techniques and ways of work that will benefit and support the families of children with disabilities.



In my free time I like to read or hang out with friends. I really enjoy talking with people and I'm always available to conversations. Thanks to that characteristic that I possess, at my professional life I have made so many friends. I think that the communication and honesty are very important at the work that I do and they always show me the way to success.



Vladimir Jakimovski - Finance and Administration Coordinator

I am associated with the administration and finance department of the Association. I am a graduate economist with previous experience in the business sector and some scientific research projects. I am dedicated to continuous learning and improvement, cooperation and problem-solving methods aiming to contribute to a more sustainable and functional organization. From the very beginning of my involvement with the Association, I came across a great organizational culture as well as great team spirit and collaboration, values that made the process of adjustment to the new environment more enjoyable.

I love nature, hiking, sports and recreation, socializing with friends, and I am a dedicated pacifist.

Krenar Qoku – Fundraiser and Public Relations

I come at "Open the Windows" with experience from the non-governmental sector, where I have worked in several local and international organizations. In my past positions that I've held, my main focus has been working on projects related to social inclusion and youth education. In 2016, I was selected to participate in a 5-month fellowship program in the United States along with 100 other leaders from around the world. During my fellowship I was placed in San Francisco - California, where I worked on projects that help the development of the intellectual and physical capacities of children and youth with disabilities.



I am a passionate human rights defender and a civil activist that focused on climate change and environmental crisis. In my free time I enjoy hiking, cycling and cooking. Working at Open the Windows is my new challenge, and I hope that this collaboration will be a great experience with fruitful outcomes.



Thanks to Outboard Support Hub for the donation

During the New Year holidays, the Outboard Support Hub donated two assistive devices - simple communicators, for the needs of the Assistive Technology Center. These simple communication devices have different practical uses. By clicking the button, the device emits a pre-recorded sound. The sound can be easily changed according to the user's needs. The sounds can be a specific word, phrase or song through which the user can express their feelings.

Outboard Support Hub is the only company in North Macedonia and in the region that offers a variety of assistive devices that improve everyday life and assist with the educational process of people with disabilities. Here we express our gratitude to them.



Visiting students in cooperation with the school "Zlatan Sremac"

In early February, our Assistive Technology Center hosted a three-hour visit by thirty students with and without disabilities from 4 different countries (Poland, Romania, Turkey, Portugal), who as part of the Erasmus + "Together for Better" project had an opportunity to get acquainted with what assistive technology is, what kind of assistive technology our center has and how it is used. This international visit was organized in cooperation with the private school "Zlatan Sremac".

By organizing this visit, as well as numerous local visits with students and other interested parties, we let individuals and institutions know that "Open the Windows" keeps the doors open for anyone who wants to learn more about assistive technology as well as to contribute in achieving our core missions.

A donation box was set at the “Viva Fresh Store” supermarket

In February, a donation box was set at the “Viva Fresh Store” in Topansko Pole neighborhood. This is an opportunity for the customers of this supermarket to support our mission that promotes a world of equal and active citizenship by using technology for personal development, improving the quality of life and for the well-being of the disabled community.



Support of the daycare centers

During the month of February, the Open Windows team launched the first training module for three daycare centers. The selection of the day care centers was made on the basis of a survey and field visits, as part of the “Pilot Model for the Transformation of Daycare Centers” project.

16 representatives from the day centers from Prilep, Kavadarci and Gostivar had the opportunity through the first module to get acquainted with assistive technology, customer needs assessment model and gain practical experience in applying technology and developing e-accessible content.

The quality and content of the training was highly rated by the participants. In the next period, two more training modules will be held with the same groups of participants, aiming to strengthen their capacities in the process of designing support services for children and individuals with disabilities.

This project is implemented with the support of UNICEF



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