

REPORT

6th Congress of DEAPS Association - Mental health in children and adolescents, the new reality, experiences, and knowledge

Vrnjačka Banja - May 26-28, 2022

The sixth DEAPS congress was held in Vrnjačka Banja, one of Serbia's most famous and beautiful spa resorts, from May 26-28th. The main topic of the Congress was "Mental health in children and adolescents, the new reality, experiences, and knowledge."

A significant number of distinguished experts from Serbia, as well as international ones, have taken participation in this Congress. The Congress attendees were experts from psychiatric and various allied professions (psychiatrists, psychologists, pediatricians, social workers, defectologists, speech therapists, medical technicians, nurses, education representatives, and parents). The presenters introduced various important topics with thorough research to the audience. After each presentation, an open discussion was held. These discussions were fruitful and have shown great contentment with the presented topics.

The leading session of this year's Congress was **Education in the digital environment and mental health in children and adolescents**, moderated by Dragana Kalinić. The first presenter at this session was dr Gordana Čapić with the topic: *The assessment of cognitive and psychological dimension of 15-year-old students' welfare in Serbia - The display of results from PISA research in 2018*. The second presentation was prepared by Emina Beković on the topic of *Children's safety on the Internet*. Finally, the third topic was *The influence of pandemic education on primary school students* held by Lidija Bukvić Branković and Marija Stojanović.

The following session on the first day of Congress was **The child's alienation from parents - a concept that concerns the experts - challenges and solutions**, moderated by dr Ivana Milosevljević Đukić and Teodora Minčić. Under the scope of this session, there were five presenters and one online. The first presenter was Teodora Minčić with the topic: *What do we mean when we use the term child's alienation from parents?* The second topic was held by Tanja Ignjatović, who talked about *The child's alienation from parents - the aggressive partner's "tool" for continuous molestation of their partner and child*. Then, Ivana Milosavljević Đukić talked about the theme, *Protection of children cannot wait*, followed by the topic: *The child's alienation from parents - Do we recognize emotional abuse?* Finally, the ultimate two topics were held by judge Ljiljana Mihajlović on *The child's alienation from parents - The legal perspective*, and by professor and doctor Aneta Lakić who prepared a presentation on *The child's alienation from parents - From concept to classification*.

The opening ceremony took place after the workshops. The President of DEAPS, professor Milica Pejović Milovančević gave the welcome speech. Professor Dimitris Anagnostopoulos, the

president of ESCAP, and the Ministry of Health representative also greeted the audience and presenters.

The next day included morning and afternoon sessions. The first session of the day was about **Early childhood - early detection and interventions** moderated by prof. dr Milica Pejović Milovančević in cooperation with UNICEF Serbia. This session's themes were *Public Health Data and Advocacy: Recent Lessons from the Autism Community*, the *CST (Caregiver Skill Training) program* and its effects worldwide and in Serbia, *Early Intervention programs*, and *Assistive technologies in working with children with developmental disabilities*.

Then a plenary session was held by professor Hebebrand Johannes from Germany about *Pronounced clinical improvement in patients with anorexia nervosa upon treatment with human recombinant leptin*.

Following was the topic about **Sexuality in adolescence** moderated by professor Jelena Radosavljev Kirčanski and professor and doctor Veronika Išpanović. There were five covered topics: *Sexuality among youngsters - the old story in the new reality*, *In between normative sexual maturation and sexual abuse*, *Sexual exposure as a coping mechanism*, *The connection between non-suicidal self-harm and Sexuality*, and *The youngsters' exposure to sexual content on the Internet*. All the presentations were extremely well perceived by the audience, around 120 people.

Then a poster session took place in which the commission assigned first, second, and third place to the presenters. These were the results:

1. *Temperament traits in child and parent's stress* by Olga Borovnica won first place;
2. *Suicidality in adolescents with problems in emotional regulation: from an idea to trying* by Lero Marija, Živadinović Dušan, Mitković Vončina Marija won the second place;
3. *Implementation of a new assessment model based on international classification MFK in the Republic of Macedonia* by Mari Boskovska won third place.

After the lunch break, three excellent sessions were held: **At the crossroads of neurology and psychiatry**, moderated by doctor Ana Kesić; **Psychotherapy in children and adolescents - Between practice and evidence**, moderated by Vladimir Borovnica and doctor Sanja Životić, and **Emotionally unstable personality disorders in adolescence - Diagnostical and therapeutical challenges**, moderated by doctor Jasminka Marković and Jelena Srdanović Maraš. All the mentioned topics awoke the audience's interest, asked questions and were open for discussion.

Another three sessions were presented on Saturday, the final day of the Congress. The first one was called **Parenting - current challenges and future indications - UNICEF**, moderated by doctor Marija Mitković Vončina, and the second called: **What has the Covid-19 pandemic**

brought us? - moderated by professor and doctor Milica Pejović Milovančević and doctor Gordana Milavić, and the final one was the **Clinical vignettes** moderated by Duško Stupar, Minja Ninkovic, and Aleksanndar Stojanović. Sixty-three participants attended the session, asked additional questions at the end, and led a fruitful discussion. At the end of the discussion, the participants praised the topics' selection and presentation.