



# International Bulletin

Issue 9, September 2020

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Info for the incoming students and researchers  
in the winter semester 2020/21  
at the Faculty of Philosophy, Skopje

The teaching during the winter semester 2020/21 at the Faculty of Philosophy will be held through remote learning and resumption of certain in-person activities, including the return of a limited population of students to campus. Teaching with in-person presence will be performed in small groups, i.e. in classrooms in which only a limited number of students can attend at one time. The teaching with in-person presence will take place according to the previously prepared schedule in the lecture halls of the Faculty of Philosophy, where the places are marked according to the protocol for physical distance. Incoming students through international mobility programs will be mainly included in online classes or individual one-to-one in person consultations.

Due to the limited number of accommodation in the public student dormitories during the Covid-19 preventive measures, incoming researchers and students are advised to arrange for private accommodation well in advance.

All incoming mobility students including Erasmus, Ceopus, Fulbright and others should keep continuous contact with their supervisors or other assigned teaching personnel throughout their stay at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje.

After many months of preparations and extraordinary preventive measures put in place, the Faculty Jubilee conference marking one century of higher education in North Macedonia, took place in Struga, from 2nd to 5th of September 2020. The international conference "Science and Society: Contribution of Humanities and Social Sciences" was organised as a hybrid one, enabling both 'in person' and online participation. The conference gathered more than 100 researchers, contributing with a paper to one of the conference interdisciplinary panels.

The conference was opened by the President of the Republic of North Macedonia Stevo Pendarovski, who in his greeting speech stressed that the "Faculty of Philosophy remains the guardian of the tradition, in charge of the transfer of the cultural and historical identity of the country". The Minister of Education and Science in North Macedonia - Mila Carovska, an alumni of the Faculty, also greeted the participants stressing that "the Centennial Jubilee is a testament of the huge intellectual capacity in humanities and social sciences in the country". The keynote lecture was given by the academician prof. Vera Bitrakova Grozdanova, which provided historic overview of the contribution of many of the leading intellectuals who have worked at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje since 1920, with focus on prof. Kiro Truhelka, who has founded the Department of the History of Art at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje. The conference was held in 17 parallel conference sessions throughout the three days. All conference sessions are publicly available on the youtube channel of the Faculty of Philosophy.

The conference papers accepted and presented at the International Conference: "Science and Society: Contribution of Humanities and Social Science" will be published in an edited volume, with the same title, by the end of 2020.





## JOINT REVIEW WEEK - 2020

### Review in Macedonian scientific journals cited in Scopus Skopje, September 21, 2020

Joint Review Week is an annual global event that celebrates the core role of the joint review in maintaining scientific quality, bringing together individuals, institutions and organizations dedicated to academic communication through joint review. This year, the Joint Review Week is held from September 21-25, 2020, dedicated to the theme "Belief in Joint Review", shedding light on how the review process works and why it helps build trust in research. Maintaining confidence in the decision-making process through joint review is huge if we want to overcome the world's most important problems. This includes ensuring that the joint review is transparent (easily disclosed, accessible and understandable to anyone writing, reviewing or reading content from the joint review) and that everyone involved in the process receives the training and education necessary to accomplish their part of the process.

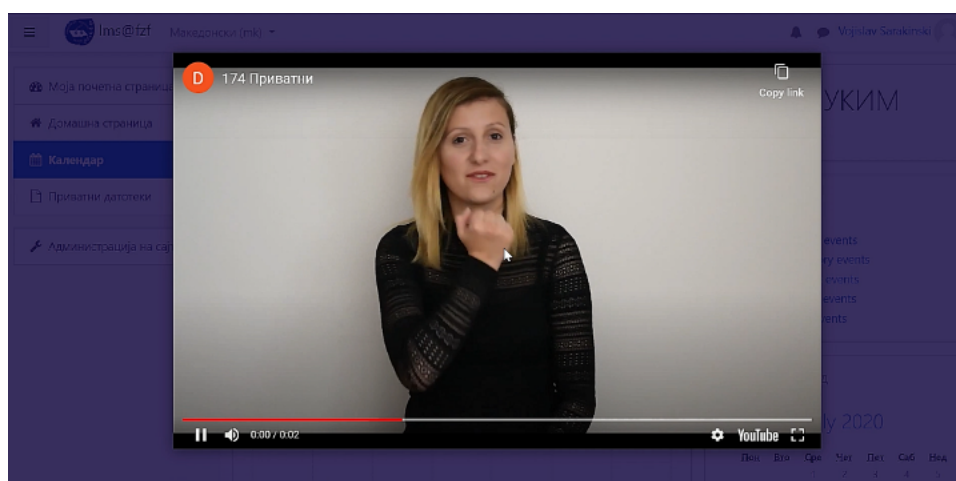
As part of the Joint Review Week, the event "Review in Macedonian scientific journals indexed in Scopus" was held at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje on the 21st of September. The event outlined the experiences and challenges arising from the joint review in the Macedonian scientific journals that are indexed in Scopus. The speakers at the event included: Prof. Vladimir Trajkovski, PhD, Faculty of Philosophy, UKIM, Skopje; Prof. Sasho Stoleski, PhD, Institute of Occupational Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, UKIM, Skopje; Prof. Vladimir Kakurinov, PhD, Consulting and Training Center KLUCH, Skopje; Prof. Dr. Lazo Pendovski, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine - Skopje, University "St. Cyril and Methodius, Skopje; and Prof. Mirko Spiroski, PhD, SPIROSKI Scientific Foundation, Skopje.



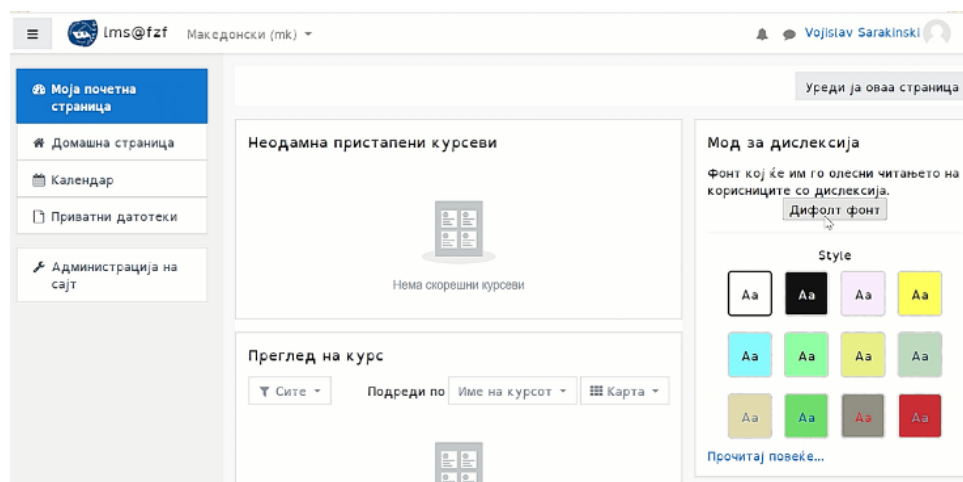
## Promotion of the accessible platform for learning and teaching

On the 28th of September 2020, an official promotion of the accessible platform derived from the FAST project (Fostering Accessible Study Technologies) will be held. The accessible platform for learning and teaching, which is also a learning management system and that will enable online courses, was completed in the previous month and is currently being tested on a limited number of users. The three plug-ins (plug-in for deaf, plug-in for dyslexics and plug-in for blind students) are finished and operational. The project members are particularly proud of the third plug-in which took the longest to make. It is basically a text-to-speech engine, named MAKEDONKA by the IT experts. It reads any written text in original Macedonian language. This plug-in is helpful both for blind and dyslexic students.

Picture 1: Plug-in for deaf (with videos in sign language)



Picture 2: Plug-in for dyslexics (with the DyslexicFZF font)



The project member are currently initiating the third intellectual output, the creation of a mobile application for easy access of the accessible platform. This app will enable access to real-time notifications that originate from any activities on the platform (attached course materials, grades, forum discussion, threads and so on).

## Promotion of Service for Support of student with disabilities

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Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje is partner with the Ministry of Health within a wider project financed by the Bulgarian Development Cooperation, that includes a component related to "Service for support of students with disabilities". The goal of this project component is to improve the quality of higher education for young people with disabilities and enhance the educational process and treatment of children with special educational needs.

Within the project, the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje and the Institute for Special Education and Rehabilitation, received an equipment that includes Braille printer, 3D printer, 2 personal computers with keyboards adapted for students with affected fine motor skills, 2 color printers, plasticizer and manual paper knife. This equipment will help facilitate access to literature and information for students with disabilities. Students with visual impairments who need Braille materials will be able to obtain them, the rest will have a computer with an android available. The equipment will be promoted on the 25th of September 2020 during a "Workshop for preparation of didactic materials" by the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje in partnership with the Association of Citizens for Education of Youth Plan B.

## New Erasmus project at the Faculty of Philosophy, Skopje

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The project "Developing new software for psychomotor reeducation of children with autism" was awarded by the Turkish National Agency within the key action KA205 to the coordinator Canakkale 18 Mart University from Turkey and the partners: Ss Cyril and Methodius University (Faculty of Philosophy) from Skopje; Sofia University St Kliment Ohridski from Sofia, Bulgaria, and Piriteknoloji Egitim Hizmetleri Teknoloji ve Ticaret Adi Ortakligi from Canakkale, Turkey.

Since children with autism are having an interest in technology and since new research shows that learning through fun is the most effective way for permanent learning and memorizing, the project goal is to create a software for psychomotor reeducation for children with autism. The project is planned for three target groups: special educators and other professionals; students studying special education and psychology; and children with autism. By the end of the project, 300 professionals and future professionals will be informed and educated about the software and its use, 75 of them will have the software sets in their institution and the other 225 will have the access to the software on-line. With this educated staff, at least 3000 children with autism will benefit from the software, providing them with easy, fun, joyful and motivational ways of their psychomotor development.

