

Snježana Sekušak-Galešev, PhD, associate professor  
psychologist  
University of Zagreb, Croatia  
Faculty for Education and Rehabilitation Sciences

**Snježana Sekušak-Galešev**, Ph.D. is psychologist, associate professor at Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Zagreb, where she currently holds the position of the Dean from October 1<sup>st</sup> 2017.

She was born 9.03.1957. in Zagreb, Croatia, where she lives till now. She is married, has three children.

The focus of her research work is the bio-psycho-social characteristics of children with developmental difficulties, adolescents and adults with disabilities (especially with intellectual disabilities, ADHD, selective mutism, emotional disabilities, mental health problems), psychodiagnostic procedures for vulnerable groups, forms of support - rehabilitation and play therapy, social inclusion and inclusion into regular education and training systems (kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, higher education).

She teaches at undergraduate and graduate level at the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Zagreb 5 courses: *Development of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities*, *Mental health of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities*, *Play in Rehabilitation*, *Play Therapy*, *ADHD*, and gives lectures at other universities in Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina as guest professor.

In addition to scientific and teaching work, in 37 years of experience she is intensely active in the professional field of counseling, psychological diagnosis and therapy with children and young people and their parents with bigger and milder difficulties, in special and inclusive (regular) conditions and in the Center for Rehabilitation of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation, University of Zagreb.

Much of her professional work is devoted to education of the community for the purpose of sensitizing and accepting people with various disabilities and disabilities in the social environment. Thus he held numerous invited and public lectures for teachers, educators, professional associates and the wider community through professional conferences, education organized by: Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, institutions in the field of education and social censorship and numerous civil society associations on the theme of children with special needs and disadvantaged people with disabilities, especially with intellectual disability.

She has published a number of scientific and professional papers, she is co-author of university textbooks, has been a leader and associate in numerous scientific and professional projects, has participated in numerous scientific and professional international and domestic conferences and was a member (and president) of program and organizational boards of scientific and scientific-professional conferences.

In 2016, Croatian Psychological Society grant her award "Marulić: Fiat Psychology " for a particularly valuable contribution to the development and promotion of applied psychology in Croatia for 2016 year.

She is vice-president of Croatian Society for Mental Health of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, member of the Croatian Psychological Chamber and Croatian Psychological Society.

**Some data regarding field of mental health issues of persons with intellectual disabilities:**

Professor Sekusak-Galesev is active in the field of intellectual disabilities and mental health problems for 35 years regarding science, undergraduate and graduate study and professional work. She teaches course *Development of persons with intellectual disabilities* from 1986., and through that time collaborate with prof.dr.sc. Anton Došen who held part of this course regarding mental health problems in persons with intellectual disabilities. Collaboration with prof.dr.sc. Došen continued in creating new course *Mental health of persons with Intellectual Disabilities* which prof. Sekušak-Galešev teaches by herself from 2008.

From 1999 to 2002. in International MATRA project (leader prof. dr. sc. Anton Došen) "Supporting the development of intellectually disabled services addressing clients, professionals, parents and policies in the Croatian society" – she was a co-educator of "Quality of Life" education that deals with improving the living conditions of people with intellectual disabilities in institutions and families, and in final conference in Zagreb had presentation: *Organization of improving the quality of life of persons with special needs.* .

She was member of the organizational committee of the international conference: 6th European Mental Health Congress in Intellectual Disabilities "Mental Health, Human Rights and Community", held October 10 - 13, 2007. in Zagreb.

In Summer School "Mental Health of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities" organized by prof.dr.sc. Anton Došen in Rijeka, Croatia, 22-26 September 2008., she held lecture: *Psychological review of people with IT.*

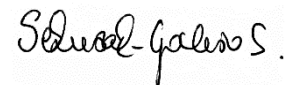
She is one of the founder and vice-president of Croatian Society for Mental Health of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities from the founding in 2010. in Zagreb, and one of the editors of **Anton Došen, William I. Gardner, Dorothy M. Griffiths, Robert King i Andre Lapointe: Practical Guidelines and Principles: Evaluation, Diagnosis, Treatment, and Associate Support Services for People with Intellectual Disabilities and Behavioral Problems**, for Croatian translation 2015.

At European Mental Health Congress in Intellectual Disabilities participate from 2001., with presentations:

1. Kramarić M, Sekušak-Galešev S., Bratković D., Galešev V.(2015). Dementia And Quality Of Life Of Persons With Down Syndrome And Persons With Intellectual Disabilites Of Other Etiology. Integrating Different Approaches in Neurodevelopmental Perspective. Florence, Italy, September 9-11nd
2. Sekušak-Galešev S., Kramarić M., Galešev, V.(2013). Quality of Life of Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities – the Final Report. Congress programme. New Horizons for Mental health in Intellectual and developmental Disabilities (IDD). 9th Congress of EAMHID, Estoril, Portugal, 52-53.
3. Kramarić M., Sekušak-Galešev S., Galešev, V. (2013). Mental Health Care for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities . – the Final Report Congress programme. New Horizons for Mental health in Intellectual and developmental Disabilities (IDD). 9th Congress of EAMHID, Estoril, Portugal 58-58.
4. Kramarić, M., Bujas-Petković, Z., Sekušak-Galešev, S., Igrić, Lj., Škrinjar-Frey, J., Kralj, T., Šagud, M., Mihelčić-Franulić, S., Pintarić-Mlinar, Lj. (2013). A Plan for Building a Network for Mental Health Assistance to Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in the Republic of Croatia Congress programme. New Horizons for Mental health in Intellectual and developmental Disabilities (IDD). 9th Congress of EAMHID, Estoril, Portugal .115-115.

5. Kramarić, M.; Došen, A.; Frey Škrinjar, J.; Sekušak-Galešev, S. (2011). Mental Health Care of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities // Congress Book: Joint Congress of the European Association for Mental Health in Intellectual Disability and IASSID Challenging Behaviour and Mental Health SIRG., Manchester, UK, 83-83.
6. Sekušak-Galešev, S.; Kramarić, M.; Bratković, D.; Gašpar, A.; Femec, L. (2011). Quality of life and mental health problems of adults with intellectual disabilities // Congress Book: Joint Congress of the European Association for Mental Health in Intellectual Disability and IASSID Challenging Behaviour and Mental Health SIRG., Manchester, UK, 82-82.
7. Sekušak-Galešev, Snježana; Nikolić, Branko; Dragojević, Davorka (2009). Relationship between the level of tolerance and satisfaction of children with learning disabilities attending regular school and their peers // *Promoting mental health for people with intellectual disability*. Amsterdam : European Association for Mental Health in Intellectual Disability, 2009. 55-55.
8. Sekušak-Galešev, Snježana; Nikolić, Branko; Šenjug, Vedrana (2009). Relationship between the level of tolerance and family climate of children with learning difficulties attending regular school and their peers // *Promoting mental health for people with intellectual disability*. Amsterdam : European Association of Mental Health in Intellectual disability, 55-55.
9. Sekušak-Galešev, s., Van der Valle, J. (2001): Support of Improving of Quality of Life. Symposium. 3rd European Congress Mental Health in Mental Retardation, Theory and Practice, 27-9, September, Berlin Germany.

More results of scientific researches regarding intellectual disabilities are published in scientific and professional papers and presented in other scientific and professional conferences.



Zagreb, 7.06.2019.