

The interest for enrolling Albanian children in primary and secondary music education in Macedonia

The growing interest among the students from the Albanian ethnic community for the engagement in the primary and secondary music education in the past couple of years, was the main reason for conduction this research. The aim of this paper is to make a comparison in relation to the interest of the Albanian students in the past and today and to establish the factors that have brought in the growth of their number in the music schools beginning from the end of the 90's.

In this research, we have mainly used data from Music and Ballet School Center "Ilija Nikolovski-Luj" from Skopje, as a central school of this kind, where also the Albanian population gravitates towards. The music schools in Bitola and Shtip were excluded because in those environments the number of the Albanian population is very small or as in the second case, it does not exist.

During the process of the data collection, we came to a very important information in the monograph of the MBSC "Ilija Nikolovski-Luj" Skopje published in 1995, according to which from the school year 1978/79 until 1994/95, only eight Albanian students have finished this school. This is the period from the establishment of the MBSC in year 1978 as an institution that integrates in itself the former ten-year's music school, the secondary music school and the ballet school and went until the year of the publication of the monograph. The number of the Albanian students that relates to this period of 17 years, as we would also see further on in the paper, today we could see or come across in the frames of only one school year.

Graduated Students from 1978/79 to 1994/95

N.	Name	Department	School year	Gender
1	Blerim Grubi	Violin	1982/1983	m
2	Dijana Imeri	Theory	1987/1988	f
3	Shpresa Grubi	Theory	1989/1990	f
4	Ardian Jashari	Fagot	1992/1993	m
5	Valon Kryeziu	Violin	1993/1994	m
6	Valon Ademi	Violin	1993/1994	m
7	Arjan Asllanaj	Theory	1994/1995	m
8	Shermin Memedi	Theory	1994/1995	f

From the students that have graduated during this period, four have graduated on the department of music theory, while the other four on the vocal-instrumental department, out of which three on violin and one in bassoon. From the chart, we could see that according to the gender representation we have fairly balanced situation where out of the eight students, five are male and three are female. An interesting fact is that the first four students in the period until year 1993, are met as separate cases in the frames of one school year while in the years 93/94 and 94/95, there are two pairs of students in the frames of one generation.

It is worth mentioning that from those eight students that have finished the secondary music education, only one of them did not continue his education while the other seven graduated successfully and on time in the Faculty of Music “FMU” in Skopje.

BA	Not enrolled
7	1

On the next chart is shown the number of the enrolled students in the secondary music school in Skopje in the school year 1990/91 until year 1999/00. This is a period that conforms with the independence and establishment of the independent Republic of Macedonia. From the data shown on the chart, we could see that there is a slight enlargement of the interest in relation to the past. If we compare the numbers from the previous period with the period from 1990-99 we would see that in a period of ten years we have a total of 27 students registered, a number that is more than three times higher from the previous for a twice-shorter time period.

Albanian students enrolled in secondary music school in Skopje from 90/91 to 99/00

School year	1990 /91	1991 /92	1992 /93	1993 /94	1994 /95	1995 /96	1996 /97	1997 /98	1998 /99	1999 /00	Total
Enrolled students	2	1	2	4	2	0	3	3	5	5	27

Anyhow, there is also a perceptible and evident difference in the last two years where the number of enrolled students is almost reached five in the frames of one school year. It is also an interesting fact that in 1995 there is no single Albanian student enrolled in the secondary music school in Skopje. The reason for that is most likely to be the opening of the department of MBSC “Ilija Nikollovski-Luj” in Albanian language, in Tetovo in 1995. This year in the class in Tetovo enrolled as many as 16 Albanian

students. From the data and the information's that we have got on this department, from its opening until the partition or detachment from the MBSC "Ilija Nikollovski-Luj" in the school year 2003/2004 it could be noticed that in a period of nine years, a total of 99 Albanian students are enrolled. This considerable number of students from the Albanian community is due to the fact that the Tetovo region is with dominant Albanian population and also the possibility that the students follow the studies in their mother tongue. Due to those two reasons, the difference in relation to the numbers in comparison to Skopje is relatively big, which could be also seen in the chart below.

Albanian students enrolled in Tetovo secondary music school from 95/96 to 03/04

School year	1995 /96	1996 /97	1997 /98	1998 /99	1999 /00	2000 /01	2001 /02	2002 /03	2003 /04	Total
Enrolled students	16	10	7	15	15	5	5	8	18	99

In our research, an accent was put on the last five years the raise of the interest towards the music education is mostly felt for the Albanian students. From the presented data about the fact how many students have finished the secondary music school MBSC "Ilija Nikolovski-Luj" Skopje in the period of year 2001/02 until year 2005/06 it is noticeable that there is a raise of the interest in relation to the 90's. Despite the school year 2003/04 when only two students have graduated, in the other three years there were five graduates in each year, while in 2004/05 their number rises to six students in the frames of one generation.

**Albanian students that graduated secondary music school in Skopje
From 2001/02 to 2005/06**

School year	Total students	Theory dpt.	Instrumental dpt.
2001/2002	5	4	1
2002/2003	5	5	0
2003/2004	2	1	1
2004/2005	6	3	3
2005/2006	5	3	2

From the students that have graduated in this period, two of them have finished university and got their diplomas in the Music Academy in Skopje, 17 are still attending studies in the faculties of Music Arts in Skopje or Tetovo and three of them have not continued with their music education. For one of the students we have no relevant data.

From the data distributed it could be seen that the bigger number of students continue with their music education which is another indicator in favour of our thesis.

Distribution of the graduated Albanian students from 2001/02 to 2005/06

BA	Students	Not enrolled	Missing data
2	17	3	1

The process of continuous rise of the number of young Albanians that are involved in the music education could be noticed best from the data for the number of students that were enrolled in the last five years in MBSC Skopje. On the following chart, we can see that in the school year 2005/06 we already have a number of seven enrolled students in the frames of one school year. Looking from the aspect of the numeric representation of the Albanian population in Macedonia, this number is still relatively small but however, in comparison with the past we could notice that it is a process where although we do not have immediate enlargement or rise of the numbers, they are constantly moving into an up going line and the numbers are rising.

**Albanian students enrolled secondary music school in Skopje
From 2001/02 to 2005/06**

School year	Total students	Theory dpt.	Instrumental dpt.
2001/2002	6	3	3
2002/2003	6	3	3
2003/2004	6	4	2
2004/2005	4	3	1
2005/2006	7	5	2

As a reason for that, appear to be many factors where as one of the most important we could put aside: the social, the economic and the educational.

In relation to the social factor there are two key moments such as:

1. The Albanian population in R. Macedonia is mostly a rural population, while the music education institutions are mainly situated in the bigger cities and
2. The Albanian community in Macedonia in the time of the SFRJ (Socialistic Federative Republic of Yugoslavia) was not enough integrated in the society and in the institutions. This problem was also inherited by the R. Macedonia after its independence, so that all of it did actually take place and reflected in the field of

music education. However, through the efforts that are invested in this field, especially after year 2001, our country is coping with this issue relatively well and there are visible results in the field of music education.

As another important factor, appears to be the economic factor. Due to the improvement of the economic status within the considerable number of the Albanian ethnicity in Macedonia, the young Albanians now have the opportunity to choose the music art for their future profession, even it is one of the “most expensive” arts.

An important factor in this process is also the educational factor. Through the opening of the two universities in Albanian language and with the greater involvement of the Albanians in the University “Sts. Kiril i Metodij” in Skopje, are created conditions to enrich and enlarge the numbers of educational cadres which raises the cultural level within the Albanians in Macedonia.

As a result of an increased interest for the music education, within the students from the Albanian community, in the school year 2006/07 in Struga opened a class in Albanian language as a part of the musical school in Tetovo. Also, this year there was an attempt to open an Albanian class in Skopje, but from the fourteen applicants, only eight were accepted. Although this is the highest number of enrolled Albanian students in MBSC so far, the estimate is that it is still not enough in order to open a class. However, it is a considerable move on of this plan, having in mind the number from the previous period and the current situation. Now, in the frames of one school year, sufficient number of students to form classes in two cities such as Struga and Tetovo apply, and we have the biggest number of enrolled students in the frames of one generation so far in Skopje.

On the next chart, we can see the data about the ethnic structure of the enrolled students in the primary music school in Skopje in the last five years. In addition, here we can notice that even the number of the Albanian students is not so big, there is an increment the last year.

Enrollment in the primary music school in Skopje in the period 2001 to 2006

School year	Total of enrolled students	Macedonians		Albanians		Other	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2001/2002	840	754	89.76%	32	3.81%	54	6.43%
2002/2003	829	742	89.50%	41	4.95%	46	5.55%
2003/2004	843	767	90.98%	59	7%	17	2.02%
2004/2005	820	711	86.71%	40	4.88%	69	8.41%
2005/2006	899	761	84.65%	65	7.23%	73	8.12%

Due to the increased interest for the primary music education, in year 2005 started to function a so-called clone of the MBSC “Ilija Nikolovski Luj” in Albanian in the primary school “Petar Zdravkovski-Penko” in Skopje. This year continued with this practice as well, so if we take into consideration that apart from the students that follow the classes in this clone, there are also other Albanian students in other clones and in the central school, the number for this year will for certain be much higher. However, due to the current processing of the data, we do not have precise information’s for the number of enrolled students.

As an acquisition from the increased number of students, two full evening concerts of the Albanian students from MBSC “Ilija Nikolovski Luj”-Skopje were held, one of them in June the other in December. On this concerts participated only students from the secondary school of the instrumental department. Through a selection the best students were chosen and during the first concert there were ten and during the second nine participants. If we take into consideration the number of instrumentalists that have not participated together with the students from the theoretical department, we could presume that it has to do with a considerable number of students, that belong to the Albanian community that follow classes in this school. Only few years ago the idea of having such a concert was almost unimaginable due to the small number of students involved into the music education.

Conclusion:

This research confirms that there is an increase of the interest within the Albanian students to enroll the music education and as a conclusion it derives that:

The socio economic changes have an important and relevant contribution in the process of the increase of the interest of the students from the Albanian community to be included in the primary and secondary music education.