

# Montessori Centenary in Russia

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This year the Russian Montessori community celebrates the Centenary of the

Montessori movement in Russia. On 10 October 1913 the first

Montessori school opened in Saint Petersburg. Its founder Julia I.

Faussek went to Rome, visited Montessori schools, and attended some of Maria Montessori lectures at the international training course and personally met Dr Montessori.

In Russia Montessori education has often met with great difficulties—first the revolution in 1917, followed by the Civil War and later the method was officially banned in the Soviet Union.



Since the 1990s Montessori has seen a revival in Russia and we are glad to report that it is very much vibrant and alive. We are particularly pleased that in recent years we have done much to promote Montessori and help establish AMI teacher training. Montessori education and schools led by AMI diploma holders are spreading and becoming increasingly available for our children and those who want to become Montessori teachers.

We are also happy with the changes in our community. In connection with our centenary celebrations several Montessori organizations are engaging in joint activities proposed by the Montessori Public Fund, who has taken up the AMI “One Voice” initiative. We have created a common programme which includes events all over the country: celebrations, seminars and conferences on the Montessori Method both for Montessori professionals and parents. We are going to publish Maria Montessori’s book *The Child in the Family* and a collection of scientific articles and research by Russian scientists with relevance to Montessori education. We are going to open a Museum on the Montessori movement in Russia and are working on a Time Line devoted to the history of the Montessori Method in Russia.



In October there will be a big event in St. Petersburg — an Assembly of all Russian Montessorians. Several distinguished guests who have made a significant contribution to Montessori in our country are going to take part, such as AMI trainers Maria Roth, Patricia Wallner and Madlena Ulrich and AMI board member Peter Davidson.

On the initiative of the Montessori Public Fund several Montessori organizations will sign a Memorandum on cooperation during the Assembly.