

Special Olympics Europe-Eurasia: Ana Petrovska



Julijana with her sister, Ana (R), Special Olympics Macedonia

It is very hard and difficult in a poor country where an average salary is €200 Euro, to motivate people, to become involved in a movement such as SO, especially as volunteers. Through regular meetings I manage to form very small but strong Family Network, I succeed to motivate Families to volunteer almost at every event in SO Macedonia, and this has become their habit. Now we have a group of Families, who don't even miss training and are always there to support all the SO Macedonia Athletes.

For me, I have succeeded through these family members to give example to others of what a real support of FSN means. and give the opportunity, with visiting regular trainings, to escape from daily problems and have fun.

A great accomplishment for me, was making Families to fight stigma attitude, and lobbying for the rights of the Athletes. A great accomplishment is always a greater challenge to keep going with the same speed and motivate more and more not only Families of the athletes, but wider surrounding to be aware of what a person with intellectual disability has, and that it deserves an equal treatment as the rest of the population.