Serbian Psychodrama Association Moreno

SPA Moreno

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Formal Structure

SPA Moreno is registered in Serbia as non-profit organization (association). Its internal structure includes: Assembly, Managerial Board, Supervisory Board and Educational Board (composed of trainers and certified psychotherapists). Main trainer and founder of the Association is Dušan Potkonjak. Another senior trainer is Jasna Veljković.

History:

The history of SPA Moreno is tied to its founder and main trainer, Dr. Dušan Potkonjak, psychiatrist and psychodrama therapist, educator and supervisor. Dušan officially started his psychodrama training in BPA in 1983 and graduated in 1991 within Holwell International Center for Psychodrama, BPA and with Marcia Karp as the main trainer.

In 1986 Dušan organized the first psychodrama workshop in Yugoslavia, run by Andrew Powell. Until the war, workshops of different psychodramatists were organized, including Andrew Powell, Mike Watson, John Casson, Ken Sprague, Rudie Niyegaard, Susie Taylor.

In 1988 Dušan Potkonjak formed the first training group in Yugoslavia. Some of the former members of that group are now leading psychodrama TEPs in Serbia. In the following years two more groups started their training, with Dušan Potkonjak as the main trainer, and Jasna Veljković, Vladimir Milošević, Zoran Đurić and Zoran Ilić as assistant trainers. In 1994 Dušan Potkonjak moved to London, but has continued to run training groups in Serbia. In 1999 YUPA – Yugoslav Psychodrama Association was officially registered, that eventually fell apart and in the following years different training organizations were formed, including, SPA Moreno. SPA Moreno was founded in 2003, officially registered in 2004 and became a member of the National psychotherapy association (SPS–Serbian association of psychotherapists) in 2005.
SPA Moreno has always strived to establish and maintain cooperation with various trainers and guest trainers from abroad: Marcia Karp, Malcolm Pines, Kate Bradshaw, Jana Segula, Sue Daniels, Olivia Lousada, Lars Tavon, Peter Haworth, John Casson etc. Also, since experience in group analysis is a part of the training, training psychoanalysts and group analysts Ljiljana Milivojević, Marija Vezmar and Tija Despotović were guest trainers, leading small and medium experiential groups and teaching some parts of theory classes. Members of examination committees are leading psychodrama trainers in Serbia: Jasna Veljković, Zoran Đurić, Zoran Ilić, Slavko Mačkić, Lidija Vasiljević etc.

### Training Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEPTO</th>
<th>ORGANIZATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self-experience</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theory and techniques</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training for conducting</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervision</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decided freely</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL hours</td>
<td>880</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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If we include 400 hours for writing essays and clinical paper and written exam it is 1990 to 2030 h.

*Students are required to have a minimum of 810 experiential hours in their on-going training group. Every group session consists of one-hour long processing (total of 200 hours) and three hours experiential work (total of 610). However, part of the experience hours is also students’ training for conducting - after the first year of their training students on occasion may begin conducting warm-ups, vignettes and full psychodramas.

**Students have 120 hours of theory and techniques with trainers, 80 hours of peer theory, and the remaining number of 400 hours is divided into studying for written exam in theory of psychodrama and group psychotherapy, writing essays and a clinical paper.

***As mentioned, these hours are calculated in the number of hours of self-experience. Besides, training for conducting is also provided in the form of hours of direct supervision, which is organized both within their ongoing group training group sessions and on separate sessions for direct group supervision, aside from their ongoing experiential training group. Feedback to the student-director is provided on the processing part of the next session.

****Number of hours of required experience in group analysis (60 to 80 sessions). Apart from that, students are encouraged to attend various psychodrama workshops and workshops in other psychotherapy modalities, their own individual psychotherapy, playback theatre etc.

*****Minimum 80 to 100 sessions of leading groups. Each group lasts two and half or 3 hours. If average group lasts 2.5 hours, then 100 sessions are 250 hours. Plus processing 30 minutes after each session, it is an extra 50 hours. In total it is 300 hours.

Training in SPA is divided in three (3) stages-levels. For each stage students have to write essays about their experience in psychodrama and about psychodrama theory and group therapy. In total, there are 13 essays on the
theory of Psychodrama and Group Therapy, as well as students’ personal experience as a client in a group. And later students write about the experience in leading 80 to 100 group sessions. This is a Clinical Diploma Paper. For the Second stage, students have to pass a written exam on psychodrama theory and group psychotherapy. The psychodrama students have an obligation to pass a practical exam for each stage - leading a group for 150 minutes in front of the Board of examiners.

**List of training staff**

List of training staff
- Dušan Potkonjak and Jasna Veljković – Senior trainers
- Associate trainers (group analysis and theory): Ljiljana Milivojević, Marija Vezmar, Tija Despotović
- Invited trainers: Kate Bradshaw, Sue Daniels, Olivia Lousada, Peter Haworth, Marcia Karp, Malcolm Pines, John Casson etc.
- Members of examination committee: Dušan Potkonjak, Jasna Veljković, Lidijsa Vasiljević, Zoran Đurić, Zoran Ilić, Slavko Mačkić, Dragoljub Nedić

**Number of training groups**

As described in the History, the first training group was led by Dušan Potkonjak beginning in 1988. and later two more groups were led by Dušan Potkonjak as the main trainer, and Jasna Veljković, Vladimir Milošević, Zoran Đurić and Zoran Ilić as assistant trainers.

From the time SPA Moreno was founded there have been 4 generations of SPA students: First generation from 2003 to 2011 (15 students), Second from 2009 to 2014 (16 students), Third from 2011 to 2016 (9 students). Fourth, current generation started in November 2015 (11 students).

New training group of 12 students should start in November 2018.

**Number of certified psychodramatists**

8

**Code of ethics**

SPA Moreno abides by the Code of Ethic of Serbian Association of Psychotherapists (SDPS) and agrees to abide by the FEPTO Code of Ethics

**Recommendation Questionnaires by**

- Peter Haworth – Oxford School of Psychodrama and Integrative Psychotherapy
- Zoran Đurić – Belgrade Psychodrama Center