

# SI from around the world: focus on Poland

In this new feature, looking at examples of best Sensory Integration practice from around the world, Małgorzata Karga, the president of the Stowarzyszenie Integracji Sensomotorycznej (SISM), a Polish Sensory Integration organization, provides a brief summary on the history of how Sensory Integration has evolved in Poland.



*Małgorzata Karga*



**T**o promote Ayres Sensory Integration® the Polish Association SISM has been established. It is an officially non-profit registered organization in Poland. The organisation's primary goal is to help people in Poland to understand about Ayres Sensory Integration and provide high quality education and training in Sensory Integration for clinicians while following Ayres core defining elements of Sensory Integration intervention (Parham et al., 2007, 2011).

The SISM prides itself as an organization which works to increase public awareness about Ayres Sensory Integration, provides information to consumers, policy makers, and

funding sources, facilitates networking opportunities across Poland for those interested in Ayres Sensory Integration and establishes guidelines of practice and ethics for therapists. The organization strives to cooperate with the experts from around the world and with other national SI organizations.

Within the last 15 years Sensory Integration therapy has become very popular in Poland but still not all individuals who require specialist sensory integration services have access. Since 2002, the Polish Sensory Integration scene has been divided into groups of different approaches and standards in delivering Sensory Integration trainings and services.

Małgorzata has been organizing Sensory Integration workshops led by international lecturers from the US, Europe and also including Polish experienced therapists. Following on from Małgorzata's work, the SISM will continue to organize more SI workshops and training for Polish therapists.

Adhering to the Sensory Integration standards to ensure optimal service delivery, Polish Sensory Integration instructor Małgorzata Karga has developed a Polish model for the development of Sensory Integration training. Courses have been extended by including additional modules by Physiotherapists specializing in "Neurodevelopmental Theory and Sensory Integration" and exploring



the impact of Attachment on Sensory Integration lectured by Psychologists which further enhances students learning. Course participants complete case studies while being closely mentored and supervised along with a written exam in Neuroscience and Sensory Integration Theory. During and after the training, participants prepare 3 case studies and attend 3 supervisions.

A timeline of how SI has evolved is presented to the right along with more information on the SI polish training route.



*Violet Maas had a significant role in developing Sensory Integration in Poland*

### A timeline of SI In Poland

- Sensory Integration theory and intervention entered Poland in 1993/1994
- The forerunner was Violet Maas OTR, FAOTA, Sensory Integration International Teacher, Postgraduate diploma in SI (1960) USC, Dr. J. Ayres, Certificate in SCSIT (1972). This was a significant step to make during economically difficult times. Violet Maas has lectured around the world since 1975 (9 European countries, Japan 1976, 1985-86, New Zealand 1986-88). Between 1993-2005 she continued to offer Sensory Integration Certification training and workshops in Poland. She was also involved in the certification of Polish Sensory Integration instructors, allowing these individuals to teach Sensory Integration theory and practice in Poland and neighbouring countries.
- Since 2002, the Polish Sensory Integration scene has been divided into groups of different approaches and standards in delivering Sensory Integration trainings and services.
- Since 2009 the Polish ASI Certification model is as follows:



#### SI Module 1: Foundations and Neuroscience

- This module is designed to equip participants with the knowledge required to apply current theories to their everyday practice.
- Length: 4 days

#### SI Module 2 and 3: From Assessment to Interpretation

- These modules aim to develop the participants' skills in evaluation and clinical reasoning based on a sensory integration framework.
- Module 2 includes pair work, demos and video presentations.
- Module 3 includes hands-on experience, group work with children.
- Length: 2 x 6 day blocks. (Participants must attend both blocks of this course).

#### SI Module 4 and 5: Treatment

- These modules are designed to enable students to develop in-depth knowledge and experience in SI and therapy in order to support critical analysis and evidence of interventions.
- Module 4 includes pair work, demos and video presentations.
- Module 5 includes hands-on experience, group work with children.
- Length: 2 x 5 day blocks. (Participants must attend both blocks of this course).
- Presently the SISM wish to be a part of ASI 2020 Vision in reaching Goal #2 and #3 in collaboration with the International Coalition for Education in Ayres Sensory Integration (ICEASI). Visit the SISM website for further information and details at:  or email  [info@sensoryintegration.org.pl](mailto:info@sensoryintegration.org.pl)