

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Supplementary Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of the Participants from Bulgaria and Greece. Column N Contains the Number of Participants in the Respective Category, and Column % Indicates their Percentage of the Total Number of Participants from the Respective Country

	Bulgaria		Greece	
	N	%	N	%
Age				
16-20	75	7%	44	8%
21-30	282	27%	153	27%
31-40	393	37%	206	36%
41-50	199	19%	117	21%
51-60	78	8%	38	7%
60+	24	2%	4	0.5%
Missing	1		4	0.5%
Gender				
Female	931	89%	471	84%
Male	120	11%	87	15%
Other	1		5	1%
Missing	0		3	
Occupation				
I work with children with developmental problems, or I am in training	337	32%	115	20%
I do not work with children with developmental problems, or I am not in training	675	64%	425	76%
Missing	40	4%	26	4%
Total	1052		566	

Supplementary Table 2: Significant Differences between Age Groups for the Statement: Most Parents of Children with Autism Turn to Professionals Because of Symptoms Related to Social Functioning - Bulgaria

Age groups	mean	SD	median	Kruskal-Wallis test
Age 16-20	4.35	1.65	5	p < 0.05
Age 21-30	4.26	1.73	5	
Age 16-20	4.35	1.65	5	p < 0.001
Age 31-40	4.19	1.72	5	
Age 16-20	4.35	1.65	5	p < 0.05
Age 41-50	4.42	1.61	5	
Age 16-20	4.35	1.65	5	p < 0.05
Age 60+	4.78	1.76	5	

Supplementary Table 3: Significant Differences between Age Groups for the Statement: All Children with Autism Must be Included in Mainstream Schools and Kindergartens - Bulgaria

Age groups	mean	SD	median	Kruskal-Wallis test
Age 16-20	4.18	1.54	5	p < 0.05
Age 31-40	4.82	1.44	5	
Age 21-30	4.47	1.51	5	p < 0.05
Age 31-40	4.82	1.44	5	

Supplementary Table 4: Significant Differences between Age Groups for the Statement: Inclusion in Mainstream Kindergartens and Mainstream Schools, as well as Free Therapy from Professionals in the School or Kindergarten (Speech Therapist, Psychologist, Special Education Teacher, etc.), are Guaranteed for all Children with Autism. - Bulgaria

Age groups	mean	SD	median	Kruskal-Wallis test
Age 16-20	2.26	1.74	1	p < 0.05
Age 41-50	2.81	1.72	2	
Age 21-30	2.43	1.76	2	p < 0.05
Age 41-50	2.81	1.72	2	

Supplementary Table 5: Significant Differences between Age Groups for the Statement: Most Parents of Children with Autism Turn to Professionals Because of Symptoms Associated with Stereotypes and other Ritual Behaviors - Greece

Age groups	mean	SD	median	Kruskal-Wallis test
Age 16-20	3.79	1.47	4	p < 0.05
Age 31-40	4.48	1.37	5	
Age 16-20	3.79	1.47	4	p < 0.05
Age 41-50	4.45	1.48	5	
Age 16-20	3.79	1.47	4	p < 0.05
Age 51-60	4.76	1.53	5	
Age 21-30	4.09	1.54	4	p < 0.05
Age 51-60	4.76	1.53	5	

Supplementary Table 6: Significant differences between Age Groups for the Statement: Most Parents of Children with Autism Turn to Professionals Because of Symptoms Related to Social Functioning - Greece

Age groups	mean	SD	median	Kruskal-Wallis test
Age 16-20	3.84	1.65	4	p < 0.05
Age 51-60	4.95	1.16	5	
Age 21-30	3.92	1.55	4	p < 0.001
Age 51-60	4.95	1.16	5	
Age 31-40	4.07	1.54	4	p < 0.05
Age 51-60	4.95	1.16	5	
Age 41-50	4.20	1.53	5	p < 0.05
Age 51-60	4.95	1.16	5	

Supplementary Table 7: Significant Differences between Age Groups for the Statement: Early Interventions and Therapies can Lead to Significant Improvements in the Social and Communication Skills of Children with Autism - Greece

Age groups	mean	SD	median	Kruskal-Wallis test
Age 16-20	4.68	1.54	5	p < 0.05
Age 31-40	5.32	1.07	6	