

# IN THE ISSUE



## 04 UNDERSTANDING THE VALUE OF THE COMMONWEALTH FORMAT

### 12 THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS NOT TO WASTE TIME

The meetings of the President with the First Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran



### 18 BENEFICIAL COOPERATION BRINGS CONTINENTS CLOSER TOGETHER

Aleksandr Lukashenko met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Diaspora of Equatorial Guinea Simeón Oyono Esono Angüe

## THE DYNAMICS SHOULD ONLY IMPROVE

EXPORT ISSUES, DESPITE SANCTIONS AND RESTRICTIONS FROM THE WEST, ARE STILL IN THE SPOTLIGHT — AT THE HIGHEST GOVERNMENT LEVEL. AS THEY SAY, IN TREND. AND FOR GOOD REASON. THE GLOBAL SITUATION TODAY IS SUCH THAT ALL GOODS PRODUCED IN BELARUS ARE IN DEMAND ON FOREIGN MARKETS.

# 26

# IN THE ISSUE

## 30 Optimal vector of development

The economy, its problems, development prospects are something that is constantly on the agenda nationwide. A topic that is regularly discussed at the highest state level. Which is quite reasonable and understandable. After all, there is no progress without an objective analysis, there can be no confident movement forward.

## 34 Sphere of pragmatic interests

How are things going with attracting investments to the country and what projects will be implemented in the near future? And how actively do foreign investors come to Belarus? The issues are not simple, but rather relevant and topical as never before. Let's try to find answers.



## 42 Necessary, prestigious and noble profession...

On the eve of International Teacher's Day, which is traditionally celebrated in Belarus on the first Sunday of October, everyone who can remembers their teachers, college and university professors, addressing them with words of gratitude and recognition. After all, these are the people who, to the best of their ability, make the world a better place.

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# IN THE ISSUE

## 54 **Happy family is trending**

In Belarus, Mother's Day was celebrated on October 14th, which marked the beginning of the Week of Parental Love. And the 21st is Father's Day.

## 60 **Influence factors, or touches to the portrait of a centenarian**

The topic of longevity has worried and worries people all over the world. Researchers from many countries are working on it.

## 70 **Wealth of cultural heritage**

The Images of the Holy Family exhibition from the collections of the Museum of Old Belarusian Culture of the Centre for Research of Belarusian Culture, Language and Literature of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus was exhibited in the main museum of the country and left the most favourable educational impression



# MADE FROM THE HEART AND WITH TASTE

# 88

# UNDERSTANDING THE VALUE OF THE COMMONWEALTH FORMAT



**Geopolitical challenges, economic cooperation and increased consolidation in the CIS. This is how we can briefly outline the central themes of the summit of leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States held in October in the capital of Kyrgyzstan, in which President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko took part. The Head of State presented the country's position and proposals on the most pressing issues of interaction. The emphasis is on solidarity and unification. The summit is also a good opportunity for bilateral negotiations and personal communication. The CIS leaders discussed the current agenda in detail not only at meetings in narrow and expanded formats, but also during meetings, on the sidelines and over a joint lunch.**

*The next meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the CIS Member States was chaired by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov. The event began with a meeting in a narrow format. The meeting was attended by President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of Russia Vladimir Putin, President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Secretary General of the CIS Executive Committee Sergei Lebedev.*

*In a narrow format, the heads of state exchanged views on current issues of interaction within the Commonwealth of Independent States and decided that the chairmanship of the CIS in 2024 will be carried out by the Russian Federation.*

*Then the negotiations continued in an expanded format — with the participation of members of delegations. Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Zhang Ming also joined the work of the Council of Heads of State of the CIS Member States in a broad composition. In total, the summit of the heads of state of the CIS countries lasted about five hours.*

## **Don't bury your head in the sand**

The speech at the summit by the Head of the Belarusian State was varied. The President of Belarus started it from the basics, recalling that the main goal of creating the Commonwealth at one time was to prevent a severance of ties after the collapse of the Soviet Union, "This did not suit us and today does not suit our competitors — the West, which to this day does not give up attempts to shake us in different directions, weaken us and subordinate us to their interests. First, Georgia left our association; Ukraine is de facto no longer with us. Big questions about Moldova. Unfortunately, Armenia does not always behave like a partner."

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, this cannot be quietly observed from the outside, "Otherwise we'll just be torn apart. And first of all, ordinary people — the people of our countries — will suffer. Therefore, we — heads of state — must carry out the will of our voters. And at least fulfil and solve the tasks that we promised. And in principle, today is the time to more critically assess the situation in our Commonwealth. We shouldn't bury our heads in the sand. We see that all the old conflicts that were thrown at us at one time inevitably come to light with very sad





consequences. Thank God that not only has there been a tendency towards the resolution of these conflicts, but some of them have been successfully overcome.”

The Head of the Belarusian State also noted that it is the current generation of politicians who were born and raised in the Soviet Union who need to solve existing problems, “We have experience and knowledge. Today’s youth are unlikely to cope. Most of them no longer understand many of the values and benefits that united us and still unite us now. Let’s accomplish this, and we will once again be joined by those who today see the solution to their issues somewhere out there, overseas. And there is generally little idea where our countries are located.”

### **Time for serious consolidation**

The President emphasised that there are enough examples of successful work in the CIS. This was also confirmed by the busy agenda of the summit, which included a number of important joint statements, “They confirm that countries have common approaches to such pressing issues as freedom of religion, inadmissibility of discrimination based on language, and harmonization of public administration systems in the field of digital technologies.”

### **GROWTH POINTS**

**President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko met with President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev before the CIS summit.**

The heads of state discussed further work on the development of bilateral relations and focused on the main and most important issues of Belarusian-Uzbek relations. It was noted that trade turnover has positive dynamics, but its growth potential is much greater. In this regard, the main thing at the moment is to take the next step. This is the task of governments. In economics, it is important to develop in-depth cooperation. Belarusian technologies are of interest to Uzbekistan in various sectors, primarily industry.

Aleksandr Lukashenko and Shavkat Mirziyoyev outlined a work plan and discussed preparations for the upcoming visit of the President of Belarus to Uzbekistan. At the end of November — beginning of December, they agreed to hold a meeting of the intergovernmental commission. There it is expected to structure the tasks in detail and identify additional points of growth in bilateral relations.

The most important aspect is cooperation between regions. Shavkat Mirziyoyev proposed drawing up a schedule for the regional agenda for 2024. At the meeting, the presidents also touched upon issues of youth policy and cooperation in the humanitarian sphere. Aleksandr Lukashenko and Shavkat Mirziyoyev discussed in detail the global agenda — the situation in the world, hot spots, and the regional profile. The current meeting, the leaders of the two countries emphasised, is a foundation for the future.

The President especially noted the importance of reaching the adoption of a statement on interstate relations in a multipolar world, “It generally reflects our common vision of the foundations of the world order, with the exception of the paragraph in which it was proposed to express concern

state for a long time. And based on the concept that a language is a living, creatively developing language, we developed this Russian language together. There is a part of Azerbaijanis, Uzbeks, Tajiks and so on. Not only Russians and Belarusians. Therefore, why are we losing the Russian language?”

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that he is pleased with the trend in the Central Asian republics, including Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, where new schools and universities are emerging where they study and teach in Russian, “But this is not enough. Therefore, this initiative on the Russian language is no less important than any other initiative in the field of economics. I’m not even talking about how things stand with the Russian language under the former Warsaw Pact (in the states that were part of this association). We, unlike them, do not want our youth to communicate, as I already said, with each other through an interpreter or only in English.”

### For expanding the zone of influence

Speaking about expanding the zone of influence of the CIS, the President of Belarus emphasised, “Representatives of various international organisations are already participating in many meetings of the Commonwealth bodies, and the adoption today of documents on the status of an observer in the CIS and a partner of the Commonwealth will create the basis for the legal regulation of such relations.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised, “Belarus has always been a supporter of combining the activities of international integration associations with consonant goals and objectives. The basic condition is that we must support each other and not create obstacles. I believe that the member states of the Commonwealth may be interested in existing developments in our other formats, for example, on such important topics as e-commerce, widespread adoption of digital technologies, access to government procurement, reduction of telephone tariffs in roaming and many others directions.”

The President is confident that cooperation within the SCO and BRICS, the implementation of high-tech projects, the development of new logistics schemes for the supply of goods to the far arc countries, including the active development of the North-South corridor, close coordination of efforts to ensure international food security for the most vulnerable countries world — all this is of interest and should be actively developed without fear of falling under secondary sanctions from the West.

The Head of the Belarusian State paid special attention to the new trend associated with the development of such large international organisations as the SCO and BRICS, “Of course, these are organizations of the future, perhaps. But you see that there is a certain inhibition there. Still, the level of integration between (partners) the EAEU and the CIS is

about the politicization of the activities of international courts. But even such a mild formulation was not supported by everyone.”

Why do we need these international courts? Especially in our relationship. Moreover, we understand, especially now, why this is being done. Apparently, this just hasn’t affected anyone yet. Someday you will want to help children, give them a little childhood, save them from bombings and explosions, and for this you will be put on the international wanted list.

Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that in the context of a rapidly changing situation and the demand for a more equitable world order, associations that are looking for ways to expand and strengthen cooperation, peaceful coexistence, legal guarantees of development and the elimination of discrimination based on religion or income level are in demand more than ever.

“Our Commonwealth is precisely one of such associations,” the Head of the Belarusian State is confident. “Why don’t we all appreciate it? We have accumulated vast experience in constructive work, which is of interest outside the CIS. Other integration associations are looking at it. And for many it is like an eyesore.”

### We shouldn’t lose the Russian language

The President of Belarus emphasised that he has always said that the Russian language is not just the Russian language, “This is our common language. We have been in a single



**Aleksandr Lukashenko,**  
*“Only we ourselves can be the guarantor of our sustainable and safe development. And for this we need to be self-sufficient in strategically important sectors. There are resources, potential, and competencies for this. Political will and understanding of the value of the Commonwealth format are required.”*



**President of Azerbaijan Ilham ALIYEV,** “Dear colleagues, strengthening our economic ties brings positive results. Last year, the volume of trade turnover between Azerbaijan and the CIS countries increased by almost 30 percent. This year there is an increase of more than 20 percent. Azerbaijan is a reliable partner in the transit and transport sector for many CIS countries. Many CIS member countries are actively using the transit opportunities of Azerbaijan along the East-West and North-South transport corridors. There are implemented and promising projects to expand the capacity of these two transport corridors will serve to strengthen the transport security of our countries and increase trade turnover.

The humanitarian sphere is one of the main ones within our Commonwealth. Azerbaijan makes a great contribution to the development of our relations in this area. I would like to express my gratitude to my colleagues for supporting Azerbaijan's candidacy to host the 3rd CIS Games in 2025. I am confident that the 3rd CIS Games, in addition to strengthening our cooperation in the sports field, will also become another demonstration of our successful interaction in the Commonwealth space. Taking this opportunity, I would like to congratulate the President of Belarus, respected Aleksandr Grigoryevich Lukashenko, on the successful holding of the 2nd CIS Games.”



**President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart TOKAYEV,** “Geopolitical contradictions are growing and volatility in the global economy is increasing. Kazakhstan, in principle, opposes the use of economic sanctions, which have the most disastrous negative impact on global trade and the well-being of states. Kazakhstan stands for the establishment of the principle of justice in international relations, for their democratisation, taking into account the legal and sovereign rights of all members of the international community. The key task remains the development of close trade and economic ties. The markets of the Commonwealth countries are traditionally a priority



higher. Okay, SCO. And if we were in the SCO and BRICS, if we were there as a single organisation, would that weaken our positions? No. And I am sure that Russia needs to be more active here, without looking at how the Americans or the West behave or where they look. Russia should be such a system-forming element of our association — the CIS. In both BRICS and the SCO, we must strive to ensure that we will be there as a single organisation. More advanced integration — politically, economically, and so on.”

The President is convinced that our common focus allows us to consistently increase interaction in all areas of multifaceted cooperation, despite new unprecedented challenges, “By and large, it was they who forced us to shake ourselves up, look at the situation in a new way, and find solutions that were on the surface. Today’s results speak for themselves.”

### To avoid a third war

In his speech, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted the catastrophically rapid change in the situation in the world and the emergence of ever new global challenges, “I must say that the situation is changing catastrophically quickly. We talked about this with Shavkat Miromonovich for about an hour (we are talking about the meeting of the President of Belarus with the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, which took place before the start of the summit.). It’s changing a lot. More and more new challenges are emerging. Take the

Middle East. And they are no longer only shaking us up. They are already shaking up the whole world. God willing, let us stop so that we don’t come close to the third world war.”

The Head of State emphasised that Belarus, in response to economic pressure, together with its allies, primarily Russia, consolidated forces for sustainable economic development. Macroeconomic and financial stability has been maintained. Ensures that we are on a growth trajectory. And these are numbers that characterize only the current moment, “Yes, and Russia has shaken itself up considerably and in many areas of economic development has become an order of magnitude more self-sufficient. And if we, together, the Commonwealth, shoulder to shoulder, had put a barrier to these Western horror stories, our overall results would have been much higher. Remember, when we were in the Soviet Union, everyone was afraid of us. They were afraid and respected. Unfortunately, the world is such that only strength is respected. And now, together with China, Iran, Brazil, and the Global South, what Western sanctions? Our opinion will be taken into account if we are together. And our opinion in international affairs will be decisive.”

### For sustainable and safe development

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that the common focus allows the CIS to consistently increase interaction in all areas of multifaceted cooperation, despite new unprecedented challenges, “By and large, it was they who forced us to shake

for us. At the end of last year, the CIS countries accounted for more than a quarter of Kazakhstan’s foreign trade turnover. This positive dynamic continues this year... We need to take advantage of our unique geographical advantages and connect global markets, turning our region into the largest transport and logistics hub. In the context of the formation of a new economic geography of the world and the growth of trade flows, this direction is acquiring strategic importance.”



**President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr ZHAPAROV,** “Sadyr Japarov focused on the interest in ensuring that the economy of the 21st century is efficient, based on advanced business models and strict environmental requirements, socially responsible and

taking into account real human needs. In this context, the President of Kyrgyzstan considers it important to continue to jointly promote the green economy development initiative and implement large-scale and promising projects.

During his speech, Sadyr Japarov also raised issues related to humanitarian partnership, security and other aspects of cooperation. In particular, he noted that 2023 in the CIS was declared the Year of the Russian Language, and expressed confidence that ‘the Russian language will remain the language of communication of our countries’. The President of Kyrgyzstan emphasised that, as part of its chairmanship, his country set the task of making a contribution to increasing the efficiency of the organization’s activities and deepening integration processes in the Commonwealth space.”



**President of Russia Vladimir PUTIN,**

“Russia is determined to actively work to further strengthen the authority of the CIS as an integration association and develop comprehensive cooperation within the Commonwealth on the principles of mutual understanding, trust, equality and good neighbourliness. First of all, this concerns the solution of a key task aimed at improving the well-being and quality of life of the citizens of our states.

It is important to work together, collectively, with like-minded people from other regions of the world - with the countries of the so-called world majority, the Global South, whose views are very close to us. Russia’s economic ties with its CIS partners are expanding, despite the threat of





secondary sanctions from the West. Despite the unprecedented sanctions pressure from Western states and their threats to apply so-called secondary sanctions against those who continue to work in bilateral formats with Russia and Belarus, our economic ties and exchanges within the CIS are consistently expanding.

We would suggest that we think together about how to more effectively ensure the integration of integration processes in the CIS space. In particular, strengthen contacts between the Commonwealth and the EAEU in the economic sphere and with the CSTO and SCO in the security field. In general, Russia will continue to make every effort to develop the Commonwealth's contacts with friendly states and international organisations."



**President of Tajikistan Emomali RAHMON**, "In the current conditions, the CIS member

states are faced with challenges to economic security and increased risks for national economies. In this regard, Emomali Rahmon noted the importance of the progressive implementation of the CIS Economic Development Strategy until 2030. When implementing the economic strategy of the Commonwealth, it is necessary to take into account both the resource, production and financial potential of the participating states, as well as the geo-economic and geopolitical situation in the region and the world.

The speech of the President of Tajikistan focused on the alarming scale of increasing security challenges

and threats. Attention was focused on the importance of continuing the practical implementation of decisions and documents adopted within the framework of the association in the field of combating terrorism, extremism, drug smuggling, cybercrime and other manifestations of cross-border organised crime, and the need to take measures to further strengthen the CIS regulatory framework in security sector."



**President of Turkmenistan Serdar BERDIMUHAMEDOV**,

"We consider intensifying cooperation in the economy to be a priority area of our partnership," said Serdar Berdimuhamedov.

He recalled that in 2019 in Ashgabat, at a meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the CIS, the Declaration on



ourselves up, look at the situation in a new way, and find solutions that were on the surface. Today's results speak for themselves."

The President of Belarus confidently stated that the partners have done a lot for the future, "While the West is investing in war, or, more simply put, wasting their taxpayers' money, every year we are increasing investment with a long-term view — in high-tech industries, such as microelectronics,

aircraft manufacturing, biotechnology, artificial intelligence, information and communication solutions. We can solve many problems only together. If we are not together, we will only talk about these topics."

Aleksandr Lukashenko is convinced, "Only we ourselves can be the guarantor of our sustainable and safe development. And for this we need to be self-sufficient in strategically important sectors. There are resources, potential, and competencies for this. Political will and understanding of the value of the Commonwealth format are required."

The Head of State emphasised that it is necessary to preserve the unique formats of unity in the CIS at all costs; internal splits and joining the ideologists and conductors of sanctions pressure cannot be allowed. It is categorically unacceptable to succumb to provocations aimed at inciting interethnic and territorial disputes in the post-Soviet space.

"You already feel that we and the Russians have understood very seriously where we are. And especially we, Belarusians," noted the Head of State.

At the same time, the President of Belarus drew attention to the fact that other Commonwealth countries are also facing difficult times, "On the one hand, it's clear: a big brother who is trying to help us. Naturally, he has his own interests. On the other hand, the Americans, the West, you have already felt it. Don't forget that our happiness is here. Here at this table are the heads of state who can make our peoples happy if we resolve some issues that have not been resolved for a long time."

Strategic Economic Cooperation of the Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States, developed at the initiative of Turkmenistan, was signed, which then formed the basis of the later adopted CIS Economic Development Strategy until 2030.

Serdar Berdimuhamedov expressed confidence in the relevance for the CIS countries of the projects initiated by Ashgabat to diversify the energy, transport and communication components in the context of the development of large-scale infrastructure corridors 'North-South' and 'East-West'.

"Today, in the context of the global economic crisis and instability in the global fuel and energy market, we consider it necessary to seriously think about the financial component of our cooperation. We propose to pay

attention to the issues of debt obligations and mutual settlements, and conduct special consultations on their solution," said Serdar Berdimuhamedov.



**President of Uzbekistan  
Shavkat MIRZIYOEV,**

"The President of Uzbekistan especially noted the importance of using the unique CIS platform for joint assessment of potential opportunities and taking coordinated measures. In this context, it was proposed to organise a conference of leading think tanks and experts from the CIS countries to develop a new long-term multilateral agenda.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasised the need to ensure sustainable economic growth in the Commonwealth countries. Attention was drawn to the importance of the speedy formation

of a full-fledged free trade zone in the Organization's space without exemptions and restrictions. In this regard, it is proposed to revise the provisions of the relevant agreement. The President of Uzbekistan called for the effective use of existing mechanisms and proposed new tools for stimulating the growth of trade turnover between countries. He also advocated the development of a set of additional measures to stimulate mutual investments and promote projects, as well as holding a Forum of Industrial Cooperation and Innovative Developments in the CIS Countries. Particular attention was paid to issues of partnership in the energy and food sectors, the introduction of advanced technologies and strengthening cooperation in relevant sectors of the economy."

### ABOUT THE CIS REGIONS FORUM

The Head of the Belarusian State noted with satisfaction the signing of an agreement on trade in services and investment in the CIS this year, “I am convinced that this is a timely and important document. In line with these documents, as well as in continuation of those adopted earlier, I propose to intensify work to expand interregional economic cooperation. Today, Shavkat Miromonoich (Mirziyoyev, President of Uzbekistan) said a good phrase: ‘If we do not interfere with the regions, but help them with something else, they will solve many problems without us.’”

This is our unconditional and sought-after potential, the Head of State is sure, “The initiative previously proposed by the Republic of Uzbekistan to hold the Forum of CIS Regions is relevant and requires prompt practical implementation. This should be a priority. The Commonwealth states have the necessary experience and developments in the bilateral format.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko drew attention to the fact that in the future the CIS will be chaired by Russia, and regional leaders could gather there during this period and begin work. And it will be a good event.

### CONCORDED ACTION

**Following the meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the CIS, 17 documents were adopted**

In particular, at the summit an agreement was signed on the establishment of the International Organization for the Russian Language. In addition, four statements were signed: on international relations in a multipolar world, on cooperation in the field of digitalisation in public administration, on the protection of the human and citizen's right to freedom of religion, and on the support and promotion of the Russian language as a language of interethnic communication.

The list also includes decisions on the chairmanship of the CIS in 2024: the chairmanship will go to Russia, and co-chairmanship will be carried out by Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. The next meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the CIS will take place on October 8th, 2024 in Moscow. In addition, a decision was made to declare Samarkand the cultural capital of the Commonwealth in 2024.

Separate items on the list include decisions to award the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev with the honorary badge of the CIS and to establish the medal ‘For Contribution to Strengthening Peace’.

### MEANWHILE

**The foreign ministers of the CIS states in Bishkek adopted a statement in connection with the situation in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict zone**

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan expressed concern about the sharp deterioration of the situation in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict zone and the large-scale escalation of hostilities, as a result of which there are numerous civilian casualties population on both sides.

The foreign ministers strongly condemn any manifestations of extremism, terrorism, hostage-taking and other violent acts against civilians, along with the indiscriminate use of force during military operations.

The statement expresses concern about the impending humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip. The need to act in accordance with international humanitarian law and ensure that all those in need are provided with the necessary assistance, including the delivery of food, fuel and medical care, is emphasised.

The foreign ministers also called on the parties to immediately cease hostilities, ensure a sustainable ceasefire and open humanitarian corridors for the exit of the civilian population.

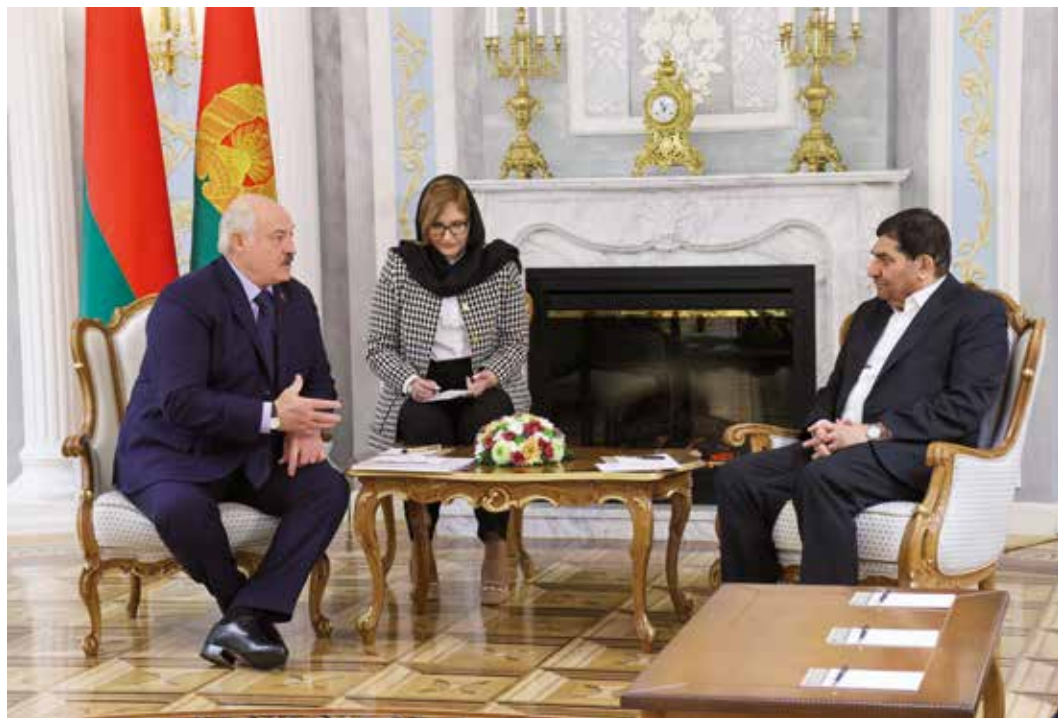
In addition, the importance of increasing international and regional diplomatic efforts aimed at achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East on a known international legal basis, including relevant decisions of the United Nations and the Arab Peace Initiative, was emphasised.

Vladimir **Khromov**



# THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS NOT TO WASTE TIME

**T**he President's meetings with the First Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mohammad Mokhber, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Yvón Eduardo Gil Pinto, clearly demonstrate Belarus's desire to strengthen cooperation with the countries of the far arc



■ During the meeting between President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko and First Vice President of Iran Mohammad Mokhber

The President of Belarus is convinced that we need to act more decisively and boldly in this process, despite the unprecedented sanctions pressure. Aleksandr Lukashenko made a special emphasis on this at a meeting with the First Vice-President of Iran, “We must learn to work very quickly. If we agree on something, it must be fulfilled on time. The most important thing for us is not sanctions and pressure, but time. And under no circumstances should we lose this time as a result of bureaucratic obstacles.”

### Have a plan for the future

The meeting with the First Vice-President of Iran Mohammad Mokhber can be called a continuation of the implementation of agreements reached during the official visit of the President of Belarus to Iran in March this year. Then, as a result of the negotiations, the parties signed a number of documents, including a roadmap for comprehensive cooperation for 2023 — 2026. In general, experts valued the package of signed agreements at more than \$100 million.

Welcoming the distinguished guest in Minsk, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted, “There are many questions, there is something to talk about. Therefore, I also hope that our conversation will have a good practical result.”

Belarusian-Iranian relations have been on the rise lately. Last year, trade turnover increased to \$100.8 million, which is three times more than in 2021. In January—August of this year, the volume of mutual trade exceeded \$62 million (126.4 percent compared to the same period in 2022). However, these indicators are not the limit for the two countries. Aleksandr Lukashenko draws attention, “You know the situation in Belarus. This is approximately the same situation you are in. The pressure put on our states is unprecedented, but you have already learned to resist it to some extent, and your experience is very important for us. What constantly surprises me is that during these large-scale actions over this period, Iran did not reduce its level of development at all, but, on the contrary, significantly increased it. During my visit to Iran, we agreed with the President (Ebrahim Raisi, President of Iran) that we would definitely develop an action plan for the foreseeable future and for many years to come, so that our trade turnover and our cooperation as a whole would develop more successfully.”

### Work more closely with each other

By the way, Iran has been under sanctions for more than 40 years. This includes a ban on the export of oil and gas, freezing of accounts, and disconnection from SWIFT.



Nevertheless, the country today is still the largest economy in the Middle East, second in terms of GDP in Asia only to China, Japan, India, Turkey, Indonesia and South Korea. Iran has 16 percent of the world's natural gas reserves and 10 percent of the world's oil reserves. In addition to oil and gas production, modern sectors of the economy are developing in the country — programming, pharmaceuticals, space research, and nuclear energy.

In short, the field for cooperation is extremely wide. And the time has come to make up for lost time, to enter new popular forms. Mohammad Mokhber is one of the iconic figures in the Iranian establishment who will contribute to this. As the first vice president of Iran, he oversees the economic block of issues, effectively fulfilling the duties of the prime minister. He also founded several research foundations under the office of the Supreme Leader of Iran. Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasises that in the conditions of sanctions pressure, the most important thing is not to waste time in implementing the planned agreements. Based on the experience of relations with Iran, based on many years of cooperation with Iran, the President concludes that we must learn to work very quickly. If something is agreed upon, it must be completed on time. The most important thing for partners is not sanctions and pressure, but time. And under no circumstances should we lose this time as a result of bureaucratic obstacles.

The Belarusian leader emphasises that the situation in the world is heating up. Moreover, the crisis in the Middle East contributes to the fact that unfriendly Western countries, led by the United States of America, are constantly directing the spearhead of this conflict against Iran. Aleksandr Lukashenko summarised, “You feel it better. Our answer is one: we must work more closely with each other, cooperate together to resist these attacks.”

### NEED TO MOVE FORWARD

There was also a meeting between the Chairwoman of the Council of the Republic Natalya Kochanova and the Chairman of the House of Representatives Vladimir Andreichenko with a delegation from Iran led by the First Vice President of this country Mohammad Mokhber. Vladimir Andreichenko noted the symbolism of Mohammad Mokhber's visit in the year of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Belarus and Iran and recalled Aleksandr Lukashenko's visit to Iran this year, which determined the further strategy of interaction between the countries. The Chairman of the House of Representatives recalled that in economics the parties always adhere to the principle of mutual benefit and joint gain. Last year, despite sanctions pressure, trade turnover reached \$100 million. Now we need to move forward. And the meetings and negotiations held in Minsk will open up new areas of cooperation, Vladimir Andreichenko is sure.

Natalya Kochanova, addressing the delegation, focused on the fact that during the geopolitical division of the world, which each country is experiencing, good friendly relations with those countries that adhere to a peace-loving policy, and most importantly, develop according to their own laws and traditions. The Speaker of the Council of the Republic expressed gratitude for the support provided by Iran to Belarus on international platforms, and emphasised that, despite any sanctions, Belarus is developing and adheres to the policy of a socially oriented state, “The President clearly set the tasks: sanctions should not affect our people. That is why we so value friendship and cooperation with the countries that are today part of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, BRICS, and thank you for the support we provide each other.”



- There was also a meeting between the Chairwoman of the Council of the Republic Natalya Kochanova and the Chairman of the House of Representatives Vladimir Andreichenko with a delegation from Iran headed by the First Vice President of this country Mohammad Mohber



## ROADMAP FOR JOINT ACTION

Another guest at the Palace of Independence was the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Yván Eduardo Gil Pinto. Aleksandr Lukashenko called his visit very timely, “I don’t think we need to get to know each other. There is no need to talk about our capabilities and the capabilities of Venezuela in our cooperation. We have known each other for a long time and have done a lot in our time to intensify our interaction.”

At the same time, the Head of State added, due to certain reasons (primarily external), there was a certain pause in the interaction between the two countries, “I feel that we need to revise all those areas and issues of cooperation that we have been defining since the time of Hugo Chávez.”

The President believes that we need to clearly decide what we should and can do for Venezuela, and what Venezuela should do in relation to Belarus. Develop an appropriate plan, a road map of joint actions for the short and medium term, and perhaps even the long term, “If other states, say Cuba, have to be included in this scheme, we agree.”

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, if the Venezuelan partners agree, the Belarusian side is ready to implement the relevant agreements before the new year.

## Fruitful work ahead

Over the past 26 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Belarus and Venezuela, bilateral cooperation has reached a fairly high level of partnership. Despite the geographical distance, Belarusian-Venezuelan relations continue to remain friendly, based on similar views on the world order and common assessments of the situation on many issues on the international agenda.

Minsk is considered by Caracas as one of its main allies. The special role of Belarus as a strategic partner of Venezuela

is noted (along with China, Russia, Turkey and Iran) in the Venezuelan state programme Plan de la Patria 2025 (Homeland Development Plan until 2025). Personal connections also played a big role here. At one time, it was Aleksandr Lukashenko and Hugo Chávez, between whom there were strong friendly relations, who laid the foundation for cooperation between the countries.

In October 2021, receiving in Minsk the special envoy of the President of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez’s older brother Adán Chávez, the President of Belarus noted that Minsk and Caracas should review relations and use a common political and economic base to counter any attacks on states. The parties confirm this course today.

In a conversation with journalists, the head of the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry said that the visit to Belarus turned out to be very fruitful, a number of important meetings were held and, most importantly, negotiations with Aleksandr Lukashenko. An agreement was reached to restart bilateral relations in the trade, economic and industrial spheres. The parties intend to do this in the near future.

The first step will be holding in Minsk on November 28th-29th, 2023 the next meeting of the Belarusian-Venezuelan joint commission on trade and economic cooperation, which will be attended by representatives of ministries, departments, and heads of enterprises from both countries. It is expected that during the event the parties will specifically identify the areas in which they will develop further work.

Yván Eduardo Gil Pinto said that the prospects for bilateral cooperation in energy, tourism, agriculture and a number of other areas were discussed with the President. The head of the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry expressed confidence that every effort will be made to not just restart bilateral relations, but to bring them to an even higher level. Very close and fruitful work lies ahead, during which the parties



■ Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela Yván Gil Pinto and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus Sergei Aleinik.

will focus not only on further developing political contacts, but also on strengthening trade and economic ties.

Answering a question from journalists about the work of the two countries under sanctions pressure, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela emphasised that Western sanctions are ‘absolutely illegitimate and criminal in nature’, “Of course, these sanctions had a negative impact on trade and economic relations, on the one hand. On the other hand, they strengthened our opinion that we must work closely and together. These sanctions once again showed us that only through joint efforts can we ensure joint movement forward. This is exactly what we agreed on, and this is what we will do in the near future.”

### POTENTIAL FOR COOPERATION

The Chairwoman of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly, Natalya Kochanova, also met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela on Tuesday. At the meeting, they discussed the prospects for cooperation between parliamentarians. The speaker of the Council of the Republic noted that, despite the distance, Venezuela has always been a friendly country for Belarus. We have accumulated excellent experience of cooperation in all areas. It is undoubtedly based on good relations between the leaders of the two countries — Aleksandr Lukashenko and Nicolas Maduro.

Natalya Kochanova drew attention to the fact that economic cooperation between countries is fundamental, since there are previously developed projects in the field of housing construction, joint ventures and enterprises. According to

the Chairman of the Council of the Republic, Belarus and Venezuela have enormous potential for further cooperation and implementation of their plans.

### Real prospects

The strategic sense of developing relations with the countries of Latin America, the African continent, the Middle East and Asia is noted by both parliamentarians and the expert community.

Felix Yashkov, member of the Standing Commission of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly on International Affairs and National Security, “Each such working meeting of the President takes the relationship between our countries to a new, higher level. The development of relations with distant countries is very important for our state, for the development of diplomatic and economic contacts.”

The Head of State always very clearly defines the goals and priorities of Belarus in foreign policy activities. His contacts with representatives of those countries that, like us, strive to maintain their independence and ensure their own national security, once again confirm: only together we can resist any aggression — economic, political, military — from Western countries. And the meetings held in Minsk are a clear confirmation of this: with those countries that strive for a fair world order, we will always find a common language for common and mutually beneficial benefit. If we support each other in such situations, then, of course, this will only strengthen our relationships and our states as a whole.



■ Chairwoman of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly Natalia Kochanova also met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela on Tuesday.

Aleksandr Shpakovsky, Minister Counsellor of the Belarusian Embassy in Russia, “Belarus plans to regain its position in Venezuela. At a certain stage, Caracas was one of the most important partners of Minsk in all aspects of interstate cooperation. Despite the difficulties of logistics, trade turnover between the countries reached a billion dollars. Thousands of Belarusian specialists worked in Latin America in the interests of the development of Venezuela. Hugo Chávez was truly a close friend of Aleksandr Lukashenko and the Belarusian people. In my opinion, Chávez is one of the most prominent politicians of our time, one who had the courage to challenge world evil, and the investigation into the circumstances of his death has not yet been completed. Belarus never left Venezuela, but the crisis in this country, caused by the US attempts to crush the Venezuelan state and impose its puppets on the people, could not but affect the indicators of our cooperation. At the same time, there is a mutual desire not only to return to the previous level, but also to step forward. Therefore, not only his Belarusian colleague Sergei Aleinik, but also the President personally meets with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of fraternal Venezuela.”

Pyotr Petrovsky, political commentator, “We live in an era of transformation of the system of international relations, a transition from a unipolar world to a multipolar one, where developing countries are gaining more and more weight. They are the drivers of global economic development. It is clear that in this situation it is most important for us to intensify relations with the countries of the far arc — the so-called collective East, which includes 150 countries. Firstly, this is a huge market, and secondly, the opportunity to participate

in the modernisation of economies, create joint ventures and production, technological chains, which is very important in the situation of today’s confrontation between the West and the East. Of course, in this situation, Venezuela, the countries of Latin America and Africa become one of our priorities — they are the ones who have the future. Well, we must not forget that we cannot put all our eggs in one basket, we need to diversify our exports in order to have a more balanced and protected economy.”

Therefore, the far arc countries are important and promising partners for us, who can both supply their products and buy Belarusian fertilizers, our mechanical engineering products, and work in high-tech industries.

Sergei Dik, member of the Standing Committee of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly on International Affairs, “For Belarus, strengthening equal, mutually beneficial cooperation with the countries of the far arc is one of the most important strategic goals in the context of the formation of new centres of power in the multipolar world, taking into account unprecedented economic pressure and interference of the collective West in the affairs of sovereign states.”

The Head of State, during today’s international meetings, emphasised the important point that the most important thing for us is not sanctions and pressure, but time, which cannot be missed.

Interaction with Iran and Venezuela and other countries of the far arc will make it possible to overcome any negative impacts from unfriendly states and ensure the peaceful existence of all countries, regardless of their economic potential and territories.

Aleksey Fedosov





Aleksandr Lukashenko met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Diaspora of Equatorial Guinea Simeyn Oyono Esono Angüe

## **BENEFICIAL COOPERATION BRINGS CONTINENTS CLOSER TOGETHER**

**T**his visit to our country became an important stage in the implementation of the agreements that were reached between the heads of the two states at the September negotiations in Minsk. Then one of the results of the summit meeting was the decision to create a joint intergovernmental commission on trade and economic cooperation. And so an impressive delegation from Equatorial Guinea, headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of this country, arrived in the Belarusian capital for its first meeting.

### **Stage in preparation for a future meeting**

Welcoming Simeón Oyono Esono Angüe, Aleksandr Lukashenko announced his visit to Malabo,

“Fortunately, we have been working very intensively with your country lately in order to develop a specific plan for our relations. I will definitely try to visit you in the near future. We already have this planned. We’ll figure it out by dates. But the most important thing is that we have a clear idea of how to build the economy and trade and economic relations between our countries.”

The President is confident that Belarus has all the technologies to raise a country like Equatorial Guinea to a higher level. There, obviously, they are very interested in this, and so are we. The essence of the Belarusian proposals is that (and Aleksandr Lukashenko spoke about this during the visit of the President of Equatorial Guinea to Minsk) that we are ready not only to sell products that this African country needs, we are ready not only to transfer technology here, but we are ready also train specialists to work in the conditions of these technologies. And it would be good, the President of Belarus expressed his wish, if it were possible to create a production base in Equatorial Guinea that could work at least for neighbouring states.

Aleksandr Lukashenko expects that the current visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Diaspora of Equatorial Guinea will be the main stage in preparing for a future meeting of the two leaders.

### **Mutually beneficial directions**

Simeón Oyono Esono Angüe thanked the President of Belarus for the meeting and conveyed to him a personal message from the President of Equatorial Guinea, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, which speaks of the strengthening and further development of relations, friendship and cooperation between the two countries. In addition, the message contains an invitation to Aleksandr Lukashenko to visit Equatorial Guinea.

Later, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International



Cooperation and Diaspora of Equatorial Guinea told reporters that at the meeting with the President of Belarus, issues of bilateral cooperation were discussed, as well as the results of the work of the Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, the first meeting of which was held in Minsk. Mutually beneficial projects that were considered include such areas as industry, healthcare, agriculture and food, training and retraining of personnel and others.

The head of the foreign policy department of Equatorial Guinea emphasised that Belarus has advanced

technologies that the African country does not have. It is not for nothing that, within the framework of the meeting of the Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, an agreement was reached that the Belarusian side, thanks to available technologies, will be able to diversify the economic development of Equatorial Guinea.

### Impressive progress rate

So, the development of dialogue between Belarus and Equatorial Guinea has every chance of becoming exemplary in terms of its intensity. The President of this African country, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, visited Minsk in early September this year. Just over a month passed, and Belarus received a representative delegation from Malabo, led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Diaspora. At the same time, we are already talking about preparing a return visit of Aleksandr Lukashenko to Equatorial Guinea. The speed of progress from agreements to their implementation is very impressive.

In September, the President of Belarus, at a meeting with a distinguished guest, noted that the future of our planet largely belongs to Africa. And while we are already relatively familiar with the north of the continent, recently more and more substantive contacts have been made with the central and southern parts. In general, the mainland is experiencing a real renaissance. The countries located here are increasingly declaring their desire to finally shake off the neocolonial yoke and independently determine their destiny and paths of development. Aleksandr Lukashenko assured his colleague from Equatorial Guinea that Belarus, 'unlike Western democratizers', is ready to help its partners be masters of their land for the benefit of their own people: create national industry, modernise agriculture, develop science and technology. And, working within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union, together with Russia and other republics of the former Soviet Union, it offers this African country access to unique technologies, goods and services.

At the same time, special emphasis was placed on the fact that Minsk and Malabo should not limit themselves to simple trade and only considering the prospects for bilateral cooperation. Belarus is ready not only to supply Equatorial Guinea with the products this country needs, but also to organise joint production on the African continent, share the necessary technologies and competencies with partners, and train personnel. Thus, in the future, it makes sense to consider Equatorial Guinea as a kind of hub for joint access to

third countries in the region. This is an interaction of a completely different order.

### The initiatives were received with interest

Speaking in September with Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, Aleksandr Lukashenko listed that Belarus also has good competencies in the construction of modern meat, dairy and other processing complexes, exploration and extraction of mineral resources, and the implementation of joint infrastructure projects. The humanitarian sphere provides many opportunities for mutual cooperation: science, culture, education, tourism. Belarusian healthcare organisations can provide the highest level of medical care to citizens of Equatorial Guinea. It is realistic to help train Guinean citizens in the field of health, education, and other humanitarian areas. Belarusian achievements in the field of healthcare are well known there.

It is not for nothing that the Guinean side received all these initiatives with great interest. As for joint work in the region, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo assessed their prospects as follows, "A free trade agreement was recently signed in Africa. Those countries that want to take advantage of the products of cooperation between Belarus and Equatorial Guinea will be absolutely free to purchase them."

It is worth noting that among the results of the September visit there was an agreement to create the Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation. They didn't delay this either. The first meeting of this structure was held just these days, during the visit of the head of the Foreign Ministry of Equatorial Guinea. All planned areas of interaction have been confirmed, and from this moment, we can consider that movement towards the practical implementation of specific projects has begun.

### Priorities agreed

It should be borne in mind that the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Diaspora of Equatorial Guinea arrived in Belarus at the head of a large delegation. It included the ministers of agriculture, livestock and land development, health and social security, forests and environment, social and housing construction and urban planning, deputy ministers of trade, industry and business development, culture, tourism and crafts development, finance and budget. In Minsk, in fact, the governments of Belarus and Equatorial Guinea held the first meeting of the Joint Standing Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation. At the same time, the interstate procedure for the entry into



force of the framework agreement on cooperation was completed.

The parties see agriculture and food security (supply of machinery, equipment and food products, agricultural technologies, fertilizers, professional training), information technology, healthcare, education, tourism, construction, development of the service sector, small and medium-sized businesses, creation of production facilities in the field of wood processing, as priority areas of cooperation.

In general, Belarus views Equatorial Guinea as a gateway to West and Central Africa. It is not for nothing that the issue of creating a production and logistics hub for Belarusian products there, which will be used, among other things, for the supply of goods to neighbouring countries, is being considered.

### Focus on promoting specific projects

Let us once again draw attention to the fact that transforming fundamental agreements between the presidents of the two countries into specific economic projects is the main goal of the work of the Joint Standing Commission on Cooperation between the governments of the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. Opening its meeting in Minsk, Foreign Minister of Belarus Sergei Aleinik noted that the parties managed to carry out the necessary preparatory work, formulate an impressive agenda and organise the meeting in less than a month. The tone and main direction of bilateral cooperation were set in September during the historic visit to Belarus of the President of Equatorial Guinea.

Sergei Aleinik emphasised that friendly relations between the leaders of countries need to be converted into the promotion of specific projects in the field of industry, agriculture, science and technology, healthcare, education and culture, and construction, “Our common goal is the progressive growth of bilateral trade turnover in accordance with the potential of our countries.”

According to him, the main expected outcome of the commission meeting is to develop a roadmap for the development of bilateral cooperation, which will be proposed for signing by the presidents of Belarus and Equatorial Guinea.

Sergei Aleinik also said that work has already begun on the creation of a production and logistics hub for Belarusian products in Equatorial Guinea, which will be used, among other things, for their supply and promotion to countries neighbouring Equatorial Guinea. At the same time, he said that agriculture and food security



■ During the meeting of the Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation

were identified as priority areas of cooperation. Guinea is also interested in information technology, healthcare, education, tourism, construction, development of the service sector, small and medium-sized businesses, and the creation of production capacities in the field of processing. There is interest in the supply of agricultural machinery and equipment, cargo, passenger, trailer, special and quarry equipment, optical-electronic products. Belarus considers Equatorial Guinea as a kind of gateway to Western and Central Africa, emphasized Sergei Aleinik.

In turn, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Diaspora of Equatorial Guinea, Simeón Oyono Esono Angüe, noted that Belarus is a priority for his country in its international policy, “Being a small country both in area and in population, we have always demonstrated our commitment to upholding the law and acting as a defender of the sovereignty of various peoples. Therefore, we want to strengthen our alliance with Belarus.”

In a word, Equatorial Guinea is ready to develop bilateral relations with our country in a wide range of areas. And it believes that such diverse cooperation in various sectors will definitely bring results.

Vladimir **Velikhov**

# RELATIONS ON AN EQUAL AND PRAGMATIC BASIS



**P**resident of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko received credentials from ambassadors of 11 foreign countries. This time, the ambassadors of Kazakhstan, Hungary, Egypt, Zimbabwe, Equatorial Guinea, Angola, Uganda, Cambodia, the Philippines, Jordan and Colombia presented their credentials to the Head of the Belarusian State.

## Important emphases are made

Welcoming the diplomats, the President of Belarus expressed confidence that their work will contribute to bringing peoples closer together and will help develop truly friendly interstate relations. He also noted that the ambassadors are embarking on their mission in a very difficult period. Aleksandr Lukashenko is convinced that today the whole world is on the difficult path of forming a new structure of international relations, which is steadily moving towards multipolarity, “This process is irreversible, no matter how much someone would like it otherwise. Now a new, in my opinion, more fair and reasonable order of interaction between all, and not selected, states is being built on the principles of respect and partnership.”

Following the established tradition, the President briefly discussed the interaction of Belarus with the countries represented by foreign diplomats.



### About Kazakhstan

Aleksandr Lukashenko called Kazakhstan close to Belarus, a fraternal state, a strategic partner and ally. We are connected by a common history, developed trade and humanitarian ties. Friendly relations at the level of heads of state allow us to discuss any issues without restrictions, the President said, “We will be glad to welcome (in Belarus) President Kassym-Jomart Kemelevich Tokayev this year to continue dialogue on a wide range of bilateral and international topics agendas.”



### About Hungary

Hungary is a long-time and reliable friend of Belarus, relations with which, having stood the test of time, are built on a pragmatic and mutually respectful basis, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted. He particularly noted Budapest’s proposals and initiatives on security and confidence-building measures in Europe. We are ready to continue dialogue with Hungary in order to de-escalate tensions in the region by resolving controversial issues only through peaceful negotiations, the President of Belarus said.

### About African countries

Noting that a representative group of ambassadors from African countries was present at the ceremony of presenting credentials, the President emphasised, “We consider this as a direct confirmation of our mutual interest.” Aleksandr Lukashenko assured that here in Belarus, diplomats from these countries can always count on equal and mutually beneficial cooperation for all parties, “I invite you to visit Belarus as often as possible, to bring with you official delegations and representatives of the business community. Our doors are always open for you. We believe in your continent and have high hopes for it.”



### About Egypt

Addressing the Ambassador of Egypt, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that he was sincerely pleased with the arrival in Minsk of the head of the diplomatic mission of the state, which is one of Belarus’ key partners in North Africa. “We are connected by good personal contacts with President el-Sisi, as well as by joint economic projects,” said the President of Belarus. “We look forward to continuing our common developments in the markets of other African countries, as well as to more active work in the space of the Eurasian Economic Union.”



### About Zimbabwe

Welcoming the first ambassador of Zimbabwe in the history of bilateral relations, the President noted that cooperation with Harare is a convincing example of how Minsk interacts with the countries of the African continent. Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled that, together with the President of Zimbabwe Mnangagwa, very ambitious tasks were defined for the coming years and expressed confidence that the ambassador will continue and make every effort to fully implement the agreements reached.



### About Equatorial Guinea

Speaking about cooperation with Equatorial Guinea, the President of Belarus mentioned the recent visit to Minsk of the President of this country. In his opinion, the frank conversation that took place confirmed that African states intend to leave the role of raw materials appendages in the past and are striving to industrialise the economy. And Belarus can become a good helper in this. And since the implementation of agreed plans will require maintaining a high pace of bilateral contacts, Aleksandr Lukashenko expects that the Ambassador of Equatorial Guinea will be a frequent guest in Belarusian ministries and enterprises, and, if necessary, in the government and the Palace of Independence.



### About Angola

Relations between Belarus and Angola have a long history, the President noted. He also outlined significant potential for a more significant increase in trade turnover and confirmed Belarus’ interest in intensifying bilateral political dialogue, cooperation in trade, economic and other areas.



### About Uganda

Aleksandr Lukashenko named Uganda as one of Belarus’ promising partners in Africa. Both countries could significantly increase trade and interact more actively in the fields of agriculture, medicine, education, and personnel training, the Head of State is convinced. The readiness to supply a variety of equipment and quality products to Uganda was confirmed. The President expressed confidence that with the participation of the new ambassador, these and many other topics will be further developed.



### About Cambodia

Strengthening multifaceted cooperation with all countries of the world, Belarus continues its active movement to the East, the President stated. One of the priorities in Southeast Asia is the Kingdom of Cambodia. Here we see opportunities for a significant expansion of bilateral cooperation in industry, agriculture, and infrastructure modernization.





### About the Philippines

Despite the geographical distance, we consider the Republic of the Philippines as a significant partner for our country, said Aleksandr Lukashenko. He noted Belarus' readiness to interact with Manila in the field of food security, including the transfer of experience in creating agro-industrial holdings that carry out both production and processing of agricultural products.



### About Jordan

The President emphasised Belarus' interest in further expanding the circle of partners in the Middle East. In this regard, he drew attention to the fact that Jordan has well-deserved international authority and acts as a peacemaker in the region. Similar approaches are close to Belarus. The President is convinced that the two countries have all the prerequisites for more active cooperation in political, economic, educational, scientific, cultural, tourism and other spheres. This fully meets their interests.



### About Colombia

Aleksandr Lukashenko called Colombia an important partner of Belarus in Latin America, which is currently pursuing a more balanced and independent policy in international affairs. The coinciding approaches of Minsk and Bogota regarding illegitimate restrictions and assessing the situation in the world open up new opportunities for intensifying dialogue at all levels, expanding trade and interaction in other areas, the Head of State is convinced.

### Responsible mission is possible

It should be noted that diplomats representing countries with different economic and demographic potential, differing in area and models of government, arrived at the ceremony at the Palace of Independence. But all of them, in one way or another, advocate for building a more just world order, in which there is no place for monopoly dictatorship on the part of anyone, but there are guarantees of development for all states without exception. This is the essence of the Belarusian peace-loving policy, which the Head of State emphasised. Addressing the ambassadors, Aleksandr Lukashenko expressed hope that their diplomatic mission will contribute to bringing peoples closer together and will help develop truly friendly interstate ties. According to the President of Belarus, today the whole world is on the difficult path of forming a new structure of international relations, which is steadily moving towards multipolarity. This process is irreversible, no matter how much someone would like it otherwise. Now a new, in the President's opinion, more fair and reasonable order of interaction between all, and not selected, states is being built on the principles of respect and partnership. In Belarus, which has experienced many upheavals and has repeatedly



become a theatre of military operations, the lessons of history have been well learned. Our main task is to prevent a new world war, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised.

### Based on common interests

The Head of State emphasised that Minsk has always pursued a very responsible foreign policy. Never in history have we extended our jurisdiction beyond national borders, stated Aleksandr Lukashenko. We pursue an open and peaceful policy. But not all Western democracies like this, the President noted, "And then the arguments of powerlessness come into play — sanctions. Your countries have experienced this many times. The same as Belarus. Therefore, we consistently and persistently oppose any illegal restrictive measures that harm not so much us as the whole world."

The President gave an example that sanctions against Belarusian potash fertilizers, agricultural products and equipment seriously undermine global food security, leading to a decrease in yields and an increase in food prices. Aleksandr Lukashenko expressed confidence that it is in the common interests to speak out even more loudly about this problem and jointly strive for the lifting of restrictions on trade, especially on vital items. Moreover, answers to these challenges have already been found. New payment systems in national currencies are now being actively formed, and logistics is being rebuilt. These topics are discussed at the SCO and BRICS platforms. Everyone is tired of constantly waiting for mercy from overseas, the President of Belarus concluded.

### The outlook seems optimistic

The Head of State emphasised that, despite all the difficulties and barriers created by opponents in the West, Belarusians have not deviated from their path of development. And the national economy is confidently entering a growth trajectory.

Belarus is open to all people of good will; there is a visa-free entry procedure for citizens of many countries.



Despite Western restrictions, Belarus hosts a lot of exciting international cultural and sporting events. “All this reflects the true aspirations of our people and is also a response to those countries where they abuse migrants, tighten entry rules, create barriers, close checkpoints, threaten transport blockades, and simply destroy these people,” the President emphasised. According to him, in the current situation, the development of trusting and stable ties with friendly partners abroad is of particular importance for Belarus. And there are a lot of such partners all over the world. “You are evidence of this,” noted Aleksandr Lukashenko, addressing the ambassadors.

The President recalled that 2023 has been declared the Year of Peace and Creation in Belarus. “I am convinced that you will constantly use these concepts as the main criteria for effectiveness in your work,” he said. “I am confident that your stay here as official representatives of your states will be interesting, rich, and useful from a professional point of view. I repeat once again, there are no closed topics!” Aleksandr Lukashenko promised that everything will be done in Belarus to ensure that foreign diplomats can

better get to know and understand our country, become more deeply acquainted with its history and culture, and feel the fullness of its cordiality and hospitality. “I sincerely wish you success in fulfilling your important and responsible mission,” the Head of State said at the end of the ceremony.

After the official part, the President of Belarus spoke with diplomats and wished them success in fulfilling their important and responsible mission. And special words of gratitude to the Ambassador of Hungary Zita Ilona Bencsik, “Thank you for your position.”

There were also wishes to the ambassadors of African countries. The President drew attention to the fact that their representative group was present in the hall, “We consider this as a direct confirmation of our mutual interest. I want to say that here, in Belarus, you can always count on equal, mutually beneficial cooperation for all of us. I invite you to visit Belarus as often as possible, to bring with you official delegations and representatives of the business community. Our doors are always open for you. We believe in your continent and have high hopes for it.”

#### VERBATIM

***Erlan Baizhanov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Kazakhstan to Belarus, permanent representative to the statutory bodies of the CIS, part-time,***

“The strategy in the development of bilateral cooperation has been unchanged for many years — strategic partnership relations between states and strengthening friendship between peoples. Before presenting my credentials to the President of Belarus, I managed to go to Astana, when Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko was there. I just took part in the negotiations. In fact, two prime ministers on the economic track described the entire work programme for me here. This is the growth of industrial cooperation, mutual investment, trade, the opening of joint production, and the expansion of the network of Belarusian stores in Kazakhstan. Belarusian products are in demand. Therefore, we welcome progress in all areas of our cooperation. The potential of bilateral cooperation is very great, and this year there has been a significant increase in mutual trade turnover. For 7 months of 2023 it amounted to \$700 million. At the end of the year, most likely, it will significantly exceed the one-billion-dollar mark. The negotiations held in Astana are aimed, among other things, at increasing trade turnover. But not only. The most important thing that Kazakhstan is interested in is industrial cooperation — advanced, technologically developed Belarusian companies. Especially in mechanical engineering. They get the green light in Kazakhstan. Six more large projects to localise production are planned. This is our main interest — in the investment field. This will bear fruit, including in trade relations.”



***Moses Kawaaluuko Kizige, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Uganda to Russia and Belarus, part-time,***

“We maintain excellent relations with Belarus, and I hope that the prospects for their development will be even greater. We have a lot in common; we have an interesting vision of interaction in the agricultural sector. We consider Belarus as one of the leading countries in the field of agriculture. As Uganda’s Ambassador to Belarus, I certainly want to take advantage of our country’s prospects in this area. In turn, Uganda has an attractive investment climate, and I invite Belarusian businessmen to invest in my country. I am sure that we have a lot in common now and even more to come.”



Vladimir **Velikhov**  
Photo by BelTA

# THE DYNAMICS SHOULD ONLY IMPROVE

**Export issues, despite sanctions and restrictions from the West, are still in the spotlight — at the highest government level. As they say, in trend. And for good reason. The global situation today is such that all goods produced in Belarus are in demand on foreign markets. This is certainly good and it certainly delightful. But this also means that you need to act even more decisively: actively and assertively, and develop a sales strategy. In order not only to quickly respond to challenges, but also to mitigate existing risks. And continue to improve the results achieved.**

The comparison of watches on this topical topic is regularly carried out with the participation of the Head of State. So the recent meeting, in fact, was a continuation of the discussion that took place about three months ago. At that time, as is known, the issues of Belarus creating its own port facilities for transshipment of domestic cargo, primarily potash fertilizers, and export plans by the end of the year were considered. The necessary decisions were made and appropriate instructions were given. The current meeting had a kind of control character. Moreover, Aleksandr Lukashenko considered it necessary to enlarge the topic of the meeting, defining it in a broad sense as the sale of domestic goods in both domestic and foreign markets, as well as related problems. Despite all sorts of external challenges, we operate in international markets quite confidently, but we cannot relax, there are too many obstacles and barriers that have to be overcome. This was the President's assessment of the overall export work.

## Only moving forward

Yes, during the discussion many pain points and problematic issues were revealed. The Head of State named deliveries by rail as one of these bottlenecks that create difficulties in

organising sales. He recalled that Belarusian exporters have left the Baltic ports and are working in the St. Petersburg area. They look at the more northern ports of Murmansk. And these are millions and millions of tons of cargo that can and should be delivered. Work is also underway in the south of the Russian Federation. No one interferes in the local ports. But as the President once again emphasised, the bottleneck is rail supplies, especially in the direction of St. Petersburg. In this regard, Aleksandr Lukashenko mentioned a conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin, during which the possibility of implementing two major projects was discussed. One of them concerns the railway line from Belarus to St. Petersburg.

The meeting also discussed the situation on the potash market, prices for fertilizers and the Belarusian strategy regarding the export of this group of goods. The Head of State recalled that at one time there was talk of creating a single company in the country that would sell Belarusian mineral fertilizers of all types — potash, nitrogen and phosphorus. Addressing Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that this idea 'sank into the Government'. A categorical message from the President: we must move forward, not stand still, and above



all in organising sales. The country has learned to produce everything, and in huge quantities, which do not even correspond to the size of the economy. Therefore, selling goods is an extremely important task.

Particular attention is paid to the issue of food production and sales. Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasises that for effective activities in agriculture, all areas of work have been identified, from the repair of roads in agricultural towns, the construction of dairy complexes, to selection in livestock and crop production.

All decisions have been made. It is only necessary to professionally organise this work in the Government — this is the emphasis of the actions.

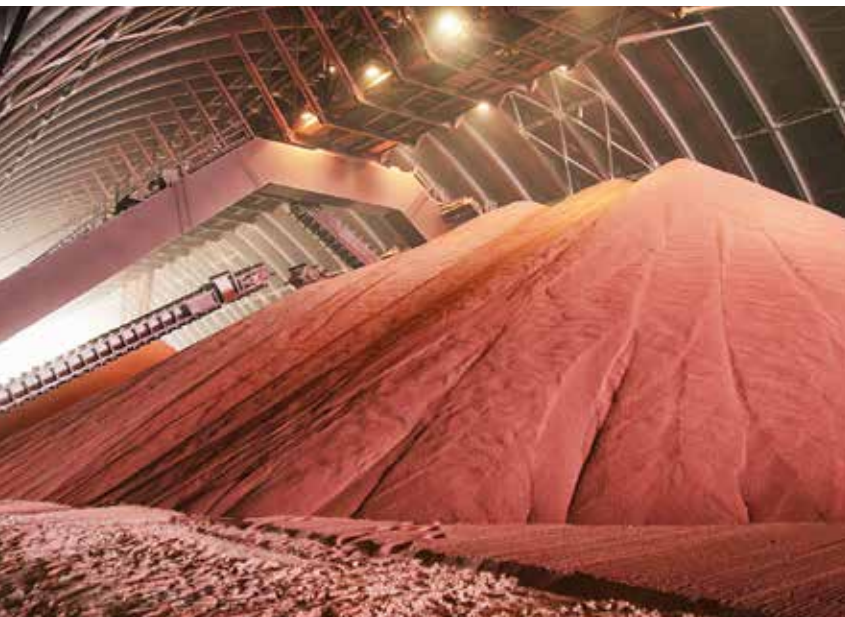
We also touched upon the topic of accounts receivable for the supply of mineral fertilizers. The President is categorical in this regard as well. No references to the fact that payments are not being made somewhere, or anything else. The task of the National Bank, whose accompanying structures, as the Head of State puts it, has more than one thousand employees: together with the Government, effectively address the problem. As Aleksandr Lukashenko said meaningfully: start working, because there can be no more talk on this topic.

### Assurances of support received

The creation of our own port facilities in Russia was also discussed at the meeting. The President asked what has been done in this direction and what remains to be done, noting that there are some discrepancies on this issue. Some people say that Bronka (the deep-water port of St. Petersburg) and some other port in Murmansk are enough. In turn, the General Director of Belaruskali believes that there is no need to refuse another port that is being offered, we need to negotiate and come to an agreement. The Head of State added that he also discussed this topic with the President of Russia and spoke about his reaction. No rejection. “If you want to ship, work and have property in other ports near Leningrad, I will support.” This is verbatim what was said. At the same time, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised, port capacity is a very serious thing. According to him, the interests there overlap colossally. But nevertheless, there is support from Russia.

After the meeting, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to Russia Dmitry Krutoy said that today about two dozen Russian ports are involved in the export of Belarusian cargo of various levels, with exporters placing a special emphasis on the ports of St. Petersburg and Murmansk.





As for working with the ports of Murmansk, today there are basic pilot batches of Belarusian goods for shipment in order to calculate the economy. Soon the experts will be able to draw up a final business plan. The Ambassador said that the Head of State was primarily interested in logistics in the direction of St. Petersburg. Local ports realised the convenience and prospects of working with Belarusians, so the issue of a 'bottleneck' arose — the railway. There are two options here; they were presented to the President of Belarus and discussed with the President of Russia over the phone.

### Practice clear vectors

According to Dmitry Krutoy, a simpler solution is to restore the passing stations. The main issue is financing. The Russian Railways have some of the resources, but decisions need to be made at the government level in Russia, given that these are their stations. The railway that runs through our part will be sufficient for the medium term.

Chairman of the Belneftekhim concern Andrei Rybakov added that the positive dynamics of the export of potash fertilizers and petroleum products was due to work through Russian ports. His opinion: today there is enough capacity. Tomorrow they will develop in one form or another in any case. These are commercial issues that will be resolved promptly. Regarding the development of exports, Andrei Rybakov stated that, in addition to large-scale hubs, manufacturers intend to expand the geography of supplies, including to those markets where today not the largest volumes are supplied. The head of the concern named the African continent as one of the promising areas.

The Chairman of the Belneftekhim concern is confident that potassium and petroleum products have traditionally been a strategic export product of our country. Therefore, the Head of State draws conclusions based on these products and extends decisions to other export items. At the meeting, the President gave an interim assessment of the state of affairs in the export of these two strategic products. Yes, there are certain positive dynamics. But the Head of State made it absolutely clear that we cannot stop; the existing export risks have not disappeared. That is why it is necessary not to maintain the positions that have been achieved, but to develop them and diversify markets, without focusing on one thing. The President has set clear vectors that need to be worked out very efficiently and quickly so that in the future the dynamics that exist today will only improve.

### There is a strong foundation

If we continue the topic of the full implementation of export potential, adding import substitution and joint investment projects to it, then in the same context it is worth considering the meeting of the President with the head of the Russian Export Centre. As already noted, for the Belarusian open economy, which produces much more than is needed for domestic consumption, expanding export opportunities is a strategic priority. Russia remains the main trade and economic partner of Belarus. In this regard, the potential of the Russian Export Centre will be very useful for us, as Aleksandr Lukashenko said at a meeting with REC General Director Veronika Nikishina, held at the Palace of Independence.



The Head of State highly appreciated the role of the export centre, which implements one of the most important areas in modern life, which, in his opinion, is important for any state in the world, “Recently, you have been observing the situation in relations between Belarus and Russia. Your powerful group of companies is located at the crossroads of all these relationships, possessing resources and certain reserves. Both administrative and financial resources to support relations between Belarus and Russia. Therefore, it was very important for me to meet with you and discuss issues.”

Veronika Nikishina represents the Russian Export Centre group of companies. These are four organisations united under a single holding and providing financial and non-financial support measures. Their potential is especially relevant today, in the context of a new geopolitical and economic reality. As is known, Western sanctions pressure forced Russia and Belarus to accelerate integration within the Union State. Cooperation ties between enterprises have become even closer and stronger. Work on import substitution is actively progressing. Trade turnover is steadily growing. In January-July of this year it exceeded \$27 billion, which is almost 15 percent more than in the same period last year. Russia accounts for about 60 percent of the value of Belarus’ foreign trade and over 57 percent of the total volume of foreign investment attracted to our economy.

All this creates a strong basis for intensifying the work of the Russian Export Centre in the Union direction. Veronika Nikishina on this occasion stated that, given the strategic importance of Russian-Belarusian trade and economic cooperation, Belarus is a key country in which the REC implements its entire arsenal of financial and non-financial measures in the interests of Russian and Belarusian companies. Ultimately in the interests of both economies.

### Use export potential

After the meeting with the President of Belarus, Veronika Nikishina told the details of the conversation. The parties discussed maximum opportunities and tools for creating the most favourable working conditions for Belarusian and Russian exporters. Today, cooperation is developing in three directions, outlined the general director of the Russian Export Centre.

The first is directly supporting Russian non-resource, non-energy exports to Belarus through cheaper prices, lower costs, and measures to find partners. Over 10 years of cooperation in this direction, with the help of such support measures, Russian exports worth over \$9 billion were delivered to Belarus.

The second direction appeared last year, when the centre expanded support for imports, Veronika Nikishina clarified. This is providing assistance to Belarusian companies that are ready to offer components and equipment for Russian



■ Veronika Nikishina represents the Russian Export Centre group of companies

enterprises that are now being created for the purpose of import substitution and have export potential. Several such transactions have already been carried out during this time to support Belarusian priority imports for Russia. But this is just the beginning of the journey. So at the meeting with the President of Belarus, new projects were discussed that would expand mutual opportunities.

The third direction of work is participation in large and serious investment projects for Belarus, which are carried out within the framework of preferential financing, added the general director of the Russian Export Centre, “We are glad that with our financial participation a number of landmark projects have already been implemented in Belarus, such as the modernisation of Grodno Azot. But we are now discussing 17 new investment projects that are interesting for the cooperation of our countries, in which we can also be useful in terms of using all our resources.”

According to Veronika Nikishina, a number of other cooperation opportunities were discussed at the meeting, ranging from the exchange of experience and developed practices to coordinated actions to support joint exports abroad. There are already examples when REC insurance agencies carried out transactions to support Belarusian exports in the markets of third countries or jointly produced exports. In general, the expanding functionality of the centre, as its head assured, is ready to be transferred for use to Belarusian colleagues. This is also one of the areas of cooperation that was discussed with the President of Belarus.

Vasily **Kharitonov**



# OPTIMAL DEVELOPMENT VECTOR

The economy, its problems, development prospects are something that is constantly present on the agenda throughout the country. A topic that is regularly discussed at the highest government level. Which is completely justified and understandable. After all, without objective analysis there is no progress, there can be no confident movement forward.





So recently in the Palace of Independence they asked the question: what can be done to raise the national economy to new heights? More precisely, at a meeting with the President, they discussed such an important point as improving the system of planning and monitoring the implementation of significant government projects. Over the years of independence, the country has implemented many large and truly breakthrough ideas, thanks to which Belarus occupies a leading position in many positions, even on a global scale. We built a nuclear power plant and the Belarusian National Biotechnology Corporation, launched our own satellite into orbit, modernised and developed the flagships of the domestic mechanical engineering industry, and developed innovative biomedicine products. However, in order to move forward, it is necessary to deepen and improve existing technologies, as well as create fundamentally new production facilities. This is why we need an impeccable planning system, as well as control over the implementation of large-scale government projects.

Dreams come true

Let us recall the history of the creation of some strategically important projects for Belarus. So, in 2015, the President held a meeting on organising the production of passenger cars. Then Aleksandr Lukashenko announced the decision to assemble cars in Belarus together with Chinese partners based on their technologies. This was the start of the construction of the BELGEE plant, which is located between Borisov and Zhodino and occupies an area of 118 hectares. The volume of investment according to the business plan was \$318 million. It is no secret that the President personally controlled all processes. And already in November 2017, the first production Geely Atlas NL3 rolled off the assembly line of the plant. The dream of producing passenger cars in the country came true. Last year, about 30 thousand cars were produced, but this quantity was no longer enough on the market. The President set the task of producing 60 thousand passenger cars this year. Approximately 40 thousand cars have already been produced and sold. Recently, the company began producing equipment under its own brand BelGee X50. There are plans to produce two more models in the near future.

### Perfect hit

Belarus has relied on the development of agriculture. Time has shown that the decision was correct. The domestic agro-industrial complex today not only fully ensures the country's food security, but also earns money from exports. The most advanced technologies are being actively introduced in this strategic area. In particular, deep processing of grain has been mastered to produce essential amino acids and balanced feed. This became possible thanks to the emergence of the Belarusian National Biotechnology Corporation. The project is the idea and order of President Aleksandr Lukashenko. And the opportunity to obtain the most modern technologies is his agreement with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

In July 2018, a ground-breaking ceremony took place in the Pukhovichi District, 40 kilometres from Minsk. Literally in an open field, in three years, without exaggeration, the flagship of the domestic agricultural industry grew up. On an area of about 170 hectares there are 14 modern independent factories and production facilities, which are connected into a single technological chain. What is produced here can be found in only a few enterprises on the planet — in China, the USA, Japan and Belarus. Products manufactured by BNBC are in demand all over the world. Over 85 percent of it is exported. In the future, the corporation intends not only to increase capacity, but also to open new factories.

### The price of thoughtful solutions

Just ten years ago, a large share of wood raw materials was exported. To begin more active processing and develop export supplies of finished products with high added value, it was necessary to introduce new technologies, modernise existing wood processing plants and create new ones. The situation began to change after the decision to modernise the base enterprises of the Bellesbumprom concern and create modern production facilities aimed at producing innovative, export-oriented and import-substituting products. In 2012, the President signed a decree on the construction of a plant for the production of bleached sulphate pulp on the territory of the Svetlogorsk Pulp and Paper Mill. This solved several issues at once. Firstly, the production of corrugated cardboard was maintained, and secondly, the enterprise received a good foundation for the future. It took about eight years from idea to construction and launch.

Now the Svetlogorsk Pulp and Paper Mill has begun implementing a project to build a workshop for the production of special types of papers from sulphate pulp with a capacity of 160 thousand tons per year. Its implementation will make it possible to provide the entire domestic market with containers for packaging bulk food products, cement, dry construction mixtures, and at the same time export up to 80 percent of the products worth about \$100 million.

### Intelligence rules the world

And further. For Belarus, talented people and the intelligence of the nation are the greatest wealth. Today, the country is doing a lot to strengthen the intellectual property system, because it is what gives impetus to innovation and economic growth. The state, problems, trends in the development of intellectual property issues in the field of law, economics, and public administration were discussed



by the participants of the 3rd International Scientific and Practical Conference, Intellectual Property in the Modern World: Challenges of the Time and Development Prospects, which was held in Minsk.

As experts note, a turning point has occurred in the global economy in recent decades, when the price of intangible assets exceeded the price of tangible ones. The lion's share of the cost of competitive high-tech products is the price of technology and intelligence. And this is well known in Belarus. The country pays great attention to the development of science and technology. And in general, today technology is the driver of the development of all economic processes. But it is not enough to create intellectual property and technology. It is important to protect it.

The successes of our country in the field of IT back in 2019, at a meeting with the President, were confirmed by the head of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), Francis Gurry, who then emphasized that Belarus in the field of intellectual property can in some areas be ahead of what is in the world. In particular, with software products. Meanwhile, today we should in no way underestimate the importance of law-making in a new global direction — the field of artificial intelligence. By the way, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus recently hosted the 2nd Forum and Exhibition of IT-Akademgrad, Artificial Intelligence in Belarus. The event also included the 26th meeting of the Expert Council of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS Member States and the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications, where they discussed the first stage of creating a law on artificial intelligence for the CIS countries. It is worth recalling





that Belarus won the tender and is the founder of the development of a model law on artificial intelligence for the CIS countries. This is a completely new direction, relevant all over the world. The development is carried out by the Joint Institute of Informatics Problems of the National Academy of Sciences.

### **Innovation sets the tone**

In general, our country has developed fairly harmonious legislation in the field of intellectual property. And all issues have been resolved as much as possible. Back in 2021, the Government approved a strategy for the development of intellectual property in Belarus. In accordance with this, a set of measures has been developed to achieve certain objectives. In short, a lot of work has been done to formulate the legislative framework. For example, at the beginning of this year, two laws and three resolutions were adopted to improve issues in the field of intellectual property. A number of resolutions and other legal acts are at the development stage.

Without exaggeration, in recent years the intellectual property system has become an important tool for improving the modern economy. For Belarus, which has significant scientific potential and does not have a sufficient raw material base, the strategy for further development of the national economy is determined by the effective use of innovation. In general, countries that identify innovative development as one of the priority areas of government policy are undoubtedly laying the foundation for a stable and prosperous future.

Experts are convinced that improving the intellectual property system creates conditions for the development of innovation. This in turn leads to increased productivity and economic growth. The ability to protect the results of intellectual activity contributes to the creation of new technologies, which attracts the attention of investors and contributes to business development. In addition, the presence of a developed intellectual property system increases the country's competitiveness at the international level, allowing it to compete successfully in the global market. Considering modern challenges and prospects, it is important to develop international and regional cooperation in this regard. This approach will ensure the development of the most optimal ways to improve the existing system.

Deputy Director of the Federal Institute of Industrial Property of Russia Tatyana Yerivantseva highly appreciated cooperation with Belarusian colleagues in the field of intellectual property protection. Partners have a lot in common, similar approaches to solving issues, even similar problems. As part of the event held in Minsk, they discussed topics with the expert community and patent attorneys, in particular those related to healthcare. We have developed common points, consideration of which will allow us to share Russian experience and use Belarusian experience.

In fact, all participants in the Minsk conference focused on the importance of intellectual property. Without its protection there can be no talk of progress. Intellectual property makes it possible to harmonise interests and at the same time ensure the sovereignty of the country. And, importantly, it is precisely this that gives impetus to the development of the modern economy.

Vsevolod **Yevseyev**

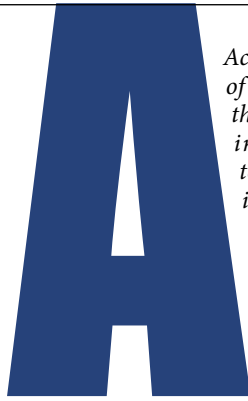


# SPHERE OF PRAGMATIC INTERESTS

**How are things going with attracting investments to the country and what projects will be implemented in the near future? And how actively do foreign investors come to Belarus? The issues are not simple, but rather relevant and topical as never before. Let's try to find answers.**







*According to Belstat, in the first half of this year, \$4.52 billion came into the country's economy from foreign investors. This means that the total volume of foreign investment increased by 5.6 percent compared to the same period last year.*

*Another significant point, based on the same statistics. So, in the same first half of the year, Cyprus again became the leader among investor countries, investing more than \$499 million in the Belarusian*

*economy, which is 29.3 percent of the total. The Russian Federation ranks second with investment volume of \$314.4 million, or 18.5 percent.*

### Preferences stimulate interest

In the first half of this year, only with the assistance of the National Agency for Investment and Privatisation, five legal entities were registered by foreign investors. The total declared investment volume is almost two million dollars. It is known that out of the five companies, three are registered by investors from Pakistan; they plan to implement projects in the field of agriculture, production of pet products, and plastic products. Two companies, opened by investors from Tajikistan and Russia, intend to implement projects to create a network of barbershops and provide telecommunications services.

If we talk about the conditions for the entry of foreign capital into the country, it should be recalled that in Belarus there are various preferential legal investment regimes. They represent special business conditions for a certain period. But the choice of one or another preference regime will depend on a number of factors and components of the investment project. Such, for example, as the need to create infrastructure facilities, the export orientation of the project, the introduction of innovative technologies and many others. Also at the legislative level, it is possible to receive individual preferences that take into account the specifics of the project. It is worth paying attention and recalling that Belarus is carrying out systematic work to combat corruption and other economic crimes that negatively affect the conditions for doing business. The approach to bringing corrupt officials to justice, regardless of their status, official position and previous merits, remains unchanged. National anti-corruption legislation is developing dynamically in the country. Its goal is to protect the rights and legitimate interests of citizens, business entities, the state, as well as to reduce the attractiveness of illegal behaviour. An important step in this direction was the adoption last year of the Anti-Corruption Strategy. It is aimed at systematically combating corruption, including by identifying and eliminating its underlying causes and conditions, as well as involving civil society institutions and businesses in this activity. The country has adopted the Anti-Bribery Management Systems standard.

It should be taken into account that the legal basis for international cooperation in the fight against corruption, in particular, is the UN Convention against Corruption, multilateral agreements of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, and numerous bilateral intergovernmental and interdepartmental agreements.

As a result of such active work to combat corruption, the country has a low level of perception of it. All this, of course, is important for a potential foreign investor when choosing Belarus as a state for possible investment.

Another significant point. In 2015, the country had a legislative opportunity to implement infrastructure projects through the mechanism of public-private partnership. The key advantages of such a partnership for business are: long-term and returnable investment, guarantee of sales and capacity utilisation, as well as sharing of risks with the government partner.

By the way, last year, in order to improve and further develop the PPP mechanism, changes were made to the Law on Public-Private Partnership: an additional opportunity appeared to conclude a partnership agreement through direct negotiations with the investor (without holding a competition) and the procedure for preparing a PPP project was simplified.

### Data sheet for an investment site

Still, it would certainly be appropriate to make a clarification. Namely: what additional measures are being taken in the country today to improve the investment climate? After all, the reserves for this are certainly not exhausted.

So, based on many components, it is obvious that continuous work is underway to create comfortable economic and legal conditions for attracting investment. The conditions for doing business are being simplified, administrative and criminal liability measures in the economic sphere are being reduced and optimised, and the mechanisms of customs and tax administration are being improved.

And a year and a half ago, a whole set of measures to launch a new investment cycle began. It provides for the creation of a favourable investment environment, stimulation of investment in free economic zones, improvement of regulation in the field of architectural and construction activities, improvement of regulation in the field of land and property relations.

**In the first half of 2023, the Belarusian economy received more than \$4.5 billion in investments**

In addition, systemic measures are provided to optimise approaches to financing and monitoring proposals, and the formation of a portfolio of investment projects.

Without a doubt, an important step in improving the investment climate was the preparation of the Law on Promoting and Stimulating the Implementation of Investment Projects in the Republic of Belarus. The main change that the law will

bring is the possibility of implementing individual investment projects without concluding an investment agreement. The adoption of the law will definitely improve the situation of investors, including because this normative act will act as a single document, eliminating the need for investors to refer to multiple acts in order to understand benefits and preferences, the procedure for obtaining them, as well as other aspects of project implementation.

Another significant initiative to increase the attractiveness of the investment climate is the creation of investment sites and industrial parks in administrative-territorial units with a population of 80 thousand people or more. To implement this initiative, the National Agency for Investment and Privatisation, together with local executive committees and services, assessed 55 potential investment sites according to the criteria of legal, organisational and operational readiness. Of these, 40 promising ones were selected to attract investors. For each such site, a data sheet has been developed, which reflects detailed information about transport and utility infrastructure, the costs of bringing the site to a state of legal and engineering readiness are estimated, and the potential socio-economic effect from the development of the site is calculated. The conducted research will help to quickly and efficiently select the most suitable land plot according to the investor's criteria.

Of course, in addition to tax benefits and preferences, the speed of starting a business is now important for investors.

Construction of a facility from scratch takes three years — selection of a site, design and construction of utility networks, production buildings, and passing examinations. Therefore, the emphasis is now on creating ready-made production facilities. This approach is being tested in the Brest Region: the first small industrial parks are being created in Baranovichi and Pinsk. The concept of pilot industrial parks involves the construction of industrial hotels — universal, multifunctional industrial premises with infrastructure for rental to residents. This format is especially attractive for small and medium-sized businesses due to the absence of additional time and financial costs for building premises and providing the necessary infrastructure.

In parallel with the implementation of the pilot project, a regulatory framework is being developed for the effective functioning of future parks. In the process of work, similar national and foreign experience, the needs of management companies and residents, as well as the need to create conditions for return on investment in the creation of industrial parks are taken into account.

### The investor chooses where is better

If you ask yourself what industries in Belarus are most attractive to investors today, it turns out that over the past three years the most popular areas here are agriculture, the food industry, and the pharmaceutical industry. The interest of foreign investors in these industries is caused primarily by the demand for products, government support measures and the country's export capabilities. As you know, Belarus is a member of the EEAC, which opens access to the market of five countries of the union. For example, to implement projects in the field of agriculture, a potential investor can take advantage of the tax regime for producers of agricultural products or carry out activities in small and medium-sized towns in rural areas, which provides an exemption from profit tax and real estate tax for seven years, as well as an exemption from income tax and other benefits.

To implement large-scale projects that require the construction of large production facilities and the allocation of large land plots, a potential investor can enter into an investment agreement with the country and take advantage of the list of benefits and preferences provided for by the Presidential Decree on the Creation of Additional Conditions for Investment in the Republic of Belarus. For example, for the provision of a land plot without charging fees, as well as exemption from customs duties on imported equipment necessary for the implementation of an investment project.

One example is interesting. Among the unexpected and even exotic requests in its own way, one can highlight a project from a private investor from New Zealand. It concerned the possibilities of growing a new crop, quinoa. The project turned out to be not the easiest to implement. The fact is that no one had grown quinoa in Belarus before, so this crop was not included in the register of agricultural plants. However, the National Agency for Investment and Privatisation found a partner for the investor in the Mogilev Region, who allocated ten hectares of land for testing the crop. An agreement was also concluded with the inspection and protection of plant varieties under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus. And later, a company was registered in the Gorodok District Executive Committee of the Vitebsk Region to implement a project for growing and processing quinoa. At the moment, the investor is adapting this crop to the Belarusian climate and is looking for the most favourable climatic conditions among various regions of the country. Based on the profile of its activities, it can be assumed that





the investor will choose the preferential treatment of a small city or a single tax for agricultural producers.

### **Who comes to us and where from?**

Still, what countries are investors from and what projects are they implementing here today? We get the following picture. Over the past five years alone, with the help of the National Agency for Investment and Privatisation, 28 companies from countries such as Israel, Germany, Belgium, China, Austria, Poland, Spain, Latvia, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, India, Iran, USA, Russia, Pakistan, Türkiye have started operating in Belarus. The most popular industries among potential investors were woodworking, furniture production, agriculture and food industry, waste processing, logistics, IT and services. Among the projects implemented by investors, the most popular are the production of furniture and building materials from wood, the production of agricultural products, and software development. Projects in the field of agriculture are most actively implemented by investors from Poland, Kazakhstan and New Zealand. The total declared investment volume exceeds \$400 million, the planned jobs cover about 2 thousand people. Of the 28 registered companies, 23 are operating today, continuing to work on the implementation of their investment projects.

For example, in the spring of 2021, in order to implement plans in the Slonim and Dyatlovo districts of the Grodno Region, a Polish investor acquired three unprofitable agricultural enterprises with a total area of agricultural land of more than 19 thousand hectares. The transaction cost was \$4.5 million. At the same time, the investor was not embarrassed by the fact that the enterprises were sold with specific conditions: an obligation to invest funds in development, maintaining the dairy herd population and the number of jobs at a certain level. In fact, over the course of several years, the investor updated the fleet of agricultural machinery, purchased new equipment for feed production, and increased milk yield several times. Moreover, having assessed the potential of the business, in November last year he acquired two more agricultural enterprises in the Slonim District. As a result, the total volume of investments has already exceeded 30 million Belarusian roubles and continues to increase.

Or another example. In May of the same 2021, a private investor from Kazakhstan registered a company in the Krugloye District Executive Committee of the Mogilev Region, which is also engaged in the cultivation and processing of agricultural products. Last year, it purchased modern agricultural machinery and equipment worth over a million dollars. The company is also scaling up its activities and last year leased more than two thousand hectares of agricultural land in the Tolochin District of the Vitebsk Region. A further expansion of the sown area is planned for the current year; in particular, the possibility of leasing up to 500 hectares of agricultural land is being considered in the Minsk Region.

It is worth especially noting that this year there has been an increase in potential investors from Pakistan who have

shown interest in implementing projects in the agricultural sector, food industry, and educational services.

### **Visual capabilities of the resource**

There is also an interactive portal Investor Road Map in the country. And it is in demand. This is a kind of republican resource created to systematise data on investment proposals, as well as the available conditions for investment. It practically helps to increase the investment attractiveness of regions throughout Belarus. Every year the portal is visited by about twenty thousand users, whose geographic coverage exceeds 150 countries. The leaders in visits after Belarusians are representatives of Russia, China, the USA, Türkiye, Pakistan, India and EU countries. This year we launched an updated version of the portal, filled it with new sections and tools, making it even more convenient to use.

Using the Investor Road Map, you can independently choose a project for investment, a plot of land or a real estate property. Built-in filters allow you to select investment proposals according to various parameters, such as regional and industry affiliation, form of investor participation, amount of investment, type of real estate, method of provision, area of the object, cost. Having made the selection, in one click you receive all the information on the project. In the investment

**According to Government forecasts, Belarus GDP growth in 2024 is planned at 3.8 percent. At the same time, the increase in investment in fixed assets is expected to be 3.9. The plans include the implementation of 163 regional, 77 import substitution, 16 integration projects.**

proposal card, you can familiarise yourself with its description, implementation deadlines, investment costs, performance indicators, and also evaluate the existing engineering and transport communications. And this is not all the capabilities of the resource. The Investor Road Map allows you to obtain information about the existing business support infrastructure, transport, energy and social infrastructure facilities, support measures and preferential regimes. You can choose a place to invest by assessing the competitive advantages, specialization and resource potential of a particular region of the country in the Regional Specialisation section.

All these tools ensure the functionality and attractiveness of the Internet resource created by the National Agency for Investment and Privatisation, and allow the investor to make an informed decision. If interested, the investor can contact the agency through the feedback button. A personal manager will provide advice and support on all issues of further activities. The investment proposals database is updated daily. Currently, the map contains more than three hundred investment projects, about seven hundred production sites and real estate properties, more than a thousand land plots, and about eight hundred mineral deposits proposed for development.

Vladimir **Velikhov**

# COLLABORATION AS A PRIORITY



**How to respond to new challenges and optimally resolve issues of interaction coordination? These and other topics were the focus of attention of the participants at the 45th meeting of the Council of Telecommunications and Infocommunications Operators of the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications, which was held in Minsk.**

The Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications is an important body in the CIS system. And the Council of Telecommunications and Infocommunications Operators is one of its structures. The previous meeting of the Council took place five months ago in Tashkent. It should be noted that before the official opening of the forum in Minsk, a meeting of the working group on information security was held here, where new challenges and issues of optimising interaction between partners were also discussed. In general, the topic of coordination of efforts ran through all the forum events: participants focused on intensifying cooperation in the development and operation of networks, satellite technologies, and even on the fight against cyber fraud.

**There is a good experience**

Opening the plenary session, First Deputy Minister of Communications and Informatisation of Belarus Pavel Tkach focused on the importance of teamwork and exchange of experience. He, in particular, noted that, thanks to cooperation, all conditions are created for the development of the digital economy and innovation. Telecommunications, as we know, are a driver for many other industries, so the focus of specialists today is on creating modern infrastructure, introducing new technologies and digital projects. The topic of security in the digital environment also remains relevant. In a word, all the challenges in this area can be solved only through cooperation and coordination of actions between telecom operators.

The First Deputy Minister of Communications and Information drew attention to the fact that Belarus is famous for its ICT infrastructure. It was noted that in terms of penetration of fibre-optic communication lines into households, we are the leader throughout Europe. Another matter is how effectively this can be used. Today there is public demand for electronic services, so traffic growth is lightning fast. For example, according to the Ministry of Communications, over the past year the population of Belarus began to consume more than 20 percent more traffic than in the previous year. Obviously, this sets new requirements for infrastructure and its construction. Pavel Tkach also outlined the most important range of topics that were to be discussed during the forum. In this list, he highlighted preparations for the ITU World Telecommunication Conference in 2025,







exchange of experience on the development of the digital economy of RCC member states, as well as issues of combating fraud. By the way, one of the most common types of fraud at the moment is phishing. Its essence lies in the fact that with the help of fake websites, attackers steal personal data, bank card numbers of citizens and write off money. To combat this evil, the forum participants in Minsk exchanged experiences of measures taken.

In addition, the First Deputy Minister of Communications and Information of Belarus emphasized that a unified coordinated technical and technological policy is being developed within the framework of the Regional Commonwealth. In his opinion, there is always technical connectivity between the Commonwealth countries. In terms of the level of development of information and communication technologies, according to the latest assessment of the International Telecommunication Union, Belarus was a leader in the CIS.

“We have something to share and I think that our colleagues will be interested in it. Although we set ourselves the task of developing even more actively and occupying higher positions,” First Deputy Minister of Communications and Informatisation of Belarus Pavel Tkach outlined the prospects for activity.

### A platform for new ideas

In turn, speaking about the issues on the agenda, Chairman of the Council of Telecommunications and Infocommunications Operators of the RCC, General Director of Beltelecom Yuri Petruchenya emphasised the important and honourable, in his opinion, moment that the current event was hosted by Minsk. The head of Beltelecom summarised: the meeting of the Council is a platform where achievements, directions and development strategies are discussed. Yuri Petruchenya

emphasised that the agenda is aimed at intensifying activities and closer interaction on a wide range of issues. These include the development and operation of networks, satellite technologies, information security, combating fraud and other topics.





#### FOR REFERENCE

*RCC is an international organisation with the functions of the interstate coordinating body of the CIS in the field of electrical and postal communications. The activities of the RCC Telecommunications and Infocommunications Operators Council are aimed at comprehensive cooperation, coordinated development of communication systems and means of the Commonwealth member states, the introduction of new services and technologies, and increasing the efficiency of quality management of telecommunication services.*

But the General Director of the RCC Executive Committee, Nurudin Mukhitdinov, in his own way, especially noted the significance of the event, “We gathered in the hall of the President Hotel, where heads of state meet. This is a very high level, which emphasises the importance of our meeting and Belarus’ attention to work aimed at coordinating efforts in a multilateral format.”

The event in the Belarusian capital brought together the leaders of the RCC Executive Committee, representatives of the regional branch of the International Telecommunication Union for the CIS countries, the Ministry of Communications and Information of the Republic of Belarus, telecommunications companies from Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan. Representatives of operators from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Tajikistan and other countries joined the work via video conference. In total, more than fifty experts in the field of telecommunications and modern technologies.

#### Concerted action is encouraged

The forum programme was indeed quite intense: 14 issues were submitted for consideration. The priority is the current state and development trends of the telecommunications industry and telecommunication networks. After all, there are different technologies, and it is not a fact that the rates of their



implementation are synchronised in the republics. Hence the importance of interaction. At the meeting, participants shared their experience in implementing digital economy programs and discussed promising areas for further work aimed at the coordinated development of communication systems and means, the introduction of new technologies, and improving the efficiency of quality management of telecommunication services. A separate block was devoted to the preparation of RCC participants for international forums through the International Telecommunication Union and other structures at various levels. The busy agenda of the Minsk meeting gave reason for the Chairman of the Council of Telecommunications and Infocommunications Operators of the RCC, General Director of Beltelecom Yuri Petruchenya to summarize in the sense that the decisions made will contribute to the development of information and communication technologies throughout the entire space of the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications.

Aleksey Fedosov

TEACHER'S DAY

# NECESSARY, PRESTIGIOUS AND NOBLE PROFESSION...

On the eve of International Teacher's Day, which is traditionally celebrated in Belarus on the first Sunday of October, everyone who can remembers their teachers, college and university professors, addressing them with words of gratitude and recognition. After all, these are the people who, to the best of their ability, make the world a better place.

*A teacher*  
IS A SOURCE OF  
WISDOM AND  
KNOWLEDGE,  
*a spring*  
OF IDEAS  
AND EXPERIENCE





## TEACHER'S DAY

- The honorary title of the Teacher of the Year of Belarus 2023 was awarded to the winner in the Music, Fine Arts, Art, Labour Training, Drawing, Physical Education and Health, Pre-Conscription Training category, the fine arts teacher of the Dovsk Secondary School in the Rogachev District, Sergei Shaminsky. He received the Crystal Crane award and the keys to the traditional prize — a car — from Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko.
- Sergei Shaminsky, "In my heart, despite my age, I am still a child, it helps to work with children, it is the key to understanding children's hearts."
- Prime Minister of Belarus Roman Golovchenko during the awarding ceremony of the biology teacher of Gymnasium No. 2 in Pinsk, Tatyana Parkhomchuk/



On the first Sunday of October, Belarus traditionally celebrated Teacher's Day. The day before, festive events were held in all regions and in Minsk, at which the country's best teachers were honoured. A solemn meeting dedicated to Teacher's Day was held at the Palace of the Republic. Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko took part in it. He read out the congratulatory address of the President of the Republic of Belarus. Let us note that on this day, Aleksandr Lukashenko's address was to all teachers, without exception, who work in the field of education. "After all, every adult was once a student," said the President, "and many are immersed in the school life of their children and grandchildren. We sincerely thank the teachers and educators for their dedication, love for children, and example of a wise attitude towards life. The future of Belarus is in your hands. By instilling in young people a love of knowledge, cultivating respect for ancestral values, developing a caring attitude towards the history of their native land and pride in the country's achievements, you create and strengthen the foundations of statehood. I am addressing young professionals who today proudly take on the high title of 'teacher'. I am convinced



## TEACHER'S DAY

**Dear education workers,**

*Dear friends! Congratulations on Teacher's Day — the most heartfelt and closest holiday to all of us! After all, every adult was once a student, and many are immersed in the school life of their children and grandchildren.*

*We sincerely thank the teachers and educators for their dedication, love for children, and example of a wise attitude towards life. The future of Belarus is in your hands. By instilling in young people a love of knowledge, cultivating respect for ancestral values, developing a caring attitude towards the history of their native land and pride in the country's achievements, you create and strengthen the foundations of statehood. I am addressing young professionals who today proudly take on the high title of 'teacher'. I am convinced that, relying on the experience of senior mentors, maintaining the continuity of the traditions of the national school, you will do everything to improve the image of domestic education, which is deservedly recognized as one of the best in the world.*

*I wish you creative inspiration, good health and new achievements for the benefit of the younger generation and beloved Belarus!*

**Aleksandr Lukashenko**

that, relying on the experience of senior mentors, preserving the continuity of the traditions of the national school, you will do everything to improve the image of domestic education, which is deservedly recognized as one of the best in the world.” The Head of State also wished all teachers creative inspiration, good health and new achievements for the benefit of the younger generation.” Congratulating everyone present on the upcoming professional holiday, Roman Golovchenko noted that the education sector is a priority of state policy and is the focus of attention of the country's leadership, “It is very pleasant to congratulate on Teacher's Day on my own behalf and on behalf of the Government of our country. Recently, at a large meeting with the

Head of State, a wide range of issues of improving the educational sphere were discussed in detail — from the renovation of educational institutions and nutrition issues to the quality of textbooks and the training of future specialists. Our task is to preserve and develop all the positive experience accumulated over the years in the education system. But it is necessary to break out of some patterns, we need to adapt the education sector to modern realities, and bring it to a qualitatively new level.”

The Prime Minister outlined the important role that teachers play in shaping the personality and character of the country's young citizens, “A teacher is one of the main assets of our society, its spiritual strength. The

personality of a teacher, his life position, and worldview are of great importance — both for the education system and for the successful development of the country as a whole. Today, the rhythm of life is such that a child spends even more time with a teacher, tutor, educator than with his family.”

It was noted that the work of a teacher was never easy. At the present stage, the role of the teacher in preparing the younger generation has increased many times over. The priority is not only to provide deep knowledge, but also to teach children to think critically, make independent and responsible decisions, carefully preserve and honour Belarusian history, culture, traditions, and also instill in students the best human qualities.

The Prime Minister also emphasised that the education system affects almost every resident of our country. Today, about 1 million 700 thousand pupils, pupils and students study in more than seven thousand educational institutions. The industry employs more than 400 thousand people, every second of them is a teacher.

“Those teachers who put not only their knowledge, but also their soul into their work, remain with us throughout their lives,” the Prime Minister is convinced. Deputy Head of the Administration of the President of the Republic of Belarus Igor Lutsy, rewarding teachers, said that Teacher's Day is a special holiday for every person, “A teacher for a student is both father and mother. Teachers always perform double duty. Because it is important to give children a start in life, to teach them how to eat properly—a very pressing topic—to make a child, first of all, a human being, a citizen and a patriot. Many generations of teachers who raised us, those who now teach our children and grandchildren, in my opinion, were brought up in the Soviet school. An absolutely correct school with our ideas and traditions. Therefore, on this holiday, first of all, I want to express words of sincere gratitude to veteran teachers — those people who are already on well-deserved rest, but always together with you, current

teachers. Aleksandr Grigoryevich Lukashenko always repeats the phrase: 'School is a temple'. These words contain a deep meaning: respect, veneration not only for the school as an object, but also veneration for teachers. Because it is you who actually shape our society. The future of our country depends on how you do this."

Minister of Education Andrei Ivanets, expressing words of gratitude and deep respect to all teachers of the country, said, "Of course, on the eve of Teacher's Day it is customary to say words of gratitude, but when I went to see you today for the award ceremony, I thought that the usual 'thank you' to every teacher we have to talk every day. Because this is daily, active, very difficult and at the same time responsible work. Therefore, for our part, from the Ministry of Education, we express confidence that this is precisely the principle that we follow and will continue to follow — support for our teachers. Thank you very much!"

For conscientious and fruitful work, significant contribution to the training and education of the younger generation, the best representatives of the education sector were awarded certificates of honour from the Administration of the President of the Republic of Belarus, letters of commendation from the Head of the Presidential Administration, certificates of honour from the Council of Ministers, badges of the Ministry of Education 'Excellence in Education', certificates of honour from the Ministry of Education and other awards.

Undoubtedly, it is the teacher who creates the future of the country. The versatility of knowledge, beliefs, worldview, and moral qualities largely depend on his work. Therefore, teaching activity at all times required a special calling.

Sergei Shaminsky, a teacher of fine arts at the Dovsk Secondary School in the Rogachev District, became the Teacher of the Year in Belarus. His name was announced by Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko.

The honorary title of the Teacher of the Year of Belarus 2023 was awarded to the winner in the Music, Fine Arts, Art, Labour Training, Drawing, Physical Education and Health, Pre-Conscription Training category, the fine arts teacher of the Dovsk Secondary School in the Rogachev District, Sergei Shaminsky. He received the Crystal Crane award and the keys to the traditional prize — a car — from Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko. 56 best teachers from all over the country competed for the title of Teacher of the Year. For 10 days, they competed in public speaking, looked for solutions to difficult situations, taught lessons, and gave master classes. The winners in the nominations, laureates and participants of the competition were awarded at the Belarusian State Pedagogical University.



Among the recipients of the awards were the winners in eight categories of the Teacher of the Year of Belarus 2023: the winner in the Physics, Astronomy, Mathematics, Computer Science category — physics teacher of Secondary School No. 34 of Bobruisk Svetlana Zdoronkova, the winner in the Russian Language and Literature, Belarusian Language and Literature category — teacher of Russian language and literature of Secondary School No. 4 of Minsk Aleksandra Sakulevich, winner

in the Foreign Language category — teacher of English at Gymnasium No. 2 of Pinsk Olga Shcherbakova, winner in the Elementary Classes category — primary school teacher of Secondary School No. 17 of Baranovichi Yekaterina Kovalenko, winner in the History, Social Studies, Geography category — history and social studies teacher of Gymnasium No. 31 of Minsk Lyudmila Gurinovich, winner in the Chemistry, Biology category — biology teacher of Gymnasium No. 2 of Pinsk Tatyana Parkhomchuk, winner in the Preschool Education category — preschool teacher of Kindergarten No. 40 of Mozyr Lyubov Polyn.

For your information, Sergei Shaminsky, winner of the professional skills competition for teachers, spoke on the subject of 'fine arts'. At his school, in addition to this subject, he

also teaches technical work, drawing, and domestic and world artistic culture. "At the beginning of the lesson, I get the kids ready for the lesson: I joke, use humour, the children really like it. Then you can enter the next stage of the lesson — the topic, setting tasks. At heart, despite my age, I still remain a child, this helps working with children is the key to understanding children's hearts and souls. This helps to reveal their characteristics and abilities in children, and helps them develop



## TEACHER'S DAY



■ Winners in eight categories of the Teacher of the Year of Belarus 2023 contest

in an artistic direction,” said Sergei Shaminsky. One can assume that he, remaining, as he says in his heart, a child, teaches his children to be both cheerful and happy, just look at his sincere and lively smile. “Some people think that happy people are those who have achieved something. The longer I live, the more I understand that everything is the other way around.” “‘Achieved’ is when you climbed to the top, visible for everywhere, hoisted a banner, received a medal, an award, became famous, was bronzed as a monument... I am interested in those who have achieved something within themselves. I now have more than a dozen friends, all of whom are amazingly happy people. They are so happy that they are looking for someone to share it with, scattering their happiness in handfuls and armfuls. They are my teachers. Although I just seemed to have ‘achieved’ something. And they manage to broadcast this happiness

no matter what their formal achievements are, how much money they have, or whether they have difficulties. They are stronger than the world. They do not depend on the world, but help it...” This is what the great clown, People’s Artist of Russia Vyacheslav Polunin said. For some reason, these words of his came to mind in relation to the victory of Sergei Shaminsky, who found the key to understanding his students.

The teacher of the year said that the competition itself is complex, lasts a year and consists of many stages. “If a person enters such a competition, he must understand whether he can withstand it. The competition lasted a year and consisted of four stages: school, district, regional and republican. I have been working at school for 33 years, I have developed my own methodology, techniques, and so on. I just use them competently, knowing the peculiarities of a child’s character, a child’s soul. I would like

to express gratitude to my team and teams from other areas, because at this competition we were not competitors and rivals. This is a paradox, but we became friends and comrades. We sincerely We were worried about each other, it helped. I felt this support,” added the teacher of the year.

“I have not yet realised my emotions and sensations,” Sergei Shaminsky shared his first impressions after the award. “I have always been a teacher, now I have become teacher of the year. There is one quality that helps me in my profession: wherever you are, whatever you do, you must always remember that you must remain not just a teacher, but first of all a person, and you must treat the child as a little person, a little citizen, as an equal. Kindness and understanding are also necessary. These are the qualities that allow you to be teacher and understand the generation we are raising.”

Mikhailina **Cherkashina**

# FOREST, FLOWERS AND CHILDREN IN THE LIFE OF A TEACHER

## Notes from the outback

Flowers came into the life of Alina Rabtsevich, a biology teacher from Ivatsevichi Secondary School No. 3, whom I managed to meet in the summer while on a business trip with a colleague, when she was a child. But then, admiring their beauty, she also saw how much effort and time her mother spent planting, growing and caring for them.

"So," I ask Alina, "you already understood the truth in your youth: in order to enjoy the smell of a rose, you must also love its thorns?" "What are you talking about," she answered, "I didn't understand this as a child. Most likely, being in the atmosphere of my mother's work and worries, I simply subconsciously absorbed this knowledge. Just like the fact that my mother Galina Grigorievna

Basalai is a teacher."

This is how pedagogy and biology, flowers and children came together in Alina's life. She became a teacher, continuing the family dynasty.

We will talk with Alina Igorevna, this is how it is customary in Belarusian schools to address even young teachers — by first name and patronymic, in the office of school director Oleg Kuzmin. And she will tell us about why she chose the school.

Director's preface to school floriculture While we are waiting for Alina, we listen to what Oleg Alekseyevich says about the young specialist and at the same time about himself.

"Alina graduated from a rural school in the village of Velikaya Gat. It is 30 km from Ivatsevichi. She completed her studies at BSU in 2020. We took her

in. At first, of course, we looked closely. But it was immediately clear: the girl was serious and responsible. Therefore, they immediately entrusted her with class management — she was given 8th grade."

"Wow! Such a difficult age..."

"Not an easy class. And what else: Alina replaced a teacher who was on a leave. In addition, we entrusted her with school forestry. We have been working in this direction for almost 10 years. Therefore, Alina Igorevna was offered to take on this direction."

"In general, we decided to fully load her right away..."

"What was to be done? A huge weight lifted off my shoulders when she agreed. We promised Alina any help: after all, she is a young specialist. We morally supported her. We suggested



■ Alina Rabtsevich is a biology teacher at Ivatsevichi Secondary School No. 3, the successor of the family dynasty of teachers

## TEACHER'S DAY

something, used some administrative resources. But you must admit: no one will do the main work, primarily teaching and educational, for her. It was nice to see how she managed to establish contact with the students already in the first quarter. The children loved her. We saw when the year ended, how the kids worried whether she would continue to be with them. Even the girls from her class came to me with tears in their eyes so that I could persuade Alina Igorevna to stay — a rumour spread through the school that she was leaving... Alina is a very good teacher and educator. And she succeeded with school forestry. (School forestry is one of the most interesting forms of environmental and biological education for students, which has a rich history. It is known that the first school forestry was created in Belarus in 1966 at the Korovatichi Secondary School in the Rechitsa District of the Gomel Region. The heyday of the movement occurred in the 70s. last century. Young foresters were engaged in environmental education, provided assistance to forestry enterprises as much as possible, and actively exchanged experience.)"

"Who used to head the school forestry?" "It was organised by Tamara Grigorievna Pesetskaya, who worked for us as a biologist. And before that, she had a forestry school in Zeleny Bor, well-known throughout Belarus — in the Zeleny Bor school, which stood right in the forest. In Ivatsevichi, school forestry was not easy to raise. How is everything going now? At school, children learn theory. The teacher leads a study group and additional classes on topics developed by the teacher. The second location is on-site classes. The third part of the project: during the holidays, on the weekend we go by bus from the regional education department to the Ivatsevichi forestry enterprise. By the way, the forestry enterprise is both the curator and the social partner of the project. They sewed us a beautiful uniform. The forestry department has identified a place for an ecological trail. It was created by the members of the school forestry themselves, and now it is already used as a living teaching aid. I remember we started the project



in September 2014, and by the end of the academic year we received our first diplomas. And we took first place in the Blossom, My Forest! competition. The forestry department helped us a lot. The first group of winners were given e-books and flash drives. Since then, every year we are the best in the region... And in good standing in the country." Alina Igorevna comes in, and together we listen to Oleg Alekseyevich. He continues, "I know from experience: if you stop a project, you are unlikely to move it further. You need to hold the bar. And we didn't fall behind. We finished the first year successfully. It was nice to see how Alina found new forms of work and proposed new ideas. From the forestry enterprise, Svetlana Stepanovna Kostyukevich, deputy director for ideology, is also in a strong relationship with us. By the way, she is from the first graduating class of our school: 1983. And it is a matter of honour for her to develop this project. A year later, I suggested to the director of the forestry enterprise, Vikenty Stanislavovich Koipash: let's sew uniforms for the children. And at the same time we will organise a formal reception for young foresters. My proposal was accepted with a bang. So in September every year we now have such a celebration."

"Oleg Alekseyevich, it is interesting: among young foresters, are there those who, after graduating from school, choose forest-related specialties?"

■ The Director of the school Oleg Kuzmin appreciates his teachers. And there is, as he put it, a good reason for it. About Alina Rabtsevich — with delight, "Alina, as they say, is 'with the people', all the flower beds around the school are her and the students' work. We were just lucky to have such teachers who create beauty in children's souls. I think she realised early on that the teacher's work is surprisingly diverse, multifaceted and at the same time complex."

"Of course. Our kids enter universities and vocational educational institutions: the career guidance and environmental component of the project is working. Then we went one step further: together with the forestry department we created a class for young foresters. Already from the 5th grade, children join. No one in the country had anything like this. Our class is already 7a."

"Where do you get your interest in the forest, and you feel it's considerable?"

"We have a forested region, and I'm also from the village of Gichitsy — it's right on the road to Velikaya Gat. I've always liked the forest. This is a huge Universe, which has its own laws and rules. It accepts us if we go there with goodness. I also love movement in life. In our teaching business, if you just focus on the lesson and the subject, if you're done and goodbye, you'll quickly burn out. In five years everything will get boring. And when there is a constant search, you get less tired and work is more interesting. Moreover, I noticed: so do our partners from the forestry enterprise! And for them this is a living matter, which has developed beyond the established programme, has moved beyond its limits. We now even have a level of relations higher than partnership: spiritual cooperation, I would say. Not only business, but also human relationships permeate everything. And this is very valuable, including in raising our children."



"Are you able to lead a school team with sincerity?"

"As for me as a director, I admit: I have great confidence in all my fellow teachers. At school we try not to patronize young people over trifles, not to control them in detail. However, like the older generation. It is important for us at the teachers' council to understand and feel: our colleagues are moving forward, there is no stagnation, there is development. So Alina Igorevna had a progressive movement forward from the very beginning, and without our undue tutelage. We encourage initiative; if there are new ideas, we treat them with care. There is trust in people's talents and abilities. In my opinion, teachers' work needs to be controlled, but, as I have already said, it is better not to interfere in the deep processes of pedagogical creativity. There is no need to prevent the fruits from ripening! This is how we work with Alina Igorevna. And the level of her work, our school forestry department, is worthy."

"Isn't she afraid of getting her hands dirty? After all, the work is mainly with plants, with the earth..."

"I'll give you an example. We started planting flowers — Alina is working with everyone else. I have already seen different biologists. I noticed: if he and his children begin to plant flowers, care for them, and not just manage these processes, then everything is in order. Although it seems that the teacher's task is to show, to suggest. But Alina, as they say, is 'with the people', all the flower beds around the school are her and her students' doing. It creates beauty! Is not it? Love for work, for plants, for the land, for the subject — all this cannot be taught in theory: the teacher himself needs to roll up his sleeves and work. This is how I often see Alina Igorevna. So she won the child's love for herself with her work. Because it is impossible to deceive children."

"They feel everything. You don't have to say lofty words, just show by example. At the energetic level, a lot is transferred from one person to another."

"You mentioned energy, but I have

observed children's enthusiastic attitude towards Alina Igorevna more than once. And after the summer, and after other holidays at the beginning of the quarter. The guys just sparkle with their positive emotions, it's clear how much they miss her. So I'm very glad that Alina came to us and showed herself so interestingly, maturely, and professionally. We are simply lucky to have such a teacher who creates beauty in children's souls."

"And where did you study?"

"There was a good school for teachers at the Baranovichi Pedagogical College — I graduated from it. I served in the army for two years, then immediately entered the correspondence department of the philology department and began working. I worked at the Yaglevichi school, in 2007 they offered me to



become a director there — I did it. And after 5 years they offered me to work here in Ivatsevichi. I teach Belarusian language and literature in one class, and also occupational safety — the basics of life safety. This subject is very interesting to me."

"Have you noticed one curious pattern: if you do something with your soul, the same people will definitely come to your team?"

"This is true! If you are looking for something, it is there. If you want good, you will find good... And if we talk about biologists at school, then not only the

lessons themselves are important to me, because they will definitely be held, in any case. They're not going anywhere. At 8.00 the bell will ring and someone will teach the lesson. But the whole system of work in this direction is important to me. Therefore, I am now in search of: what should I do with our 'forest' so as not to lose it? After all, Alina Igorevna is going on maternity leave..."



■ Alina Rabtsevich not only teaches biology, but also directs the school's Green Quarter. The elective is attended by more than 50 people. And the youngest ones are actively working with their favorite teacher on school flower beds.

"Who's in mind?"

"Yes, there is a biology teacher, a little older than Alina. By the way, sometimes when talking about age I ask: do you have great-grandchildren? The person is immediately stupefied: not yet... So, I

## TEACHER'S DAY

say, are you talking about old age? It's still too early... While we are working at school, with children and young people, we are young. Your children won't let you think differently."

Subtleties of the profession, or the family affair of Alina Rabtsevich

"Alina, are your mom and dad teachers too?"

"Not only them. If you look deeper into history, I already went into teaching

eldest daughter, is a geography teacher. There are other names in the dynasty. So when I was faced with the issue of choosing a profession, my mother and I didn't think for a long time: become a teacher! What about the profile? Most of us are linguists and humanists. But my cousin grandmother, who taught in Obrovo, was a biological chemist. So I decided to go to biologist."

"What year did you graduate from school?"



■ These first-graders, perhaps future students of Alina Rabtsevich, look with great interest at the question of whether they love the forest and flowers unanimously answered, "Yes!"

through a dynasty: even my great-grandfather was a teacher. This is Semyon Ivanovich Kupreyev, teacher and front-line soldier. By the way, documents, photographs, family trees confirming that there is such a dynasty of teachers in our area — we keep all this. When I was at school, I collected what I could. And one of my grandfathers is a famous teacher and writer in Belarus, Mikola Kupreyev. My great-grandfather, as I already said, was a teacher, and Mikola Kupreyev's sister (my own grandmother) Valentina Semyonovna is also a philologist. My mother, history teacher Galina Grigorievna Basalai, and now the director of the Svyatovolsk school (Brest Region, Ivatsevichi District, village of Svyataya Volya). If you go through the branches of the dynasty, then my mother's cousin, Mikola Kupreyev's own son, Andrei Titok, was a history teacher. My aunt Svetlana Nikolayevna, my grandfather's

"In 2014, with honours. Then I entered the BSU, Faculty of Biology: majoring in biologist, scientific and pedagogical activity. It turned out that I studied for 6 years. Because I got married, went on maternity leave and continued to study at the correspondence department — and graduated from it. My son is now 6 years old."

"Nowadays, biologists are in great demand in Belarus: biotechnology is in trend."

"Yes, sure. Some of my classmates work at the Belarusian National Biotechnology Corporation."

"How did it happen that you are here?"

"I won't hide it: they offered me to stay and work in Minsk. But I wanted to live without unnecessary noise: as they say, quietly and peacefully for the soul. Closer to mom, to the origins, to the earth and silence. And here I am also because my grandmother Valentina Semyonovna invited me to

move into the house — the property of her Kupreyev parents. This is a former school in Mikhnovichi, and they have almost merged with Ivatsevichi. This school was founded and built by my great-grandfather after the war. Semyon Ivanovich worked as a director there. It was an eight-year school."

"So you, in fact, live in your great-grandfather's former school with your family?"

"This is true. And then, having settled into the house, I began to look for work. My mother and I came to Oleg Alekseyevich — and he hired me full-time. Immediately for 28 hours. And plus he assigned to me class management duties: 30 people. As they say, motley crew. Age is difficult. So for the first six months we all cried together (laughs) — both the children and me. My grandmother helped me through that difficult path. She supported me and gave me good advice. At times, I won't hide it, in a fit of emotion I wanted to quit school, but she firmly said: no! Be patient, she said, otherwise everything will go wrong and you will be lost in life. Grandmother lived with us."

"What exactly bothered you?"

"The kids have difficult characters, and I don't have enough experience. I myself am still young, and I went to high school with some fear, although no one there ever said anything bad about me. And in the younger ones, different things happened... You have to be able to joke in class on occasion, to defuse the situation, and at the same time maintain a working atmosphere in the class. Younger children are more open to communication and show interest in the subject. Well, we cried because we had misunderstandings: both with the children and with their parents. I have a lot of classes, electives, I need to prepare, we spent six months putting my office in order according to my ideas, and also sorting out these tensions... And then everything calmed down: we probably got used to each other. And when there was graduation in the 9th grade, where I was in class, we were already crying because we were parting. The children still come to visit and we call each other. When they were still at school, we talked in a friendly way. And I understood their slang, and was included in their communication style."



Girls and boys revealed their secrets to me — just like with their mother, as they probably couldn't be so frank. And I have already shared my experience. There was a constant reassessment of life values: grades, relationships with teachers, friends, parents... I also helped the children build relationships with other teachers. I managed to develop a spirit of collectivism, a system of mutual assistance and mutual support. Those who were with me from 8th to 9th grade know this system: if someone is stronger in something, he helps others with that. Moreover, our table seating also takes into account these different nuances. And when I got the 10th form, at first the kids couldn't understand it. Then we got used to it."

"Now tell me about your flowers."

"We have each class and class teacher with areas at the school: where to work. The second school biologist and I distribute this, plant flowers and distribute work. There are lists, schedules, the nature of the work. I remember I came in September — I got the largest and most difficult plot, or, as we call it: a vegetable garden. There are different geometric shapes in the flower beds. They need to be planted beautifully, taking into account the characteristics of the flowers. In autumn there is less work: collect seeds, prepare the garden for winter."

"So you don't buy seeds?"

"Hardly ever. We collect, sort, and dry from the garden. We work during class hours, or we also have a labour camp during spring break — we are preparing for sowing, preparing seedlings."

"Did this system of work exist before you?"

"There was something, I suggested something. Previously, it was not the case that sketches of future flower beds were drawn on paper. At first we did

it for ourselves, and now we show the sketches to management. In different years we create different patterns in the flower beds. And we already know: how many seeds are needed and when to sow them in order for the seedlings to be good."

"Is there a greenhouse?"

"Yes, but we sow all the flowers in the laboratory room. We made a convenient mini-table for this. We begin the first sowings in February. We've already worked out what's what, gradually so that everything fits. This is what they did in the flower beds this year: some flowers are leaving while others are blooming. Children from different classes, starting from the fifth, help me. And I and my class — this is the senior level — also

work where we need it today. We have such a concept as socially useful work. In high school it's two hours a week. If we couldn't go to the forestry, then we come here. Let's go, let's say, choose marigolds. That's how we work. Children do not refuse: if they need help, they help."

"Do you have any fans of the flower business?"

"Yes, but not in my class — in the 6th. When a biology course first begins, our programme consists entirely of excursions and laboratories. We go out to the site — the kids have a lot of questions: what kind of flower, what kind of bush, beetle, tree or butterfly... Then they have practical work on growing plants. And it's already starting: a whole table covered in flowers. Some



■ Alina Rabtsevich planted this bush rose — her favorite flower first, when she and her family began to settle in the half of the former great-grandfather's school, where now the young mistress has exotic plants that are still taking root. I brought a magnolia and a Syrian rose from the Crimea.



## TEACHER'S DAY

have ficus trees, some have violets or Chinese roses. They maintain them at home. Then they bring the plants to school. Then there are questions regarding indoor floriculture: mom has such a flower — what to do with it... How to grow it, how to feed it, how to take cuttings... This is all interesting to them.”

“But some people aren’t interested...”

“Alas. It’s hard to interest boys in flowers and gardening. We start with the minimum: weeding school paths. And in the process, they crouch down and notice the microcosm under their feet. Get acquainted with the types of weeds: woodlice, horsetail and others. Then they get their bearings: cherry plum grows there — you can try it. There is an apple tree... They are already hooked. In 7th grade they study purely botany: the kids are interested. Sometimes I bring a plant to laboratory classes that they came across while weeding. We look at the structure of the trunk, leaves... Seeds... Something under a microscope.”

“Does the conversation turn to how incomprehensible all this is: life itself, how all living things work?”

“It’s always interesting to them. After all, there is a secret in this. I show them materials, videos of a site on microbiology — I learned about it at university. For example, how a bacterium lives and moves in a leaf. They admire how great it all is!”

“Have you heard about the international Save Soil movement, which began in India thanks to the Isha centre and its founder — the philosopher, mystic, yogi Sadhguru?”

“And even, one might say, we took part in it. We made videos about soil. This year we went with our children to a republican tourist rally on forestry. And they talked about it there: there was a special lecture. In 2022, we attended an eco-forum in Minsk at the Republican Centre for Local History, located on 9, Makayonka Street — our two students spoke there. They talked about the experience of involving urban students in the Green Quarter school forestry. There were also online conferences with different countries.”

“In the past, what flowers did your grandparents grow?”

“I was told that great-grandfather Semyon Kupreyev planted a large school garden: about 40 types of different apple trees. He loved apple blossom time and harvest time. Schoolchildren collected it. Over time, the garden disappeared. But my husband and I are actively planting trees, bushes, and flowers in our garden



■ The Zuzushka cat feels like a full member of the family on the estate. Unlike Alina, she did not express a great desire to communicate with journalists.

plot. My husband is an engineer, but he also participates in our actions: he works for the Ivatsevichidrev Holding Company and is closely connected with the forest. Often, when people are gathered there for the next forest planting, he jokes: yes, I am already set, my wife planted them for me too.

My mother has a large flower garden, everything there is fragrant in the warm season. I’ve never grown flowers before. Except that helped to weed and shape. But here, on the plot next to the house, as they say, there was no way out: I had to roll up my sleeves. For about 10 years, people didn’t live in our part of the large house-school — only in the other 4 more families, you could go there from the house before. My husband and I had to cultivate the territory of the estate together. And there is a lot of work at school, but the system has already been worked

out. As school head teacher Yelena Vasilievna noted, another biologist and I got along and divided our spheres of influence. And she doesn’t need to control anything. Cleanliness, beauty, order everywhere.”

“What plant did you plant first near your house?”

“Bush tea rose. I always liked the way it blooms. This is a perennial, but annuals are more of a hassle. And then you made a composition — and then you correct it. When cooperation with the forestry department became stronger, the children and I began to go to the nursery. And there are various coniferous plants there. Thujas, spruces, and junipers came into my life. I even planted a small larch and a Christmas tree with a birch tree. They were given to me when we participated in Forest Week: seedlings were planted. So we are gradually settling in. Some plants came from far away. I brought a magnolia from Crimea — specifically a Crimean one, still small. We have others in our city that are acclimatised. And my beauty is still adapting to our climate, its flowering shifts to August-September-October.

Another Crimean guest that has taken root and is blooming is the hibiscus, or Syrian rose. Hibiscus tea is made from its flowers. It’s good that we have such exotics too...”

### New flowers at an old house

Our conversation continued in the courtyard of the house. Alina and her husband manage half of her great-grandfather’s former school, where their family lives. Our interlocutor talks enthusiastically about flowers, trees and other plants. We shared our experience of propagating boxwoods and thujas from cuttings in a small greenhouse under a city window. From the conversation it is clear how well our interlocutor has the knowledge that helps to grow healthy plants that are pleasing to the eye.

We also saw that very elegant bush of tea roses growing in front of the beautiful branchy willow tree. And

we admired the beautiful cat Zuzushka: when she saw Alina, she asked to be held in her arms, and we greeted her. But the cat, unlike the owner, did not express much desire to communicate with us. We drank delicious cold water from the well, which is not far from the entrance to the house. An aesthetically pleasing stone-lined well decorates the yard. This, Alina said, was the work of her husband. The yard is generally well-kept: filled with flowers, trees and bushes. Everything here from the young housewife is tasteful and in moderation.

### Youth next to the hero

Literally 50 steps from Alina's house there is a monument to Nikolai Goishik, a young hero, a fearless demolitionist of the Felix Dzerzhinsky partisan brigade. During the Great Patriotic War, a local guy destroyed eight enemy trains, the last one at the cost of his own life. We

learn from Alina that together with her students they are cleaning, planting flowers around the monument, and taking care of it. And schoolchildren stand next to the hero as a guard of honour during public holidays. They lay flowers at the feet of Nikolai Goishik, forever seventeen years old.

By the way, as Svetlana Pototskaya, who heads the district's education department, told us, in Ivatsevichi this year on May 9th, the Memory Square was opened after reconstruction, where the Eternal Flame was lit. The fire itself was brought for this purpose from Minsk, lit from the Eternal Flame on Victory Square. A large

honorary mission of fire bearers was performed by 44 graduates of 9 classes who planned to enter the Ivatsevichi Lyceum. Many schoolchildren of the city took part in the ceremony of lighting the Eternal Flame and opening the park. And on May 25th, when the last bell rang, school graduates from the city all came to the park. A small rally and flower laying took place there. And on September 1st,



■ Svetlana Pototskaya: "My favorite flower is a white rose. But there are a lot of other flowers on the plot at the house that we bought 20 years ago: my husband and I arranged everything, decorated everything. Several varieties of lavender have appeared recently, especially lavender smells amazing on summer evenings. Every year there is an update in my flower garden: I plant different flowers. Traditionally already – petunias and sulfinias. I work alone, my husband helps except in redevelopment on the site. And I also love indoor flowers very much. It's from my mom. Now mom is 85, and she has gorgeous flowers growing: these are, as before, different geraniums, scarlet, ficus... Her anthurium blooms wonderfully, for example: it releases more than 20 arrows every time. He has beautiful red flowers, and there are white varieties too."



delegation headed by Raisa Gorbach, who has been heading the Ivatsevichi Museum of History and Local Lore for more than 20 years, travelled to the capital. For her selfless work on the eve of Victory Day this year, she was awarded the honorary title of the Person of the Year of the Brest Region. And together with Raisa Ivanovna, the



memory groups of high school students took bouquets to places in memory of those heroes thanks to whom they will study. "I hope this will become a good tradition," Svetlana Nikolayevna told us, with whom we talked about her everyday life as a leader and about the department's creative projects, including preparations for the fifth anniversary of the ball for gifted youth of the Ivatsevichi District in the Kossovo Palace and Park Complex. And we even had time to talk about her flower hobbies and admire them."

Valentina **Zhdanovich**

Photo by the author and from open sources

# HAPPY FAMILY IS TRENDING



In Belarus, Mother's Day was celebrated on October 14th, which marked the beginning of the Week of Parental Love. And the 21st is Father's Day. This week we also remembered the Day of the Elderly, which has been traditionally celebrated on October 1st for many years in a row.

About the demographic situation in the country and support for families with children — in an interview with the Minister of Labour and Social Protection Irina Kostevich

Irina Kostevich, Minister of Labour and Social Protection,  
“The celebration of Mother's Day, in my opinion, serves as a powerful mobilising factor for uniting the efforts of the entire society in increasing the prestige of motherhood. Worthy mothers of large families are always especially respected. It's not easy to raise, educate and give children a path in life.”



“Irina Anatolyevna, as you know, a happy family is one of the key areas of development of our country. Do Belarusians strive to become parents? What is the role of public policy in this?”

“Our country, like a number of other states, is in a difficult demographic situation.

There are objective reasons for this. A small generation born in the late 1990s — early 2000s has entered active childbearing age. The strategy of marriage and family relations is changing: the age of marriage is increasing, and the age of motherhood and fatherhood is correspondingly increasing.

However, our society has a positive attitude towards parenthood. According to a survey conducted in April — May 2023 by the Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, family and children are among the leading positions in the structure of values of Belarusians.

Women today are purposeful and would like to realize themselves. Because if you look at the labour market, 40% of women have higher education. They received this education for a reason, which means they wanted to realize themselves in a profession and career. We must help a woman realize herself as a mother. We conducted a sociological survey: 80% of Belarusians aim to have a family. This is really important. But a family is not a husband and wife, a family is when there are children. We need to help a woman fulfil her potential in the family and in the profession. This balance — family and work — is very difficult. At the same time, we understand that women have double employment. At work and a layer of work that needs to be done at home (raising children, cooking, cleaning). It's a sea of responsibilities. A woman spends two and a half times more time on housework than a man. It's a challenge. To help a woman balance, we also set ourselves the task of developing a new direction as much as possible, taking a more active approach to this — strengthening the responsibility of fathers in raising children.

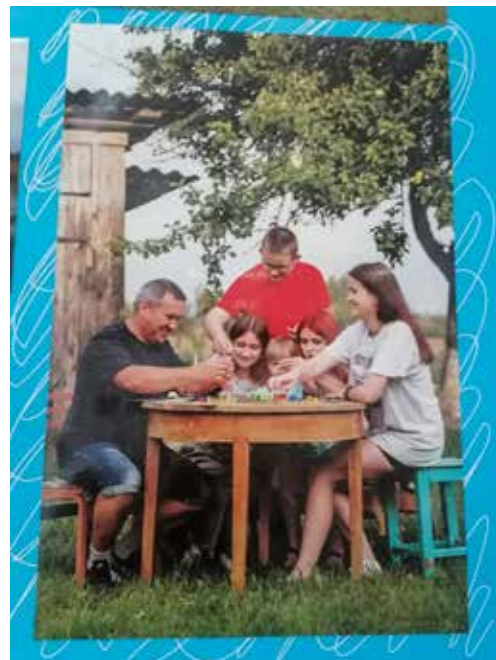


## SOCIAL ASPECTS

Especially for Father's Day, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection acted as one of the organisers of the Dads photo project. The photo shows fathers of different professions together with their children — a doctor, a teacher, an athlete, a firefighter (rescuer), a television worker, a cultural figure. Each of them told a short but inspiring story about their fatherhood. 280 candidates took part in the selection. The exhibition opened on October 12th in the Minsk City Mall and is available for free viewing. A link to this project is also posted on the ministry's website. We plan to hold such exhibitions in all areas by May 2024."







Only health is higher (almost 85%), which is no less important.

At the same time, the results of the study showed that with the generally dominant attitude towards two children among all respondents, extreme positions (one child or many children) significantly depend on the model of the family in which the respondents themselves were raised (45% consider it optimal for themselves to have two children, 22% — one child, 11% — three children, 2% — four or more).

We have confirmation of data on the actual number of children in families from the results of population censuses. Despite the general decline in the birth rate, the number of two-child and large families increased during the intercensus period (2009—2019). Every third family in the country has two children. Since 2020, we have been keeping records of large families, which allows us to talk about further positive dynamics. The number of

large families continues to increase, today there are almost 123 thousand.

The main task of state policy is to create conditions for families to have two, three or more children. To achieve this, the country provides financial support for the birth of children, we help solve housing issues for large and young families with two children, develop the infrastructure of children's educational and medical institutions, expand opportunities for combining work and family responsibilities, for cultural development and family recreation."

"The country's development priority for the five-year plan is a happy family. Maybe it makes sense to assess the importance of parents' work at the state level?"

"The celebration of Mother's Day, in my opinion, serves as a powerful mobilising factor for uniting the efforts of the entire society in increasing the prestige of motherhood. Worthy mothers of large families are always

especially respected. Raising, educating and giving children a path in life is not easy. What if there are five of them?

The best, most hardworking women who gave birth to and raised five or more children are awarded a high state award — the Order of the Mother. 13,370 women have received this award, including 618 this year. A pleasant bonus to the Order of the Mother is a cash payment in the amount of five subsistence minimum budgets.

But in matters of the harmonious development of children and ensuring the stability of family relationships, the role of not only the mother, but also the father is very important. If the mother gives the child tenderness, affection, warmth, then the father provides protection and confidence, helps determine life priorities, and shares wise everyday advice. Often, it is the father who becomes the child's role model. Children unconsciously



## SOCIAL ASPECTS

copy his best qualities, his behaviour, his attitude towards life. Therefore, celebrating Father's Day is another reason for many children to say how much they love them, and for fathers to be proud of this title and continue their family line.

The importance of family and parents for Belarusians is confirmed by the fact that the decrees of the Head of State established four holidays related to the family: Family Day (May 15th), Children's Day (June 1st), Mother's Day (October 14th) and Father's Day

(October 21st). And if we consider the family not only as mother, father and children, but also more broadly, taking into account older generations, then the Day of the Elderly, which we celebrated on October 1st, is also a family holiday."

"Continuing the theme of fatherhood. The question is traditional: have fathers become more active in taking out parental leave for children under three years of age or not?"

"The situation remains virtually unchanged; it is mostly women who take parental leave for children under three years of age. The share of men who took care leave is about 2%.

In my opinion, in relation to vacations, the stereotype that has developed in society is triggered that caring for babies is a woman's responsibility.

Another reason may be the fathers' lack of confidence in their abilities. But the degree of fathers' participation in the lives of their children is measured not only by their time on social leave. For example, according to the survey, responsibilities such as putting children to bed, helping with homework, playing games, and spending leisure time are shared almost equally between

both parents. At the same time, an interesting fact was noted: the higher the father's education, the more actively he is involved in the development and education of the child.

We also see dads being active socially. Especially for Father's Day, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection acted as one of the organisers of the Dads photo project. The photo shows fathers of different professions together with their children — a doctor, a teacher, an athlete, a firefighter (rescuer), a television worker, a cultural figure. Each of them told a short but inspiring story about their fatherhood. 280 candidates took part in the selection.

The exhibition opened on October 12th in the Minsk City Mall and is available for free viewing. A link to this project is also posted on the ministry's website. We plan to hold such exhibitions in all areas by May 2024."

"One of the main directions of the five-year plan is a happy family. Of course, happiness is an intangible category, but how much does it cost the state?"

"The Head of State constantly notes that the social policy pursued in the country helps women to realise their destiny — to raise and raise healthy and happy children. The state supports families by providing various direct payments in the form of benefits, social assistance and other forms of financial support, as well as through benefits and services. Let me give you a few examples.



The task of the state is to create a balance between career and family through the Labour Code. This includes remote work, which was established in 2020 and is developing every year, this is a flexible work schedule. If at first we provided such an opportunity through the Labour Code to large families with one day a week (paid) free from work in order to resolve family and household issues, a new form, an alternative option, will be launched from January 1st, 2024. You can do it one day a week, or you can shorten your working day by one hour. It's flexible, convenient, comfortable. And I think this will get a great response from our families who are raising children, and this applies to large families.



Irina Kostevich in the popular talk show One Hundred Questions for an Adult. The original project started on May 1st on the Belarus 1 TV channel. And it has already gained great interest from TV viewers. In the studio, kids ranging from seven to seventeen years old ask bold questions to famous people in our country. On the Week of Parental Love, October 18th, Irina Kostevich, Minister of Labour and Social Protection, became a guest on the talk show. It was clear from the reactions of the schoolchildren that they were satisfied with the minister's meaningful answers, however, Irina Kostevich herself expressed her sincere gratitude to the children for their unexpected questions.

Br3.5 billion is provided for the payment of benefits to families with children in 2023, more than half of which Br2 billion is for the payment of child care benefits for children under three years of age. Over Br300 million is spent annually on family capital. Family capital under the 2015-2019 programme was assigned in US dollars. \$826 million was allocated to finance it. Since 2020, family capital is assigned in Belarusian roubles. State expenditures amounted to Br1.2 billion.

The maintenance of one child in kindergarten this academic year is about Br530 per month, or Br6.4 thousand per year. In this case, parents only pay for food — Br70-150 per month, depending on the age of the child, the type and operating hours of the preschool institution. Br2.3 billion has been allocated for the maintenance of kindergartens in 2023.

Free education, medical care, sanatorium treatment and health improvement for minors, provision of medicines to children under 3 years of age and disabled children under 18

years of age and many other measures are subsidised by the state.”

“What other tasks does the state set in the development of social protection for families with children?”

“The formed social protection system as a whole fulfils its task, providing a stable socio-economic platform for all aspects of family life. We constantly analyse the relevance and effectiveness of certain measures, and study pain points to resolve them.

Our immediate tasks include issues of family capital and strengthening the targeting of the benefit system. This is a significant financial investment by the state in the family. It is necessary to take into account that the state's concern for the family must necessarily be correlated with the family's concern for its well-being.

The Head of State raised a very pressing issue — the protection of children in dysfunctional families. I would like to note that family dysfunction is not widespread. But every family in which there is even the slightest sign of crisis situations

requires maximum attention from government services and from the surrounding community. Why? Because there are no other people's children.

There are 10 thousand families in the country in which children are recognised as being in a socially dangerous situation, the main reason (60%) being parental drunkenness. But parents are important for every child, even those who, with their irresponsible behaviour, deprive him of a happy childhood. Therefore, while maintaining a family environment for the child, control over such families and over the use of social benefits by parents in the interests of children has been tightened.

Prevention of family dysfunction, restoration of spiritual and moral guidelines of family life, preservation of the healthy potential of the family in all its senses are the areas that are on our agenda.”

Inga **Likhtarovich**

Photo by the author and from open sources

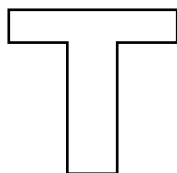
WE ARE STILL IN OUR PRIME

# INFLUENCE FACTORS,



# OR TOUCHES TO THE PORTRAIT OF A CENTENARIAN





**The topic of longevity has worried and worries people all over the world. Researchers from many countries are working on it. Belarus is no exception. What are they like, those to whom fate has given the opportunity to cross the hundred-year mark? And in general, what determines the duration of our lives.**

*According to the United Nations, by 2020 the number of people on the planet over sixty years of age exceeded nine hundred million, twice the data from twenty years ago. That is, in just the last twenty years, the life expectancy of people in the world has increased. Moreover, it is predicted that by 2030 the figure will increase by more than fifty percent. At the same time, about ten percent will be people over 85 years of age.*

### **What do the statistics say?**

Belarusian scientists have been conducting research on the topic of longevity for years. By the way, for our country, the population aging coefficient — the proportion of people over 65 years of age in the structure of the entire population — already five years ago was about 20 percent, and this is a decent figure.

So what is the portrait of the Belarusian centenarian? Research on the topic of longevity in Belarus is conducted by the Institute of Genetics and Cytology of the National Academy of Sciences together with employees of the Department of Gerontology of the Belarusian Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education, who communicate directly with patients. They note that long-livers are, as a rule, people living in families with a higher level of social interaction and communication skills. That is, they lead an active lifestyle, have hobbies, and communicate with friends. In addition, it was revealed that patients who came from a long-lived family, where the life expectancy of their parents was more than 85 years, were also more socially active, and in the morbidity structure they had a smaller number of concomitant pathologies.



■ According to the United Nations, by 2020, the number of inhabitants of the planet over sixty years old exceeded nine hundred million people, half covering the data of twenty years ago. That is, in just the last twenty years, the life expectancy of people in the world has increased. Moreover, it is predicted that by 2030 the figure will grow by more than fifty percent. At the same time, about ten percent will be people over 85 years old.

According to statistics, by 2030 every fifth resident of our country will reach the age of 65. Now in Belarus there are about one and a half million people over 65 years old, almost a million of whom are pensioners aged 65—75 years, the rest are people of respectable age from 75 years and older. And more than four hundred have crossed the century mark.

### Invaluable material for new research

Who are these people, many of whom experienced the hardships and deprivations of war? Unique information about them formed the basis of the DNA database of Belarusian centenarians. Today it contains data on two hundred citizens over 90 years of age and five hundred aged 60 — 89 years.

In general, the country has created an extensive DNA database of Belarusian centenarians. Here are not only their genetic, but also biochemical data. The composition of the blood was studied — the level of glucose, cholesterol, etc., as well as the hormonal status of these people. This data is invaluable material for conducting new various studies, based on the results of which specialists gain additional knowledge about the mechanisms of longevity and options for correcting lifestyle to continue its active period. All information is used by employees of the Belarusian Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education to improve the qualifications of general practitioners and geriatricians. Of course, increasing knowledge about the aging process and ways to improve the quality of life of older people is one of the most pressing tasks of modern society in any country, including Belarus. Therefore, the country is currently implementing the National Strategy of Active Longevity Until 2030, which also includes the formation of strategies aimed at the prevention and treatment of widespread socially significant diseases.

### The key to a long life

By the way, based on the updated classification, WHO defines old age only from 75 years. And this is quite justified, because today there are more and more active people among those who have passed a significant age mark. The raised pension bar is justified in our country. Who would dare call a blooming 55-year-old woman old? Life expectancy is also increasing because, experts note, that even when retiring, a person does not plan to sit at home. In fact, we do not have the restriction: 'If you retire, stay at home'. If people understand that they can work, they continue to work.

It is a mistake to think that the key to a long life lies only in genetics. At least the President of the World Longevity Society, Roberto Pili, is known to have noted that genetics are only a quarter of success. Equally important are interactions with the environment, lifestyle, nutrition and cultural development.



Leading researcher at the Laboratory of Environmental Genetics and Biotechnology at the Institute of Genetics and Cytology of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Yelena Mikhaleiko, compiled her rating, where she allocated 30 percent to lifestyle, genetics and the environment respectively. Her rating is as follows. Lifestyle, including nutrition, physical activity and national traditions, makes up 30 percent of success. The same amount is determined by genetics/heredity and the environment (place of residence, working conditions). In fourth place (up to 10 percent) is the level of medical care. Without a doubt, there are a number of diseases that go against longevity. But, the specialist is sure, they can and should be warned. A number of chronic pathologies are associated with a decrease in life expectancy. First of all, these are cardiovascular diseases, diabetes mellitus, and a number of cancer diseases. All these problems are also called multifactorial, since their development is determined by a combination of unfavourable factors, including poor nutrition, heredity, bad habits, and environmental pollution. Prevention of these diseases should begin at school age, the scientist is convinced.

### It is not that simple

Today, as we study more and more the science of nutrition, we understand that it is also largely the key



to longevity. Moreover, if it is food that suits us. By the way, changing your diet can significantly affect the functional state of the body and especially metabolism, since nutrition is one of the most important preventive measures in the fight for health and longevity. On the contrary, malnutrition often becomes the cause of the development of serious pathological processes in the body. Numerous epidemiological and clinical studies show that a high-calorie diet with large amounts of fat containing saturated fatty acids, cholesterol, simple carbohydrates and table salt contributes to the development of hypercholesterolemia (a disorder of cholesterol metabolism), obesity, diabetes mellitus, and arterial hypertension. That is, due to such a menu, disorders arise that become risk factors for atherosclerosis and heart attack. In turn, the development of these pathologies also depends on our genetic characteristics. Therefore, a diet developed taking into account the presence of genetic risk either reduces the risk of many chronic diseases or promotes long-term remission of existing diseases. Actually, this is what nutrigenetics does.

However, history knows examples of those who cared little about their health, but lived a long life. So which is correct? Scientists are confident that such examples are rather an exception to the rule. The option 'I smoked or drank all my life, but lived a long life' covers only isolated cases, few people personally know such people in their circle, more often it is 'I was told'. In the personal rating of specialists, the correct lifestyle as a factor of longevity is still in first place.

### Work leads to results

A few years ago it was noted that Belarusian scientists had found a supergene associated with longevity. Does this mean that automatically only carriers of this gene will live long? Indeed, studies have shown that our centenarians are more likely to have a favourable variant of the gene, which determines the proper functioning of a number of systems, including the immune and cardiovascular systems, explains Yelena Mikhaleiko. But, in her firm belief, it would be wrong to say that only carriers of this gene will live long. Scientists believe that such information will be used correctly by people of the second group. This means that carriers of an unfavourable variant of such a gene should be more attentive to their health. By the way, these people may just be a group for whom a number of preventive measures are needed.

The Institute of Genetics and Cytology, the Department of General Medical Practice with a Geriatrics Course at the Belarusian Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education and the Minsk Regional Clinical Hospital for Disabled Persons of the Great Patriotic War continue to work in the field of longevity. We are talking about studies aimed at assessing the risk of lipid metabolism disorders associated with both metabolic diseases and diabetes mellitus, as well as cardiovascular diseases. These studies include identifying biochemical and genetic indicators of such problems, as well as studying the composition of the intestinal microbiota. It is planned to develop an algorithm for assessing lipid metabolism disorders by the end of the year, which can then be used in a number of medical institutions.

Aleksandr **Pimenov**





**The food additive E621, better known as monosodium glutamate, is popular all over the world; the fashion for it came after oriental cuisine, where it is used widely and often. In Western industry, monosodium glutamate is added to processed meats and soup concentrates. The additive is usually used to restore or enhance the taste. However, there is still much debate about glutamate. Is it harmful to health or absolutely safe? Does it really lead to cardiovascular diseases, cancer and the risk of obesity? Why does it make us eat more and more? We are talking about this with a neurosurgeon, a researcher at the Department of Brain Tumours of the Republican Scientific and Practical Centre of Oncology and Medical Radiology named after N. N. Aleksandrov, and a teacher at the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery of the BelMAPE Gumen Ghorbannijad.**

**“Gumen, why do we like junk food so much?”**

“It is a well-known fact that more people in the world die every year from obesity than from hunger. Receptors in our tongue perceive four main types of tastes — bitter, sweet, sour, salty. But there is also a fifth one, it is called ‘umami’. And it is a great friend of the food industry and, oddly enough, pharmacology. In 1907, Tokyo Imperial University professor Ikeda Kikunae first isolated the substance monosodium glutamate, better known to us as monosodium glutamate. He liked the way his wife cooked: he noticed that she made all her dishes using seaweed broth. Many women cooked this way in Japan. They used kombu, a type of kelp found in Southeast Asia. Kombu is actually added to many products nowadays, and there are even corresponding dietary supplements. The algae contains a large amount of iodine, helps improve heart function, has an antithrombotic effect, counteracts the development of rickets, osteoporosis, caries, strengthens nails and hair, and has a general strengthening immunomodulatory effect. Kombu contains glutamic acid. And Ikeda Kikunae managed to synthesise it artificially, by hydrolysis of soy and wheat proteins, and it was called monosodium glutamate, abbreviated MSG. Natural glutamate is no different from a chemically produced food additive. In appearance it resembles salt. A Japanese scientist discovered an interesting thing: glutamic acid is an amino acid. And our body needs them. And this is the first taste that a person perceives, because it is also found

in mother’s milk. In fact, it is the first taste that a person encounters.

By and large, glutamic acid is a protein marker for the body: if it is present in food, then this amino acid is also present. Accordingly, umami taste is the body’s way of finding protein-rich foods. All natural products the taste of which we like contain MSG — meat, fish, mushrooms, cheeses, dairy products. This is why glutamate tastes so good to us, which is what the food industry takes advantage of. Glutamic acid is also synthesised in the human body; it is important for metabolism and the nervous system.

Monosodium glutamate began to be produced and used as a seasoning first in Japan. There it was sold under the name ‘Ajinomoto’ (‘essence of taste’). Japanese and Chinese restaurants widely used MSG in their products, especially since the seaweed from which it was obtained was well known to them. In the late 60s of the last century, when Chinese restaurants were widespread in the United States, thanks to the use of MSG, they provided great competition to American restaurants. And the latter began to carry out large anti-advertising of monosodium glutamate in the press: as if the additive causes headaches, increases blood pressure, causes diabetes and cancer. Essentially, it was working against competitors.”

**“Is there really evidence of the negative health effects of monosodium glutamate?”**

“As we said, this amino acid is even found in breast milk. It does not cause any harm in itself. The problem is where it is added. The Americans themselves quickly realised that instead of carrying out anti-advertising for MSG, it was better to use it themselves — and things started to progress.

In fact, everything we eat — fast food, chips, processed meats — contains large amounts of monosodium glutamate. Without this supplement we will not be able to eat them. The same chips without MSG are tasteless paste. It's no secret that food in fast food restaurants is not the healthiest; the meat they use is of the lowest quality. If you remove MSG from sausages, other semi-finished meat products, dumplings, fast food, chips, they will be absolutely tasteless.

But the laws of business dictate to take the cheapest raw materials, produce and sell more products with maximum income. Food companies also adhere to this principle. And monosodium glutamate helps with this, as it works like a drug. Everyone has probably noticed that when you open a pack of chips, you can't stop until you get the last crumbs. Monosodium glutamate activates a neural connection in the brain that this food contains protein, which means it is the best for us, but in fact deceives us and makes us eat more and more. Glutamate is addictive, and this makes it very dangerous for children. If a child is fed foods that contain large amounts of MSG, other foods that do not contain this additive will be unpalatable to him throughout his life. It's like an addiction for a drug addict: to eat only those products that contain glutamate.

If a child is offered a choice of a plate of buckwheat with a cutlet and ice cream sprinkled with chocolate, then he will choose ice cream. In childhood, the brain will always choose the product with more calories, because the body, which grows quickly and moves a lot, must accumulate them. And if you add glutamate to this, then neural connections are developed that are difficult to break in the future.

There have been lawsuits against McDonald's in many countries due to the fact that they advertised and sold their products for children, such as Happy Meal, with toys inside. It is noteworthy that they are prohibited in the United States. There is a law there that you cannot put edible and inedible things in one package. If children eat these foods, they will eat a lot of glutamate-rich foods as adults.”

**“What is the harm of glutamate for adults?”**

“Thanks to it, a person eats a large amount of fast food and other low-quality food. Essentially, glutamate causes us to not pay attention to the quality of our food. And to MSG, as a rule, large amounts of sugar and salt are added, which also work as flavour enhancers. Abusing them also does not bring any benefit.

In addition, we cannot stop, and this leads to obesity. For children, a general problem is obesity, then type 2 diabetes, hypertension. In addition, a lot of dyes are added to such food to give it an attractive appearance. They are tasteless and some are even carcinogenic, and when we add MSG, we want more and more of this product.

It's good that we managed to exclude sausages and dumplings from school meals, but if children didn't eat them at home, it would be great.”

**“Why are there so many obese people in America?”**

“It's a national problem there. Business laws have not been repealed. And giant food companies also use these techniques for their profits. It's difficult to fight them. For example, it was recently officially announced that artificial sugar is a carcinogen that causes cancer. But the recommendations do not say to eliminate sweetener in food products. This is impossible to do, because then you need to ban diet cola and chewing gum that do not contain natural sugar. Hundreds, if not thousands of products are automatically dropped.

These food giants are quite influential; the same Coca-Cola and Pepsi-Cola earn billions around the world, and it is very difficult to resist them.”

**“Which foods contain the most glutamate?”**

“There are sites where we can find information on the amount of MSG in a particular food product. In first place are fast food, chips, sausages, dumplings.”

**“Why is glutamate loved not only by food companies, but also by pharmaceutical companies?”**

“If large amounts of MSG, salt and sugar are added to foods, you can eat anything under their cover. And it doesn't matter that the composition may contain a carcinogen. In addition, we eat more than we need, because the feeling of fullness is slowed down, and this causes obesity. And it leads to type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, hypertension and malignant tumours.

Thus, thanks to MSG, a large number of drugs are included in the sale for the treatment of diabetes, lowering blood pressure, improving the functioning of the cardiovascular system and antitumor treatment. Pharmaceutical companies also adhere to the laws of business: the more sold, the greater the profit.

So monosodium glutamate itself is not harmful, but the food to which it is added and the amount in which we absorb it are harmful. But it brings good profits to food and pharmaceutical companies.”

**“Is the scientific or medical community trying to combat this somehow?”**

“In the USA, Europe and other developed countries this is a big problem. People consume large amounts of junk food disguised as flavour enhancers, and this causes a large number of diseases. States have to spend a lot of money on improving the health of the population.

Today there is talk of putting “healthy food” or, conversely, ‘harmful’ stickers on packages, similar to cigarettes. Countries such as Mexico and Venezuela already use such stickers. They want to implement the same on the European market. After all, it's quite difficult for us to independently understand the large number of E additives, which are also written in small print. Stickers might make things easier. Of course, this will be a big blow to food companies and is unlikely to be welcomed by them.”

Yelena **Kravets**

# МЁРСКИМІ СЦЕЖКАМІ

Паселішчы Мёрскага раёна спярша былі знаёмыя мне завочна, кажучы сённяшняй мовай, віртуальна. Яшчэ на пачатку 1980-х пачалося наша сяброўства з руплівым збіральнікам памятак Віцебскай зямлі, памятак Мёршчыны і ваколіц, апантаным краянаўцам і паэтам, публіцыстам, даследчыкам і ваеннай драматычнай гісторыі гэтай старонкі Сяргеем Панізнікам. Першапачаткова да знаёмства сталася адкрыццё яго паэтычнага зборніка – “Палявая пошта”. Гляджу зараз на рэпрадукцыі старых паштовак з калекцыі Уладзіміра Ліхадзедава – і наноў згадваю расповяды Сяргея Сцяпанавіча. Сядзібны дом у Асада Дзедзіна, сядзібны дом у Мёрах, касцёл Узняснення Найсвяцейшай Дзевы Марыі, Забалоцце, Ідолта, Каменполле, Крычава, Лявонпаль, Троіцкая царква ў Лявонпалі, Калона ў Лявонпалі, Мікалаёва, званіца ў Навалоцы, касцёл Святой Тройцы ў Новым Пагосце, Узмёны, Чарасы, Язна...

З аўтабіяграфіі мёрскага паэта Сяргея Панізніка: “... Пазнаю свой мацярык. Але лягчэй пранесціся ў думках на падкову Дзвіны між Дружай, Дрысай, Дзісной, “прыязмліца” на маё радзінае поле. 10 траўня 1942 года я з’явіўся на свет у вёсцы Бабышкі. У вёсцы? На даўняй карце бачыў абрысы такой вёскі. А на мяне з дзяцінства глядзелі сядзібы хутароў пры рэчцы Волце ў Мёрскім раёне Віцебскай вобласці... <...> Маё радзінае поле – у полі касмічнай інфармацыі. У ім заўсёды існуе тое, што прамінула. Адлюстраванне людства галасоў маіх Бабышак можна адчуць, ажывіць, калі толькі захацець. Таму я лёгка пераношуся ў думках не на пустэчу, а ў тыя згусткі энергіі, у тую рухомую матэрыю, дзе пачыналася мая існасць...” І яшчэ пісаў Сяргей Сцяпанавіч у 2008 годзе ў эсэ “Не толькі Гамеру...”: “... І зноў наперад – у мінулае! 1999 год – год заснавання Музея радзімазнаўства ў Лявонпалі. Там цяпер сельскі цэнтр культуры і вольнага часу,

## MIORY TRAILS

At first, the settlements of Miory District were familiar to me in absentia, in today's language, virtually. Back in the early 1980s, our friendship began with Siarhei Paniznik, a diligent collector of memorabilia of Vitebsk land, memorabilia of the Miory District and its surroundings, obsessed local historian and poet, publicist, researcher of the military drama history of this area. The opening of his poetry collection Field Mail was the first impetus to get to





адзін на ўвесь Мёрскі раён. Што прамінула – не знікла, а засталася, хай сабе ў экспанатах музея і яго філіяле – “Хаце бабкі Ядзвіні”. Дзе як не ў родным Лявонпалі мне адзначаць 50-годдзе творчай работы – дату маёй першай публікацыі ў раённай газеце. Прыйдзеца зноў паўтарыць перад маладым земляком, мёрскім мальцам: “Тут падрасла арэшына-ляшчына, тут голас мамы – голас ручая.../ Жыве сцяжына, твая сцяжына, / сцяжынка незарослая мая”. У бабушаўскім доме ў нас стаялі кросны. Але я зусім нядаўна даведаўся, што ткача, які нацягваў аснову, звалі так: панізь. Таму мяккі знак з наймення ткача-прафесіянала я часам устаўляю ў сваё прозвішча Панізнік...”

І мы “сцяжынкамі незарослымі” пойдзем па Мёрскім краі. У Мёрах, несумненна, экскурсія павінна быць шмат даўжэйшая. Спярша назва Мёраў адносілася да назвы возера. На старадаўніх картах яно так і называецца – Мёры. Цяпер – возера Мёрскае. Паселішча вядомасць сваю мае з 1514 года – маёнтак Мярэя Браслаўскага павета Вялікага Княства Літоўскага. У 1644 годзе тут быў праваслаўны манастыр. У 1691 годзе пабудаваны ў Мёрах касцёл. З 1793 года паселішча – у складзе Расійскай імперыі. У 1886 годзе насельніцтва мястэчка

складала ўсяго 110 жыхароў. Штогод арганізоўваліся два кірмашы. Стаялі тры карчмы. У 1903 годзе – ужо 145 жыхароў, народнае вучылішча, царкоўнапрыходская школа. Паводле Рыжскага дагавора 1921 года Мёры адыйшлі да Польшчы. Цэнтр гміны Дзісенскага павета Віленскага ваяводства. З восені 1939 года паселішча і ваколіцы далучаны да БССР. З ліпеня 1941 года Мёры акупіравалі нямецка-фашысцкія захопнікі. За перыяд акупацыі гітлераўцы загубілі ў Мёрах 662 чалавекі. А 2 чэрвеня 1942 было ліквідавана 779 яўрэяў з гета... 4 ліпеня 1944 Мёры былі вызвалены войскамі 1-га Прыбалтыйскага фронту і партызанамі. Пачалася новая, болей блізкая да нас гісторыя... Мы згадвалі паштоўку з выявай

Асада Дзедзіна. Зазірніце ў гэтую вёску. Будзеце мець магчымасць на свае вочы ўбачыць сляды, сённяшні стан сядзібна-паркавага ансамбля Рудніцкіх. Гэта – помнік сядзібна-паркавай архітэктуры класіцызму. Створаны быў у 1810-1820 гг. Апошні ўладальнік – Вішнявецкі. У вёсцы Вята зможаце зазірнуць у касцёл Святога Яна Хрысціцеля, які быў пабудаваны ў 1932-1934 гг. Цікавым падаецца і паселішча Галомысла са Свята-Іана-Багаслоўскай царквою (пабудавана ў 1840 годзе). У Каменполлі разгледзьце руіны, сляды

know each other. I am now looking at the reproductions of old postcards from the collection of Uladzimir Likhadzedau — and I am once again mentioning the stories of Siarhei Stsiapanavich. The manor house in Asad Dzedzin, the manor house in Miory, the Church of the Ascension of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Zabalotze, Idolta, Kamenpolle, Krychava, Liavonpal, the Trinity Church in Liavonpal, the Column in Liavonpal, Mykalayova, the bell tower in Navaloka, the Church of the Holy Trinity in Novy Pagost, Uzmeny, Charasy, Yazna...

From the autobiography of the city poet Siarhei Paniznik, “...I recognise my mainland. But it is easier to drift in thoughts to the horseshoe of Dvina between Druya, Drisa, Disna, to ‘land’ on my field. On May 10th, 1942, I was born in the village of Babyshki. In the village? I saw the outlines of such a village on an old map. And from my childhood, the estates of the farms near the Volta River in the Miory District of the Vitebsk Region looked at me... <...> My native field is in the field of space information. There is always something that has passed in it. The reflection of the humanity of the voices of my Babyshki can be felt, brought to life, if you want to. That is why I easily transfer my thoughts not to the void, but to those lumps of energy, to that moving matter, where my existence began...” And in 2008, Siarhei Stsiapanavich wrote in the essay Not Only to Homer..., “...And again forward — into the past! 1999 is the year of the founding of the Museum of Folklore in Liavonpal. There is now a rural centre of culture and free time, one for the entire Miory District. What has passed has not disappeared, but remains in the exhibits of the museum and its branch — Grandmother Yadzvinia’s House. Where else should I celebrate the 50th anniversary of my creative work — the date of my first publication in the district newspaper — but my native Liavonpal. I will have to repeat again in front of a young countryman, a small town boy: ‘A hazel nut has grown here, /



Потэжнае казаніе Кс. Хордзіна ў Мёрскім касцёле, зробленае праз Нізку з афар. у нізку рока.

here my mother’s voice is the voice of a stream.../ The path is alive, your path, / my path that is not overgrown. We had looms in the Babyshki house. But I recently found out that the weaver who stretched the warp was called ‘paniz’. That’s why I sometimes insert a soft sign from the name of a professional weaver into my surname Paniznik...”

And we will go along ‘not overgrown paths’ in the Miory District. Undoubtedly, the excursion in Miory should be much longer. At first, the name Miory referred to the name of the lake. On old maps, it is called Miory. Now



■ Сядзібны дом. 1934 год.

сядзібна-паркавага ансамблю Мірскіх. Пабудаваны ён быў у канцы XIX – пачатку XX стагоддзя. Апошнім уладальнікам быў Віслаў Святаполк-Мірскі (1896 – 1951). А пачатак “камянпольскай лініі” Святаполк-Мірскіх – з лоўчага brasлаўскага Яна Станіслава Святаполк-Мірскага (1690 – 1761).

Не меней цікавымі будуць агледзіны вёскі Лявонпаль, якая месціцца на Заходняй Дзвіне. Яшчэ ў 1768 – 1769 гг. Мікалай Тадэвуш Лапацінскі (1715 – 1778) узвёў тут невялікі палац, які захаваўся да нашых дзён. Побач гаспадар разбіў французскі парк на тэрасах. Некалі на галоўнай восі сядзібы стаяла брама. У 1772 годзе ў мястэчку збудавалі драўляную ўніяцкую царкву са званіцай. У маёнтку была наладжана вытворчасць каберцаў, сурвэтак, абрусаў з друйскага лёну. Працавалі ў Лявонпалі і капялюшная і суконная мануфактура. Непадалёку ад Лявонпалі – і Узмёны... У 1882 годзе тут была ўзведзена Свята-Мікалаеўская царква... Дарэчы, да Першай Сусветнай вайны у Лявонпалі захоўвалася багатая бібліятэка, заснаваная яшчэ пісарам Вялікага княства Літоўскага графам Лапацінскім. У кніжнай калекцыі меліся і старадрукі XVI – XVII стагоддзяў. У час Першай Сусветнай вайны калекцыя кніг, сямейны архіў Лапацінскіх, збор гравюр, іншых мастацкіх твораў былі вывезены.

Мёры, Мёрскі край – радзіма многіх знакамітасцяў. Вандруючы гарадскімі вуліцамі – 17 верасня, 350-годдзя Мёрам, Гагарына і Даватара, Зарэчнай і Камсамольскай, Кастрычніцкай, Кветкавай, Кірава, Максіма Горкага, Якуба Коласа, Янкі Купалы, Максіма Багдановіча, Чарняхоўскага, Паштовай, Пятра Брынкевіча (воін-афганец), Сяргея Закрэўскага (таксама воін-афганец; пасмяротна ўзнагароджаны ордэнам Чырвонай Зоркі) і іншымі, а таксама адкрываючы розныя вёскі і вёсачкі Мёршчыны, ведайце, што гэтыя сцяжыны – родныя і для згаданага

— lake Myorskaye. The settlement has been known since 1514 — the estate of Miory of the Braslau County of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. In 1644, there was an Orthodox monastery here. In 1691, a church was built in Miory. Since 1793, the settlement has been part of the Russian Empire. In 1886, the population of the town was only 110 inhabitants. Two fairs were organised annually. There were three taverns. In 1903, there were already 145 inhabitants, a folk school, a parish school. According to the Treaty of Riga in 1921, the Miory were transferred to Poland. The centre of the commune of Disna County, Vilnius Voivodeship. Since the fall of 1939, the settlement and its surroundings have been annexed to the BSSR. On July 3rd, 1941, Miory was occupied by German-fascist invaders. During the period of occupation, the Nazis lost 662 people in Miory. And on June 2nd, 1942, 779 Jews were eliminated from the ghetto... On July 4th, 1944, Miory was liberated by the troops of the 1st Baltic Front and partisans. A new, more recent story has begun...

We mentioned the postcard with the image by Asad Dziedzic. Take a look at this village. You will have the opportunity to see with your own eyes the traces, the current state of the Rudnitski manor-park ensemble. This is a monument of manor and park architecture of classicism. It was created in 1810—1820. The last owner is Vishniavetskyi. In the village of Vyata, you can see the Church of St. John the Baptist, which was built in 1932—1934. The settlement of Holomysla with the Church of St. John the Baptist (built in 1840) also looks interesting. In Kamenpolle, explore the ruins and traces of the Miory manor and park complex. It was built at the end of the 19th — beginning of the 20th century. The last owner was Wisław Svyatopolk-Mirski (1896 — 1951). And the beginning of the ‘Kamenpolle line’ of the Svyatopolk-Mirski is from Yan Stanislav Svyatopolk-Mirski (1690 — 1761), chasseur from Braslav.

No less interesting will be a tour of the village of Liavonpal, which is located on the Western Dvina. Back in 1768-1769, Nicholas Tadeusz Lopatinsky (1715 — 1778) built a small palace here, which has survived to this day. Nearby, the owner built a French terraced park. Once there was a gate on the main axis of the estate. In 1772, a wooden Unionist church with a bell tower was built in the town. The estate was set up for the production of mats, napkins, and tablecloths made of Druia linen. A hat and cloth manufactory also worked in Liavonpal. Uzmeny are also not far from Liavonpal... In 1882, the Church of St. Nicholas was built here... By the way, before the First World War, a rich library was kept in Liavonpal, founded by Count Lopatinsky, the scribe of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The book collection also



■ Школа. 1938 год.

паэта і краязнаўца Сяргея Панізніка, і для пісьменніка Франца Сіўко, для Героя Савецкага Саюза віцэ-адмірала Ягора Томкі (гэта ў яго гонар названа вуліца ў Мёрах), паэта, прэзідэнта і публіцыста Вайніслава Казіміра Савіча-Заблоцкага, легендарнага снайпера Іосіфа Пілюшына, які знішчыў 136 салдат і афіцэраў праціўніка, закатаванага фашыстамі каталіцкага святара Юрыя Кашыры, расійскага генетыка Багуслава Курловіч, рэвалюцыянеркі Ганны Дрэйзеншток, якая ў 1945 годзе ўзначальвала кніжнае выдавецтва ў Забайкаллі, у Чыце, музыканта і фалькларыста стваральніка Беларускага дзяржаўнага ансамбля песні і танца Генадзя Цітовіча (у 1982 годзе ў школе на яго радзіме ў вёсцы Новы Пагост у гонар музыканта, фалькларыста, дырыжора, грамадскага дзеяча Генадзя Цітовіча быў створаны школьны музей), добрам вядомай нашай сучаснай дзіцячай пісьменніцы Алены Масла, кнігі якой выходзяць у розных краінах свету, паэта Паўла Сушко, жывапісца Міхася Ляўковіча, літаратуразнаўца, доктара філалагічных навук Галіны Тычко... Дарэчы, Новы Пагост, радзіма Цітовіча, -- яшчэ і старонка, якая дала крылы ў вялікі свет такой легендарнай, асэння забытай асобе, як Анда Міронаўна Дрэйзеншток (1896 – 1975), якая была актыўным удзельнікам рэвалюцыйнага руху. Знаходзілася на партыйнай рабоце. Працавала ва Усходне-Сібірскім крайкаме ВКП (б). У 1937 годзе была арыштавана. А праз два гады старую бальшавічку вызвалілі. Надалей пражывала ў Чыце, Іркуцку. Была ўзнагароджана ордэнам Леніна, медалём “За доблесную працу ў вялікай Айчыннай вайне 1941 – 1945 гг.”...

У вёсцы Ніўкі Перабродскага сельсавета ў 1920-1930-я гады настаўнічаў Флор Манцэвіч (1890 – 1941), які пад псеўданімам Якім Пярэчка ў дакастрычніцкія гады друкаваўся ў газеце “Наша ніва”.

Кастусь **Лешніца**  
Фота з калекцыі Уладзіміра **Ліхадзедава**

contained old prints of the 16th — 17th centuries. During the First World War, the collection of books, the family archive of the Lopatinskys, a collection of engravings, and other works of art were taken away.

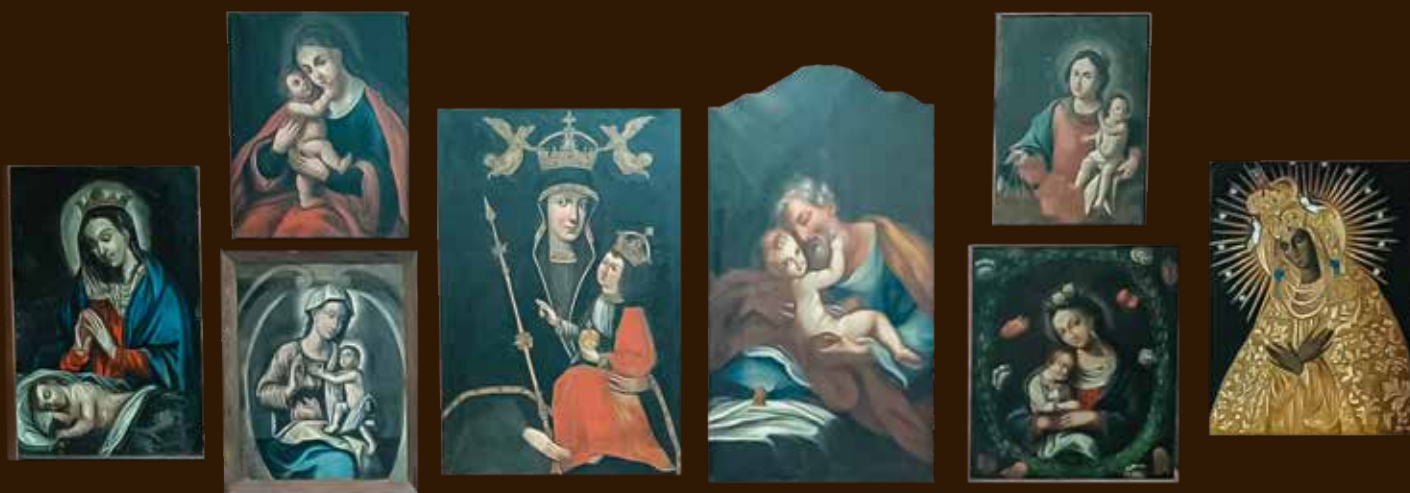
Miory, Miory region is the birthplace of many celebrities. Walking through the city streets — September 17th, the 350th anniversary of Miory, Gagarina and Davatara, Zarechnaya and Komsomolskaya, Kastrychnitskaya, Kvetkavaya, Kirava, Maksima Gorkaga, Yakuba Kolasa, Yanki Kupaly, Maksima Bahdanovicha, Charnyakhouskaga, Pashtovaya, Piatra Brynkevicha (Afghan warrior), Siarheya Zakreuskaga (also an Afghan soldier; posthumously awarded the Order of the Red Star) and others, as well as discovering various villages and hamlets of the Miory region, know that these paths are native to the aforementioned poet and local historian Siarhei Paniznik, and to the writer Frantz Siuko, to the Hero of the Soviet Union of Vice-Admiral Yahor Tamko (a street in Miory is named after him), the poet, novelist and publicist Vainislau Kazimir Savich-Zablotsky, the legendary sniper Iosif Pilyushin, who killed 136 soldiers and officers of the enemy, the Catholic priest Yuri Kashira, who was tortured by the fascists, the Russian genetics of Baguslau Kurlovych, the revolutionary Hanna Dreizenstock, who in 1945 headed a book publishing house in Transbaikalia, in Chita, the musician and folklorist, the creator of the Belarusian State Song and Dance Ensemble, Gennady Tsitovich (in 1982 at the school in his homeland in the village of Novy Pagost in honour of the musician, folklorist, conductor, public figure Gennady Tsitovich, a school museum was created), our well-known modern children's writer Alena Masla, whose books are published in different countries of the world, poet Pavel Sushko, painter Mihlas Liaukovich, literary critic, doctor of philology Halina Tychko... By the way, Novy Pagost, Tsitovich's birthplace, is also a page that gave wings to the big world to such a legendary, but today forgotten person as Anda Mironauna Dreizenstock (1896 — 1975), who was an active participant in the revolutionary movement. She was involved in the party work. She worked in the East Siberian Regional Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine (Bolsheviks). In 1937 she was arrested. And two years later, the old Bolshevik woman was released. Later she lived in Chita, Irkutsk. She was awarded the Order of Lenin, the medal For Valiant Work in the Great Patriotic War of 1941—1945...

In the 1920s and 1930s, Flor Mantsevich (1890 — 1941) was a teacher in the village of Niuki of the Perebrody village council, he published in the newspaper Nasha Niva under the pseudonym Yakim Perechka in the pre-October years.

Кастусь **Leshnitsa**  
Photo from the collection of Uladzimir **Likhodedov**



# WEALTH OF CULTURAL HERITAGE



**The Images of the Holy Family exhibition from the collections of the Museum of Old Belarusian Culture of the Centre for Research of Belarusian Culture, Language and Literature of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus was exhibited in the main museum of the country and left the most favourable educational impression**

The exhibition was timed to coincide with the Day of National Unity and is intended to actualize the idea that culture, art and science are a serious peace-making tool for the development of public life. And in a small exhibition by museum standards, icons of the 17th — first half of the 19th centuries were displayed, as well as samples of vestments — liturgical clothing of Catholic priests of the 18th — 19th centuries.

General Director of the National Art Museum Anna Kononova noted at the opening of the exhibition that a sacred image is always a very serious symbolic spiritual guideline for



leadership of the National Art Museum, employees of the National Academy of Sciences, the Centre for Research of Belarusian Culture and the Ministry of Culture for their efforts to preserve and promote the values of traditional culture. “It’s gratifying to see that Belarus has become an island of safety for such unique relics,” added Viktoria Sergeyeva.

The icons presented at the exhibition belong to various Christian churches, which for centuries have coexisted together in Belarus as a multinational and multi-confessional country. The central iconographic image, which can be seen in the altar paintings



the personality of every person and calls on us to show the best qualities, dreams, aspirations and fortunes.

“Although the exhibition is small, it still seems very significant to us, because it presents images of the Holy Family. And the family is the foundation from which our unity is formed,” said in turn the Head of the Department of Ancient Belarusian Culture of the Centre for Research of Belarusian Culture, Language and Literature of the National Academy of Sciences, candidate of art history, associate professor Boris Lazuko.

Second Secretary of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Belarus Viktoria Sergeyeva thanked the



*The Virgin and Child Christ and St. Joseph with Christ*, is a reflection of the pattern of family life.

The icons *Our Lady of Ostrobramskaya* and *Our Lady of Belynichi*, revered both in the east and in the west of Belarus, both in the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church, took pride of place in the exhibition row. The altar painting presented at the exhibition belongs to the Belarusian school of icon painting and emphasises the richness of the cultural heritage of our people. The exhibition space also included a number of arnats of the 18th-19th centuries, made in various techniques.

Veniamin **Mikheyev**

# WALKING ON THE CLOUDS AND ABOVE

An intimate conversation with Lyudmila Khitrova, leading soloist of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus, Honoured Artist, winner of the Francysk Skaryna Medal and laureate of international ballet competitions

Open, friendly... Very feminine... She, in my opinion, is one of those charming and positive people who do not tightly lock, figuratively speaking, the doors of their inner world. But it seems that not everyone can enter there. The energy of purity and light will push out anyone who finds it difficult to vibrate on such a gentle atmospheric wave. “No, no,”

bad. They’re just different...” Which is understandable. The charismatic prima ballerina Lyudmila Khitrova is incomparable for me. Because she is spiritual not only in her roles — Cinderella, Juliet, Giselle, Kitri, Odette-Odile, Eve, Princess Florina and others... And in life she is sublime and spiritual — she is not

shy about her pure feelings, does not hide them under the guise of humour and self-irony... One must hear how soulfully she talks about her love for the theatre and her native stage, about her gratitude to her parents and teachers... The degree of her refined feelings is high in life.

“Well,” she says, “I’m not so white and fluffy either...” And I understand this: even the best person has something that must be overcome! So spoke the hero of Friedrich Nietzsche — Zarathustra



(Zarathustra is a priest, prophet and reformer of the ancient Iranian religion, called Zoroastrianism). In any case, it seems to me that Lyudmila is just one of those people who control this 'something' that I would like to overcome in myself. Or, as psychologists now say, she is working on herself.

She is a little shy when she talks about beautiful and touching, as well as very personal things... I am also impressed by how well my interlocutor speaks of many of her fellow ballerinas, as well as male soloists, and how much she admires them. How happy I was to hear kind words addressed to Aleksandra Chizhik, about whom our magazine wrote, and who should soon return to the Bolshoi stage after her maternity leave. Lyudmila appreciates her strong, as she puts it, one hundred percent 'ballerina' character. She explained that this is perseverance, concentration, enormous capacity for work and determination. And she added: Sasha, like a magnet, attracts you with her energy and charisma... She also admitted that she admires Sasha, who 'burns' on stage when she dances... And she talked about how Andris Liepa, who came to the theatre, called Aleksandra Chizhik 'charmant'. Anyone who often goes to the Bolshoi Theatre knows that it is impossible not to notice Lyudmila Khitrova on stage. By the way, it was with her, shining as Kitri in the old version of Don Quixote, that my love for the Belarusian ballet began. There is probably not a single performance where I don't enjoy Lyudmila's dance. I would say such a versatile and universal artist, who also has natural beauty. She can handle both the lyrical Odette and the daring Odile from Swan Lake. And Anna Karenina alone in the ballet of the same name performed by Lyudmila is worth it! The choreographic image she created breaks all stereotypes of what Anna should be. For me, Lyudmila's character is not reckless, because she is extremely pure like a child. And so much so that she cannot withstand a collision with a society of conventions, in which childish, sometimes cruel



## CONTEXT

laws reign, when society turns a blind eye to a 'double' life, covert adultery. However, we discussed this too shortly before Lyudmila's 35th birthday.

**"Lyudmila, let's start with childhood? What were you like? Obedient, or the opposite? And what was the most difficult thing in your studies? Were you upset when something didn't work out?"**

"I was a very obedient girl. And now, as a mother, reading many articles on psychology, I understand that children are now being raised to be more free. They can express their emotions. I remember my childhood and understand that I was a super-mega-obedient child, convenient for my parents. They said: sit quietly, I sat quietly. Apparently this affected my personality. My five-year-old son Danka is the complete opposite. Let's see what happens next. I remember my childhood with pleasure: I grew up in love, people never raised their voices at me. Parents talked calmly, if I didn't understand something, they explained it, respecting my feelings. Until now, and I'm soon 35 years old, I feel comfortable next to my parents, I feel like a little girl. I was born into an ordinary family: my mother Yelena Grigorievna is a doctor, my father Anatoly Vladimirovich is a driver.

As for studying, I admit: I had a very bad memory. Now I can't even imagine how I manage to memorise ballets, and how I keep 30—40 performances in my head. I remember how, when I was at school, I often cried. And in school too, when something didn't work out. Apparently she couldn't remember something. But the property of my memory is such that negative information disappears from it. I think this is good for life."

**"How did your ballet begin? When did you realise that you couldn't breathe without it?"**

"When I was 10 years old, my mother took me to school in Nizhny Novgorod. 25 years have passed since then. And there wasn't a split second for me to have the thought: ballet is not my thing. There was also no desire to become a great ballerina. I just studied every day, just danced... Every day I mentally

thank my parents who directed me in this direction. After all, I'm doing what I love. This is a great happiness that is not given to everyone. Watching people going to work with gloomy faces, it's as if I'm reading their thoughts: how I hate this job... I feel sorry for them: after all, we spend most of our time at work. And if the weekend is busy, you feel even more keenly how pleasant it is to do what you love."

**"How was the opening of the season for you?"**

"Brilliant! I danced the part of Kitri in Don Quixote. The performance is very positive, bright, cheerful... The audience leaves the theatre with a smile on their face. After some, like Anna Karenina, Romeo and Juliet, you can see tears on their faces."

**"How many years have you been at the Bolshoi after the Krasnoyarsk Theatre? Has anything changed in you since then before going on stage? Are you also worried?"**

"I've been working at the Bolshoi Theatre for the fifteenth season. In connection with the excitement, one incident comes to mind. When I arrived at the Krasnoyarsk Theatre, and I worked there for two years, I was eighteen years old. I remember how an hour before the premiere of the play Cinderella I came to the theatre. I didn't have time to warm up, properly apply makeup, glue on eyelashes, and hit the stage. During the performance, one eyelash came unglued... Was I worried? I can't say very much, there was no fear before going out. Now I remember and think: was it me, the current responsible person. When I dance in a play, I arrive at the theatre two, two and a half hours in advance, warm up, get ready... With experience comes responsibility. It grows with every new status and title. But along with the confidence that you can handle it, you also experience, of course, excitement. After all, Don Quixote is a three-act play. Difficult for a ballerina. Before entering the native stage, which is comfortable and convenient for artists, my heart fluttered. But not from fear, but rather from anticipation of the holiday... If last season, being in

excellent shape, I danced well in Don Quixote, then this year I should dance even better. Our teachers say: you rest for fifty days, that's how much time you have to get into shape. And we only had three weeks... I am very glad that the play has returned to the repertoire, that it is new. With new beautiful costumes and scenery."

**"How long did you dance in the corps de ballet?"**

"I was immediately hired as a soloist at the Krasnoyarsk Theatre, and in Minsk as a member of the corps de ballet. I worked there for two years, danced a lot of solo parts, danced in 'twos', 'threes', and only then I was promoted to soloist."

**"Tell us about your parts. Which was the first at the Bolshoi? Do you love all your heroines? Who in particular? You once said in one of your interviews that Anna Karenina..."**

"The first big part was Cinderella. I also danced it in Krasnoyarsk. Cinderella was also the start of my career as a soloist in Minsk. Do I love all my heroines? Of course. Parts are like children. But the play Anna Karenina is especially dear to me. So much effort and thought has been put into it... Perhaps this is the dearest performance to my heart, one of the most powerful in terms of emotions."

**"Is it difficult to die on stage? For example, as for Juliet and Giselle?"**

"Giselle, of course, is also my favourite performance. Last season there was a premiere, and I danced the role of Giselle every month, or even twice a month. The performance is emotional, dramatically complex, with deep meaning. The scene of Giselle's madness is worth it! And the final one, when the heroine, who is already in the world of the dead, envelops her beloved Albert with love... At this moment my tears flow in a stream, which is natural for me. Is it difficult? Somehow you don't think about it..."

As long as I can remember, I have always been sentimental, and after the birth of my son, sentimentality went off scale. This is one of the reasons why we don't have animals in our house. I love them very much, but I feel incredibly

sorry for them. So much so that it is impossible to stand it. How can I imagine that the animal will be alone all day long? My son, who wants a cat, keeps asking: when will we get a pet..."

**"So you need to bring two at once..."**

"Maybe with time I will be able to overcome myself... As for Juliet, it is very difficult to die in this performance... When I studied at the school in Novgorod, I dreamed of dancing Juliet. But this performance did not go on for us. Some theatre came with Romeo and Juliet, and that's when I fell in love with this image and Tchaikovsky's music, unlike other girls who dreamed of Swan Lake. I didn't dance Juliet in Krasnoyarsk, perhaps if I had stayed in this theatre, I would have been included in the performance. In Minsk, my dream came true. But, I admit, after Danik was born, it became difficult for me to dance the third act. There is a lot of pain in it. Yes, Giselle dies too. Although there is sadness at the end, it is bright. And in Romeo and Juliet, this knife, which the heroine plunges into herself... It's terribly hard..."

**"How do you get out of uncomfortable situations on stage? How did you**

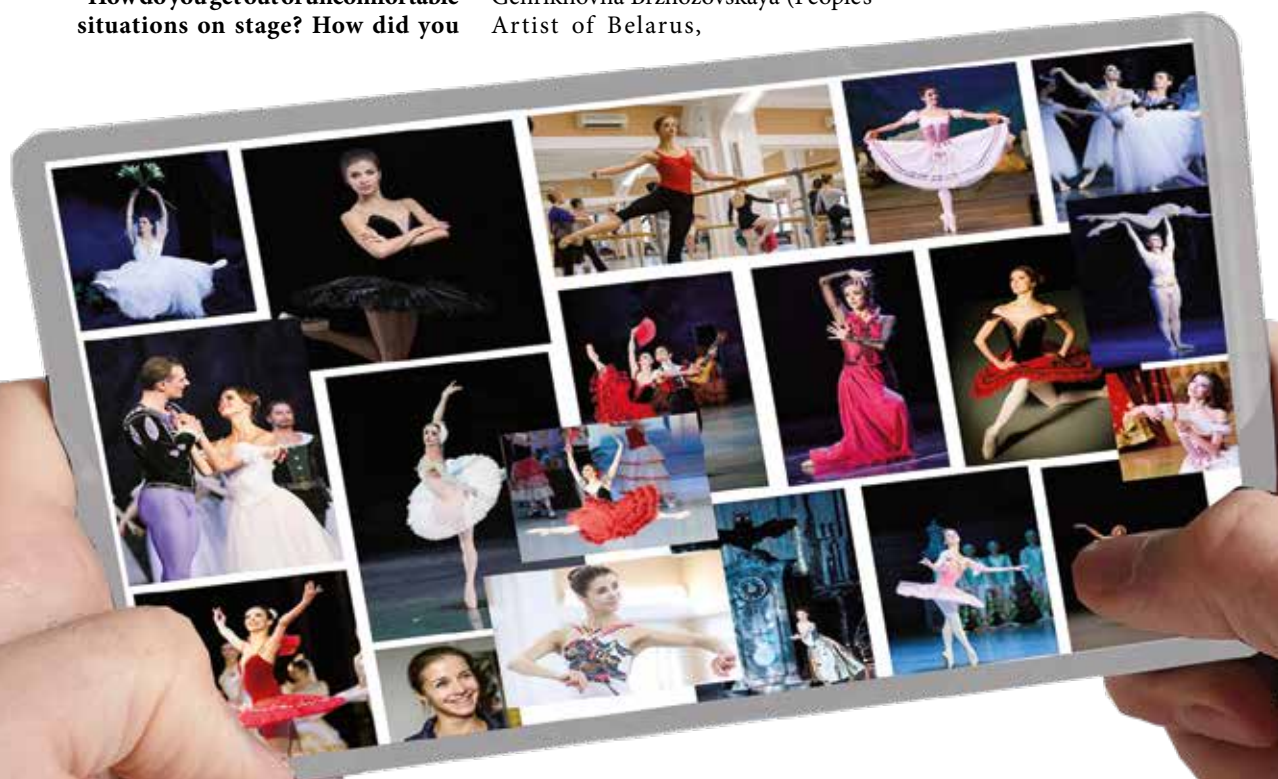
**survive the moment at the Ballet Summer at the Bolshoi gala concert when you stumbled on the stairs along which Juliet is running to Romeo?"**

"The first thing I thought was: what a blessing that I didn't injure my legs. This was the main idea. We don't have stairs in the play. Romeo in this scene takes Juliet directly from the balcony. And the staircase was made for a gala concert. When we rehearsed, everything was fine. I literally flew down the stairs. This is young Juliet. And then at a concert during the performance I see Even-Romeo (Even Capitaine — now a ballet dancer at the Mariinsky Theatre), and the thought flashes: now, like a bird, I will descend on the clouds of love to him... And then my leg moves... Of course, I was upset. A grandiose concert and I stumbled, and the stairs were not slippery. But then, when I watched this episode on tape, I laughed, thinking with gratitude that God had saved me from something more. When I was rehearsing Eve in The Creation of the World, Lyudmila Genrikhovna Brzhozovskaya (People's Artist of Belarus,

teacher-tutor of the Bolshoi Theatre) said that the image of Eve came to Valentin Nikolaevich Elizariyev (artistic director of the Bolshoi Theatre, People's Artist of the USSR) in a dream, at that time his daughter Anya was little... He generally treats children very tenderly and subtly, always asking about my Danik... So, it was he who guided Lyudmila Genrikhovna so that her Eve, which she danced then, would not be walking up the stairs in The Creation of the World, but be descending as if along clouds from the sky. So I decided that my Juliet would go down to Romeo like that (laughs). These are the kinds of incidents that happen. But this does not depend on the skill level. Maybe I attached too much importance to the desire to look light, airy, walking on the clouds..."

**"It seems to me that you can dance anything... What do you say?"**

"You know, no one believed, including myself, that I could dance Anna Karenina. I'm more lyrical, tender... Although I also have the fatal Odile in Swan Lake in my





## CONTEXT



■ Lyudmila Khitrova and Oleg Eromkin in the solo roles of Romeo and Juliet in the play of the same name

repertoire, it's still not Anna Karenina. Olga Kostel (director of the play) didn't see me in Anna. "Khitrova is Kitty, dear, young," she said about this to Yuri Troyan (People's Artist of Belarus). I wasn't offended by her at all, I understood: this is not my part. I danced Kitty several times. And they began to slowly introduce me as Karenina before the tour — as a reserve. You never know what happens. But it wasn't urgent. And it happened: Ira Yeomkina (People's Artist of Belarus, prima ballerina), who was supposed to go on tour, was injured before them. Until the last moment I didn't believe that this part was mine. Yes, I thought I could dance it, but it's unlikely to be believable, and what will they tell me: yes, Lyuda, you're in the right place. The

role was put together bit by bit. And with teachers, and with Igor Artamonov. And with my partner Kostya Belokhvostik. He is experienced and feels the ballerina very well. The part is complex choreographically and psychologically. But we did all the complex supports well, that is, organically. The choreography has developed, but this does not mean that the image will develop. We have a ballerina, Yekaterina Zinovieva-Provalinskaya, who has extensive acting experience: she has acted in films and TV series. She graduated from the acting department of the Academy of Arts (she dances the part of Dolly in the play). So, every day, she and I discussed Anna's every gesture, every look. Everything needed to be filled with meaning. Tolstoy devotes, say, ten pages to this, and a few seconds in the play, in

which you need to put Anna's feelings and how she changes... I'm happy that I danced three performances on tour in Russia. We, as they say, have run it in. They received us with shouts of 'bravo' and applause. Katya and I later discussed each scene..."

**"Do you invite parents to your performances?"**

"Mom — not to everything. She is very worried about me. When I dance Giselle, my mother calls during the intermission and asks if everything is okay... She was also at Romeo and Juliet, she was very worried, and later told me that her heart almost broke in the final scene. She's even more sentimental than me. Dad is that staunch comrade, so he watches everything. I definitely won't invite my mother to Anna Karenina. There I am crying myself. I can imagine what will happen to her. For example, Anna's scene with her son Seryozha is very difficult. If I didn't have a child, I probably would have played this scene differently. But I am very attached to my son, my Danila is about the same age as the little hero of the play. Involuntarily, thoughts about whether I could do this appeared... But I drove them away. In one of the interviews they asked about this, to which I replied: I don't even want to think about anything like that.

After all, Anna's story is a tragedy, not just an affair, and then it is a virtual life, although partly taken from life by Tolstoy. My Anna is a stage image. And period. I think I succeeded."

**"What is the most important thing for you in your inner world?"**

"Of course, harmony. My zodiac sign is Libra. If, say, something doesn't work out with the seller in a store, or something happens somewhere else, and I react, then after that I feel bad all day, I feel like my world has been shaken. That's why I try to be friends with the world and not give in to provocations. I can't stand rudeness, aggression, irritation..."

**"How do you react when you dance if they don't clap for you?"**

"With understanding. My teacher Tatyana Mikhaiovna Yershova says that applause is not always good. For example, in the third act of Romeo and

Juliet, when the music ends, there is a short pause before another scene, and at this moment the audience either applauds or is deathly silent. If they applaud, then, according to Tatyana Mikhailovna, we are doing something wrong. The situation is so tense in this scene that there should be no applause. I myself, as I already said, experience a terrible state when Romeo comes out and sees his Juliet dead. The audience probably experiences something similar. And in Anna Karenina there are scenes when the audience does not immediately clap. They worry along with my heroine when she collapses on the floor in tears of despair. And then, after a pause, the hall explodes with shouts of 'bravo'. This scream is also an outlet for the audience's emotions. And thanks to the applause from the audience, we, who spend enormous emotional energy, are energetically restored. Sometimes I run to the service entrance to my friends, and they, surprised, say: you are still running, we thought that you would barely walk... It is difficult for them to understand that I am ready to fly, ready to dance and dance my part. The audience gave me so much energy of gratitude that in my heart I'm already flying above the clouds..."

**"Is it easy for you to share the state of happiness you experienced at the performance?"**

"Very easy."

**"Do you have a favourite audience? In Minsk and on tour?"**

"I toured in the UK, Italy, Mexico, South Korea, Germany, Spain, France, Russia. I've been to

a lot of places. I also noticed on tour that there are people who come to the same performance several times. They sit in the front row. And there are familiar faces in Minsk. We don't cross paths in life, only in the theatre. I know they are regular viewers. When I bow, I recognise them and smile at them. At the same time, I feel great gratitude and respect for their love for the art of ballet."

**"What do you prefer — classic or modern? Is it difficult to achieve artistry in classical ballet?"**

"We don't have much modern in our theatre, as you know, more classics. For me, it is something that I understand more deeply with age, like vitamins for the body. For example, The Sleeping Beauty, Swan Lake, Don Quixote are some of the most complex classical performances. Dancing in them is like passing an aptitude test. For example, after dancing in The Sleeping Beauty, I feel my body so well that I experience great joy. I am convinced that classics prolong our ballet life. As for artistry, everything is individual. I think the key to success as a ballet dancer is the balance between technique and artistry."

**"Were there any cases when your partner lifted you up in a way that was uncomfortable for you, or dropped you?"**

"Fortunately, nothing like that happened. The guys in our troupe are strong."

**"Have you ever wanted to quit ballet?"**

"Never!"

**"How is your day?"**

"I can compare it to racing. I have a lot of rehearsals and performances. With a child — karate training, swimming pool... I like it. I'm used to the tension."

**"Are you a person of mood, or thoughtful?"**

"If I have issues with my mood, I don't voice them either in the theatre or at home with my family (smiles). We are not robots, and we cannot smile every minute, things happen. But taking out my dissatisfaction on someone is not about me. And I teach my son this when he sometimes wakes up in a bad mood. I tell him: the world around you shouldn't suffer because you're in a bad mood."

**"Have you ever gotten involved in conflicts in the theatre? Or do you know how to avoid the sharp corners associated with envy and jealousy? Is it easy?"**

"I am absolutely not



■ In the pictures (from left to right): Lyudmila Khitrova's father - Anatoly Vladimirovich, mother - Elena Grigoryevna, husband - Oleg Eromkin. The youngest member of the family, Daniel, is with them all.



## CONTEXT



■ Lyudmila Khitrova (Masha) with Valentin Elizariiev during the final bow after the performance "The Nutcracker" on the Historical Stage of the Bolshoi Theater of Russia

a conflict person. Both in the theatre and at home. 15 years ago, while in the corps de ballet, I was stewing in gossip. I know what it is. And I didn't like it. Now, having a certain status, I am alone in the dressing room. I don't meet artists often, since I have solo rehearsals. We have different work schedules. But when I meet colleagues in the corridors, or before performances, from them, from the young people, I feel the energy of respect that is pleasant for me. In general, the Bolshoi has a comfortable atmosphere and a high level of culture. There is no need to talk about glass in pointe shoes or other unpleasant moments that are interpreted in feature films about ballerinas. We don't have toxic or quarrelsome people, even though the ballet troupe is large — about a hundred people. Roughness among people is natural, but they do not determine the style of relationships in a team. And this makes me very happy."

**"Have you ever been recommended to get in shape at the theatre?"**

"This didn't happen. I am an extremely responsible person. I respect my profession and its people. Therefore, I

will never allow myself to go on stage inappropriately. Yes, as a teenager they told me: Khitrova, lose weight... This was because, being the eldest, I began to take shape earlier than my peers."

**"Are you superstitious? What do you do before going on stage?"**

"I ask God for help. For the most part, ballet people, even if they don't believe in it, will, it seems to me, definitely cross themselves before going on stage. There are some little things. Which foot to take to the stage? For example, I exit from the right. But seriously, I want to emphasise: there are a lot of injuries in our profession, so I drive away any thought about injuries..."

**"Is your diet normal or special?"**

"I take long breaks between meals. I don't eat between rehearsals. And I can't have a snack. Ballets are difficult. When you are held upside down, it is dangerous to be full. I stick to a healthy diet. I cook at home. The son is a real Belarusian, he loves potatoes in any form, the husband prefers meat. I'm not a vegetarian, but I'm not a fan of meat either."

**"When you have moments of relaxation, do you then feel how**

**priceless our life is? How do you relax?"**

"I love everything that surrounds me in life, like life itself. I love summer, I love autumn... Today I had an hour break. And I'm always, as I already said, in a hurry, always driving... I left the car at the theatre, I go to the store... And I feel how cool it is! Warm, sunny, everyone is healthy... At such moments I relax. These are those moments of relaxation when you feel the enormous value of life. But I also relax when I rehearse my favourite performances. Upon returning home, although I am physically tired, I communicate with the child and enjoy these moments of life. And when I hug my son, I inhale his scent, I kiss him... I am surrounded by a lot of beautiful things — family, work, people... I love all this very much. And this inspires me."

**"What are you afraid of in life?"**

"I don't even want to talk or think about it. Every day before going to bed, especially after Covid, I thank God, Life for mercy on me and my family, for the fact that we are all healthy"

**"If you could, what would you fix in the modern world? And what would you wish people first?"**

"It seems to me that we, people, can make our tiny contribution to making the world calmer. The state of peace, tranquillity, harmony, which I have already spoken about, in our souls is energy. And the more we produce it outside, the better it will be for everyone."

**"In conclusion. Your definition of Belarusian ballet."**

"The Belarusian ballet is Valentin Nikolaevich Elizariiev. He is a unique Master. Our Bolshoi Theatre is famous for its performances. They are special. The female images in them are the pinnacle of femininity, wisdom, tenderness, beauty of soul and body. In contrast, there are strong, courageous images of male heroes. And in relation to us, ballerinas, he has so much concern..."

Valentina **Zhdanovich**

Photo from the archives of the Bolshoi Theatre



# “THE ESSENCE OF LIFE FOR ME IS LOVE”



Perhaps, if Valentin Elizariyev had not thought, felt and embodied love as the force of priceless life in his work, then, I dare to suggest: the brilliant ‘today’, marked by the enormous creative achievements of the Master, would hardly have come. And such a warm October for him, this unique choreographer, People’s Artist of the USSR and Belarus, artistic director of the Bolshoi Theatre, would not have become significant.

## And this month became it!

Starting from the 11th day of the month, Elizariyev’s stunning performances lined up, figuratively speaking, like the bright planets in the zodiac constellation, in honour of the 50th anniversary of his creative activity. And you could walk on them, you could look at them, admiring the mesmerizing spectacle of ballet art. And also to soar mentally! And remain in a pleasant illusion: your soul will always be so light, even though you know that in the rhythm of everyday life you will inevitably end up somewhere in the wrong place, unable to stay at the height of spiritual vibrations. But the memory will store the experienced feelings that you will want to experience again and again.

Elizariyev’s ballets... Luxurious, graceful, refined, stylish, metaphorical, smart,

major... Not a single synonym can describe the sublime feelings that you experience while immersing yourself in the beauty created by this absolutely not ‘bronzed’ choreographer with more than thirty titles and awards.

The past month for the Master, known not only in our country, but also far beyond its borders, was indeed something like a large parade of performances, which he himself watched from the audience. And with him, you and I, fans of high art, in which people dance with soul and body.

The theatre’s playbill for October included Elizariyev’s best ballets, including The Creation of the World, Spartacus, The Nutcracker, Carmina Burana, and Carmen Suite. And also Romeo and Juliet, Swan Lake, Don Quixote, Sleeping Beauty. Some



■ On behalf of the Government of the country, the Minister of Culture Anatoly Markevich congratulated the hero of the day.

■ Margarita Izvorska-Elizarieva — wife of Valentin Elizariev, opera director, Doctor of Philosophy and Pedagogical Sciences, professor of the Belarusian Academy of Music, honored Artist during communication with fans of her husband's work

performances were even repeated. In many of them, the leading roles were danced by ballet stars from other countries. All invited soloists came with congratulations from their theatres. Elizariev is well acquainted with many representatives of the ballet community. And, as he admitted at the press approach on the opening day of the fest, time does not affect the friendship between them, and good relations and respect for each other. Therefore, on October 25th, the stars of the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia also danced in the play *Don Quixote*.

And the project entitled Valentin Elizariev: 50 Years of Creative Activity opened with the play *Sleeping Beauty* by Pyotr Tchaikovsky. The part of Princess Aurora was danced by Nutsa Chekurashvili, a soloist of the Hungarian National Ballet, and Belarusian Vyacheslav Gnedchik, a soloist of the same theatre, performed the part of Prince Désiré.

Before the performance, Valentin Nikolaevich came out to the

journalists right in the foyer, where a festive atmosphere reigned. Many fans of his work, before the Master began answering questions from journalists, took pictures with him against the backdrop of posters for performances staged in different years, expressed their admiration and gratitude to him, and congratulated him on the holiday. Representatives of the older generation told Elizariev that they well remembered his performances that left the stage, and how great it was that some of them had already returned to the repertoire in an updated format. And this is what the Master himself said after the mini-photo shoot, "I am happy that I served at the Bolshoi Theatre for so many years and lived in this country. 50 years dedicated to the art of Belarus, musical theatre — ballet, opera. I guess I'm fate's favourite. Because I have been doing what I love all my life. I didn't choose my profession; rather, it chose me. From an early age I knew what I liked. My parents helped me with everything.



Everything went naturally: I was involved in amateur performances for children, then entered the Baku Choreographic School, then transferred to the Leningrad Choreographic School, now it is the Academy of Agrippina Vaganskaya.

Among the iconic productions of Valentin Elizariev are *Carmen Suite* — 1974, revival — 2019, *The Creation of the World* — 1976, new author's version — 2019, *Till Eulenspiegel* — 1978, new version of *The Legend of Eulenspiegel* — 2004, *Spartacus* — 1980, new author's version — 2017, *The Nutcracker* — 1982, new author's version — 2020, *Carmina Burana* — 1983, this was the first ballet production of the work in the Soviet Union. *Romeo and Juliet* — 1988, new author's version — 2018, *Passion (Rogneda)* — 1995. Elizariev also created new and bright versions of the classical choreography of the ballets *Swan Lake* — 1986, 2021, *Sleeping Beauty* — 2001, new version — 2022, *Don Quixote* — 1989, new version — 2023.



I graduated from the Leningrad Conservatory and was assigned to this blessed land. The then Minister of Culture Yuri Mikhnevich invited me. I first saw the Bolshoi Theatre troupe on tour in Kyiv, but was not particularly impressed. By the end of the tour, the artists were tired and worn out. Then they brought me to Minsk and showed me the theatre. When I walked onto the 'undressed' stage (a stage without decorations) and saw it, so grandiose, powerful, beautiful, I thought: I must definitely stage a play here... And so it happened. I staged performances... I fell in love with the troupe, I loved the people I worked with... Here's a short excursion..."

Valentin Nikolaevich also shared his thoughts that his plans include updating the ballet Till Eulenspiegel by composer Yevgeny Glebov and the ballet Passion by Andrei Mdivani — a heartfelt story about Rogneda, from which, according to him, women left the hall with tears after the performance. Elizariyev also admitted that he has never turned to Cinderella, although he has turned to fairy tales more than once: he loves them very much. But it's difficult to stage them in a way that would be interesting, first of all, for children, and, of course, for adults: the material is special. Valentin Nikolaevich also said that the premiere should take place in March-April. "I hope that I have enough skill and professionalism to make a good performance," he said. And he continued, "The performances are like children. And while working on each new performance, you go through several stages, including painful ones, when it seems that everything is falling apart. But in the last week everything somehow unexpectedly lines up, comes together... And everything works out. The birth of the play is the happiest moments in my life."

When asked what gives him the strength and energy to create, the artistic director of the Bolshoi answered this, "Strength is given by inner restlessness and professional interest in what I have been doing all my life. Family also gives strength. I have wonderful

children, grandchildren, a wife... Artists, especially ballerinas, give me inspiration. I admire women, female characters — in literature and art. I dedicate almost every performance of mine to the woman who plays the main role. I am no longer a young man. But I love artists, I love theatre. And it is important that physical strength lasts for a long time. As I already said, I am a darling of fate, I never get tired of doing what I love."

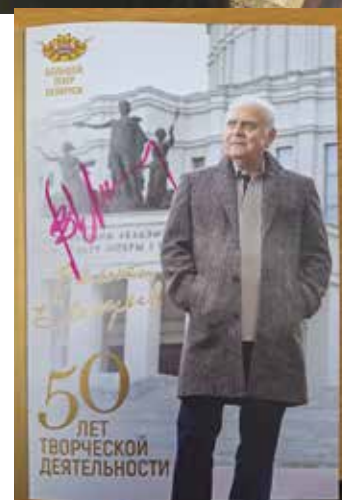
His performances live on for many decades. Elizariyev explained why, "They are successful, that's why they have longevity. If the theatre is financially successful, the play remains in the repertoire, and if not, then it is removed. My performances bring decent income to the theatre. And the public loves them. So I have nothing to complain about."

The meeting with journalists ended on a positive note at the moment when Valentin Nikolaevich, answering a question, said, "The most priceless thing on earth is human life. And love that will continue this life. Therefore, we must love each other, not quarrel, and find ways for mutual understanding."



■ After the first act, an autograph session began in the lobby during the intermission. There were so many people who wanted to get a memorable autograph of the Master on the booklet that the intermission was delayed.

The mini-interview with Valentin Elizariyev ended with words of mutual gratitude. And here we are in the hall. On behalf of the government of the country, the Minister of Culture Anatoly Markevich congratulated the hero of the day, who took the stage with him, "Preparing for today's meeting, I involuntarily wondered: what did 26-year-old Valentin Elizariyev, a recent graduate of the Leningrad Conservatory, feel when he was offered to lead the Belarusian





## ANNIVERSARY



■ Valentin Elizariiev about the play "Carmina Burana" "I call the vocal and choreographic performance "Carmina Burana", which I staged in 1983, my creative success. The performance is based on poems by wandering poets. I came up with the plot myself, but I relied on the original source — a collection of medieval poetry. There are many interpretations of this performance. Karl Orff himself conceived the "Carmina Burana", which implied a performance on stage. I turned the performance into a ballet. And he became the first person in the Union to stage "Carmina Burana" as an oratorio for soloists and choir"



■ Andrey Petrov on the Creation of the World performance "This is the brightest and most emotional embodiment of ballet from all that have been made in our country and abroad"



■ Valentin Elizariiev about the performance "Swan Lake" "In the new production we have collected all the best that was created by the choreographers for more than a century of the history of the performance. We carefully preserve the ballet heritage, as well as introduce new scenes into the new performance, fill it with a modern worldview, enrich it with the experience of modern theater and the breath of the XXI century"





■ Valentin Elizariiev about the play "Romeo and Juliet" "Our play is about love and hate, about sincere friendship and senseless enmity, immortal as love, strong as death, as an eternal question that humanity asks itself again and again"

■ Valentin Yelizaryev in the play "Spartacus" "... With great pleasure I took up the creation of my ballet. It always seemed to me that the slave revolt could not fail because of a courtesan, although this is in the novel. I tried to make a play about something else and eliminated the role of Aegina. The inevitability of the defeat of Spartacus was historically predetermined. When creating a ballet, all the directors rely on what was done before them. However, it is very important to create a new one on the basis of the existing one and go further, rethinking situations and topics. This is the creative approach in performances where you are not the first..."



Thanks to the efforts of the choreographer, the Belarusian ballet achieved international recognition. Without going beyond the boundaries of academic art, Valentin Elizariiev changed the traditional idea of dance. The master's productions were loved in Hungary, Poland, Vietnam, Japan, Switzerland and many other countries.

ballet? Joy? Fear? Perhaps a slight fear of ascending to the highest Olympus of creativity. Probably a little bit of everything. But I think that even in your most ambitious thoughts and plans you (turned to Elizariiev) could not imagine that it was in this place that you would make a real cultural revolution in Belarusian ballet. Your daring thoughts give birth to unique productions: The Creation of the World, Spartacus, Till Eulenspiegel, Romeo and Juliet, Swan Lake, The Nutcracker, Sleeping Beauty. It was these ballets that allowed Valentin Elizariiev, together with the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus, to win world fame. These ballets are still a highlight of

the Bolshoi Theatre today. Time has no power over them, just as time has no power over real art. You are the most recognised, titled choreographer not only in Belarus, but also abroad. A person who has many different awards of various denominations and honorary titles. But the most important reward is the love of the audience, those people who greet you with standing applause every time. And it will always be like this." In conclusion, the minister wished Valentin Elizariiev good health, prosperity and wonderful creativity, which he gives to the Belarusian audience, and also presented him with a commemorative painting depicting

the gates of Minsk. At the same time, he said that at one time they were wide open for Elizariiev.

After Valentin Nikolaevich thanked Anatoly Markevich in his response, the curtain rose to the enchanting sounds of Tchaikovsky's music. The play *Sleeping Beauty* has begun.

And after the first act, during intermission, an autograph session began right in the foyer.

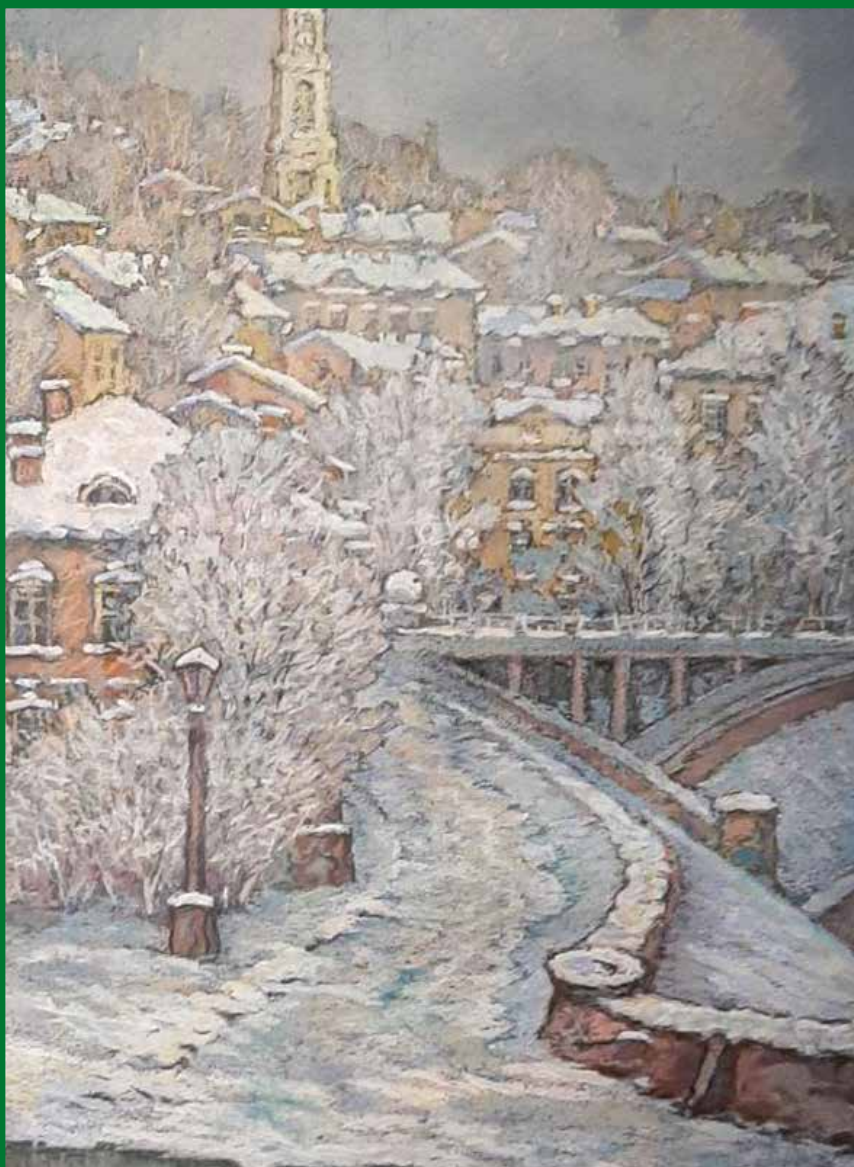
There were so many people wishing to receive the Master's commemorative autograph on the aesthetic booklet that the intermission dragged on. But this did not in any way affect the audience's perception of the ballet *Sleeping Beauty*, this beautiful, as it is called, encyclopaedia of classical mesmerizing dance.

After the performance, the audience gave both the artists and the hero of the occasion a standing ovation.

Valentina **Zhdanovich**

Photo by the author, as well as from the archives of the Bolshoi Theatre





# IN HARMONY OF SOULFULNESS AND WARMTH





## An exhibition of the artist Vyacheslav Shamshur was held in the transition gallery of the National Art Museum. And it did not go unnoticed.

The exhibition featured pastel and painting works from the author's collection, completed over the past 30 years. And this

despite the fact that Vyacheslav Shamshur works primarily in various easel graphics techniques.

The artist's favourite themes are clearly visible in his work. A significant part of this author's works is dedicated to his native land — Miory, in the north of the country, in the Vitebsk Region. “The main theme is my small homeland. And the essence of this theme is very important. Because it gradually develops into love for the entire Motherland. I believe that these works create patriotic impulses,” the artist shared his thoughts.

In fact, each artist's work reveals many nuances of the area he depicted. “Vyacheslav Shamshur is very devoted to the

place where he was born. And at the exhibition you can easily see this. Each work is a window into his inner world and his understanding of the places where he lived. When I was arranging the exhibition, I noticed that his works, which he created for 30 years, in a good way equivalent. Once he has found his own technique and interpretation, he, like a melody, displays them in every work,” noted Leading Researcher at the National Art Museum Natalya Selitskaya.

His teachers — followers of realistic art, famous graphic artists and painters Grigory Klikushin, Ivan Stolyarov, Aleksandr Gavrushko — took part in the formation of the artist. “At first I worked in the style of linocuts. And I created a whole series of them. But my eyesight began to fail. During advanced training, I was introduced to pastels. Gradually I mastered this technique,” this is how Vyacheslav Shamshur himself told his story in his own way.



Yes, now he is actively mastering oil painting. The artist pays a lot of attention to both rural and urban landscapes. The author's city has a special atmosphere, it is unique. There is no noise and fuss, high-speed transport or intense human flows; the measured movement of time often prevails. Having made a generalisation, we can say this: the world of feelings and mood in the works of Vyacheslav Shamshur are always distinguished by their special sincerity and warmth.

Many relatives, friends and colleagues came to the museum to congratulate the author on the exhibition. First Deputy Chairman of the Belarusian Union of Artists Natalya Sharangovich noted that in a relatively small exhibition she saw great and significant art. "Meticulous notes sound in the author's works. They contain love for a small place, and for the big Vitebsk Region, and for our Belarus in general," noted Natalya Sharangovich.

Vyacheslav Shamshur once graduated from the Art and Graphic Department of the Vitebsk Pedagogical Institute, then graduated from graduate school at the Institute of Art History, Ethnography and Folklore of the National Academy of Sciences. Candidate of art

history, professor, member of the Belarusian Union of Artists. One of the authors of the six-volume History of Art of Belarus, author of a monograph, a number of educational and methodological manuals, numerous scientific publications on the history of Belarusian fine and decorative arts.

Of course, he combines scientific research with creative work. He created a series of graphic works Road to Miory, Poozerye, many individual works in pastel and linarite techniques. He participates in international and national plein-air. Participant of art exhibitions since 1989. He works at Vitebsk State University at the Department of Decorative and Applied Arts and Technical Graphics.

Every time you come across compositions by Vyacheslav Shamshur at exhibitions, you are convinced that this is one of the few contemporary artists who literally 'found himself' in the pastel technique. This technique, which was especially popular in the 18th and 19th centuries and was rather used by artists to convey an exact

resemblance to nature, acquired a new meaning in the work of Vyacheslav Shamshur, thanks to its pictorial decorativeness and emphasised dynamics.

From the very beginning, a realistic vision of nature became the prism through which the artist expressed his attitude to the beauty of the surrounding world. Yes, this choice of Vyacheslav Shamshur was greatly facilitated by his studies at the Art and Graphic Department of the Vitebsk Pedagogical Institute. A system of favourite themes gradually developed in his work, which could be seen in the compositions presented at the exhibition in the main museum of the country.

Thematically related to the Miory landscapes, the author also has a series of compositions dedicated to the Braslav District. The amazing beauty of the water 'mirror' quite often becomes the main theme in the artist's landscapes. In a number of works by Vyacheslav Shamshur, a road leading somewhere into the distance looks almost symbolic. These compositional techniques, as well as images of village houses, and, in general, themes of



village life, are especially favourite for the artist, give a plot character to his works, and often turn into their figurative dominants.

In the works of Vyacheslav Shamshur one can speak of a special poetics of the urban landscape. And these are not only landscapes of Vitebsk, although this city predominates in his latest compositions. More than once the artist turned to depicting city landscapes with images of famous Vitebsk churches.

In general, the artist's city is unique. There is no hustle and bustle, hectic modern rhythms and urban features. Here, a measured movement of time often reigns, a rather provincial spirit and some extremely poetic melody of an urban theme are felt. This is what makes his original works so attractive.

Aleksandr **Pimenov**



# MADE FROM THE HEART AND WITH TASTE



**A significant cultural event in many respects was the holding at the National Art Museum of the exhibition "Anthology of Beauty. Traditional Belarusian costume". The large-scale exhibition project reflects the striking features of the folk costume of six ethnographic regions of Belarus.**



*As soon as I entered the exhibition hall of this exhibition, I had to restrain myself from saying with all the volume: "What a beauty!!!"*. Bearing in mind the closeness of the museum environment, we managed to limit ourselves only to the appropriate nod of the head as a sign of admiration from what we saw. And even having subdued emotions, it was easy to conclude that any modern fashion show could not be compared to the collection presented here and now. Everything was so impressive and literally mesmerizing. Indeed, as announced in the title of the exhibition - a real anthology of beauty. Especially if you link it with a historical perspective.

### **A suit as a kind of marker**

Of course, traditional clothing, as a rule, is closely connected with the history of the people, their way of life, with natural and social conditions. For many centuries, Belarusian peasants have invariably grown flax, bred sheep for wool. Yarn was made from this raw material after processing. Gradually they mastered a wide variety of weaving techniques, embroidery, rational techniques of cutting and tailoring.

-- The appearance of our ancestors reflected their moral foundations, spiritual values, norms of behavior and aesthetic ideals, - says a researcher at the Department of scientific and stock work of the National Art Museum, co-curator of the exhibition "Anthology of Beauty. Traditional Belarusian costume" Victoria Prokoshina. From her words, it follows that the traditional costume was a kind of marker that eloquently testified to the origin of a person and his status. He also demonstrated the local peculiarities of weaving and embroidery, the nature of the cut of various garments and the ways of wearing them.

Victoria Prokoshina thoroughly knows the subject she is talking about. She is deeply in the subject, it's not for





nothing that she participated in the compilation of the corresponding exclusive album about the traditional Belarusian costume. Of course, we are talking about the peculiarities of national clothing in the context of the past.

But it's one thing, even if it's not easy, to work on a book, and it's quite another to organize an exhibition. Along the way, there were problems that the organizers did not even think about at first. After all, even finding mannequins for future exhibits was difficult, recalls Victoria Prokoshina. The bottom line is that modern mannequins are not designed for the physique of our ancestors and, accordingly, do not take into account the features of the cut of their clothes from the past. In a word, they were not suitable for the exhibition. Considerable efforts had to be made to find a performer who nevertheless undertook to fulfill such an original order. Succeeded.

There were other difficulties, but it's all over. The exhibition is open. And attracts the attention of numerous visitors. The anthology of beauty does not leave anyone indifferent from getting acquainted with the exposition of the Belarusian costume.

### It must be seen

And now, in essence, what I happened to see at the exhibition, having found information reinforcement of what I saw in the same album that Victoria Prokoshina worked on. So, it is known from ethnographic sources: a distinctive feature of the traditional Belarusian costume is the predominance of white linen clothes with red ornaments. The decoration of everyday clothes was very modest. Women put all their skills into making festive hats – formations. By the way, such clothes form the basis of the collection of folk costume in the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus.





The main component of both men's and women's traditional costume was a linen shirt (shirt, "kashulya") with long sleeves and a closed collar. Men wore it loose, belting it with a woven or braided belt, without which it was considered indecent to appear in public. As everyday shoes, peasants wore comfortable and eco-friendly bast shoes, and on holidays - leather boots. In summer, the headdress was a straw hat, in winter - a felted wool magerka, a fur hat. Women's traditional costume was distinguished by increased decorative effect and a variety of local variants. At the end of the XIX - beginning of the XX centuries, shirts with straight shoulder inserts - polikami prevailed in the women's complex, tunic-like ones also existed, later there were variants on a yoke - gestka. The collar of the shirt (turned down or in the form of a rack) fitted tightly around the neck and was fastened with homemade buttons made of linen threads or pulled together with a ribbon. The

traditional system of amulets provided for mandatory decoration in the form of a red ornament in places requiring special protection (shoulder, hem, collar, bottom of sleeves), including from evil spirits. Over the shirts, women wore a variety of waist clothing - poneva, skirt, andarak, andarak with kabat. Depending on the season and local traditions, they differed in material, cut and composition and ornamental solution. Over the skirt, girls and women wore aprons - "khvartukhi", aprons, "cufflinks", "cufflinks", "zatulki", "zapaski", aprons. They were sewn from one, two, less often three panels, collecting them at the waist in assemblies or folds. The bottom was trimmed with fringe, lace, frills. The apron was not only an addition and decoration of the costume, but had an important sacred meaning - it protected the womb. The sleeveless jacket - kabat, garcet, kamizelka, lacing - appeared as part of the folk costume quite late, around the XVI century, but it did



not become an obligatory component in all regions of Belarus. Basically, it was an item of a festive costume. Particular attention was paid to hats, which were an integral part of the women's costume complex. One of its oldest types among married women of Slavic peoples was an ubrus – a long cloth made of thin fabric (Belarusians have linen basting, basting, plaits, sickles), which curled over the cap covering the hairstyle. The evidence of the existence of such a headdress on our territory in the XVII century is the icon "The Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos" (1649) from the collection of the National Art Museum. At the beginning of the XX century, the outline was almost universally replaced by a handkerchief. Homespun shawls were gradually replaced by factory ones.

### There were nuances and peculiarities

According to the totality of certain features of the traditional culture of Belarus, researchers distinguish six historical and ethnographic regions: Western Polesie, Eastern Polesie, Podvinye, Dnieper, Ponemanye, Central Belarus. Each of them was characterized by bright regional and local features of folk costume.

Western Polesie is located in the south-west of Belarus and occupies a large territory of the modern Brest

region. This is a region that is unique in natural and ethnographic terms. Local versions of the costume are the pearls of Belarusian folk art. The remoteness of the Polesie villages from the centers of civilization, their isolation from each other by forests and marshy swamps contributed to the long preservation of the ancient foundations of folk culture. The tradition of wearing home-made clothes continued here until the middle of the XX century. The most archaic of them existed in the territories of Pinsky, Ivanovsky, Drogichinsky, Ivatsevichsky, Berezovsky districts of the Brest region. They are characterized by the predominance of white in the main components of clothing and restrained ornamental decor in the form of compositions of narrow red stripes.

Eastern Polesie occupies the southeastern part of Belarus. Its territory covers the Gomel region to the Dnieper River in the east, includes the Lubansky and Soligorsky districts of the Minsk region, Gantsevichi, Luninetsky and the eastern part of the Stolinsky district of the Brest region.

According to the variety of local variants of traditional structures, the richness of their artistic and decorative design, the Eastern Polesie is not inferior to the Western One. But here the transformation of the folk costume



that took place in the twentieth century is noticeable. This affected the materials used in the manufacture of clothing, the cut of individual components, sewing technology and decoration techniques. Already in the late XIX – early XX centuries, rural residents of Eastern Polesie widely used factory-made fabrics, machine tailoring and decor in the form of applications made of ribbons and braid became widespread. The gradual introduction of these innovations into folk life led to some eclecticism in the costume, but the natural sense of beauty and harmony helped folk craftsmen skillfully combine traditions and innovations in the manufacture of festive clothing complexes reflecting the place and time of their creation. Such innovations are especially noticeable in the women's costume of the Gantsevichi and Luninetsky districts of the Brest region, as well as the Soligorsky district of the Minsk region.

The northern part of Belarus is occupied by Podvinye. It covers the territory of the Vitebsk region, with the exception of a small part of it in the southeast. Due to historical events, geographical and socio-economic factors, traditional forms of clothing have been preserved to a lesser extent. The intensive development of commodity-money relations in this region since the end of the XIX century contributed to the penetration







as well as Podvinya, fell out of use early. This explains the insignificant preservation and fragmentation of the authentic material reflecting its features. Using a wide color palette of threads, including green, blue, purple, lilac, white, various shades of pink, the craftsmen found a harmonious combination of them, which gave the decor of the building integrity and majorness with its overall cold tonality. The slimness of the silhouette was emphasized by a narrow woven patterned belt with originally designed ends. The costume was completed by a characteristic red cap with a wide band forming ears and a bottom in lush assemblies. The front edge of the cap was elegantly decorated with tulle and lace made of metallized threads gathered in small folds. Central Belarus. The name of the region corresponds

of factory-made fabrics into the peasant environment and the spread of new variants of the cut and decorative design of the costume. The few items of home-made women's clothing that have survived to our time testify to the high culture of hand-weaving and embroidery, the originality of the decor and color of waist clothing, in which a linear white cage on a blue background prevailed, which is probably the influence of the long-standing cube stuffing. An example is the costumes from the Dubrovensky, Orsha, Gorodoksky, Lepelsky, Sennensky districts of the Vitebsk region.

The historical and ethnographic region of Ponemanye is located in the west of Belarus. It includes the modern Grodno region and the border territories of the neighboring Vitebsk, Minsk and Brest regions. The traditional costume of the inhabitants of this region,





to its location. It occupies the entire central part of the Minsk region, Osipovichy, Bobruisk and the northern part of the Glusky district of the Mogilev region, a small eastern part of the Lyakhovichy district of the Brest region. The traditional costume of this region combines the various features of all six regions. The Central Belarusian buildings stand out for their restraint in decor and the integrity of the ensemble. Here are some very interesting, in my opinion, details and features.

### Everything came together in harmony

Meanwhile, it is in no way impossible not to note the fact that the museum exposition of the traditional Belarusian costume is complemented by a number of graphic and pictorial works by Belarusian artists and ethnographers. In particular, the exhibition presents more than 140 expedition drawings and sketches of Belarusian folk costumes and national ornaments by Leonid Borozna, Mikhail Romanyuk, Linden Krol, Oscar Marix.

Leonid Borozna is one of the creators of national themes in the Belarusian art of the 1960s - the second wave of the national revival of the twentieth century, one of the founders of modern national scenography. He was the first among Belarusian artists to start sketching weaving patterns with national ornamentation, compiling and systematizing the features of the folk costume of Polesie, Grodno, Vitebsk and Minsk regions.

The theme of the traditional Belarusian costume is inextricably linked with the creative activity of Mikhail Romanyuk. He was the first to carry out a huge work on the classification of traditional national clothes of Belarusians according to regional peculiarities. Mikhail Romanyuk organized exhibitions in European countries, thanks to which many Europeans discovered Belarus for the first time. For his own money, he conducted dozens of ethnographic expeditions, the fruit of which were more than 130 reconstructions of





traditional costumes of Belarusians. The collection and archive of Mikhail Romanyuk has more than 100,000 units of unique ethnographic material collected personally by him, travel diaries make up dozens of volumes.

The most important event in the history of the study and preservation of the Belarusian folk costume was the publication in 1981 of the album "Belarusian Folk Clothing", consisting of archival photographs and photographs taken by the author during the expeditions of 1967 – 1980. The costumes are systematized according to the six ethnographic regions of Belarus identified by the author. More than 30 articles by Mikhail Romanyuk have been published in such publications as The Belarusian Soviet Encyclopedia, The Encyclopedia of Literature and Art of Belarus, Ethnography of Belarus, in the magazines Art, Belarus.

### Know to remember

So, the current exhibition, which, by the way, will run almost until the end of the year, presents works of traditional Belarusian weaving, Belarusian original graphics and Belarusian paintings from the collection of the National Art Museum, as well as unique items from

the collections of the Museum of Ancient Belarusian Culture, the Center for Research of Belarusian Culture, Language and Literature of the National Academy of Sciences, the Belarusian State Museum of Folk architecture and everyday life, the Museum Complex of the History and Culture of the Orsha region, the Grodno State Historical and Archaeological Museum, Vitebsk Regional Museum of Local Lore, Vitebsk Regional Methodical Center of Folk Art, Sennensky House of Crafts, Gorodok House of Crafts and Folklore Center of Traditional Culture and Folk Art of Gorodok district, photographic materials of the first half of the twentieth century from a private collection.

It remains to add that work is currently underway to further study and popularize the Belarusian folk costume. The collection of the National Art Museum is periodically updated with new arrivals of authentic folk clothing items. A lot of work is being done to restore them in order to preserve for future generations such a bright artistic phenomenon in the national culture of Belarus as a traditional costume.

Veniamin **Mikheev**



# СЭРЦАМ АДДАНЫЯ РОДНАЙ ЗЯМЛІ

Яркімі эмоцыямі дзяліліся ўдзельнікі  
IV Фестывалю мастацтваў беларусаў свету

ГОЛАС РАДЗІМЫ | Весткі з Беларусі



Волей лёсу яны аказаліся ў іншых краінах, але пачуццё сувязі з мясцінамі, дзе нарадзіліся, засталася назаўсёды. Яны зберагаюць сваю культуру і традыцыі, завешчаныя бацькамі. Пра тое, як хораша ўмеюць спяваць беларускія песні і захапляць народнымі танцамі ў Расіі, Казахстане, Арменіі, Літве, Латвіі, Эстоніі, Італіі, Іспаніі, ЗША, можна было пераканацца падчас IV Фестывалю мастацтваў беларусаў свету, калі на Бацькаўшчыну прыехала больш за 250 гасцей. Кіраўнікі беларускіх суполак, творчыя калектывы, пісьменнікі, мастакі, дызайнеры, народныя майстры імкнуліся ўразіць сваёй творчасцю, праз яе падзяліцца любоўю да роднай зямлі.

### Мой родны кут, як ты мне мілы...

Старшыня рэгіянальнай грамадскай арганізацыі “Нацыянальна-культурная аўтаномія беларусаў Томскай вобласці” **Любоў Адашкевіч** да 28 гадоў жыла ў вёсцы Асташына Навагрудскага раёна, працавала ў школе. “Волей лёсу я аказалася ў далёкай Сібіры, дзе жыву ўжо болей, чым тут, але сэрцам, душой, словам я з роднай зямлёй. Я думаю па-беларуску, гавару па-беларуску. Для мяне Беларусь – гэта знаёмыя сцяжынкi, родная хатка, якая яшчэ стаіць”, – падзялілася жанчына. На сібірскай зямлі, куды ў часы перасяленняў выязджала багата нашых ураджэнцаў, і сёння ёсць беларускія вёскі, дзе можна пачуць родную мову, і дзе старэйшыя пакаленні дзецям перадаюць любоў да зямлі, дзе нарадзіліся. Культурная аўтаномія ў Томскай вобласці працуе больш за 25 гадоў. Актывісты праводзяць розныя мерапрыемствы, паказваюць батлеечныя спектаклі, спяваюць беларускія песні. Два мясцовыя калектывы “Белая Русь” і “Медуница” маюць статус народных. Сёлета разам з ФНКА “Беларусы Расіі” томскія артысты праехалі па мясцінах баявой славы, далі канцэрты ў Смаленску і на Віцебшчыне. “Калі мы перасякалі мяжу Расіі і ўязджалі сюды, увесь наш аўтобус у 45 чалавек крычаў: “Ура! Няхай живе і квітнее Беларусь!”. Кожны з маіх хлопцаў і дзяўчат, якія прыехалі сюды, маюць беларускія карані. Яны вельмі хацелі пабываць у сваіх кутках, завезці бацькам нашай беларускай зямлі”, – расказвае Любоў Адашкевіч.

УмінулысвойпрыезднаБацькаўшчыну старшыня Паўладарскага культурнага

цэнтра “Беларусь” Асамблеі народаў Казахстана **Любоў Богнат** атрымала ад Міністэрства культуры Беларусі ў падарунак цымбалы. Гэты музычны інструмент дастаўлены ў Казахстан, дзе маладыя людзі беларускай суполкі даўно хацелі навучыцца на ім іграць. Асаблівае захапленне музычны інструмент выклікаў у дзяцей, якім хочацца дакрануцца да струн. “Гэтым разам я прыехала не адна, а з маладзёжнай групай “Надзея”, якая ўжо чацвёрты раз прымае ўдзел у фестывалі мастацтваў беларусаў свету, а таксама ўпершыню сюды прыехаў і яшчэ адзін калектыў з Паўладарскай вобласці – “Сяляне”, – сказала Любоў Богнат. – Гэты фестываль сімвалічны, ён праходзіць у Год міру. Беларусь такім чынам паказвае, што жыццё ў міры і згодзе спрыяе стваральнай працы. Таму сёлета фестываль сабраў не толькі беларусаў, разам з нашымі суайчыннікамі сюды прыехалі прадстаўнікі іншых народаў, якім падабаецца беларуская культура. Хачу пажадаць, каб было яшчэ многа такіх сустрэч, каб кожны іх удзельнік змог часцінку дабрыні, цеплыні, адкрытасці, гасціннасці адсюль павезці ў сваі краіны”.

Сапраўды сярод удзельнікаў фестывалю былі творчыя калектывы, дзе да беларусаў далучыліся іх замежныя сябры. Так, Іспанію прадстаўляў сямейны калектыў “Капялюш”. Вы б чулі, як хораша іспанцы спяваюць па-беларуску!

Фестываль – выдатная магчымасць даведацца, як у розных кутках свету нашы суайчыннікі захоўваюць беларускую культуру, абмяняцца

ідэямі, завесці сяброў, а магчыма і дамовіцца аб сумесных праектах. У гэтым упэўнена кіраўнік Усеіспанскай асацыяцыі ESBELARUS, дырэктар кансультацыйна-моўнага цэнтра Linguolandia ў горадзе Мадрыдзе **Святлана Яськова**. У Іспаніі беларусы праводзяць літаратурныя вечары, ушаноўваюць памяць дзеячоў культуры. Яны збіраюцца разам, каб адзначыць народныя святы, куды запрашаюць таксама іспанцаў.

Святлана Яськова ўжо 20 гадоў жыве ў Іспаніі, але падтрымлівае шчыльныя сувязі з радзімай дзякуючы адукацыйным праектам. Так, яна арганізоўвае прыезды іспанскіх студэнтаў на лінгвістычныя стажыроўкі ў Беларусь. Дарэчы, іспанскім студэнтам можа быць як 12, так і 92 гады, бо ў гэтай краіне людзі любяць падарожнічаць, вывучаць мовы і культуры іншых народаў. Як правіла, іспанцы двойчы не едуць у адно і тое ж месца, таму што імкнуцца пабачыць як мага больш краін. Але тыя з іх, хто пабываў у Беларусі, звычайна сюды вяртаюцца. Іх вабяць не толькі адукацыйныя праграмы, але і турызм, аздраўленне ў беларускіх санаторыях. Часта яны падоўжваюць свае візы, каб затрымацца ў Беларусі на некалькі месяцаў.

Адзін з праектаў, якім ганарыцца Святлана, створаны для дзетак беларусаў, якія сёння жывуць у Іспаніі. Малыя ў дадатак да адукацыі, якую атрымліваюць у мясцовых школах, могуць дыстанцыйна засвойваць праграму пачатковай беларускай школы. Яны займаюцца па беларускіх падручніках, якія даступны праз





■ Гала-концерт "Ручнікі - шляхі да дому

інтэрнэт, і на віртуальных уроках з настаўніцай з Беларусі.

Іспанскі адукацыйна-кансультатыўны цэнтр супрацоўнічае з дзяржаўнымі ВНУ Беларусі і прыватнымі арганізацыямі, дзякуючы чаму ствараюцца вучэбныя дапаможнікі, беларусы ездзяць у Іспанію на моўныя стажыроўкі, падчас якіх жывуць у мясцовых сем'ях. А яшчэ дзяспара робіць выдатныя выдавецкія праекты. Ужо перакладзена на іспанскую мову кніга Васіля Быкава, у планах – пераклад “Дзікага палявання караля Стаха” Уладзіміра Караткевіча і беларускіх казак.

Абудзіць цікавасць да нацыянальнай культуры імкнуцца і беларусы, якія жывуць у Італіі. 13 гадоў тут дзейнічае Беларускае культурнае таварыства Bellarus. «Bella» – па-італьянску “прыгожая”, так праз дадатковую літару заснавальнікі арганізацыі хацелі перадаць сваё ўспрыманне Беларусі, любоў да яе. З 2014 года з’явілася і

музычная група. “Мы зразумелі, што менавіта дзякуючы песні зможам звярнуць на сябе ўвагу. Калі наш калектыў у нацыянальных строях выходзіць на флэшмоб па Неапалю і мы спыняемся ў прыгожых мясцінах горада, вакол нас збіраецца натоўп. Усе хочуць сфатаграфавання, распытваюць, здзіўляюцца, захапляюцца, кажуць, як гэта цудоўна, што мы захоўваем карэнную культуру, бо ў Італіі гэтага ўжо не захавалася”, – расказвае кіраўнік італьянскага таварыства **Таццяна Пампулева**. Яна заўважыла, што часта італьянцы, якія знаёмяцца з беларусамі, чуюць іх расповеды, завочна ўлюбляюцца ў Беларусь. “Менавіта культура і людзі – галоўны брэнд нашай краіны. Асаблівыя рысы характару ўраджэнцаў нашай зямлі захоўваюцца нягледзячы на тое, у якой краіне яны пражываюць. Так, італьянцы адзначаюць у беларусах дабрыню, шчырасць, альтруізм, кажуць, што гэта становяцца людзі, спагадлівыя,

абавязковыя, калі паабяцалі нешта, абавязкова гэта зробіць”, – заўважыла Таццяна Пампулева.

### Люблю наш край, старонку гэту...

Праграма фестывалю была даволі насычанай, акрамя гала-канцэрта “Ручнікі – шляхі да дому”, які прайшоў у Мінскім палацы культуры, у ёй было багата мерапрыемстваў, падчас якіх беларусы замежжа маглі паглыбіцца ў культуру Беларусі, больш даведацца пра яе сучаснае жыццё, атрымаць карысную інфармацыю і завязаць кантакты з творцамі, якія працуюць у Беларусі. Для суайчыннікаў былі арганізаваны экскурсіі, майстар-класы па вакале, харэаграфіі ды рамёствам. Шмат эмоцый удзельнікам фестывалю падарылі паездкі па розных рэгіёнах Беларусі, дзе яны выступілі з канцэртамі.

У Храме Усіх Святых прайшла дыялогавая пляцоўка “Беларусь



– краіна яднання”. “Наперадзе палітычнай дыпламатыі заўсёды ідзе культура. Так наладжваюцца масты паміж людзьмі і краінамі”, – заўважыў у пачатку сустрэчы міністр культуры Рэспублікі Беларусь Анатоль Маркевіч. Фестываль мае вялікае значэнне. Яго праграма складаецца такім чынам, каб госці маглі пабываць не толькі ў сталіцы, але і ў рэгіёнах, на ўласныя вочы пабачыць, як жыве Беларусь і што робіцца для таго, каб яна заставалася краінай міралюбства і ўзаемаразумення”.

Міністр нагадаў, што бягучы год абвешчаны Годам міру і стваральнай працы і кожны, хто сюды прыязджае, можа пераканацца, што людзі тут живуць адной дружнай сям’ёй. За межамі нашай краіны пражывае каля 1,5 мільёна беларусаў, дзейнічае больш за 230 грамадскіх аб’яднанняў. Многія арганізацыі маюць багаты вопыт па захаванні культуры. Фестываль мастацтваў беларусаў свету дае выдатную магчымасць нашым суайчыннікам не толькі паказаць сябе, але і пазнаёміцца, абмяняцца ідэямі, натхніцца. “Прыемна, калі вы дасылаеце зваротную сувязь пра мерапрыемствы, якія праводзіце і ў Омску, і ў Іркуцку і ў Тальяці, і ў Пярмі, і ў далёкай Іарданіі, Даўгапілсе, Рызе, Ліепаі... Гэта пацвярджае, што вы не парываеце сувязь са сваёй радзімай”, – звярнуўся да ўдзельнікаў дыялогавай пляцоўкі Упаўнаважаны па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў Аляксандр Румак. Ён узгадаў, што за бягучы год была аказана значная дапамога суполкам беларусаў за мяжой: перадаваліся нацыянальныя строі, сімволіка і кнігі. Так за 2022–2023 гады аказана падтрымка на больш чым 90 тысяч рублёў. Праект Упаўнаважанага па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў

па аб’яднанні беларускай дыяспары за мяжой спрыяе ўзмацненню сувязяў у галінах культуры і адукацыі.

Аляксандр Румак заўважыў, што неабходна больш развіваць міжнародных стасункаў паміж навучальнымі ўстановамі. Дарэчы, пажаданне аб наладжванні абменаў паміж педагогамі, а магчыма і школьнымі групамі, выказалі самі госці. У



прыватнасці, беларуская суполка ў Саратаўскай вобласці гатова хоць сёння прымаць дэлегацыі з Беларусі, у сваю чаргу настаўнікам з гэтага расійскага рэгіёна цікава было б наведаць сваіх калег.

“Вы робіце ўсё, каб захаваць нацыянальныя традыцыі, самабытнасць беларускага народа, не дапусціць скажэння гісторыі. Культура і духоўнасць – гарантыя стабільнасці і працвітання любога народа і любой

дзяржавы”, – заўважыла намеснік старшыні Пастаяннай камісіі Палаты прадстаўнікоў Нацыянальнага сходу па правах чалавека, нацыянальных адносінах і сродках масавай інфармацыі, кіраўнік парламенцкай рабочай групы па справах беларусаў замежжа Валянціна Ражанец. – У працоўную групу па справах беларусаў замежжа пры беларускім парламенце ўваходзяць аўтарытэтныя парламентарыі, якія праявілі сябе ў дыпламатычнай, навуковай сферах.

Мы ствараем умовы для таго, каб развіваць наша далейшае супрацоўніцтва, рухацца наперад, ахопліваць новыя эфектыўныя формы работы з грамадскімі аб’яднаннямі і арганізацыямі суайчыннікаў за мяжой, замацоўваць адзінства ўнутры краіны і на знешнім кантэры”.

Старшыня грамадскай арганізацыі “Федэральная нацыянальна-культурная аўтаномія “Беларусы Расіі” Сяргей Кандыбовіч расказаў пра сваю арганізацыю, якая аб’ядноўвае 80 рэгіянальных і мясцовых культурных аўтаномій. Гэта самая вялікая дыяспара беларусаў свету. Кіраўнікі мясцовых суполак з’яўляюцца членамі кансультацыйных саветаў пры гл

рэгіёнаў, таму яны не толькі захоўваюць і пазіцыянуюць нацыянальную культуру, а таксама імкнуцца вырашаць праблемы сваіх рэгіёнаў, што, безумоўна, дапамагае фарміраваць пазітыўнае стаўленне да беларусаў. Гэта паказваюць і шматлікія сустрэчы. Вельмі прыемна, калі чуеш добрыя словы пра Беларусь і беларусаў. Адчуваеш гонар, радасць, а разам з тым і адказнасць, што ты прадстаўляеш такі народ, чысціню яго помыслаў, яго справы”, – падзяліўся Сяргей Львовіч.

Старшыня Ерэванскай беларускай абшчыны Арменіі “Беларусь” Ірына Пагасян расказала, што суполка не забываецца пра народныя традыцыі, там адзначаюць Каляды, а Купалле праходзіць высока ў гарах. 5 гадоў таму суполка правяла Фестываль беларускай культуры, які меў вялікі поспех. У Арменіі пра яго ўзгадвалі цэлы год, глядачы чакалі працягу, таму было прынята рашэнне праводзіць фестываль кожны год. Хіт святочных праграмаў Арменіі – драмікі самятанай, зробленай у Беларусі. У Арменіі не адзначаецца 9 Мая, і беларуская дыяспара ўзяла на сябе адказнасць па віншаванні ветэранаў. У суполцы вялікая ўвага ўдзяляецца рабоце з дзецьмі і моладдзю, для таго, каб перадаць падрастаючаму пакаленню

праводзіць канцэрты беларускіх і рускіх дзяцей з праблемамі слыху ў рамках Славянскага базару. І тчэ забывушыся рука...

На фестываль мастацтваў беларусы свету прыехалі не толькі з канцэртнымі нумарамі. Майстры дэманстравалі свае ўменні на выстаўцы дэкаратыўна-прыкладнага і выяўленчага мастацтва, якая прайшла ў Мінскім палацы культуры. Ганна Федарэнка прадстаўляла Нацыянальна-культурную аўтаномію Рэспублікі Комі. З Сыктыўкара яна прыехала са сваімі ваўнянымі бусламі, мядзведзікамі, валашкамі, упрыгажэннямі. “Я нарадзілася ў Глыбоцкім раёне, дзе многа азёр і буслоў, таму і раблю такіх птушак. Усё жыццё займалася рукадзеллем, не

Апошні перапіс паказаў, што ў Рэспубліцы Комі пражывае каля 9 тысяч беларусаў. Беларускую суполку ў рэгіёне добра ведаюць, народны хор “Купалінка”, дзе спявае Ганна Федарэнка, мае прыхільнікаў, якія заўсёды ходзяць на яго канцэрты. Часта беларусы Сыктыўкара збіраюць поўныя залы на 200 чалавек, бывае што і месцаў на ўсіх, хто прыйшоў, не хапае і даводзіцца ставіць дадатковыя крэслы...

Любоў Андрэеўна Уцюрна, якая прыехала з горада Уфы Рэспублікі Башкартастан, з саломкі робіць і сувеніры, і абразы. Для выставы ў рамках фестывалю яна падрыхтавала саламяныя сюжэты: з асобных аб’ёмных залацістых фігур сабрала гурт калядоўшчыкаў, а побач з імі



бацькоўскую любоў да радзімы, сваіх каранёў. Для самых маленькіх працуе лялечны тэатр. “Я 37 гадоў живу не ў Беларусі, але я ведаю, што павінна адказваць за кожнае сваё слова і дзеянне, каб мая радзіма ганарылася мною”, – заўважыла **Ірына Пагасян**. Падчас дыялогавай пляцоўкі беларусы замежжа паказалі, што гатовы рабіць цікавыя і карысныя праекты не толькі ў месцах свайго пражывання, але і на радзіме. Так, спявачка, артыстка, заснавальніца дабрачыннага фестывалю і фонду “Твае таленты так патрэбныя планеце” **Яўгенія Караткевіч**, якая цяпер пражывае ў Маскве, звярнулася з прапановай падрыхтаваць канцэрт на яе радзіме ў Магілёве, а таксама

разумею, як можна проста глядзець тэлевізар, каб рукі не былі занятыя. Бабуля навучыла мяне вязаць і вышываць крыжыкам. Гадоў з дзесяць таму я захапілася валяннем. А пазней высветлілася, што мой дзядуля, якога я не ведала, валяў валёнкі”, – падзялілася жанчына. Яшчэ ў часы Савецкага Саюза яна скончыла авіяцыйна-тэхнічнае вучылішча, паехала па размеркаванні ў Сыктыўкар, працавала сцэнарэсай. Так там і засталася. Расія ўжо стала для жанчыны другой радзімай, бо там яна пражыла большую частку жыцця, там нарадзіўся і вырас яе сын. Тым не менш штолета Ганна імкнецца пабываць на радзіме, дзе жывуць яе маці, брат, стрыечныя сёстры.

за саламяным станком “пасадзіла” ткачы.

Беларусы, якія сёння жывуць за мяжой і вывучаюць традыцыйныя рамёствы, прызнаюцца, што раней сапраўды цяжка было займацца творчасцю, папросту не было дзе здабыць інфармацыю. Сёння падказкі можна знайсці ў інтэрнэце, у Беларусі выходзяць выдатныя кнігі, прысвечаныя рамёствам і беларускай культуры. Беларусы замежжа папрасілі перадаць падзяку за такую літаратуру, што ім перадаецца Міністэрствам культуры Рэспублікі Беларусь, Апаратам Упаўнаважанага па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў, Рэспубліканскім цэнтрам Нацыянальных культур.

Надзея Свістун, якая прадстаўляла рэгіянальнае грамадскае аб'яднанне беларусаў Башкартастана Іглінскага раёна, узгадала, як раней няпроста было вывучыць нават беларускія песні. Так, у сяле Балтыка, дзе яна працуе бібліятэкарам, песні запісвалі насляхад бацькоў і дзядоў. Пасля з'явіліся кнігі, у бібліятэку стала паступаць літаратура з Беларусі. Сёння ў рэпертуары мясцовага народнага ансамбля “Сябры” багата народных песень, а таксама песень сучасных беларускіх аўтараў. Натхніца дапамагаюць і паездкі ў Беларусь. “Будзем садзявацца, што ўзаемасупрацоўніцтва культурнае і эканамічнае, духоўныя сувязі будуць прыводзіць толькі да добрага: міру на зямлі”, – выказала пажаданне Надзея Свістун. Яна распавяла пра адзін з праектаў па захаванні і папулярызаванні беларускай культуры. Дзякуючы гранту главы Башкірыі суполка выпусціла двухтомнік “О прошлом и настоящем ради будущего”, дзе сабрана інфармацыя пра знакамітых беларусаў Іглінскага і Архангельскага раёнаў. Гэта прадстаўнікі розных прафесій, якія праслаўлялі Беларусь.

Іна Янсана, хоць і нарадзілася ў Латвіі, з дзяцінства кожнае лета праводзіла ў Беларусі. Малой яна яшчэ заспела той час, калі бабулі ў вёсках хадзілі ў фартушках. Бацька распавёў ёй, што маці да апошняга насіла намітку. Таму ў жанчыны асабліва трапяткое стаўленне да гэтага галаўнога ўбору. А яшчэ Іна Васільеўна аднавіла магілёўскі строй – менавіта з гэтымі мясцінамі звязаныя яе карані. Узоры вышыўкі яна падгледзела ў Беларусі ў краязнаўчым музеі, для вырабу закупіла аршанскі лён, нават ніткі набыла ў Магілёве. І гэты створ, і вышыўкі, і самаробных тэкстыльных лялек жанчына прадэманстравала падчас фестывалю, а яшчэ яна прывезла ручнікі – частку калекцыі, сабранай беларускім таварыствам “Спатканне” ў латвійскім горадзе Екабіпілсе. Сёння там захоўваецца каля 60-70 ручнікоў. Таксама ёсць абрусы і кашулі, рэчы, зробленыя жанчынамі беларускай суполкі ў наш час. Некаторыя са старых ручнікоў трапілі ў таварыства ў дрэнным стане,

іх адмывалі, аднаўлялі, у працёртых месцах наноў рабілі вышыўку, старанна падбіраючы колер нітак.

### Трэба дома бываць не госцем...

На фестываль мастацтваў беларусаў свету з Латвіі прыехала зборная дэлегацыя, прадстаўленая актывістамі з розных гарадоў. “Мы прыбылі з добрым настроем, бачым, колькі светлых людзей аб'яднала гэтае свята. Канешне, нам хацелася сустрэцца з сябрамі і расказаць пра сябе. Ужо 29 гадоў у Латвіі выходзіць газета “Прамень”, а цяпер друкуецца і газета “Уздым”. Ёсць кнігі пра тое, як мы імкнемся падтрымліваць сувязь з этнічнай радзімай. Мы захоўваем мову, традыцыі, адзначаем святы”, – распавяла Алена Міцкевіч, рэдактар газеты “Прамень”.

У таварыстве “Уздым” у Даўгапілсе, якому сёлета споўнілася 30 гадоў, багата паэтаў і пісьменнікаў, таму часта праводзяцца творчыя вечары, выдаюцца кнігі на беларускай мове. Адзін з заснавальнікаў арганізацыі Станіслаў Валодзька на сустрэчы ў Саюзе пісьменнікаў Беларусі, якая прайшла ў рамках фестывалю, расказаў, што беларусы Латвіі праводзяць дні беларускай культуры. На канцэртах, якія яны ладзяць, гучаць народныя і аўтарскія песні. Дыск са сваімі песнямі ў выкананні яшчэ аднаго нашага суайчынніка, саліста з Літвы Сяргея Шабадалава, ён падарыў Саюзу пісьменнікаў, членам якога з'яўляецца. Вершы Станіслава Валодзькі добра вядомыя беларусам. Яны ўвайшлі і ў дзіцячую чытанку “Верасок”, якая толькі што выйшла з друку ў Выдавецкім доме “Звязда”.

Падчас сустрэчы ў Саюзе пісьменнікаў сваімі планами і прапановамі падзяліліся беларусы Крыма. Так, старшыня нацыянальна-культурнай аўтаноміі **Раман Чэгрынец** расказаў пра зборнік “Зеленя”, у якім змешчаны творы Максіма Багдановіча. Кніга, у аснову якой увайшлі рускамоўныя вершы паэта з рукапіснага сшытка аўтаперакладаў Багдановіча, выйшла з друку ў гэтым годзе ў Сімферопалі ў выдавецтве “Медыяцэнтр імя Ісмаіла

Гаспарынскага”. Беларуская суполка даглядае магілу ў Ялце, дзе класік знайшоў свой спачын, праводзіць разнастайныя мерапрыемствы, звязаныя з ушанаваннем памяці паэта. Намеснік старшыні нацыянальна-культурнай аўтаноміі “Беларусы Крыма” Віталь Бартохаў заўважыў, што Багдановіч адкрыў для беларусаў новыя вершаваныя формы, сярод якіх санеты, трыялеты ды іншыя. Ён лічыць, што добра было б стварыць зборнік з прыкладамі такіх твораў, створаных рознымі беларускімі аўтарамі ўслед за Максімам Багдановічам. Таксама **Віталь Бартохаў** узгадаў, што ў Крыме пабывалі розныя беларускія пісьменнікі, яны прысвячалі гэтым мясцінам свае творы, успаміны, такую літаратурную спадчыну таксама можна было б сабраць пад адной вокладкай.

Старшыня Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі Алесь Карлюкевіч пазнаёміў гасцей з праектамі, якія паспяхова здзяйсняюцца арганізацыяй у супрацы з замежнымі калегамі. Ён прапанаваў беларусам замежжа далучацца да ўжо існуючых праграм і развіваць літаратурныя стасункі. Так, штогод у рамках Міжнароднай мінскай кніжнай выставы-кірмашу праводзіцца Сімпозіум літаратараў “Пісьменнік і час”, а напярэдадні Дня беларускага пісьменства праходзіць міжнародны круглы стол пад агульнай ідэяй “Мастацкая літаратура як шлях адзін да аднаго”. Таксама з мінулага года ў Беларусі пачалі праводзіцца Дні нацыянальных літаратур, першая такая сустрэча, напрыклад, была прысвечана ўзбекскай літаратуры. “За апошнія гады, калі, здавалася, папяровая кніга здае свае пазіцыі, паменела літаратурна-мастацкай перыёдыкі, зроблена вельмі многа. Вызначаюцца перспектывыя планы, падпісваюцца пагадненні, развіваюцца стасункі паміж перакладчыкамі і творчымі людзьмі”, – заўважыў Алесь Карлюкевіч.

Таксама сустрэчы з беларусамі замежжа прайшлі ў Беларускім саюзе мастакоў і Беларускім саюзе майстроў народнай творчасці.

Алена **Дзядзюля**  
Фота Лізы Голад



# СІМВАЛЫ СЯБРОЎСТВА

## Лёс беларускай дыяспары непарыўна звязаны з гісторыяй Саюзнай дзяржавы

Савет Федэральнай нацыянальна-культурнай аўтаноміі “Беларусы Расіі” правёў выездное пасяджэнне. Кіраўнікі і прадстаўнікі нацыянальна-культурных аўтаномій і арганізацый Омскай, Растоўскай, Томскай абласцей, Рэспублікі Крым, Башкартастана, Кабардзіна-Балкарны і іншых рэгіёнаў наведалі землі Смаленшчыны і Віцебшчыны, а таксама Мінск. У рамках пасяджэння было арганізавана маштабнае мерапрыемства “Днепр – рака сяброўства”, прымеркаванае да 80-годдзя вызвалення Смаленшчыны ад нямецка-фашысцкіх захопнікаў. Прайшлі канцэрты і круглыя сталы, дэлегацыя наведала мясціны баявой славы, усклала кветкі ў памяць пра герояў. Таксама прадстаўнікі беларускай дыяспары выкарысталі гэты час, каб падзяліцца сваімі напрацоўкамі і наметыць далейшыя планы.

Як заўважыў старшыня ФНКА “Беларусы Расіі”, член прэзідыума Савета пры Прэзідэнце Расійскай Федэрацыі па міжнацыянальных адносінах, член Кансультацыйнага савету па справах беларусаў замежжа пры МЗС Рэспублікі Беларусь Сяргей Кандыбовіч падчас сустрэчы ў Нацыянальнай бібліятэцы ў Мінску кіраўнікі актыўна не толькі

робяць карысныя справы ў месцах свайго пражывання, але і назіраюць за падзеямі, якія адбываюцца ў свеце, актыўна супрацоўнічаюць з беларускімі ўстановамі. Адзін з праектаў дыяспары ў Расіі – выдавецкі. Кнігі патрыятычнага зместу перадаюцца ў бібліятэкі, аб’яднанням беларусаў замежжа з

іншых краін. У мінулым годзе дзейнасць беларусаў Расіі была адзначана на вышэйшым узроўні. Са сцэны ў Віцебску падчас фестывалю “Славянскі базар” прэмію Саюзнай дзяржавы ў галіне літаратуры і мастацтва аўтарскаму калетыву, актывістам ФНКА ўручаў Прэзідэнт Беларусі Аляксандр Лукашэнка. Выдавецкай дзейнасцю ФНКА



займаецца ўжо больш дзесяці гадоў і будзе працягваць такі кірунак працы. Кнігі з патрыятычнай тэматыкай выходзяць у розных рэгіёнах Расіі, дзе дзейнічаюць беларускія суполкі. Сярод актывістаў беларускай дыяспары шмат пісьменнікаў, гісторыкаў, яны займаюцца даследчыцкай дзейнасцю, збіраюць песні, успаміны перасяленцаў, звесткі пра вядомых суайчыннікаў. Сяргей Кандыбовіч узгадаў пра выданне “Анталогія беларускай паэзіі”. Федэрацыя будзе хадайнічаць аб тым, каб і кніга, і аўтарскі калектыў былі адзначаны прэміяй Расійскай Федэрацыі ў галіне культуры.

### Тэмы для даследаванняў

Дзякуючы праграме “Беларусы свету” ва ўсіх рэгіёнах, дзе дзейнічаюць аб’яднанні беларусаў Расіі, фарміруюцца бібліятэкі з беларускімі выданнямі. За гэта Сяргей Львовіч падзякаваў Міністэрству інфармацыі і Міністэрству культуры Беларусі, Упаўнаважанаму па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў, Нацыянальнай бібліятэцы.

З апошняй дыяспара даўно і шчыльна супрацоўнічае. Тэмы для далейшага ўзаемадзення і магчымасці развіцця культурных сувязяў паміж краінамі госці абмеркавалі з дырэктарам Нацыянальнай бібліятэкі Вадзімам Гігіным.

Вадзім Францавіч раскажаў пра праграмы, якія рэалізоўвае ўстанова. Сёння яна з’яўляецца адным з буйнейшых культурных цэнтраў нашай краіны, у якім працуюць вялікі калектыў прафесіяналаў. Безумоўна, сёння ўвага ўдзяляецца папулярызацыі папяровай кнігі, распрацоўваюцца праграмы, накіраваныя на падрастаючае пакаленне. Але бібліятэка перастала быць проста месцам захавання і выдачы кніг. Яна ставіць перад сабой задачы па папулярызацыі навуковых ведаў, прасоўванню нацыянальнай гістарычнай палітыкі. У планах –

арганізацыя пастаянных лекторыяў у анлайн- і афлайн- фарматах. Установа ўзаемадзейнічае і арганізоўвае метадычнае забеспячэнне з усімі бібліятэкамі краіны, якія адносяцца да Міністэрства культуры, а таксама развівае стасункі з замежнымі калегамі.

Актыўна развіваюцца міжнародныя сувязі. Толькі за апошнія пару месяцаў у бібліятэцы прайшлі міжнародныя круглыя сталы, першы Беларуска-ўзбекскі жаночы форум, яе наведвала дэлегацыя Рэспублікі Казахстан. Наладжана шчыльнае супрацоўніцтва

Беларускае бежанства ў гады Першай сусветнай вайны сыграла ключавую, важнейшую ролю ў прабуджэнні беларускай самасвядомасці. Можна ўзгадаць пра Беларускі абласны камітэт у Петраградзе, Беларускі нацыянальны камісарыят спачатку ў Петраградзе, пасля – у Маскве, беларускі з’езд бежанцаў, Беларускі народны ўніверсітэт, Народную бібліятэку. Магутныя беларускія цэнтры былі ў Стаўрапалі, Казані. У Петраградзе было створана першае легальнае беларускае выдавецкае аб’яднанне “Загляне сонца і ў наша



з расійскім пасольствам, амаль кожны тыдзень бібліятэка прымае дэлегацыі з розных рэгіёнаў Расійскай Федэрацыі, падпісвае пагадненні аб супрацоўніцтве, яе фонды папаўняюцца новымі кнігамі. Вадзім Гігін агучыў перад кіраўнікамі беларускіх суполак у Расіі тэмы, якія трэба ўздымаць на сумесных мерапрыемствах. На яго думку, яшчэ мала ўдзяляецца ўвагі гісторыі беларускай дыяспары. “Цяжка пераацаніць тую ролю, якую ў свой час адыгралі беларускія арганізацыі, што дзейнічалі па-за межамі Беларусі.



аконца”, друкаваліся газета “Дзянніца” і часопіс “Чырвоны шлях”. Можна ўзгадаць пра беларусаў у Сібіры, якія пераязджалі ў часы Сталыпінскай

рэформы, пра месцы, куды яны ехалі ў эвакуацыю ў гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны, пра асваенне Сібіры і Дальняга Усходу ў пасляваенныя гады”, – такія тэмы для абмеркавання і вывучэння прапанаваў Вадзім Гігін, які таксама з’яўляецца старшынёй рэспубліканскага дзяржаўна-грамадскага аб’яднання “Беларускае таварыства “Веды”.

Кіраўнік лабараторыі гісторыі дыяспар і міграцый і вучэбна-навуковага кірунку “Беларусазнаўства і гісторыя беларускай дыяспары” гістарычнага факультэта МДУ Аксана

### Агульныя імёны

У Расіі шмат знакавых мясцін, звязаных з лёсамі знакамітых беларусаў. Старшыня грамадскай арганізацыі беларусаў Казані “Спадчына” Сяргей Марудзенка нагадаў, што ў Татарстане створаны адзіны на тэрыторыі Расіі музей Янкі Купалы, які знаходзіцца ў будынку, дзе Купала і яго жонка жылі ў эвакуацыі ў гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны.

Беларусы Крыма даглядаюць магілу Максіма Багдановіча ў Ялце, праводзяць шматлікія мерапрыемствы, звязаныя з ушанаваннем памяці паэта. Старшыня

цікавыя матэрыялы для такога музея, ёсць факсімільныя выданні, архівы, матэрыялы, звязаныя з бацькам Максіма Багдановіча. Сваю просьбу Раман Чэгрынец агучыў і міністру культуры Беларусі Анатолю Маркевічу падчас дыялогавай пляцоўкі, якая прайшла ў рамках Фэстывалю мастацтваў беларусаў свету, і на сустрэчы ў Саюзе пісьменнікаў Беларусі.

Старшыня савета Кабардына-Балкарскага грамадскага руху “За яднанне “Сябры” Павел Сідарук раскажаў, што на Паўночным Каўказе, дзе ён жыве, дзейнічае Цэнтр беларускай

культуры, у рамках вучэбнай праграмы беларусы вывучаюць родную мову, захоўваюць традыцыі і нацыянальную кухню. Назва аднаго з хутароў – Мінскі – застаецца сведчаннем, перасяленцы з якіх краёў тут пасяліліся яшчэ стагоддзе таму.

У мінулым годзе ў горадзе Сцерлітамак Рэспублікі Башкірыя была зарэгістравана мясцовая нацыянальна-культурная аўтаномія “Спадчына”. Кіраўнік арганізацыі Вікторыя Шарупа падчас сустрэчы перадала ў Нацыянальную бібліятэку сваю кнігу і расказала, што ў яе родзе многа пісьменнікаў, а дзядзька, Аляксандр Матусевіч, працаваў журналістам у газеце “Звязда”. Ён пісаў пра асушэнні балот, і адным з першых раскажаў пра калгас “Чырвоная змена”, які быў вядомы далёка за межамі Беларусі, і старшыня якога

Кузьма Шаптыла атрымаў званне Героя Сацыялістычнай Працы.

Сяргей Кандыбовіч запэўніў, што беларуская дыяспара заўсёды гатова далучацца да праектаў, якія рэалізуюцца на гістарычнай радзіме. Ён нагадаў, што беларусы Расіі дапамаглі выкупіць на аўкцыёне асобнік Стагута ВКЛ, які сёння захоўваецца ў Музеі гісторыі Магілёва. У музей Янкі Купалы імі былі перададзены таксама набытыя на аўкцыёне невядомыя партрэты Песняра.

Ганна Трошына  
Фота Алены Дзядзюлі



Салопава заўважыла, што гісторыя беларускай дыяспары непарыўна звязана з гісторыяй Беларусі, Расіі і Саюзнай дзяржавы. Шмат у чым беларусы Расіі ўплывалі на сувязі, якія ўстанаўліваліся паміж абедзвюма дзяржавамі, на працэсы, якія адбываліся. Таму сёння неабходна развіваць супрацоўніцтва ў галіне даследчыцкай дзейнасці. Дарэчы, летам гэтага года прайшоў першы форум гісторыкаў Беларусі і Расіі, падчас якога было прынята рашэнне аб стварэнні расійска-беларускага экспертнага савета па гісторыі.

рэгіянальнай нацыянальна-культурнай аўтаноміі “Беларусы Крыма” Раман Чэгрынец падзяліўся планами аб стварэнні ў Крыму музея Максіма Багдановіча. Ужо нават знойдзена памяшканне пад яго. Але ёсць пэўныя складанасці ў стварэнні экспазіцыі. На жаль, у Крыме не захавалася асабістых рэчаў пісьменніка, таму беларуская суполка звярнулася з просьбай да супрацоўнікаў Нацыянальнай бібліятэкі дапамагчы з распрацоўкай канцэпцыі музея і прадметамі для экспазіцыі. Вадзім Гігін запэўніў, што сапраўды ў Беларусі можна падабраць



# “Абараняць нацыянальныя інтарэсы, беларускі менталітэт трэба толькі разам”

У апарате Упаўнаважанага па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў прайшло пасяджэнне Кансультатыўнага міжканфесіянальнага савета, у якім узяў удзел дзяржаўны сакратар Савета бяспекі Аляксандр Вальфовіч.

Падчас сустрэчы з прадстаўнікамі вядучых рэлігійных канфесій Беларусі была абмеркавана абноўленая Канцэпцыя нацыянальнай бяспекі, а таксама геапалітычнае становішча, выклікі і пагрозы, якія стаяць перад сучасным грамадствам.

Канцэпцыя нацыянальнай бяспекі – адзін з асноваўных дакументаў любой сучаснай дзяржавы, які ахоплівае ўсе сферы жыцця. Беларусь з набыццём незалежнасці адной з першых прыняла такі дакумент і перыядычна яго абнаўляла. Апошняя рэдакцыя дзейнічала больш за 12 гадоў. Сёння прыйшоў час мадэрнізаваць канцэпцыю з улікам сучаснай сітуацыі. Такое даручэнне даў Прэзідэнт Рэспублікі Беларусь падчас VI Усебеларускага народнага сходу. Да распрацоўкі канцэпцыі далучыліся вучоныя Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук, Акадэміі нацыянальнай бяспекі, Беларускага інстытута стратэгічных даследаванняў, вядучых ВНУ краіны. Палажэнні канцэпцыі абмяркоўваліся на навукова-практычных канферэнцыях, дыялогавых пляцоўках, у дзяржаўных, навучальных установах, працоўных калектывах.

У праекце пашыраны пералік стратэгічных нацыянальных інтарэсаў, сярод якіх – захаванне самабытнасці, умацаванне духоўна-маральных каштоўнасцяў беларускага народа, абарона гістарычнай памяці. Асаблівае значэнне ўдзяляецца патрыятычнаму выхаванню грамадзян, перш за ўсё моладзі, захаванню сямейных каштоўнасцяў, пераемнасці пакаленняў, дабрабыту грамадзян, стварэнню камфортных умоў для жыцця і развіцця людзей. Дадзены адказы на пытанні, як магчыма супрацьстаяць пагрозам, забяспечваць бяспеку краіны, грамадства, кожнага грамадзяніна.

Перадпачаткам сустрэчы дзяржсакратар Савета бяспекі адзначыў, што ўдзельнікі ўсіх дыскусійных пляцовак, на якіх абмяркоўваецца праект канцэпцыі, адзначаюць, што абараняць нацыянальныя інтарэсы, беларускі

менталітэт трэба толькі разам, важна задзейнічаць усе грамадзянскія інстытуты, наогул грамадскасць. Безумоўна, тут не абысціся без меркаванняў прадстаўнікоў рэлігійных канфесій, бо гэта людзі, якія стаяць на абароне духоўна-культурных каштоўнасцяў, шмат робяць для ўмацавання нацыянальнага адзінства, грамадзянскага міру і духоўнай бяспекі. Іх галоўнай зброяй становіцца слова, якое яны даносяць у сваіх малітвах. Напрыклад, можна ўзгадаць Усебеларускую малітву за мір. “Царква – моцны інстытут, які не выкарыстоўваць проста нельга. У дзяржавы, на мой погляд, ёсць два важныя складальнікі: армія і царква. Армія абараняе, царква – натхняе і накіроўвае, дае ўпэўненасць і сілу людзям. Вялікі ўплыў царква аказвае на моладзь. Таму дзяржсакратарыям было прынята рашэнне правесці



такое мерапрыемства сумесна з прадстаўнікамі розных канфесій, пагаварыць пра тую змену, якія сёння адбываюцца ў свеце ў святле геапалітычнай абстаноўкі і, канешне, разам абмеркаваць палажэнні Канцэпцыі нацыянальнай бяспекі. Пачуць, ці не ўпусцілі мы штосьці ў сферы духоўнай накіраванасці, і пры неабходнасці дапоўніць палажэнні канцэпцыі”, – адзначыў Аляксандр Вальфовіч.

Ён заўважыў, што нормы свецкага жыцця аснованы на рэлігійных заповедзях. У іх закладзены асноўныя традыцыйныя каштоўнасці, культурны код нашага беларускага народа.

“Канстытуцыяй Рэспублікі Беларусь і заканадаўствам замацаваны роўныя адносіны дзяржавы да ўсіх канфесій, якія дзейнічаюць у нашай краіне. Механізмам узаемадзеяння паміж дзяржавай і рознымі рэлігійнымі арганізацыямі з’яўляецца Міжканфесіяльны савет пры Упаўнаважаным па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў. На яго пасяджэннях, у якіх прымаюць

удзел кіраўнікі асноўных рэлігійных канфесій, аб’яднанняў разглядаюцца як пытанні, якія датычацца дзейнасці саміх рэлігійных арганізацый, так і ўсе жыццёва важныя праблемы нашага грамадства. У сучасных умовах, у час знешніх пагроз, рызык, вельмі важным дакументам з’яўляецца Канцэпцыя нацыянальнай бяспекі”, – заўважыў Упаўнаважаны па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў Аляксандр Румак і нагадаў, што дакументы, якія распрацоўваюцца ў нашай краіне, заўсёды накіраваны на захаванне міру і згоды. Наогул Рэспубліка Беларусь з’яўляецца цудоўным прыкладам міжнацыянальнай і міжканфесіяльнай згоды. І, безумоўна, духоўная бяспека з’яўляецца адным з фактараў захавання спакою і стабільнасці ў нашай краіне.

Мітрапаліт Мінскі і Заслаўскі, Патрыяршы Экзарх усея Беларусі Венямін упэўнены, што духоўная складова нацыянальнай бяспекі з’яўляецца адной з найважнейшых: “Яна фарміруе ўчынкi людзей. У залежнасці ад таго, што на сэрцы і ў думках чалавека, ён і дзейнічае. Важна,

каб была сфарміравана пэўная шкала нашых нацыянальных каштоўнасцяў, на якія мы абапіраемся, якія з’яўляюцца для нас традыцыйнымі і павінны перадавацца праз пакаленні. Можна мяняць жыццё, культура, мода, іншае, але ёсць ключавыя, істотныя моманты, якія павінны заставацца, быць фундаментам для нашага народа. Духоўныя складальнікі павінны стаць магутнай скрэпай для нашага грамадства”.

Падчас пасяджэння мітрапаліт звярнуў увагу, што ў выніку глабалізацыі ў свеце навязваюцца новыя ідэі, знікаюць унікальныя рысы цывілізацый, а разам з тым і традыцыйныя сістэмы каштоўнасцяў, якія фарміраваліся стагоддзямі на аснове культурных, рэлігійных і сацыяльных фактараў. У сувязі з гэтым варты адзначыць надзвычайную актуальнасць абноўленай Канцэпцыі нацыянальнай бяспекі, якая прызвана дапамагчы нашай дзяржаве не толькі захаваць сябе ва ўмовах свету, які мяняецца, але і заняць у ім годнае месца.

Яўген Кручкоў

# ЗАХАВАЦЬ ГІСТАРЫЧНУЮ ПРАЎДУ



Больш за дзве сотні ўдзельнікаў – вучоных, прадстаўнікоў органаў улады і дзяржаўнага кіравання Беларусі і Расіі, членаў грамадскіх арганізацый, работнікаў архіваў і музеяў, педагогаў вядучых ВНУ і студэнтаў – на базе Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук сабраў форум “Расія і Беларусь: агульная гісторыя, агульны лёс”. Яго арганізатарамі выступілі Інстытут гісторыі НАН Беларусі, Цэнтр міжнароднага супрацоўніцтва міністэрства асветы Расійскай Федэрацыі, Фонд “Гістарычная памяць”. Мерапрыемства прайшло пры падтрымцы Пастаяннага Камітэта Саюзнай дзяржавы.

Форум прысвечаны захаванню гістарычнай памяці Беларусі і Расіі. Накіраваны на супрацьдзеянне фальсіфікацыі гісторыі абедзвюх краін, перагляду вынікаў Другой сусветнай вайны, рэабілітацыі нацысцкіх злачынцаў. Адна з яго мэт – умацаванне гуманітарных сувязяў і развіццё супрацоўніцтва.

## Не дапусціць скажэнне мінулага

Дырэктар Інстытута гісторыі Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук Вадзім Лакіза заўважыў, што важна праводзіць сумесную працу з улікам сучасных выклікаў: “Захаванне гістарычнай памяці сёння як ніколі актуальнае. Мы ўзгадваем пра трагедыю Хатыні, гаворым пра спіс знішчаных вёсак, які папаўняецца новымі звесткамі ў рамках расследавання крымінальнай справы, аб генацыдзе беларускага народа. У супрацоўніцтве з расійскімі калегамі, Генеральнай пракуратурай працуем над гісторыка-прававым аналізам генацыду савецкага народа. Наша задача – максімальна трансліраваць, папулярызаваць агульныя старонкі гісторыі”.

Пра неабходнасць аб’яднаць намаганні ў барацьбе за адстойванне гістарычнай праўды гаварыла і намеснік дзяржаўнага сакратара Саюзнай дзяржавы Алена Богдан: “Не сакрэт, што мы стаім на парозе глабальнага пераўзладу свету на палітычнай і грамадска-палітычнай

карце. Мы бачым, што многія краіны спрабуюць перапісаць гісторыю. Людзі, якія былі ў нацысцкіх батальёнах, уздымаюць галовы, іх запрашаюць і вітаюць у парламенце. Іх нашчадкі займаюць кіруючыя пасады ва ўрадах асобных краін. Канешне, яны будуць імкнуцца перапісаць гісторыю, каб абяліць гісторыю ўласнага роду”.

Падчас форуму абмяркоўваліся не толькі ваенныя старонкі гісторыі і сучаснае геапалітычнае становішча, удзельнікі расказвалі пра сумесныя праекты, дасягненні вучоных, гаварылі пра захаванне традыцыйных каштоўнасцяў і выхаванне падрастаючага пакалення. Дарэчы, моладзь была запрошана на Пленарнае пасяджэнне.

Старшыня Прэзідыума Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук Беларусі Уладзімір Гусакоў звярнуў увагу, што сёння важна, каб маладыя людзі ведалі гісторыю, разумелі, як складана адстойваць сваю незалежнасць. “Мэтай нашага форуму з’яўляецца захаванне гістарычнай праўды і супрацьстаянне фальсіфікацыі гісторыі. Ні адна цывілізаваная дзяржава, ні адна нацыя не можа развівацца па-за гістарычным часам і прасторай. У сучасных геапалітычных умовах вучоным Беларусі і Расіі больш актыўна ставяцца да дасягненняў нацыянальнай гісторыяграфіі, што дазволіць супрацьстаяць навязванню скажоных і чужых уяўленняў пра нашу мінулае. Толькі сумеснымі намаганнямі можна захаваць дзяржаўную спадчыну, выхаваць у падрастаючым пакаленні патрыятычныя якасці і грамадзянскую пазіцыю”, – заўважыў акадэмік, адкрываючы Пленарнае пасяджэнне.

Вывучэнне гісторыі можа служыць адным з тых фактараў, які спрыяе збліжэнню народаў. Дасягненні нашых папярэднікаў спрыялі развіццю культуры, навукі, адукацыі. Мінулае насычана вялікай колькасцю станоўчых



прыкладаў супрацоўніцтва, імёнамі выдатных дзеячоў, якімі могуць ганарыцца нашы краіны. Сярод іх – вучоныя Іван Грыгаровіч, Іосіф Кавалеўскі, Аляксандр Сержпутоўскі, Ян Чэрскі, Аляксей Сапуноў, Яўхім Карскі, Мітрафан Доўнар-Запольскі, знакаміты авіяканструктор Павел Сухой, генерал-фельдмаршал Іосіф Гурко, героі Вялікай Айчыннай вайны Пётр Паўлоўскі, Ціхан Бумажкоў, Канстанцін Заслонаў, дзяржаўныя дзеячы Пётр Сталыпін, Панцеляймон Панамарэнка, Андрэй Грамыка, Кірыл Мазураў і многія іншыя. Гэтыя прозвішчы ўзгадаў дырэктар Акадэміі кіравання пры Прэзідэнце Рэспублікі Беларусь, кандыдат гістарычных навук Вячаслаў Даніловіч. Ён папярэдзіў: “Гісторыя вучыць, што ігнараванне гістарычнага вопыту прыводзіць да складаных, часта незваротных наступстваў. Разам з тым гісторыя паказвае: пакуль мы захоўваем адзінства і вопыт, можам паспяхова развівацца, супрацьстаяць знешнім пагрозам і мець магчымасці для стваральнай творчасці нашых народаў”.

Яшчэ ў 2008 годзе расійскія вучоных не так часта можна было сустрэць на канферэнцыях у Беларусі, гэтак жа як і нашых вучоных у Расіі. Але за апошні час зроблена вельмі шмат, вучоныя абедзвюх краін актыўна ўзаемадзейнічаюць, разам удзельнічаюць у розных канферэнцыях і круглых сталах, абменьваюцца вопытам, вядуць сумесныя праекты. Як паведаміў Дырэктар Інстытута гісторыі Расійскай акадэміі навук Юрый Пятроў, беларускія вучоныя далучыліся да выдання “Гісторыя Расіі” ў 20 тамах, у прыватнасці, узялі ўдзел у рабоце над томам, прысвечаным падзеям Грамадзянскай вайны. Сумесна беларускія і расійскія вучоныя праводзілі канферэнцыю, прысвечаную 100-годдзю СССР. Сёння яны працуюць над зборнікам архіўных дакументаў аб эканамічных адносінах Расіі і Беларусі ў аднаўленні народнай гаспадаркі ў пасляваенны перыяд. Разглядаюцца перспектывы

стварэння дакументальных зборнікаў па актуальных тэмах сацыяльнай і эканамічнай гісторыі дзвюх краін. У планах – падрыхтоўка сумеснай калектыўнай манаграфіі пад умоўнай назвай “Беларусь – Расія: Саюзная гісторыя з канца XIX па пачатак XXI стагоддзя”.

У рамках форуму было падпісана пагадненне паміж дырэктарамі Інстытута гісторыі Расійскай акадэміі навук і Інстытута гісторыі НАН Беларусі. Безумоўна, гэта будзе спрыяць далейшаму развіццю стасункаў паміж даследчыкамі.

Шмат намаганняў па наладжванні ўзаемадзейнення з беларускімі калегамі робіцца супрацоўнікамі



гістарычнага факультэта Маскоўскага дзяржуніверсітэта імя М.В. Ламаносава. З 2007 года рэктарамі БДУ і МДУ было падпісана пагадненне, дзякуючы якому з 2008 года на гістарычным факультэце ў маскоўскай ВНУ з’явіўся новы кірунак “Гісторыя Беларусі і беларускай дыяспары”. Намеснік дэкана гістарычнага факультэта МДУ Аксана Салопава заўважыла, што шмат чаго ўдалося зрабіць дзякуючы знаёмству з кіраўніком Федэральнай нацыянальна-культурнай аўтаноміі “Беларусы Расіі” Сяргеем Кандыбовічам. Так, дзякуючы яму была падпісана першая дамова з Інстытутам гісторыі Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук Беларусі. Сёння выкладчыкі гістафака МДУ супрацоўнічаюць з калегамі з Белдзяржуніверсітэта, Акадэміі кіравання. Падпісана шмат дамоў з

беларускімі навуковымі цэнтрамі, музеямі, бібліятэкамі, з беларускай дыяспарай.

Станоўчы вопыт праз дыяспару транслюецца ў розных рэгіёнах Расіі, сёння наладжваюцца праекты паміж ВНУ Беларусі і навучальнымі ўстановамі розных рэгіёнаў Расіі.

Формы супрацоўніцтва вельмі розныя: стажыроўкі, лекцыі, абмены, сумеснае рэцэнзіраванне, публікацыя навукова-вучэбных выданняў. У гэтым годзе ўпершыню на постсавецкай прасторы выйшла сумесная кніга “Гісторыя беларускіх земляў і беларускай дзяржавы”. Гэты расійска-беларускі дапаможнік для ВНУ ўжо выкарыстоўваецца ў вучэбным працэсе.

Днямі выходзіць вучэбнае выданне для вышэйшых навучальных устаноў “Гісторыя Саюзнай дзяржавы”. Яго аўтары – супрацоўнікі гістарычнага факультэта МДУ, Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук Беларусі, Інстытута гісторыі, Акадэміі кіравання пры Прэзідэнце Рэспублікі Беларусь, гістарычнага факультэта БДУ.

З 2012 года рэалізуецца першая міжнародная беларуска-расійская магістарская праграма, падчас якой студэнты атрымліваюць два дыпламы – БДУ і МДУ. Яны вывучаюць

гісторыю беларускай дыяспары. Пра паспяховасць кірунку сведчыць тое, што выпускнікі магістарскай праграмы запатрабаваныя на рынку працы, і конкурс жадаючых атрымаць такую адукацыю вельмі высокі.

Актыўна развіваюцца маладзёжныя праграмы. Праводзяцца сумесныя студэнцкія дыскусійныя клубы, конкурсы і канферэнцыі маладых гісторыкаў. МДУ і БДУ маюць сваё свята, з ініцыятывай аб яго правядзенні выступіў беларускі бок, калі прапанаваў узгадаць 1943 год – у гэты час Беларускі дзяржаўны ўніверсітэт быў эвакуаваны пад Маскву. У рамках дзён сяброўства праходзяць цікавыя сустрэчы, выстаўкі. Аксана Салопава заўважыла, што сёння створаны Кансультацыйны савет па гісторыі, у які ўжо ўвайшлі 24 цэнтры Беларусі і Расіі, якія

займаюцца вывучэннем гісторыі: “Наша галоўная задача – фарміраванне адзіных цэнтраў, асэнсаванне агульнай гістарычнай прасторы, выпрацоўка паняццйнага апарата, апора на крыніцы, супрацьдзеянне фальсіфікацыі гісторыі ў нашых краінах, нашага мінулага і нашай будучыні, бо калі фальсіфікуюць сённяшні дзень, у нас павялікім рахунку забіраюць заўтрашні”.

Выхаванне падрастаючага пакалення Намеснік міністра адукацыі Рэспублікі Беларусь Аляксандр Кадлубай у сваім выступленні заўважыў, што выпрацаваны вучонымі агульны погляд на мінулае будзе садзейнічаць кансалідацыі грамадства, выхаванню патрыятычных і грамадзянскіх якасцяў падрастаючага пакалення, служыць умацаванню міжнацыянальнай і міжканфесійнай згоды. Беларуская-расійскае супрацоўніцтва ў галіне захавання гістарычнай памяці, супрацьдзеянні фальсіфікацыі гісторыі, гісторыка-прававой ацэнцы падыходаў да вывучэння і асвятлення гісторыі Беларусі і Расіі – важнейшы фактар развіцця інтэграцыйных працэсаў і ўмацавання Саюзнай дзяржавы. Сёння Беларусь і Расія вядуць паслядоўную работу па фарміраванні агульнай адукацыйнай прасторы. Адным з актуальных кірункаў супрацоўніцтва нашых краін у сферы адукацыі з’яўляецца распрацоўка вучэбна-метадычных дапаможнікаў, якія будуць выкарыстоўвацца ў вучэбным працэсе. У 2019-2020 гадах адпаведныя рашэнні прыняты на сумесным пасяджэнні калегіі міністэрства адукацыі Рэспублікі Беларусь і міністэрства асветы Расійскай Федэрацыі. Беларускімі і расійскімі вучонымі і гісторыкамі пад кіраўніцтвам акадэміка Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук Беларусі Аляксандра Кавалені і акадэміка Расійскай акадэміі навук Яфіма Півавара распрацаваны дапаможнік “Гісторыя Вялікай Айчыннай вайны”. Ён стаў першым у серыі кніг “Расія—Беларусь: старонкі агульнай гісторыі”. Як заўважыў, Аляксандр Кадлубай, сёння неабходна працягваць працу над міжнароднымі дапаможнікамі, прысвечанымі іншым гістарычным перыядам, у якіх будуць адлюстраваны актуальныя пытанні

агульнай гісторыі, выпрацавана іх ацэнка вучонымі і гісторыкамі абедзвюх краін на прынцыпах аб’ектыўнасці і ўзаемапавагі. Плануецца таксама распрацоўка дапаможнікаў для навучэнцаў агульнай сярэдняй адукацыі па гісторыі Саюзнай дзяржавы.

Гістарычная навука адыгрывае важную ролю ў захаванні нацыянальнай ідэнтычнасці і культурнай спадчыны,



упэўнена намеснік міністра Расійскай Федэрацыі Анастасія Зыранава. Сёння мы сутыкаемся з мацнейшым інфармацыйным ціскам, каліскажаюцца факты, перапісваюцца падручнікі, зносяцца помнікі. Пытанні захавання гістарычнай праўды цікавяць маладое пакаленне. Паспяхова функцыянуе Асацыяцыя школ Расіі і Беларусі, куды сёння ўваходзіць 151 школа. Ёй быў праведзены конкурс даследчых работ “Расія і Беларусь. Агульная гісторыя. Агульны лёс”, у якой узялі ўдзел вучні з абедзвюх краін.

Міністэрства асветы Расійскай Федэрацыі сумесна з органамі дзяржаўнага кіравання адукацыі Беларусі вядзе сістэмную работу па выхаванні падрастаючага пакалення. Многія мерапрыемствы ўжо сталі традыцыйнымі. Сярод іх – турыстычны злёт навучэнцаў Саюзнай дзяржавы, конкурс навукова-тэхнічнай творчасці,

грамадзянска-патрыятычная кадэцкая змена “За гонар Айчыны”, алімпіяда школьнікаў Саюзнай дзяржавы, злёт юных экалагаў Расіі і Беларусі “Экалогія без меж”. У гэтым годзе ўжо другі раз праводзілася культурна-адукацыйная патрыятычная акцыя “Цягнік памяці”, якая ініцыяваная Саветам федэрацыі Федэральнага сходу Расійскай Федэрацыі і Саветам рэспублікі Нацыянальнага сходу Рэспублікі Беларусь. Праект выклікае вялікую цікавасць у школьнікаў. Сёлета быў конкурс сярод тых, хто хацеў паўдзельнічаць у ім – на кожнае месца прэтэндавала 20 чалавек. У гэтым годзе 200 школьнікаў за 16 дзён праехалі больш за 9 тысяч кіламетраў, наведалі 14 гарадоў.

“Аб’ектыўнае і неперадузятае вывучэнне гісторыі з’яўляецца лепшай асновай для выхавання каштоўнасцяў патрыятызму і грамадзянства”, – заўважыла Анастасія Зыранава.

Пытаннем выхавання новага пакалення, развіцця гістарычнай адукацыі на форуме была прысвечана асобная тэматычная секцыя. Яна сабрала педагогаў, якія падзяліліся вопытам, расказалі пра лепшыя практыкі, якія сёння рэалізуюцца ў адукацыйным працэсе, гаварылі, як папярэдзіць гістарычны нігілізм, акрэслівалі праблемы, якія неабходна вырашаць. Сёння сацыялізацыя маладога пакалення праходзіць не толькі ў рэальным, але і віртуальным свеце. Калі інфармацыйныя хвалі, якія абрушваюцца на маладое пакаленне праз разнастайныя гаджэты, немагчыма кантраляваць, неабходна знайсці новыя падыходы ў рабоце з моладдзю. Важна, каб любая інфармацыя, якую атрымліваюць дзеці і моладзь, не ўспрымалася імі як ісціна, каб яны ўмелі адрозніваць праўду і хлусню. Трэба паклапаціцца пра павышэнне прафесійных кампетэнцый педагогаў, якія павінны выходзіць моладзь, якая ўмее думаць, асэнсоўваць інфармацыю.

## Ушанаванне памяці

Першы намеснік старшыні камітэта Дзярждумы Федэральнага сходу Расійскай Федэрацыі па працы, сацыяльнай палітыцы і справах

ветэранаў Алена Цунаева расказала пра пошукавы рух Расіі, які аб'ядноўвае 1,5 тысячы пошукавых атрадаў. Яна заўважыла, што яшчэ пяць гадоў таму ўздымала пытанне пра тое, як незаслужана мала гаворыцца пра грамадзянскіх ахвяр нацысцкіх злачынцаў. Нават у сучасных расійскіх падручніках гісторыі доўга не ўзгадвалася Хатынь як адзін з сімвалаў такіх злачынстваў. На тэрыторыі Расійскай Федэрацыі ёсць шмат населеных пунктаў, якія падзялілі лёс Хатыні. У 2019 годзе ў Расіі стартаваў праект “Без тэрміну даўнасці”. “3 фальсіфікацыйнай трэба змагацца толькі з дапамогай архіўных дакументаў і навуковага асэнсавання”, – заўважыла Алена Цунаева. Здабытая ў час праекту інфармацыя стала фундаментам развіцця адукацыйных модуляў, якія сёння ёсць ва ўсіх вышэйшых навучальных установах.

Праводзіцца сумесная праца з міністэрствам асветы, напрыклад, быў арганізаваны конкурс сачыненняў “Без тэрміну даўнасці”. Безумоўна, тэма генацыду павінна быць узнята не толькі сярод прафесійных гісторыкаў, студэнтаў, але і творчых людзей. Патрэбны фільмы, творчыя конкурсы, студэнцкія пастаноўкі, звязаныя з ваеннымі падзеямі, конкурсы маладых архітэктараў (на тэрыторыі Расіі мала мемарыяльных месцаў, якія сімвалізавалі б памяць аб нявінна забітых). Падчас пошукавых экспедыцый былі знойдзены новыя месцы масавай гібелі грамадзянскага насельніцтва. Да работы далучыўся следчы камітэт. Ужо прайшло 16 судовых працэсаў, звязаных з жахлівымі падзеямі, якія адбываліся ў гады вайны. “Мы да гэтага часу ў публічнай прасторы не назвалі імёны нацысцкіх злачынцаў. Калі паглядзім на працэсы, якія праходзілі ў 1940-я, 1950-я, 1960-я гады і нават у наш час, заўважым, як вельмі мала не толькі асуджана, але і названа імёнаў тых, хто здзяйсняў злачынствы на тэрыторыі сучаснай Расійскай Федэрацыі і Рэспублікі Беларусь. Магчыма настаў час стварыць агульную базу з імёнамі нацыстаў, якія ўчынялі зло на нашых

землях”, – прапанавала Алена Цунаева. Падчас форуму ўдзельнікі секцыі, прысвечанай пытанню генацыду, выпрацоўцы гісторыка-прававых ацэнак і падыходаў у яго вывучэнні і асвятленні, выказаліся за стварэнне экспертнай групы, якая будзе займацца даследаваннем генацыду на тэрыторыі абедзвюх краін. Прагучала прапанова аб перакладзе дакументаў, у тым ліку расакрэчаных, якія сёння ўводзяцца ў навуковы зварот, на мовы краін ААН. Таксама была агучана ідэя тэрыторыю



Шталага 352, дзе ў гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны было знішчана больш 80 тысяч ваеннапалонных, лічыць месцам памяці ўзроўню Саюзнай дзяржавы. Сёння важна музейфікаваць аб'екты, што захаваліся ў Мінску ў Масюкоўшчыне, дзе знаходзіўся Шталаг 352

### Без тэрміну даўнасці

У рамках форуму ў Акадэміі кіравання прайшоў круглы стол “Саюзная дзяржава Расіі і Беларусі: гісторыя і сучаснасць”, а ў Нацыянальнай бібліятэцы адбылася прэзентацыя кнігі “Тэрміна даўнасці не маюць... Злачынствы фашызму супраць народаў Савецкага Саюза ў гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны. 1941-1945 гады” серыі “Бібліятэка Саюзнай дзяржавы”, а таксама кнігі і зборнікаў, падрыхтаваных расійскімі і беларускімі гісторыкамі і архівістамі.

Намеснік дзяржаўнага сакратара Саюзнага камітэта Саюзнай дзяржавы Алена Богдан заўважыла, што асаблівасць выдання “Тэрміну даўнасці не маюць...” у тым, што кожны пададзены ў ёй факт мае дакументальнае пацвярджэнне. Тут выкарыстаны дакументы з архіваў Камітэта дзяржаўнай бяспекі, следчага камітэта Расійскай федэрацыі, нацыянальных

архіваў, ёсць фатаграфіі з асабістых архіваў. Матэрыялы кнігі ўжо былі выкарыстаны падчас судовых спраў, і злачынствы прызнаны геанацыдам беларускага і расійскага народаў.

Дырэктар фонда “Гістарычная памяць” Аляксандр Дзюкаў прызнаўся, што раней зайздросціў беларускім калегам, калі бачыў, якія імі робяцца фундаментальныя працы, прысвечаныя злачынствам нацыстаў супраць мірнага насельніцтва. Яны выпускалі не толькі абагульняючыя работы, але і тыя, якія былі прысвечаны канкрэтным карным аперацыям, злачынствам пэўных падраздзяленняў, якія здзяйснялі генацыд на тэрыторыі Беларусі. Захапленне выклікае база спаленых вёсак – падобнага праекта да гэтага часу няма ў Расійскай Федэрацыі. Усё змянілася, калі ў Расіі быў запушчаны праект “Без тэрміну даўнасці”. У Нацыянальнай бібліятэцы былі прадстаўлены 23 тамы, прысвечаныя злачынствам, здзейшаным у розных рэгіёнах Расійскай Федэрацыі. Гэта праца была зроблена за даволі кароткі час, бо ў кожнай вобласці працавалі свае калектывы. Да праекта “Без тэрміну даўнасці” далучыліся беларускія гісторыкі і архівісты, яны выпусцілі 6 кніг, кожная з якіх прысвечана злачынствам, здзейшаным у адной з абласцей краіны, а таксама яны перадавалі дакументы для двухтомніка, які расказвае пра генацыд на тэрыторыі ўсяго Савецкага Саюза.

“Доўгі час лічылася, што мы пра Вялікую Айчынную вайну ўжо ўсё ведаем, што ўсё ўстаноўлена, апісана. Калі былі жывыя ветэраны, сапраўды можна было так думаць. Але калі іх не стала, рэчы, што раней лічыліся аксіёмамі, якія не патрабавалі доказаў, цяпер пры зносінах, перш за ўсё з моладдзю, ператварыліся ў тэарэмы, якія неабходна аргументаваць. Гэта важна, каб захавалася разуменне, чаму тая вайна была і для Расіі, і для Беларусі Вялікай і Айчыннай. Гэта немагчыма зразумець без памяці аб нацысцкіх злачынствах і генацыдзе”, – упэўнены Аляксандр Дзюкаў.

Ганна Трошына  
Фота Алены Дзядзюлі



## ЭКСПЕРТЫ ВЫЗНАЧЫЛІ СУІСКАЛЬНІКАЎ

Фота Алены Дзязюлі



Выніковае пасяджэнне Экспертнага савета па прэміях Саюзнай дзяржавы ў галіне літаратуры і мастацтва за 2023-2024 гады пры падтрымцы Пастаяннага Камітэта прайшло ў Нацыянальнай бібліятэцы Беларусі.

Падчас яго былі падведзены вынікі грамадскага абмеркавання праектаў, адабраных для ўдзелу ў конкурсе на суісканне прэміі.

Прэміі Саюзнай дзяржавы прысуджаюцца за творы літаратуры і мастацтва, якія спрыяюць умацаванню сяброўскіх, братэрскіх адносін, усебаковаму супрацоўніцтву паміж краінамі-ўдзельніцамі Саюзнай дзяржавы. Такія ўзнагароды ўручаюцца раз у два гады. Экспертны савет па прэміях пры Пастаянным Камітэце Саюзнай дзяржавы створаны з ліку вядомых дзеячоў літаратуры і мастацтва, прадстаўнікоў творчых саюзаў, дзяржстановаў і арганізацый Беларусі і Расіі. “Праект Саюзнай дзяржавы ўнікальны, ён паказвае сваю жыццяздзейнасць і эфектыўнасць. Узаемадзеянне здзяйсняецца па розных кірунках, безумоўна, і ў галіне культуры. Прэмія Саюзнай дзяржавы – пацвярджэнне гэтаму супрацоўніцтву”, адзначыў першы намеснік міністра культуры Беларусі, сустаршыня Экспертнага савета Валерый Грамада. Перад пачаткам таёмнага галасавання, на якім абіраліся лаўрэаты, ён заўважыў, што ўсе праекты, прадстаўленыя на суісканне прэміі, заслугоўваюць увагі.

У ліку трох прэтэндэнтаў, вызначаных Экспертным саветам з беларускага боку, — аўтарскі калектыў, які працаваў над стварэннем музея ў Дзяржаўным мемарыяльным комплексе «Хатынь» (архітэктар Віктар Скробат, мастак-манументаліст Андрэй Пяткевіч, дырэктар Нацыянальнага гістарычнага музея Рэспублікі Беларусь Аляксандр Храмы). Таксама на ганаровае званне прэтэндуюць галоўны дырэктар Дзяржаўнага акадэмічнага сімфанічнага аркестра Беларускай дзяржаўнай філармоніі Аляксандр Анісімаў, які стварыў цыкл канцэртаў, прысвечаных Перамозе савецкага народа ў Вялікай Айчыннай вайне, і член Саюза пісьмнікаў Беларусі, вядомы даследчык і калекцыянер Уладзімір Ліхадзедаў за стварэнне і рэалізацыю гісторыка-асветніцкага праекта «Бацькаўшчына» і выданне аўтарскіх кніг-альбомаў.

## БРЭСТ ПРЫМАЎ ФОРУМ

XII Форум пародненых гарадоў сабраў каля дзвюх соцень удзельнікаў. У рамках яго былі падпісаны дамовы паміж новымі парамі беларускіх і расійскіх гарадоў, якія гатовы супрацоўнічаць у розных кірунках: эканамічных, культурных, сацыяльных.

Дагаворы былі заключаны паміж Оршай і Смаленскам, Магілёвам і Яраслаўлем, Лунінцам і адным з буйнейшых сельскіх населеных пунктаў Ленінградскай вобласці Новым Дзвяткіным. Установы і арганізацыі Заслаўя знайшлі сяброў і партнёраў адразу ў двух гарадах – Ялце (Рэспубліка Крым) і Кацельніках (Маскоўская вобласць).

Дарэчы, паміж пародненымі гарадамі Беларусі і Расіі на сёння заключана каля ста пагадненняў, у рамках якіх рэалізуюцца сумесныя праекты.

Форум – выдатная магчымасць абмеркаваць пытанні беларуска-расійскіх кантактаў, абмену вопытам у галіне турызму, адукацыі, культуры. Упершыню ў рамках форуму прайшла маладзёжная сустрэча, на якую прыехалі прадстаўнікі маладзёжных арганізацый, а таксама актыўныя маладыя людзі, якія бяруць удзел ў разнастайных праектах на карысць свайго горада.

Гасцям была прапанавана цікавая экскурсійная праграма, удзельнікі форуму наведалі прадпрыемствы і арганізацыі Брэста.

“Руху пародненых гарадоў ужо каля 80 гадоў. Для былога Савецкага Саюза ён пачаўся ў 1944 годзе, калі разгромлены ў час Другой сусветнай вайны Сталінград падпісаў пагадненне з гарадам Кавентры ў Вялікабрытаніі аб узаемадапамозе. На пачатку гэты рух быў народна-дыпламатычны. Людзі збіралі грошы, дапамагалі аднаўляць гарады, нават проста матэрыяльна падтрымлівалі сем’і”, – расказала старшыня Беларускага таварыства сяброўства і культурнай сувязі паміж народамі Ніна Іванова. Натуральна, за гэты час рух змяніўся.



Сёння ў ім задзейнічаны мясцовыя ўлады, кіраўнікі гарадоў, грамадскія арганізацыі і ўстановы, могуць далучацца і простыя грамадзяне. Кожная арганізацыя выбірае праграмы, якія ёй цікавыя. Гэта могуць быць кантакты паміж школамі, клубамі, творчымі калектывамі. Калі раней форуму пародненых гарадоў праводзіліся раз у два гады, то з мінулага года прынята рашэнне зрабіць іх штогадовымі.