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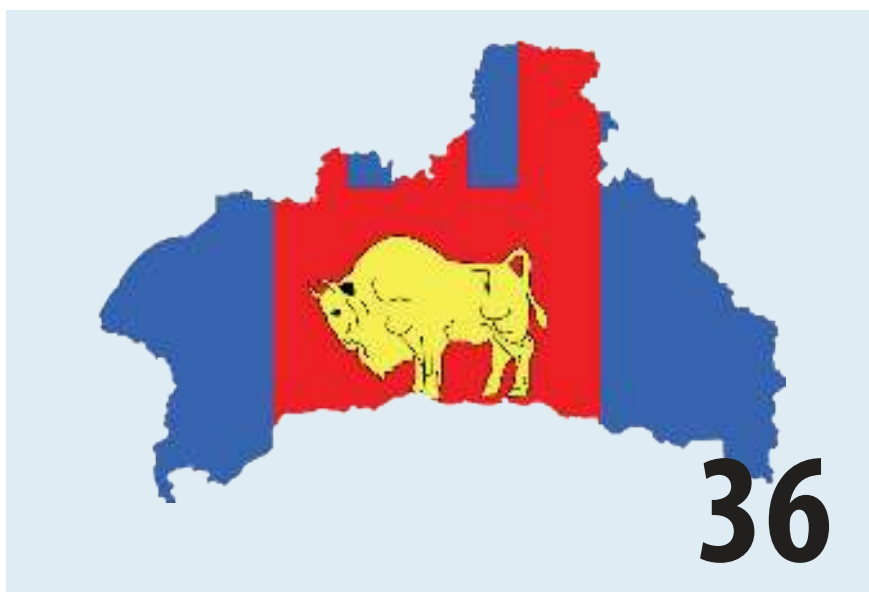
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# Society is great when children smile



This is already a long-standing tradition. On Orthodox Christmas, the Head of State is always in church. In the coming year, Aleksandr Lukashenko came to the St. Elisabeth Convent and lit a candle in the church in the name of St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco. The President spoke with the parishioners about the enduring values that the Belarusian people cherish.

**T**he parishioners noticed that a special atmosphere reigns under the wooden vaults of this church. It encourages reflection on the past, present and future. On that festive day, the President spoke about this. Actually, the Head of State thus addressed all the people of the country, “With all my heart I want to congratulate everyone on this good, bright holiday in the life of every person. Not only Orthodox. It is indeed a bright holiday. And Orthodoxy is only a reason for all the people, for all citizens of Belarus of the Orthodox, Catholic (religion), Muslims, for the whole world to celebrate this bright holiday. But for us, Orthodox people, this day and holiday is special. Therefore, I want to congratulate you on this holiday from the bottom of my heart and wish you the main thing — health. As I say jokingly: we will buy everything else. Health can’t be bought. I wish you God’s blessing and good health.” The Head of State also wished that adults would always be pleased with children, “As I said, if a child smiles, then our society is healthy.”

### Noble and humane mission

Aleksandr Lukashenko addressed the words of sincere gratitude to the clergy that day, “I want to traditionally thank our clergymen. There are more than three thousand of them who serve the Belarusian people, who honour these bright holidays, in a word, they do a great job. Especially at the present time, after 2020, when people have realised a lot. In this difficult time, when the perimeter of our peaceful and calm Belarus is so restless. Our clergy, doing a great job, educate true patriots of their Fatherland.”

The following words of the Head of State were also heard, “Finally, many, many of our people began to understand that they are not needed anywhere except their own land.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko explained this idea by the fact that recently there have been a lot of requests from those who left Belarus in the wake of the events of 2020, and now would like to return to their homeland. In this regard, the President remarked, “We did not expel anyone from Belarus. This is their land as much as ours. But they were looking for a better life, for various reasons they fled from here. The time has come when we, the representatives of the authorities, I, as the Head of State, and you, the clergy, our people must take a step towards these people, who, either were insane or for some time were losing their bearings, and made a mistake. And it will probably be in our way, in the Orthodox way, if we take this step towards them.”

But the President drew attention to the fact that this gesture would not be made to please the demands of the West to return everyone, even those who violated the law, “Not. Everyone must



answer for their own. But I am sure that among those who fled, and those who live with us today, there are deeply repentant people, people who realised that they were mistaken. They should not be thrown to the curb. We should not create points of tension in our society. We already have enough of them, especially, as I said, around our Belarus. May God grant us to endure this peaceful, calm harmony, which we had at least last year.”

Lend a helping hand to everyone who needs it

The Head of State also addressed the words of gratitude for her ascetic activity to the abbess and nuns of the St. Elisabeth Convent, “Thank you very much. You undertook on a very large scale, like no other monastery, to invest in the prosperity of our society. You are starting to promote spiritual and moral education among young children, those who are older. You also do big charity events. Thanks a lot!”

At the same time, Aleksandr Lukashenko advised not to pay attention to the malicious remarks that come from ill-wishers, “Recently we have been heavily criticised by our fugitives. Not even fugitives, but those who are paid money for it in the West, that you have carried out some kind of action and helped people who need it at the front. You are doing the right thing. Do not pay attention to a dozen or two paid people. We not only help our Russian brothers, the Russians, I have never hidden this. And my visit to the military, to the Russian military, does not hide the fact that we have supported and continue to support our brothers. But we do not forget about Ukrainians either. About 10,000 who fled the war found a permanent place of residence and shelter in our country last year alone.”

The Head of State emphasised, “We must extend a helping hand, if we can, to anyone who needs it.”

### Hoping the year will be better

Speaking with parishioners, the President drew attention to some forecasts that 2023 should be better than the previous one. On this account, Aleksandr Lukashenko said, “To be honest, I’m

## ON THE BRIGHT HOLIDAY OF CHRISTMAS



■ “We must extend a helping hand, if we can, to anyone who needs it.”

already thinking about if it would be what it was in 2022. We lived it in peace, harmony, warmth — this is very important now, looking around. In this regard, this year should not be worse.”

At the same time, there are reasons to count on a more significant result, as Aleksandr Lukashenko believes, “We will have the conditions to live normally, work normally, whoever wants to, and live in warmth and peace. For this we will have everything. I don’t want to be specific here. Everything has been done to make it better. But if it is the same as last year, we will agree with this. But it will get better, I’m sure of it. Even if slightly.

The words of the Head of State stress that the future will be better if everyone does not create tension in society, “God forbid this happens, as in our fraternal Ukraine and other states. At first, tension was created — maidans and so on. And then a civil war, and then a real hot one. Who would have thought that we, the Slavs, would someday fight against each other. This is a terrible phenomenon. And everything starts small. Therefore, steps must be taken to destroy points of confrontation in our society.”

### How important it is to live in peace and harmony

The head of state called on all countrymen, “So that we think and come to the correct solution of the issues that we must solve. As I often say, without leaving these issues to our children. Therefore, we will take appropriate steps to ensure that Belarus is peaceful and calm, so that we do not look askance at each other. And

whoever breaks the law will be held accountable by the law. Alas, such is life.”

The President congratulated the parishioners on Christmas and assured, “I personally, as the Commander-in-Chief, as the Head of State, will do everything for our Belarus to live in peace and harmony. I will do everything so that you spend your days in the family in warmth and tranquillity and remember that great value named peace.”

After the service, Aleksandr Lukashenko talked to the clergy and discussed the development of the monastery complex with them. “It’s a city within a city. Orthodox city. We should walk here in the spring,” the President admired, announcing his future visit. Outside, people were also waiting for the Head of State. Shaking hands with them, Aleksandr Lukashenko wished, “Good mood! Goodness, peace and most importantly — health to you! I wish you success!”

### Verbatim

Metropolitan of Minsk and Zaslavl, Patriarchal Exarch of All Belarus Veniamin at the Christmas service called on everyone to follow the example of the Saviour, to show love and compassion, to unite.

“In this direction, on the part of the Church, we will try to do everything possible. Our very ministry obliges us to do this,” he said. “Let’s try to follow God’s blessing, the example of the





Saviour of the world, make efforts, support each other and bear good fruit for the good of our dear Motherland. And let other countries and peoples also join, unite in this service to God, people and their peoples.”

### ***Exchanging Christmas gifts***

The President donated the Holy Trinity icon to the St. Elisabeth Convent. It is painted with acrylic paints, the background is covered with gold leaf. The frame is made of brocade fabric, decorated with a metallic cord, pearls, gilded fragments, rhinestones, as well as natural stones in castes: amethyst, carnelian, amber, rose quartz and jasper. The icon is a copy from the original. The original was written by Andrei Rublev in the 15th century and is one of his most famous works. The icon is called *Theology in Colours* because the Christian doctrine of the Holy Trinity is expressed in it with symbolic techniques. The original icon has a complex history. Since 1929, it has been in the Tretyakov Gallery.

Aleksandr Lukashenko was presented with a painting by the artist Gleb Otchik *Parting with an Orthodox Ascetic of the Belarusian Land* dedicated to Metropolitan Filaret, the first Patriarchal Exarch of All Belarus, Hero of Belarus, who died on January 12th, 2021. The painting depicts the Holy Spirit Cathedral (the place of service of Metropolitan Philaret) in the sky, above which doves soar and the image of a clergyman is visible.

The Head of State was also presented with a tea set made by craftsmen of the monastery workshops.

### **The main point is to take care of your neighbour**

**St. Elisabeth Convent was founded in Minsk in 1999. A Sisterhood in honour of the Holy Martyr Grand Duchess Elisabeth has been created and is actively operating at the monastery.**

More than ten healthcare, social and educational institutions are under the care of the monastery. There are five temples on

the territory of the monastery: the temple in honour of the icon of the Mother of God *Reigning*, the temple in honour of the Royal Passion-Bearers, the temple in honour of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, the temple in the name of the Reverend Martyr Grand Duchess Elisabeth, the temple in the name of St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco.

The erected monastic complex also includes two monastic buildings, a building for social and rehabilitation workshops, church craft workshops, a Sunday school building, a residential building for pilgrims, and a spiritual and educational centre.

In 2022, Ark multifunctional spiritual and educational centre began its work in the monastery. It is intended primarily for the monastery to carry out activities to educate the younger generation, to form the worldview of young people based on spiritual, moral, patriotic, traditional family values, to strengthen public morality, to restore and develop historical and cultural heritage, to revive Orthodox society traditions.

The temple in the name of St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco is 36 metres high, 13-domed made of round timber in the style of ancient Russian wooden architecture of the 17th century, built using Canadian cutting technology. This is the highest wooden temple in Europe. It was built by a team of craftsmen from Belarus. It was cut down on the territory of the cooperative association, and then transported to the monastery and assembled on a pre-prepared reinforced concrete foundation. For its construction, a ‘winter forest’ was used — a high-quality pine selected in the Belarusian forests. The diameter of logs is from 35 to 50 cm. The remaining crowns are made of pine. Natural moss was used as an interventional insulation, which was collected by the sisters of the sisterhood of the monastery in a forest near the monastery courtyard. The decorative elements of the exterior decoration of the temple and the interior decoration were made by masters from the monastery workshops.

Vladimir **Khromov**  
Photo BelTA

# **H**IGH AND WELL- DESERVED BADGE OF RECOGNITION

If we talk about another traditional event in sovereign Belarus, then for more than a quarter of a century, a rather significant ceremony has been held on the January holidays, including in the presidential calendar. The Head of State presents the Spiritual Revival award, special awards to cultural and art figures, as well as athletes who have conquered the 'Belarusian Sports Olympus'.





Yes, such a solemn event is not coincidentally timed to coincide with Christmas. After all, this holiday symbolises all the brightest and purest things in life: faith, love, kindness, mercy. And it is these days that people rise to the stage of the Palace of the Republic, who glorify the country with their work, make it stronger, spiritually and morally richer, who preserve traditions, origins and cultivate enduring values in society.

**‘Where there is harmony and respect, there is peace’**

In his speech at the ceremony of awarding the Spiritual Revival award, special prizes for art luminaries and the Belarusian Sports Olympus, President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that these awards are a tribute to the primordial traditions that connect eras and generations, a tribute to the spiritual strength of Belarusians —

the wise, hardworking, loving their native land and revering ancestors, “More than a quarter of a century ago, we honoured the first laureates of the Spiritual Revival award. Then we could not even think what challenges we would face in the struggle for our spirituality, for our historical heritage and for our way of life. And they had no idea how relevant the tradition would be to reward people who devoted themselves to a noble cause — the preservation of our spiritual origins. But we have always known, and today we are especially keenly aware that all the material and non-material values created by the Belarusian people are the very bonds on which the national statehood was born and developed.”

They, the President drew attention, are in the works of the first enlighteners of the Belarusian land, in churches, palaces and museums built by architects, in

masterpieces of music, painting, poetry and prose created by talented compatriots. They are in the exploits of the victorious people, who gave peace, independence, the very right to live, the working people, who revived their native land scorched by the fire of war, “We see them in Orthodoxy, which more than a thousand years ago united the Slavs into an ancient state, taught mercy, peacefulness and love for one’s neighbour. Today we understand that national cultures and traditions cannot be adjusted to a single standard, that the world is beautiful in its diversity. And we do not just understand, but we confirm with the history of our state, where for more than a hundred years people of different faiths and ethnic origins live in harmony, making us all spiritually richer. And where there is harmony and respect, there is peace. We are also aware that our example is a real challenge to

the project of global unification under ultra-fashionable values and so-called trends imposed on the whole world. We understand that this cultural expansion — as it is also called, ‘soft’ — is followed by not at all mild, I would even say, very harsh consequences for independent states: the loss of statehood and sovereignty. Loss of self as a people.”

Therefore, the President of Belarus warned, one should remember that the future of our children depends on how we protect the purity of our native language, what holidays and symbols we let into our homes. If we want them to live freely and independently on their land, then we must first of all teach them to distinguish native traditions from alien ones. And therefore, the ceremony of awarding the laureates of the prizes of the year, first of all, is a sign of recognition of all those who work in the humanitarian and cultural fields, who preserve their spiritual origins.

The President said the following words exactly in Belarusian, “Dear laureates of the Spiritual Revival award, a special award for art luminaries, as well as the Belarusian Sports Olympus award! Your creative achievements are a fertile source that fills the treasury of national culture. I know well that everything you do is not for rewards or material gain. Your professional, life path is chosen by your heart. That is why you, like no one else, are worthy of high recognition and deep respect of people. With your spiritual, creative and professional achievements you create the future of our Belarus. I am sincerely proud of you and thank you from the bottom of my heart for your work. With special respect, I would like to say a few words about today’s laureates. About these people obsessed with their work, who by their own example set the ideals of mercy and kindness in modern society, educate the younger generation as patriots, pass on to them a great and sincere love for their native land. By implementing socially significant cultural and educational projects, you help to



preserve the historical truth and the original heritage of the Belarusian people. The Belarusian Sports Olympus award is given to those who have risen to the top of sportsmanship, confirmed their highest class with medals at major competitions. Who has devoted his life to the education of athletes and receives high results from his work.

Addressing the laureates, Aleksandr Lukashenko concluded by emphasizing the special significance of the solemn moment, “I am very pleased to congratulate you on such high awards.

Let these awards become not only a bright result of the past year, but also an incentive for new achievements and victories in the name of the prosperity of our beloved Belarus.”

### The event will inspire new works

A distinctive feature of the ceremony of presenting the Presidential Prizes is the edifying word of Metropolitan Veniamin of Minsk and Zaslavl, Patriarchal Exarch of All Belarus. The Primate of the Belarusian Orthodox Church warmly welcomed the awardees, noting that





they are engaged in charitable work for the good of the Motherland, “The Nativity of Christ was a turning point in human history and the history of the entire universe. The Son of God becomes the son of man. At turning points in the history of mankind, the importance of the spiritual component always increases. At the same time, the role of the act of each individual person unusually increases.” The Metropolitan addressed the laureates of the prizes, “You are marked by a special high award. May this event inspire you and all those present to new

blessed works for the benefit of our dear Fatherland. To the glory of God, for the benefit of our near and far. We call on God’s blessing on the work of each of those present. May the peace, harmony and love of God be with you all.”

### Countdown for future accomplishments

In the foyer of the Palace of the Republic that evening it was lively and cosy in a Christmas-like way. A couple of hours before the start of the ceremony, the guests walked slowly along the stands,

getting acquainted with the presentations of the main guests of the evening — the winners of the Presidential Prizes. Head of the Presidential Administration Igor Sergeyenko was spotted not far from the stand of the Rys military-patriotic club. After talking with the little pupils, he said, “I asked a third-grader girl: ‘Are you interested in studying?’ Yes, she says it’s interesting. This club is the best, it is one of the first, it attracts young people. It can be said that a new Belarusian elite is being formed, moreover, in various fields, not only in the military. A country lives when its culture and history live, when it is passed down from generation to generation. We celebrate the best, but we have hundreds of such people. And next year, I’m sure there will be new winners.”

Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration Igor Lutsky was interested in the joint project of the Belarus Segodnya publishing house and the National Archives. Looking at the pictures of the Belarusian partisans, he noted, “We are probably the only stronghold of those traditions that have been passed down from time immemorial by our people. The President’s awards and the range of nominees are proof of this. I am very happy for everyone, but especially for my colleagues from the Belarus Segodnya publishing house. The Partisans of Belarus project is a worthy work to perpetuate the memory of our heroes. However, our projects are not only about the war, but about life — the one that we are building. They read both the depth of traditions and modernity.” Gratitude is the most important element that stimulates further work in the name of the Motherland, Deputy Prime Minister Igor Petrishenko is sure. He noted the high achievements of all the winners of the award and added that if the state sees, notices the work of people, this encourages creativity with a double effect.

Veniamin **Mikheyev**





# A look at the Union through the prism of time

Belarusian-Russian integration, the importance of its real progress have become one of the political trends on the January agenda at the highest level

**E**xperts note that over the past year Belarus and Russia entered a fundamentally new stage of integration relations. And apparently, they intend to increase the pace. A good accelerator for this is the implementation of 28 union programmes approved in November 2021. Aleksandr Lukashenko is sure that this issue should still be a priority on the bilateral agenda, “Economic, scientific, humanitarian and other programmes that we finance. Under no circumstances should it be shortened. We only need to increase funding, based on the most relevant principles and areas of our work in the economy: import substitution and so on. What our states, both Belarus and Russia, need now.”

## Summing up, making plans

The meeting of Aleksandr Lukashenko with State Secretary of the Union State Dmitry Mezentsev set the tone in the discussion of the Belarusian-Russian theme. During this meeting, the President of Belarus once again emphasised the importance of promoting integration, “It’s good that we start this year with this event. Frankly speaking, we need to update the agenda of the Union State and start by taking

stock of the path we have travelled and making plans for the future.”

The President of Belarus is confident that there are proven forms of work for this, such as meetings of the Supreme State Council of the Union State and the Union Council of Ministers. Aleksandr Lukashenko believes that these supreme bodies of the Union State should be assembled in person in the near future, “I think that it would be possible to choose an algorithm for the Council of Ministers to hold its meeting, and based on the results, we will determine the time of the meeting of the Supreme State Council, which will be held at the level of the highest officials of the Union State. I think this option can be worked out. If it suits the Russian side, we can go this way.”

The main issues on the bilateral agenda should be the implementation of sectoral programmes, as stressed by Aleksandr Lukashenko.

## Collective opinion is priority

Later, in a conversation with journalists, the Secretary of State of the Union State dwelled on the agenda of the meeting of the Supreme State Council in more detail. According to Dmitry

Mezentsev, the next meetings of the Council of Ministers of the Union State and the Supreme State Council will be devoted to the analysis of the path travelled and the development of new tasks that 'emphasise the depth and scale of integration allied cooperation', "I submitted proposals to the President for the agenda of the Supreme State Council. They are fundamentally supported. This includes the issue of the results of trade and economic cooperation for the reporting period, the governments' report on what has been done to implement 28 union programmes. It seems to me that cooperation between republican and federal departments is going well. It comes, of course, with substantive disputes, but in a spirit of genuine camaraderie and interaction. And of course, we propose and ask that the Concept of Information Security be approved as a definite response to the changing situation in the region of Eastern Europe."

In addition, as noted by Dmitry Mezentsev, proposals have been made that relate to the budget of the Union State. A new format for the implementation of decrees and other documents that regulate the activities of Belarus and Russia within the framework of the Union State is also proposed. Another topical issue is the abolition of roaming on the territory of the Union State. A direct instruction from the leaders of the two countries is to complete this work. In addition, the presidents will be asked to consider the issue of the symbols of the Union State. "I am convinced that the instructions that will be given will allow collective, public opinion to determine the flag, the anthem, which will correspond to the stage of relations that exists today between Belarus and Russia," Dmitry Mezentsev shared his opinion.

### Debureaucratisation is at the top of the list

As it turned out, Dmitry Mezentsev came to the meeting at the Palace of Independence with a number of other proposals. Aleksandr Lukashenko touched upon some of them, including the creation of a joint media holding of the Union State. He recalled that he discussed this issue with Vladimir Putin, "I remind you again: our common decision, of the presidents of Russia and Belarus, is to create a good, solid, powerful, necessarily modern (media holding). Otherwise, we will spend money, but there will be no sense." The principled position of the President of Belarus is also that the future media holding should be an independent structure, "I am not a supporter of attaching to something, transferring to someone. We need an independent holding that corresponds to the spirit of the times. You see that time demands it. To whom can we attach ourselves today? To whom can Belarus and Russia attach to? Our destiny is to go together and to have someone attached to us. Therefore, I think that this media holding should start working this year, preferably in the first half of the year."

Aleksandr Lukashenko also appreciated another suggestion of Dmitry Mezentsev, "I absolutely accept and like the proposal to debureaucratise the activities and the Standing Committee (first of all, you are officials). And so that the main messages and impulses come from you, from the Standing Committee, towards debureaucratising the system related to the work of the bodies of the Union State."

### The essence of responding to challenges

Dmitry Mezentsev expressed gratitude to the President of Belarus for the attention and support that he and his colleague Vladimir Putin devote to the practice of union building, "The past year was very successful in the implementation of the historic decision that you, as the presidents of Belarus and Russia, took on November 4th, 2021. It determined a fundamentally new stage of economic integration. Because for the entire period of the union treaty, there was simply no such substantive setting of tasks for governments, for republican and federal departments."

At the same time, the State Secretary of the Union State noted that the practice of implementing union programmes financed from the union budget has not lost its relevance at all. On the contrary, in the current conditions it becomes more significant, especially in the context of the development of import-substituting projects. "Today, the response to challenges, including sanctions pressure, is the joint practice of developing import substitution programmes, new production chains, and a new technological

### PROGRAMS AND THEIR SOLUTIONS

As of January 1st, 2023, 28 union programmes were completed by 67.8 percent. 671 out of 989 events were implemented. About 300 more events are expected to be implemented in 2023. Seven programmes have been fully implemented:

- on the integration of information systems of state control bodies on the traceability of goods;
- on integration of transport control information systems;
- on harmonisation of currency regulation and currency control;
- on harmonisation of requirements in the field of combating money laundering and terrorist financing for the financial sector;
- on unification of accounting regulation;
- on the integration of information systems of state regulatory bodies in terms of veterinary and quarantine phytosanitary control;
- for the development of nuclear energy. The full operation of the first power unit of the Belarusian NPP has been ensured, the launch of the second unit is expected in August 2023.

At the final stage is the implementation of the union programme in the field of harmonisation of tax and customs legislation.

order," emphasised Dmitry Mezentsev. "We want the programmes of the Union State (this year eight such programs are planned in the field of microelectronics, high technologies, ensuring the defence of the Union State, in the field of space activities) to work for the real sectors of the economy. We also (and I reported this to the President) jointly with the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, the Kurchatov Institute National Research Centre of Russia, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education prepared a strategy for scientific and technological cooperation of the Union State. And the second document that is being prepared is a programme for creating a unified infrastructure for fundamental and applied scientific research in the Union State."

In addition, Dmitry Mezentsev said that in the near future a joint collegium of the Foreign Ministries of Belarus and Russia would be held in Minsk, which should adopt a new programme of coordinated actions in the field of foreign policy.

Vladimir **Velikhov**

# "WE MUST ACT BASED ON



# ACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES"

Literally a few days after Aleksandr Lukashenko's meeting with State Secretary of the Union State Dmitry Mezentsev, the topic of Belarusian-Russian integration received a new development. The focus is on equal conditions for people and businesses, the creation of common oil and gas markets, the harmonisation of tax and customs legislation. To be more precise, the meeting with the President directly discussed the implementation of 28 integration programmes.



At the same time, at the very beginning of the meeting, Aleksandr Lukashenko said, “I warn you, there was no talk that Russia or Belarus would give up their sovereignty, and today it does not and cannot go. There is simply no need (in this). We have not yet developed in the format in which we cooperate with Russia... Life pushed us, and we went for closer integration. That’s how you have to act. Act based on the actual circumstances. Otherwise, we will break everything.”

### Level playing field is a must

The big conversation in the Palace of Independence with the participation of the leaders of the Government, Parliament, the Presidential Administration, a number of ministries and departments became a kind of revision of the work done in a little over a year after the adoption of 28 sectoral programmes at a meeting of the Supreme State Council of the Union State. What has already been done, and where is the slippage so far and why? But first, Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled what the parties proceeded from when approving these integration roadmaps, “We then agreed that their implementation would make it possible to make significant progress towards ensuring equal rights for citizens and business entities of the two countries. This is the basis on which we are building relations with fraternal Russia: equal conditions for people and enterprises. That is why we decided on comprehensive solutions to many issues of cooperation with the Russian Federation. First of all, this concerns integration in the economic sphere, creating conditions for cooperation between enterprises of both countries.”

### Priority issues

The programmes and departmental plans contain about a thousand events for the implementation of integration programmes, specific deadlines and responsible persons are determined. About 70 percent of such activities have already been completed, the President stated, “However, some of the important events for us are lagging behind the agreed schedules. I am informed that our Russian partners are moving slowly on a number of issues. But I always say: there is no just one side who is to blame, and the other side is good. In some cases, we fail.” Obviously, significant work has been done to form and adjust the contractual and legal framework for interstate cooperation. However, despite the implementation of most of the measures, Belarus has not yet felt any noticeable progress, primarily in the fields of energy, industry, and transport, the President believes. According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, the implementation of programmes for the formation of united markets for gas, oil and oil products required the issue to be raised to the highest level, “During the December talks with the President of Russia, the necessary solutions were found. For at least three years. Work is now underway to consolidate the agreements reached in existing documents.”

### Develop common conceptual approaches

One of the important areas of bilateral cooperation is the harmonisation of tax legislation, as well as the coordination

of tax and customs control on the borders of the Union State. The position of the Head of the Belarusian state is as follows, “Everything should be transparent. The Russians here are absolutely not against the Belarusian representatives to come to any point and see the border. Traceability, control over the movement of goods — you must admit, this is an important area in any state.”

As part of this work, a proposal was made to ratify the Treaty on General Principles of Taxation on Indirect Taxes. The President asked if all the interests of Belarus and proposals were taken into account in the document. The wording in which the agreement was signed provides for the creation of an additional interstate Supranational Tax Committee. The structure will be endowed with certain functions and powers, but in form it is not a ministry. Aleksandr Lukashenko did not hide the fact that he was confused by the name itself, and asked for clarification on this issue, “I emphasise once again: this is not about maintenance, or the loss of some part of our sovereignty. As taxes were established and laws were adopted earlier in Belarus, so they will be adopted.”

The President recalled that the country had recently adopted the Tax Code. And as for specific taxes, depending on the situation, they can be increased or decreased, as it has always been.

## THE LANGUAGE OF NUMBERS AND FACTS

Belarus and Russia have agreed to implement 28 union programmes, which in total contain about a thousand events. 671 out of 989 events completed. At the beginning of 2023, seven programmes were fully implemented related to the traceability of goods, transport, currency, veterinary and quarantine phytosanitary control, the financial sector, accounting, and the development of nuclear energy. Work continues on the implementation of 21 union programmes, including in the areas of agriculture, transport, industry, and energy.

“We are independent in making decisions in this important area, only closer coordination of activities with Russian colleagues is expected. And this small body (Supranational Tax Committee) is being created for coordination,” clarified Aleksandr Lukashenko.

The basis for the work of this organisation is the legislation of two sovereign independent states. Similar approaches are in the customs sphere. An important point to which attention is drawn is to develop common conceptual approaches and rules that should guide the relevant national authorities of Belarus and Russia, and ‘not to double-check each other or go to checks one after another’.

## BELARUS – RUSSIA: THE ESSENCE OF PARTNERSHIP

### No room for error

The further advancement of integration was also discussed at the meeting. It will certainly continue, but first it is necessary to fulfil what was agreed upon earlier. Aleksandr Lukashenko explained, “Of course, we will continue to deepen economic integration with Russia. But it will be possible to talk about a new package of integration documents only after the implementation of the previous one. Moreover, in full. If at least on point is not fulfilled, there can’t be any new package of integration documents. We firmly agreed on this with the President of the Russian Federation at our last meeting in St. Petersburg.”

The Head of State demands to intensify activities to implement the union programmes as much as possible, drawing attention to the fact that delays in decision-making are unacceptable:

“But there shouldn’t be any rush. God forbid, we make a mistake, and then we realise, we see that we made a mistake, and we begin to unscrew something. It will be impossible, because it will already be at the level of the laws of the two states. Especially now, when our countries are jointly resisting the rabid sanctions pressure of the so-called collective West.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that this is an economic issue, for which both governments and the prime ministers personally are responsible. After all, all the issues that were brought to the level of presidents have been resolved, “Links found. We live in normal conditions. Even the conditions for the functioning of our enterprises, companies and for the lives of people are slightly better than last year. Or maybe not even a little.”

### No one will give up sovereignty

Undoubtedly, the implementation of the union programmes of Belarus and Russia implies integration primarily in the economic sphere. And in this regard, Aleksandr Lukashenko once again emphasises, “I warn you, there was no talk that Russia or Belarus would give up their sovereignty, and today it does not and cannot be. There is simply no need (in this). We have not yet taken everything from the format in which we cooperate with Russia.”

If both sides see that something is missing and additional solutions are needed in the development of integration processes, then the relevant issues will be discussed. The Head of State added that this is the main issue, for which a large circle of responsible persons was invited to the meeting, “So that you do not think that some issues are being resolved behind your back, and you do not know about them. No, this process is open, honest and principled. Moreover, time is pushing us to such a solution to these problems.”

### Despite global challenges

Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko reported on the implementation of the Union programmes at the meeting. At the same time, he spoke about one of the main economic achievements of the year for Belarus, focusing on the fact that, despite serious challenges, sanctions and so on, Belarus and Russia continue to develop cooperation in all areas. According to the results of 11 months of last year, the historically maximum

volume of mutual turnover in goods and services was reached — \$45 billion. The Prime Minister suggested that by the end of 12 months, the countries will be able to overcome the bar of \$50 billion. What is significant, for the first time for Belarus there was a positive balance.

Yes, in mutual trade with Russia, one of the main problems has always been a negative balance. That is, we bought more goods in Russia than we sold there. In some years, the gap reached seven billion dollars.

“And we had to balance the imbalance in trade through trade with other countries. Which is not very easy when the world is economically divided,” noted Aleksandr Lukashenko.

Later, in an interview with journalists, Roman Golovchenko explained that the positive balance was achieved not so much due to a reduction in imports from the Russian Federation, but due to the growth of Belarusian exports, which occurred both in physical terms and in value terms, “Of course, we were helped by the global price situation and the situation associated with the release of certain product niches in the Russian market. But this does not mean that everything happened automatically. This is a serious multi-level work that the President, the Government, ministers, heads of enterprises were engaged in in order to satisfy the emerging demand in the Russian market and fill the vacuum with their goods.”

The Prime Minister is convinced that Belarusian manufacturers have managed to find ways to intensify their work on the Russian market and that great attention is paid to the regions, “Work with each region is under special control, including the embassies of Belarus in the Russian Federation. Here the system is set up. I am sure that this year it will work in exactly the same way.”

### Economic dividends of integration

**What are they? According to Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko:**

■ *The record level has been reached, but it must be surpassed this year. And the price factor will no longer play such a role. World price growth is slowing down, this will also affect Belarusian export positions. Therefore, there is still a lot of serious work to be done. In the near future, a meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Union State will be held, following which a decision will be made to hold the Supreme State Council of the Union State. I think that all these events may well take place in the first quarter of this year.*

■ *We have chosen just such a course, we have taken such a direction, which now brings us certain economic dividends. It was a conscious decision, which was approved by the heads of the two states.*

■ *In the Government, we are unanimous in our opinion that the programmes work for the benefit of Belarus. In their implementation, we have not lost a single gram of sovereignty.*

■ *We are making good progress in all programs. Seven of them have been completed.*

■ *The work (we knew it from the beginning and were ready for it) on energy programmes is going more strongly. Here the issue is in the fundamental, institutional approaches to how the united markets, for example, of gas and oil, should function... We will complete this work anyway.*

## BELARUS EXPORTS TO RUSSIA

**31,2%**  
Machinery, equipment and vehicles

**29,1%**  
Food products and  
agricultural products

**10,3%**  
Chemical industry products

**8,8%**  
Mineral products

**7,0%**  
Textiles, textiles, shoes

**7,2%**  
Metals and products made of them



■ *The work on tax and customs roadmaps was also difficult. When we started it, there were much more questions and ambiguities than answers. But today it can be stated that an agreement on indirect taxes has been signed, this was reported in detail to the Head of State, including that Belarus received quite tangible financial results from the implementation of the measures laid down in this agreement.*

### To the history of the issue

So, more than a year ago, the presidents of Belarus and Russia approved an integration package of documents: the Decree of the Supreme State Council of the Union State on the Main Directions for Implementing the Provisions of the Treaty on the Establishment of the Union State for 2021—2023 and 28 union programmes to deepen the integration processes of the Russian Federation and Belarus. At a meeting on the implementation of these integration programmes, Aleksandr Lukashenko spoke about some details of their adoption, “I want to say that it’s not just that Putin and I gathered there and made something. No. Officials in charge met, discussed, and at the Supreme State Council, with the participation of senior officials present, we approved these programmes. But there were very heated discussions when we accepted these programmes. There were dozens of them. We went along with the Russians, agreeing

on 28 intersectoral programmes. Then there were proposals to create a parliament, and create something else there, and so on... All this was not accepted, rejected. And then President Putin, reacting to my remarks, said to his negotiators, “Why are we rushing about, why are we straining here? If we are not ready to resolve these issues today, both sides, there is no need to do so yet. If there is a need, we will decide.” So it was said. And we always insisted that the cart should not be put before the horse. So we agreed. It was fundamental. These 28 programmes remain.”

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, they reflect not only areas of a socio-economic nature, but also security issues. However, there is an issue, “Time has now pushed us in such a way that those security programmes that we approved more than a year ago are already outdated. We have already come a long way in bilateral relations on security issues. I’m even afraid to tell you how far. The time will come — we will meet with journalists, I will inform you about it confidentially. That is, life pushed us, and we went for closer integration. This is how you have to act: based on the actual conditions. Otherwise, we will break everything.”

Vasily **Kharitonov**  
Photo BelTA



# NEW YEAR — NEW OPPORTUNITIES



**U**ndoubtedly, the past year will be remembered as a qualitatively new stage in the Belarusian-Russian integration. But it is important to understand both what has been done to strengthen it and what remains to be done.

## Competent side view

It is known that at a recent meeting in Minsk, the presidents of Belarus and Russia cut several Gordian knots that hindered the interaction of the economies of the two countries. Doctor of Economic Sciences, Professor Irina Novikova recalls which specific barriers were removed, “The main thing is that we managed to solve the issue of prices for Russian energy resources for Belarus. No matter what they say about high and digital technologies, oil and gas play a decisive role and are included in the production costs of almost every product that we consume, whether it is engineering, chemical or any other industry. Recently, the President of Belarus once again exposed the root of the problem: it doesn’t matter how much energy resources cost, it is important that we have the same prices for them with Russia. Because, in principle, our industry is similar in many respects, it produces similar products. And if energy is cheap in Russia, then the products of Russian enterprises are

cheaper and, accordingly, more competitive in price. In this case, Belarus will have to cover the difference at the expense of the salaries of workers and other important items of expenditure. The agreement reached in this area guarantees equalisation of conditions for years to come. Moreover, the commercial price of energy carriers, as President Aleksandr Lukashenko spoke about, is formed on the basis of the proposals of the Belarusian side.”

## Prospects look great

In addition to natural gas, oil, nuclear energy is also implied. The launch of the second power unit of the Belarusian NPP will soon take place. Nuclear energy will allow to save 4.5 billion cubic meters of gas per year. But this is only a small part of the 21 billion cubic meters of this raw material consumed by the country. The President of Belarus has already raised the issue of building another nuclear power plant. Russia will help to do this

on favourable terms, being the world leader in nuclear energy. Professor Irina Novikova emphasises that cardinal progress has also been made in the adoption of a unified industrial policy. This is confirmed by the allocation of a \$1.7 billion loan to Belarus for the implementation of a number of innovative import-substituting projects, “If they try to influence our countries with sanctions, then we need to have an economic structure that can withstand these conditions. And here it is especially important that Belarus has largely preserved and developed its industry. This also applies to microelectronics. The leaders here are Planar JSC, Integral, Peleng, Horizont. Russian money will allow them to buy new machines and technologies. In cooperation with related Russian enterprises, they will jointly produce import-substituting products, which the West has denied us. Of course, the products of Belarusian enterprises will be supplied without barriers to the Russian capacious market. Peleng based on this is already creating new high-tech jobs with very attractive salaries, and this is just the beginning. The economy as a whole will develop. Look, last year Belarus and Russia, according to preliminary data, reached a mutual trade turnover of about 40 billion dollars, but the task was set to increase it by another 10 billion. This is how many new jobs it will take to implement such plans!”

### When it's beneficial for both parties...

It turns out that thus Russia becomes the main source of foreign investment for Belarus. Professor Irina Novikova fully confirms this thesis. Here are her arguments. The programme of socio-

economic development of Belarus for 2023 provides for a 22 percent increase in foreign investment. And their main source is Russia, which even under sanctions, selling gas and oil on the world market, earns good money. And it shares it with Belarus so that it can develop and create new jobs. However, these are not donations. We will have to pay, but with high-tech products that the two countries jointly produced. And it is beneficial to both parties.

The reorientation of export vectors is also important for Belarus. What is the role of Russia here? From the point of view of logistics, Irina Novikova, Doctor of Economics, believes that this partner country is very important. After all, in order to reorient millions of tons of products, you need to have a good infrastructure: roads, ports, terminals. To transport goods to China, for example, free railway lines are needed, but they are not enough. Iran, Pakistan, India — you can deliver goods there through the Caspian Sea, but there are no good ports. Perhaps Belarus needs to participate in the construction of such facilities, providing work for its builders along the way. Further easing of sanctions against Russian potash fertilizers is planned. And why not go for a kind of offset — to supply Belarusian potash, if the transport arm is shorter, to Russia. And to China, India — Russian potassium instead of Belarusian. In a word, it is necessary to find ways, because the configuration of the world economy is changing.

### Cooperation is a must

Speaking about the tasks of this year, one cannot bypass the growing export of Belarusian food, for which Russia has become the main foreign market. However, it is also a competitor, Irina Novikova clarifies. The professor cites the fact that Russia has been raising its agriculture and processing for 10 years already, so that in any situation people are provided with food. For this, enterprises, technologies, farms were purchased. And today the country itself has become an exporter of a number of important types of food. How to be here? Combine competition and cooperation. Sunflower, rapeseed, it turns out, are grown largely from imported seeds. This means that Belarusian and Russian seed centres should cooperate, especially since now it is quite simple to do this using digital platforms. This applies, by the way, to other areas as well.

It is obvious that most of these issues raised were reflected in the 28 union programmes signed by the presidents of Belarus and Russia in November 2021. They are already, as you know, almost 70 percent completed. What's next? We address this question to the scientist. And the answer is, “I think that fellow scientists will support me: we need a programme to create a single innovation space, including a common system for financing joint developments. Russia is already funding its business entities through digital cluster platforms. Belarus is also suitable for this. These platforms must be interconnected, otherwise, by creating a single economy, we will only restore what was under the USSR. And you need to move forward.”

Well, you can't argue with this message. All on the merits. It's been said to the point.

Aleksei Fedosov



# WE MANAGED TO REFORMAT, BUT WE NEED TO ACCELERATE



## Important highlights from the export meeting at the Palace of Independence

**T**he past year was a serious test for Belarusian exporters. After the imposition of sanctions, it was necessary, as they say, to rebuild logistics on the march. However, a sharp increase in prices for goods in demand on the world market played in favour of manufacturers. As a result, the enterprises not only survived, but even added in financial performance.

### Diversification of export routes

Aleksandr Lukashenko, at a recent meeting on the export of Belarusian goods, did not fail to note this fact, but urged not to relax, but, on the contrary, to speed up, “We need to think about how to increase exports. Export is a currency without which the country and the economy cannot live, especially since Belarus has an export-oriented economy.”

It is not without reason that the Head of State demands even

greater activity in foreign markets. After all, one can seriously talk about success only when exports grow both in absolute physical terms and in money terms. That is, it does not depend only on the price situation. Aleksandr Lukashenko specified, “Last year, we managed to overcome the negative trends and achieve positive results in export in terms of money. Of course, money decides everything, but we would like, as they say, to increase exports by the piece.”

Hence the fundamental requirement of the President: we must become more active, we must accelerate. Otherwise, complacency will lead to the fact that you can fail this year. And this, according to Aleksandr Lukashenko, will be a beginning of a negative trend for the remaining years of the five-year period. That is why it is quite natural that one of the topics of the meeting was the diversification of export routes. After all, last year, due to sanctions, the established logistics was disrupted. I had to look for new logistical ways. Ways of supply, sales of





goods. According to the Head of State, it is necessary to build ports faster. Bring them to a certain level and trade through our own ports, and not someone else's property.

### It took time

So, despite the fact that annual economic indicators have not yet been calculated, it is already clear: at the end of 2022, in monetary terms, domestic exports reached the pre-sanction level. Moreover, a record positive balance was obtained in foreign trade — \$4.5 billion. First Deputy Prime Minister Nikolai Snopkov explained the significance of this indicator, “This is actually a historical figure, and it is very important. It forms stability in the foreign exchange market, security of the country's gold and foreign exchange reserves. In fact, it creates calm in the financial sector as a whole. And we feel it in our wallets, because the same historical figure is the average wage in dollars.”

Let us explain that the nominal accrued average wage of the country's workers in November 2022 amounted to 1,648.2 roubles, at the current exchange rate for that period, this is about 660 dollars.

The First Vice Prime Minister also noted that in terms of investment exports, as well as for many items (tractors, combines, refrigerators, elevators), deliveries exceeded the pre-sanction volume, “But there are items that we are obliged to pull

up this year. And the best part: there is a prospect that we will reach the pre-sanction level in terms of their export volume.”

As for the decrease in the volume of export deliveries of some products, it is certainly due to the fact that some countries have actually cut off Belarus from their markets. Nikolai Snopkov cited woodworking products as an example. If earlier Belarus supplied wood-based panels worth \$500 million a year to the EU, then after the imposition of sanctions, it was immediately deprived of these volumes. It took time to reformat, to find new markets, contracts in other countries.

### Deliveries without traders. Directly

Despite the tough sanctions pressure, Belarusian products remain in demand in foreign markets. Answering the question of whether the rhetoric of Western countries regarding our mineral fertilizers is changing, Nikolai Snopkov explained very clearly, “In fact, everything is simple: politics is politics, and business is business. Fertilizers are food, food is the stability of the countries that buy our fertilizers. Markets are taking our fertilizers, traditional markets are taking it on the rise.”

At the same time, it is not worth counting on the fact that fertilizer supplies to the EU and the USA will be resumed in the near future. These regions are still refusing this type of product. However, as the First Vice Premier added, we are talking about such volumes that cannot drastically worsen the sales situation.

## OVERCOME NEGATIVE TRENDS

At the same time, fertilizer exporters expect that this year deliveries to African and Latin American countries, which previously went through European and American traders, will be carried out directly. There are already such works.

According to Nikolai Snopkov, sales of Belarusian fertilizers will also grow in traditional markets. The falling price will contribute to this, “Unfortunately, we observed last year that due to the high price growth, consumption volumes, including potash, decreased in traditional markets. Farmers couldn’t pay. We see a price decrease: it will be more or less fair — on the potash market it is 420 — 450 dollars per ton. Accordingly, we expect (and this is confirmed by our negotiations) an increase in volumes.”

The Vice Prime Minister expressed hope that thanks to deliveries to traditional markets, as well as to new markets in Africa and Latin America, bypassing intermediaries, it will be possible to reach the volume of supplies of Belarusian fertilizers at the level of 2019 — 2021.

### The situation has been stabilised

As for the topic of cooperation with Lithuanian ports. Recall that due to Western sectoral sanctions against Belarus, since December 2021, the transshipment of Belarusian potash fertilizers through the Baltic ports has actually been stopped. By the way, the other day, the Minister of Communications and Transport of Lithuania, Marius Skuodis, on the air of the radio station Zhinyu Radias, announced the losses of the Klaipeda port: preliminary results for 2022 show a decrease in cargo transshipment by 21 percent. “The biggest losses are due to the fact that the port refused to transship Belarusian fertilizers in the light of international sanctions,” the Lithuanian official explained. Answering the question of journalists about whether there were any signals from Lithuania about the return of cooperation through the port infrastructure, Nikolai Snopkov shared his opinion, “Regarding the Baltic ports, I will say in non-economic terms: I feel sorry for them. In fact, I feel sorry for the guys who were successfully doing business. And what happened to them... One can only regret. This is the first moment. Second moment. We will think if we receive signals about the Baltic ports (Klaipeda, Ventspils). Let’s look at the conditions that will be offered to us. Today it is no longer essential. To be honest, thanks to the titanic work of the President, we were able not to spoil the situation. Today, we provide port infrastructure with all the necessary exports of Belarus (80 percent of these are oil products and potash fertilizers).”

### Port as a business model

In general, according to Nikolai Snopkov, today there is enough port infrastructure to export all exported products. At the same time, in this case, the ports of Russia come to the fore. And while over the past year the Belarusian side has been actively working out routes, transshipment costs, tariffs, then from the beginning of 2023 we are ‘ready to fully transport everything and develop further if necessary’. The main approach does not change — economic efficiency and expediency of port infrastructure development.

“What we currently have, what we are developing, suits us in terms of tariffs and cost,” emphasised the First Vice Prime Minister. “It is possible to develop further if it is interesting from an economic point of view. The port as a business model is an excellent cost-effective product. Therefore, we will consider further and form new port opportunities of the already Belarusian, national port with all the ensuing opportunities and prospects.”

Minister of Transport and Communications Aleksey Avramenko spoke about how Belarus diversified the supply of goods through Russian seaports. In particular, he recalled that two basic agreements were signed between the countries last year on the transshipment of Belarusian oil products and foreign trade cargo, primarily potash and nitrogen fertilizers, metallurgy products, and woodworking products. And today, 19 ports of the Russian Federation are already involved in the transshipment of Belarusian goods, Aleksey Avramenko informed, “The volumes for 2023 have been determined. The ports to be used are defined. The main task is to increase these volumes and look at the quality, at the price of the final transshipment, whether it be potash fertilizers or oil products. But there are no problems from an organisational point of view on Russian territory today.”

Meanwhile, it is known that, for example, the ports of St. Petersburg are much further than Klaipeda. A reasonable question arises as to how Belarus compensates for the additional costs. The Minister replied as follows, “If we are talking about an agreement on petroleum products, we levelled this difference by the fact that the Russian Railways provided a 50 percent discount. This is a comparable price today. If we are talking about the volumes of other cargoes, we are working to get a discount on railway tariffs in order to be competitive with the ports that we used to have.”

Speaking about the intention of Belarus to build its own seaport in Russia, Aleksey Avramenko explained, “First of all, we are talking about the fact that we carry out its functions as a state port. Accordingly, they controlled the entry of ships and had a guaranteed place from where they could send Belarusian export cargo, as well as develop infrastructure by bringing in imported cargo. That is, this is a complex issue that still requires a more detailed study from the point of view of the project’s economics.” Belarus finances it on its own with the attraction of credit resources. There are a number of Russian banks that are ready to lend funds to it. The only issue is to get the final efficiency from the implementation of this project, the minister stressed. And he added that as a result of the sanctions policy of the West, the Belarusian Railway is also forced to restructure approaches in its activities: As a certain way out, there is an increase in cargo transportation to China. Last year, for example, almost a thousand container trains were sent there. As a result, more than a million tons of potash fertilizers and other cargoes were transported. In other words, a steady, almost multiple growth is evident.

Vsevolod Yevseyev  
Photo BelTA

# Would you like to buy or sell? Help is here



**Ensure effective sales of Belarusian products, eliminate unreasonable mediation, increase the return on transactions, make them simpler and more understandable. These and other tasks are set today by the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange, which helps protect the interests of both sellers and buyers.**

**A**nd more recently, it has also been a unique place for implementing the potential of import substitution. During its existence, the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange has proven to be a very effective tool. In recent years, it has been possible to reach very serious sales volumes, in total it is almost 10 billion roubles. The exchange has about thirty thousand clients who carry out export and import operations. How does the trading platform work now and what new projects will be implemented in the near future?

## **It is impossible to deny what has been achieved**

If we raise a direct question about how exchange trading is developing in the country, then briefly this process can be described as active, dynamic, systematic. In particular, the number and geography of bidders is growing, new promising product

lines are emerging, additional services are being introduced, and the software and hardware infrastructure is being improved. By the way, all this is included in the development strategy of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange. And, as the chairman of the board of the exchange, Aleksandr Osmolovsky, notes, it is being successfully implemented, "There were also projects that were not planned last year, however, given their importance for the country's economy, we still implemented them and achieved the desired results. Probably the most illustrative example of such projects is the import substitution service implemented on the basis of our electronic B2B platform for industrial and consumer goods. In the shortest possible time, we developed and offered domestic business entities a full-cycle trading solution covering the entire process of buying and selling goods: from filing an application and automatically searching for the best offer to concluding a transaction and its subsequent support. Since the



introduction of this service, thousands of companies have already used it, and for many of them it has become a daily working tool.”

### Much more potential

Well, how effective was the import substitution platform? As Aleksandr Osmolovsky assures, after six months of operation of the platform for industrial and consumer goods in the import substitution mode, it copes with the assigned tasks. During this period, almost fourteen thousand transactions with import-substituting goods were concluded for a total amount of more than one hundred and seventy million roubles.

“At the same time, for a detailed analysis of the effectiveness of our trading platform in the field of import substitution, the existing array of data is still not enough,” notes the chairman of the board of the exchange. Well, this project is too big and involves too many sectors of the economy to evaluate its results after only six months. Moreover, two of them were spent on training seminars for potential participants. And this work is still going on, because, despite the nationwide information campaign launched by the exchange, to date, not all Belarusian enterprises have integrated the platform into their trading and purchasing activities.

“Implementation of innovations is always a long and laborious process,” says Aleksandr Osmolovsky. “But we are optimistic. In addition, there has recently been a noticeable increase in the number of applications for purchase and sale, and for certain commodity items, such as plastic products, electrical switching equipment and bulk building mixtures, the share of the site in import substitution in the whole country is 10-20 percent. Although the potential of our trading platform is much greater, and we, in fact, have only just begun to reveal it.”

In other words, the efficiency and relevance of the software product of the exchange has already been proven in practice. Now it is only important to ensure its widespread implementation and scaling.

### Areas of beneficial cooperation

Today it is obvious that it is relations with the regions of Russia that play, perhaps, a decisive role in the development of the Belarusian-Russian exchange trade. At the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange, they were convinced of this, so to speak, from their own experience. As evidenced by the statistics. Thus, compared to January-November 2021, the amount of transactions involving Russian residents on the exchange increased by almost one and a half times, to \$177 million. And more than three hundred new companies came to the stock exchange. To a large extent, this was facilitated by the establishment of partnerships with regional export support centres and chambers of commerce and industry, thanks to which hundreds of representatives of small and



medium-sized businesses in Russia learned about the possibilities of using the exchange mechanism. A striking example of the exchange's fruitful interaction with the aforementioned structures is the accreditation of the Export Support Centre of the Rostov Region as an exchange broker. As a result, large suppliers of coal and oilseed processing products entered the exchange in less than a month, and the volume of transactions with this region almost quadrupled compared to the same period in 2021, Aleksandr Osmolovsky cites statistics and concludes that further work on the development of exchange trading with the Russian Federation is planned to be built in a similar vein.

### The amount of transactions is in the millions

Of course, due to a number of objective factors, the level of activity of trading participants on the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange differs for different regions. Therefore, there are leading regions with stock exchange turnover amounting to millions of dollars, and those that were marked by only one or two transactions.

“For example, last year, over 18 percent of the total amount of transactions of residents of the Russian Federation on our trading platform accounted for companies from Moscow and the Moscow Region,” says Aleksandr Osmolovsky. This is the highest figure when compared with other regions of Russia. In Belarus, Moscow bidders mainly bought rapeseed oil, meat and dairy products, lumber, wet blue leather and scrap metal, while ferrous and non-ferrous metals, coal and electrical products were supplied to the Belarusian market from the Moscow Region. In addition to classic import-export contracts, transit transactions were also concluded for the sale of industrial goods, including import-substituting ones. The amount of such transactions since the beginning of 2022 was more than five million dollars in equivalent. Along with the Moscow Region, the top five regions-leaders in terms of the amount of exchange transactions on the Belarusian Universal Commodity



Exchange also included Smolensk, Kemerovo, Kaliningrad and Leningrad Regions. It should be noted here that the growing interest of Russian business entities in the exchange mechanism is also fuelled by the regular participation of representatives of the exchange in various business events — conferences, forums, round tables, seminars. In addition, almost every week the central office of the exchange is visited by delegations from Russian business circles.

“All these are opportunities for attracting participants from Russia to exchange trading, and we try to make each such meeting as efficient as possible,” concludes Aleksandr Osmolovsky.

### The store is filled to the top

It is interesting, after all, what new commodity items have appeared in the store of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange lately? However, the chairman of the board of the exchange has his own vision on this matter, “To be honest, our stores are already filled to the brim with commodity items, so even in a year the range of exchange goods practically did not expand. All attention was focused on a more thorough comprehensive study of existing product lines. For example, trades in cellular concrete blocks, lubricants, and sugar were transferred to a session basis. Previously, they were sold on the site of industrial and consumer goods, which operates on the principle of a B2B marketplace and is not very convenient if you need to organise regular rhythmic deliveries of large volumes of a particular product. Therefore, the appearance of a pre-approved trading schedule had a positive effect on the activity of participants and, as a result, on the number and amount of transactions. In this regard, we constantly analyse the commodity structure of the platform for industrial and consumer goods in order to identify promising positions that would be appropriate to trade at regular trading sessions.” The most recent case, which Aleksandr Osmolovsky cites as an illustrative example, is trading in food raw materials on the domestic market. This group of products includes starch and glucose syrup, gelatine, confectionery fat, cocoa butter substitutes, citric acid, yeast, baking soda, wheat gluten, and so on. Previously, these items were partly traded on the industrial and consumer goods floor, as well as in the agricultural products

section. Now they are all sold in one weekly trading session. Thus, market participants have a single channel for purchasing the entire range of food raw materials with competitive pricing and effective tools for monitoring the execution of transactions.

### The Chinese vector is also a priority

And here is how the chairman of its board sees the role of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange in the implementation of the One Belt, One Road initiative and in how cooperation with China is developing in general, “Undoubtedly, this initiative gave a powerful positive impetus to the development of trade and economic relations between Belarus and China, including in the field of exchange trading, providing a convenient way to deliver domestic goods to Chinese consumers and vice versa.”

In this context, the exchange plays the role of an aggregator that accumulates supply and demand from the Belarusian and Chinese sides, creating favourable conditions for transactions. Well, the result of the contracts concluded on the stock exchange are stable flows of goods in both directions. This ensures the constant loading of the transport and logistics infrastructure and the dynamic growth of mutual trade turnover between the two countries.

In general, the Chinese vector of foreign trade on the stock exchange is being paid close attention. Firstly, specialists who are fluent in Chinese are engaged in attracting and accompanying bidders from China. This immediately removes the issue of the language barrier. Secondly, in order to minimise currency risks and increase the attractiveness of the exchange mechanism, the possibility of settlements in Chinese yuan has been implemented. Thirdly, the exchange regularly holds special export trading sessions focused on the Chinese market. The prices of goods at such sessions are indicated in yuan and already include the cost of delivery to the country of destination. Moreover, a buyer from China can choose the most suitable delivery basis for him: whether it is Changzhou railway station or Qingdao port.

“As a result, in January-November last year, we received more than a threefold increase in the amount of transactions made by Chinese companies,” the head of the exchange notes a kind of success. “At the same time, the product range has also expanded. If in 2021 only rapeseed oil and lumber were supplied to China through the exchange, then in 2022 the first transactions for the purchase of milk powder and wet blue leather were registered.”

By the way, they were concluded by their new companies that came just a few months ago. In total, at the moment, more than a hundred residents of China are accredited on the exchange, three of which have certificates of brokers. Isn't this the best confirmation that Chinese companies are interested in the Belarusian exchange market and they want to work here.

“For our part, we are ready to enter the Chinese market,” Aleksandr Osmolovsky announces his plans.

P.S. The first step in this direction could be the opening of a representative office of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange in Shanghai. Most likely, it will be a joint venture. Therefore, now in Minsk they are actively looking for a Chinese partner, together with whom they could implement this project.

Vladimir Khromov  
Photo BelTA



# TARGET INDICATOR STARTS COUNTING

One of the growth drivers of the Belarusian economy in the coming year will be the increase in investment in fixed assets. It is planned to invest in three main areas: the construction of housing and infrastructure for it, the creation and development of infrastructure in the regions, investment projects and technical re-equipment.



In total, it is planned to implement over a hundred investment projects, one and a half dozen integration projects, fifty industrial import-substituting ones, in which it is planned to invest more than thirty billion roubles. According to the Director of the Institute of Economics of the National Academy of Sciences Denis Mukha, the target indicator of 122 percent compared to last year is quite high, and its implementation in the current conditions will be quite stressful. At the same time, the emphasis on increasing investment in fixed capital is justified and quite real. Moreover, this indicator is based on the plans determined by the Programme for the Social and Economic Development of Belarus for 2021—2025, in accordance with which a new investment cycle is expected to be launched. In fact, this provides for nothing but a significant increase in investment. A very important point: the emphasis is not just on a progressive increase in the volume of capital investments, but also on a simultaneous increase in the efficiency of their use. Actually, it is precisely this approach that can achieve the results that the state aims at the economy. Efficient use of investments implies, first of all, the development of high-tech and innovative industries in priority areas and activities, investing in projects with quick payback periods.

### Launch of a new investment cycle

As an important direction of investment policy in 2023, it is planned to intensify investment in the creation and development of regional infrastructure. In particular, for this purpose, a transition to a differentiated system of stimulating the development of the production potential of the territories is envisaged. That is, special emphasis will be placed on their targeted development. The Government has plans to implement a number of large-scale regional projects, the bulk of which are import-substituting. There are several integration projects (through the Union State and the EAEU) that involve the modernisation of tens of thousands of jobs. With their successful implementation, the target indicator of 122 percent for the growth of investment in fixed assets will be achieved.

The reliance on investments, experts believe, seems justified also because the renewal of the active part of fixed assets is now required — machinery and equipment, vehicles, tools and much more involved in the production process. This will reduce the material, resource and energy intensity of industrial production. It is important to invest in projects that carry modern technologies that can give a new impetus to the development of industries, which will ultimately contribute to GDP growth.

### Reasonable preference rate

The target plan and other main programme documents for the development of the economy this year provide for the creation of favourable conditions for attracting investment. In particular, it is planned to introduce a number of new instruments and mechanisms, including the institution of 'special investment agreements'. Such agreements are assigned a special status with a guarantee that the state will buy back part of the products that will be produced as a result of the implementation of the



**It is important to channel investments into those projects that carry modern technologies that can give a new impetus to the development of industries, which will ultimately contribute to GDP growth.**

investment project. It is also planned to provide budgetary transfers to reimburse capital costs, allocate at least a third of the funds of innovation funds for the implementation of investment projects, exempt newly created organisations, especially in the agricultural and industrial sectors, from income tax and property taxes. These measures will partially make it possible to launch a new investment cycle.

### Investments have their own mechanisms

However, the main source through which the growth of investments will be ensured is the use of credit resources. At the same time, a significant reduction in interest rates and a reduction in the refinancing rate are planned. These measures will contribute to the fact that the share of investment in fixed capital in GDP will reach the level of 20 percent, which ensures the expanded reproduction of fixed assets and the economic security of the country.

Thus, there are tools for increasing investments. When implementing highly effective projects with their participation, which will provide a return in the form of increasing the level of added value in the price of goods and services produced, increasing exports, expanding import-substituting industries, and a sustainable, balanced development of the country's economy will be obtained.

Aleksei Fedosov



# EVERYTHING IS IMPORTANT HERE: TO SKILLFULLY RECEIVE INCOME, AS WELL AS TO PRIORITISE EXPENSES



So, the country lives according to the annual plan. Or rather, on a budget. The entire package of budget laws for 2023 is registered in the National Register of Legal Acts of Belarus.

*As expected, the laws on the republican budget and the budget for 2023 were signed by the President. This means that the documents entered into force on time. What is the first thing that catches your eye?*

*So, in the republican budget, expenditures for the year are planned at more than 36.5 billion roubles. The deficit is 3.1 billion roubles. Traditionally, the difference between expenditures and revenues is planned to be covered by external borrowings and budget balances.*

*It has been distributed what shares of the main Belarusian tax — VAT — the regions and Minsk will be able to take: 75.44% will go to the republican budget, the Brest Region will be assigned 4.48%; Vitebsk — 3.73%; Gomel — 4.59%; Grodno — 3.41%; Minsk — 4.96%; Mogilev — 3.39%.*

*The 2023 budget increases funding for national defence by almost 1 billion roubles.*

*One of the innovations of the year will be a tax on professional income. A part of small businesses will be able to voluntarily switch to it. The rate of 10% of the monthly income will be for those whose annual income does not exceed 60 thousand roubles. 20% rate — for income above 60 thousand.*

## Scenario based on development

Such, in a certain sense, is the dry statistics of numbers. But let's try to approach this issue more clearly and substantively. For example, let's ask ourselves what scenario of economic development was taken as the basis for planning the budget for this year? How will the budget cope with changes in the given parameters? And here is what Finance Minister Yuri Seliverstov once said about this, "When drafting the budget for 2023, the scenario of economic development conditions approved by the Decree of the President 'On the Most Important Parameters of the Forecast of Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for 2023' was taken as the basis, which assumes GDP growth at the level of 103.8 percent. With regard to the formation of the expenditure side of the budget, we approached quite carefully. For the purpose of sustainable budget implementation, we do not allocate part of the income to expenses, accumulating them in the additional reserve fund of the Head of State, which, if formed, will be used by decision of the Government agreed with the President. In the republican budget, an additional reserve fund of the Head of State is planned in the amount of 394.1 million roubles. Similar reserve funds will be formed in local budgets. This approach to the formation of additional reserve funds was also implemented in previous years. This will help mitigate possible risks in achieving the forecast macroeconomic indicators."

Let's suggest to the Minister of Finance to delve a little into the numbers. Let us ask, in particular, what is the planned volume of consolidated budget revenues for 2023?

It turns out that the revenues of the consolidated budget are projected in the amount of 57.2 billion roubles (slightly more than 24 percent of GDP). Consolidated budget revenues include tax revenues in the amount of 46.4 billion roubles, as well as non-tax revenues — 5.4 billion roubles. In turn, the main share (88 percent) of tax revenues are value added tax — 38.5 percent, income tax — 23.6 percent, profit tax - 13.3 percent, tax revenues from foreign economic activity — 7.9 percent, as well as excises — 4.7 percent.

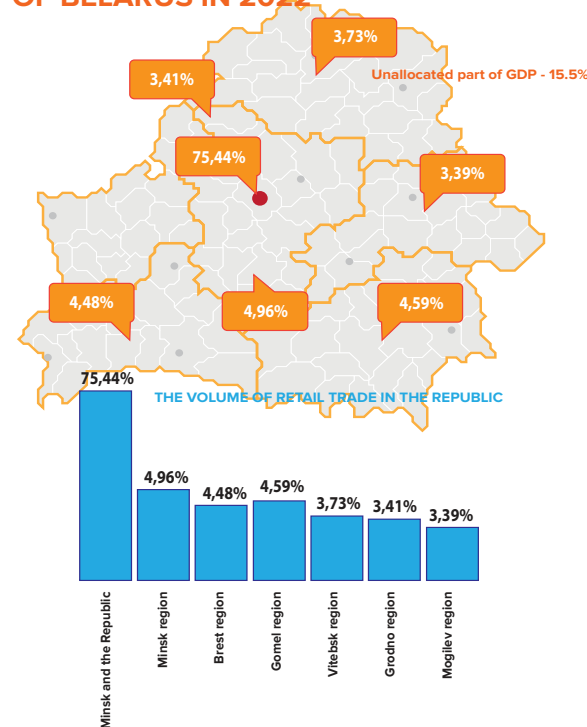
## Optimisation implies rationality

I wonder what the specialists proceeded from when evaluating the revenue base of the budget? What's next for taxpayers? What are the innovations? And this is what it is like according to the Minister of Finance Yuri Seliverstov, "Amendments and additions to the Tax Code for 2023 are mainly focused on compensating for increasing budget spending on the social sector by modernising individual tax rates to take into account inflation, reviewing and cancelling certain tax benefits, solving practical tax issues, and improving tax administration. Mutual agreements between the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation on the general principles of taxation of indirect taxes (VAT and excises) have also been implemented."

Indexation of tax rates established in Belarusian roubles by 19.4 percent is envisaged. In terms of excise taxes, it is planned to increase rates on cigarettes with a filter of price group I (national brands) — by 2.2 times, price group II (international brands) — by 60.9 percent, for strong alcoholic beverages — by 31.1 percent. The list of excisable goods includes electronic smoking systems and systems for tobacco consumption.

As the minister noted, as part of the optimisation task, the abolition of seven tax benefits is envisaged. Comprehensive work in this part,

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS IN 2022





affecting the most expensive benefits, was carried out in the previous two years. The benefits cancelled at this stage were not in demand and, according to the Minister of Finance, will not have any negative impact on business entities.

Separately, Yuri Seliverstov dwelled on self-employed citizens. Starting this year, two taxation regimes are being established for them — a tax on professional income and a single tax with an increase in single tax rates by 1.5–2.5 times. As it turns out, this approach is aimed at enhancing self-employment and encouraging self-employed citizens to apply the taxation regime with the payment of tax on professional income, the advantages of paying which, according to experts, is the creation of simple conditions for starting a business for an individual without excessive administrative and registration procedures due to implementation of tax payment based on a mobile application. After registration in it, the payer will only need to enter data on the amount of revenue received by him for the purpose of fulfilling obligations to the budget. In this case, the calculation of the tax amount will be carried out by the tax authority with its subsequent confirmation by the payer. In addition, the tax is calculated as a percentage of the proceeds received, which allows you to fulfil your obligations depending on the income received, and not in a fixed amount, as occurs when paying a single tax. Additionally, first-time registered payers are granted the right to apply a tax deduction in the amount of 2,000 roubles. In fact, this amount is completely exempt from taxation.

**"Changes and additions to the Tax Code for 2023 are mainly focused on compensating for increasing budget spending on the social sector by modernising individual tax rates to take into account inflation, reviewing and cancelling certain tax benefits, solving practical tax issues, and improving tax administration."**

### Continuation of the concept of reform

A few more features. The bottom line is that artisans and persons carrying out activities in the field of agro-ecotourism will also be required to pay tax on professional income from July 1st, 2023. At the same time, for authentic types of handicraft activities and for agro-ecotourism remote from large settlements, by decision of local executive and administrative bodies, the right can be granted to pay a handicraft fee and a fee for the implementation of activities for the provision of services in the field of agro-ecotourism instead of tax on professional income.

There will be two taxation regimes for individual entrepreneurs — income tax and single tax. At the same time, they are provided with an increase in the income tax rate from 16 to 20 percent, which, according to the government, is associated with equalising the tax burden with those organisations for which the income tax rate has been increased from 18 to 20 percent. Also, single tax rates have been increased by 2–3 times with a simultaneous narrowing of the list of activities in the implementation of which individual entrepreneurs are entitled to pay a single tax. This approach is a continuation of the concept implemented since last year to reform the institution of individual entrepreneurship, aimed at increasing the degree of their

participation in financing public expenditures, eliminating unfair competition with legal entities due to a lower tax burden, preventing schemes for illegal minimisation of tax liabilities, and eliminating the plurality of taxation regimes, as well as stimulating citizens to self-employment.

Be that as it may, a number of tax policy measures, and this is noted by the government, are aimed at supporting business entities and simplifying tax administration. In particular, they provide for an increase of the period during which the payer ensures the fulfilment of the tax obligation and (or) the payment of penalties accrued by the customs authorities from three to six months.

In 2023, an electronic service for payers of the simplified taxation system will begin to function. The Ministry of Taxes and Duties has carried out work to create such a service that allows payers to keep records in the book of income and expenses online in the payer's personal account on the portal of the Ministry of Taxes. It will allow you to automatically determine the gross revenue of payers based on the data of the cash equipment control system and information on cash flow on accounts, automatically generate a declaration and calculate tax under a simplified taxation system. In fact, for payers who use the 'simplification', labour costs for maintaining tax records will be significantly minimised.

### Tailored to people's needs

But let's turn to the expenditure side of the budget. Does the budget as a whole retain a social orientation? In response to this question, Minister of Finance Yuri Seliverstov is unequivocal, "The social orientation of budget expenditures remains a distinctive feature of our state. The government is carrying out systematic work to improve the material well-being of citizens. Increased budget spending on wages, pensions, as well as the implementation of social standards. Thanks to this, our citizens receive high-quality medical services, have the opportunity to receive higher education at the expense of budgetary funds. The system of social protection is organised rationally, taking into account the needs of people."

Here are the specifics. In total, the consolidated budget provides for expenditures in the amount of 27.2 billion roubles for the social sphere in 2023, or with an increase of 17.2 percent compared to last year. Including 7 billion roubles from the republican budget, or with an increase of 16.6 percent compared to last year.

Measures have also been established to increase wages for public sector employees. In particular, the base rate used to calculate the salary of employees of budgetary organisations has been increased. From January 1st, it reaches 228 roubles. On average, the growth of the base rate will be at least 10 percent.

It is also planned to increase incentive allowances for certain categories of employees of budgetary organisations, provided for by the Program of Activities of the Government of the Republic of Belarus for the period up to 2025. The amount of funds for these purposes, as specified by the Minister of Finance, will increase one and a half times and amount to about 960 million roubles. Yuri Seliverstov summarised, "In general, the costs of the consolidated budget for wages (including deductions for social needs and military pensions) for 2023 will increase by 3.8 billion roubles and will amount to 23.5 billion roubles. In addition, at the expense of the republican budget, it is planned to carry out a centralised purchase

**Be that as it may, a number of tax policy measures, and this is noted by the government, are aimed at supporting business entities and simplifying tax administration. In particular, it provides for an increase of the period during which the payer ensures the fulfilment of the tax obligation and (or) the payment of penalties accrued by the customs authorities from three to six months.**



by the relevant ministries of ambulances, school buses, vehicles for social institutions, as well as electric buses in the total amount of 139.5 million roubles with their subsequent transfer to the regions. Support for the construction of housing for citizens with lower income and the development of infrastructure will also continue.”

By the way, as in previous years, budgetary support in housing construction will be aimed at providing social guarantees for low-income citizens, primarily for large families in need of better housing conditions. And to ensure housing construction itself in the required volumes, including with state support, the republican budget provides for 1.6 billion roubles, of which over five hundred million will be transferred in the form of targeted subventions to local budgets for the construction of utility networks.

This year, the payment of family capital will also take place. The implementation of measures aimed at supporting families raising children, large families, and low-income citizens will continue in full measure. By the way, during the existence of the Family Capital programme — since 2015 — about 120,000 deposit accounts have been opened for citizens. In 2023, another 14,000 families will receive family capital funds at their disposal. State expenditures for these purposes will amount to about five hundred million roubles.

### **“The deficit is fully manageable...”**

Meanwhile, as far as we know, the 2023 budget is in deficit. To what extent is the deficit projected and how will it be closed? Finance

Minister Yuri Seliverstov clarified that this year the republican budget deficit is projected at 3.2 billion roubles, or 1.3 percent of GDP. It is planned to finance it at the expense of internal reserves, that is, budget balances, as well as borrowings in the domestic financial market of Belarus and Russia. Today, by the way, many states form a budget with a deficit. Yuri Seliverstov explains the government’s position, “We deliberately went for the formation of the republican budget for 2023 with a deficit. This will allow us to finance all the social obligations of the state. In the process of budgeting, we calculated the sources of its financing. The deficit is fully managed and controlled.” And one more important point. It concerns the repayment of external public debt. What is the amount involved and in what currency will payments be made?

So, in 2023, it is planned to allocate 9.5 billion roubles, which is equivalent to \$3.4 billion, to pay off the external public debt. Despite the difficult foreign policy conditions, the Ministry of Finance plans to fully fulfil its debt obligations. As Yuri Seliverstov confirmed, the temporary payment procedure in Belarusian roubles applies to loans, including those originating from states that have imposed sanctions against the country — the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Northern Investment Bank, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, as well as for Belarusian Eurobonds.

Aleksei **Fedosov**  
Photo BelTA

# AT THE CROSSROADS OF PATHS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Interview with the Chairman of the Brest Region Executive Committee Yury SHULEYKO about how the first region of Belarus lives and develops



**“I propose to start the conversation with the distinctive features of the Brest Region, tell about what the Brest Region is proud of, in what areas it has achieved the best results.”**

“The Brest Region is the westernmost region of the country. The region borders on the European Union in the west and Ukraine in the south. And this position at the crossroads from east to west, from north to south has always influenced the development of the economy, infrastructure, and the mentality of people. It should be said that the region has a good transport component. The Brest railway junction is one of the largest in Central Europe. Of particular importance is the road transit corridor Berlin-Warsaw-Brest-Minsk-Moscow.

The Brest direction traditionally attracts travellers primarily with the famous Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park. This unique forest occupies a worthy place next to the world famous forest reserves. Thousands of people come to us to see our palaces, museums, the Brest Hero Fortress memorial complex. The Brest Fortress has become a symbol of resilience and courage for many years; it is rightfully considered one of the most interesting objects for studying history. The memorial complex, which has been visited by more than 25 million people, is constantly developing, growing with new museum expositions and other facilities. Its possibilities for patriotic education, especially for young people, are endless today.

If we are talking about the economy, economic activity, the Brest Region is distinguished by the most favourable weather conditions (when compare to other regions of the country) for conducting highly efficient agricultural production, the gross economic sector of the region is the production of food and beverages (the share in the volume of industrial production of the region is more than half).

Such features of the Brest Region as a large-scale land reclamation, geographical location in the south-west of the country, where climate change is particularly acute, the presence of a developed transport infrastructure predetermine the specialisation of the region's economy.



The key growth points of the region's economy are agriculture, meat and dairy, furniture, light industry, mechanical engineering, metalworking, mining, processing of minerals, and transport. Further development of import-substituting industries is envisaged.

The economy is characterised by intensive economic growth. For 2016 — 2021, the gross regional product per capita of the region increased by almost 2.3 times. Last year, the Brest Region, despite the difficult economic conditions, took the leading position in the republic in terms of the growth rate of the gross regional product. If we talk about areas where efforts are being made, taking into account the above features, then this, of course, is the development of tourism. There are certain results here, but we also see reserves, especially now with the benefits of visa-free travel."

**"The Brest Region is famous for its tourism potential. The mentioned Belovezhskaya Pushcha, Brest Fortress have long become brands of the region. Let's talk about how tourism is developing, what is being done to increase the flow of tourists, what are the prospects for this industry?"**

"Every third tourist who comes to Belarus visits the Brest Region. And not surprisingly, the Brest Region, with its huge potential, is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the Republic of Belarus.

The trends already outlined last year continue to develop further. One of them is the growing popularity of domestic tourism. Particular attention is now being paid to patriotic tourism, ecological, educational, health, agroecotourism, weekend tours are becoming increasingly popular.

More than 300 tourist routes pass through the territory of the region for different categories of travellers, including cultural, entertainment and gastronomic programmes. New routes are developed every year. Among tourists, there is a growing demand for routes of cultural, educational and environmental orientation. The target tasks of the development of the tourism sector are to continue the formation and development of a modern competitive tourism complex in the Brest Region, to increase the contribution of tourism to the development of the region's economy.

New points of growth are the development of health tourism, the development of innovative tours and excursions based on the requirements of the 'green' economy, the formation of ecological tourist trails, taking into account the natural landscape and cultural and historical features of the areas of the region; development of a system of tourist and recreational areas based on a cluster approach; development of a network of routes of military and patriotic themes, historical, cultural, religious and nostalgic heritage.

The implementation of pilot projects in the field of domestic tourism continues with the use of new approaches to the development of territories, forms of interagency cooperation, as well as cooperation with private businesses, and marketing methods for positioning areas.

In addition, currently there is a visa-free regime on the territory of the Brest Region. The tourist flow under the visa-free regime has increased several times.



■ In the Brest fortress on May 9

Two investment projects are being implemented in the region in the field of tourism: the creation of the EcoBel Kolbovichi tourist complex in the village of Kolbovichi in the Baranovichi District and the creation of a health-improving and tourist complex in the village of Bolshie Kosichi in the Brest Region.

Work continues on the creation, updating and promotion of resources about the tourism opportunities of the Brest Region on the Internet and social media, including the creation of tourist mobile applications with the ability to independently build a route."

**"There is something to show the guests. Brest has a rich history. Our small motherland is adorned with its pearls — monuments of history and culture. Many of them have been restored recently. Tell us about the most interesting, iconic."**

"The first in this row, perhaps, should be called the Ruzhany palace complex of the Sapieha family, an architectural monument of the 18th century in the style of late classicism, which is often called the 'Belarusian Versailles'.

Restoration work on the complex began in 2008. As a result: in 2009, the entrance gate of the southern building was restored; Today, the facility of the palace complex in the town of Ruzhany is undergoing restoration and adaptation of the eastern building, design of emergency works, restoration of facades and

## TOPICAL INTERVIEW



- Brest Hosiery Plant JSC is one of the largest enterprises of light industry in Belarus
- In the new Anreks workshop of furniture production

strengthening of the foundations of the eastern building, work is underway on the installation of the roof, window blocks, facade decoration, as well as on the installation of two internal walls of the eastern building. In 2022, 900 thousand roubles of funds from the local and republican budgets were allocated for this.

Conservation works with elements of restoration of the main building are also envisaged. In 2022, significant funds will also be allocated to this facility from the fund of the President of the Republic of Belarus to support culture and art.

Visitors to the Ruzhany palace complex are attracted by the recreated interiors of the 17th-18th centuries, where theatrical historical re-enactment events are held, as well as solemn wedding ceremonies in a special historical atmosphere. Interesting thematic excursions have been developed and are offered to visitors not only in the museum, but also around the territory of the complex.

The Kosava palace and park complex, which is based on the palace of the magnates Puslovsky, was erected in 1838. The complex has already become an international tourist site, recognised as a promising by the UNESCO commission. Restoration work on the territory of the complex began in 2008.

Since June 1st, 2019, the Kosava Palace and Park Complex State Cultural Institution has been operating, which is a cultural institution of a mixed type. The structure of the institution included the memorial estate museum named after Tadeusz Kosciuszko and the Puslovsky Palace.

A museum exposition is open in the building of the Puslovsky Palace, cultural events are held here, such as balls, musical evenings, conferences, seminars. For three years now, a cafe with 60 seats and a hotel with 6 rooms have been operating here, which can accommodate up to 16 people.

At the end of December, the grand opening of the palace and park complex in Kosava took place. The regional youth ball was dated for the event.

The life and work of a unique personality in the history of Belarusian and European culture, Napoleon Orda, are inextricably linked with our region. A museum complex was created in the artist's homeland in the village of Vorotsevichi, Ivanovo District: an art gallery and the Napoleon Orda Museum were opened. Nearby, in the Krasny Dvor area, on the ancient foundation, the manor house of Napoleon Orda was restored."

**"It makes sense to say about the cultural brands of the Brest region — the Belaya Vezha, January Musical Evenings festivals, and other events. Are there any intentions to continue and develop them?"**

"There are more than fifty such events in the region. Of course, the most famous and recognisable ones you have already named, you can add to them the Belarusian Fanfares international festival of wind music in Baranovichi, the Motalskiya Prysmaki international festival of folklore (Ivanovo District), the Eternal Cranberry international festival (Stolin District) and many other. The holding of such festivals, in addition to enlivening and diversifying the cultural life of the region, contributes to the development of international cooperation and the exchange of creative experience. Festivals and events arise on the basis of cultural characteristics, historical validity, the spread of crafts and crafts, and gradually they grow into cultural brands of the region. They are expected and loved locally, they are being prepared for. The authorities have developed a unified approach to the organisation of individual events, which ensures their holding at the proper organisational and artistic level and their further development."

- The governor visits the new building of the regional children's hospital



**“The Brest Region is agrarian, in many respects the picture of socio-economic development is determined by the state and development of the agricultural sector. I think it makes sense to recall the main indicators of the industry and say a few words about the development paths.”**

“Agriculture of the region is developing dynamically. Over the past two five-year plans (2011—2020), agricultural organisations and farm enterprises have achieved the highest growth rate of gross agricultural output in the republic. This dynamics continued in 2021—2022: the region is the only one in the republic that has ensured an increase in gross agricultural output.

The region ranks first in terms of average milk yield per cow, marketability of milk and its quality, average daily weight gain of pigs, and second in terms of average daily weight gain of cattle.

Last year, much more grain and leguminous crops were produced with a yield of 39.1 hundred kilograms per hectare. This means that the farmers have worked successfully.

Growth of production volumes and improvement of product quality allowed to increase the income of agricultural organisations. Proceeds from the sale of agricultural products in the region over the past year has grown significantly.

The agriculture of the region is developing in accordance with the State Programme for Agricultural Business for 2021—2025, the main task of which is to increase production efficiency. To this end, the structure of sown areas is being improved, including by increasing the share of winter crops, as more high-yielding compared to spring crops, new high-yielding varieties are being introduced, work is underway to improve the species composition of grasses, saturate them with legumes and legume-cereal mixtures, and increase feed harvesting volumes using advanced technologies using polymeric materials, livestock facilities are being built and reconstructed, special attention is paid to breeding, selection work and veterinary support of the industry.”

**“New complexes are being built and put into operation in agricultural enterprises, technologies are being improved. What are the achievements and prospects in this direction?”**

“Work on the modernisation of production is carried out in the region every year. Last year, 42 dairy farms were built and reconstructed. Since 2018, the Druzhba poultry farm in the Baranovich District has been gradually reconstructing the Vostochny pig-breeding complex for the White Meadows broiler shop. In the Pinsk District, in 2023, it is planned to complete the construction of a pig-breeding complex for 24,000 fattening heads per year with a reproducer farm and a fattening farm in the village of Bolshie Dikovichi.

New modern milk production complexes are put into operation every year. Two such farms — in Kamenets and Lyakhovichi Districts — were solemnly opened in November.

The systematic work carried out to modernise production has made it possible to transfer more than 80 percent of the number of cows to modern technologies, increase productivity and volumes of milk and meat production, and improve product quality. So, in the Pinsk District, the Bokinichi pig-breeding complex of the Pinsk Bakery Plant, commissioned in 2015, has been ranked first in the republic in terms of average daily weight gain of animals for several years.”

“Processing of agricultural products is one of the successful areas of the region's economy and provides the lion's share of exports. How does the geography of deliveries look in the new realities, which markets are the most promising for enterprises?”

“The products of our processors are known far beyond the region and the republic. And in the current realities, enterprises are not losing ground, but, on the contrary, are actively increasing exports. This is clearly seen, among other things, on the example of the Brestmyasomolprom concern. Throughout the past year, we recorded an increase in exports of products by the enterprises of the association.

The geography of export deliveries of the past year includes 46 countries. Products were exported to the Russian Federation, Poland, China, Kazakhstan, Norway, Ukraine, Latvia, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Germany, Israel, Estonia, Lithuania, Denmark,



## TOPICAL INTERVIEW



■ Dozhinki, the main harvest festival of 2022 in the Brest Region

Holland, Kyrgyzstan, Jordan, Spain, Turkmenistan, Hong Kong, Georgia, Armenia, Mauritania, Tajikistan, Czech Republic, Vietnam, Ghana, Serbia, Malaysia, Slovakia, Singapore, Indonesia, Moldova, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Bulgaria, Canada, Japan, USA, Syria, UAE, Mongolia, Portugal, Qatar, Bangladesh.

Eight new markets explored in 2022: Spain, Mauritania, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Portugal, Qatar.

The main share of export deliveries still falls on the market of the Russian Federation — this is 72 percent of the total export volume. Much attention is paid to cooperation with China. Today, China is the third largest sales market for products manufactured by the enterprises of the Concern Brestmyasomolprom after Russia and Poland.

The development of exports and their growth to the markets of the EAEU countries is quite successful.

In order to increase the sales of meat and dairy products for export, enterprises, in addition to working under direct supply contracts, use the mechanism of participation in the exchange trading of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange and sales through the subjects of the commodity distribution network and dealer structures.

And in order to popularise products and diversify sales markets, the concern's enterprises take part in many major exhibitions, fairs and forums at the international, republican, and local levels. Last year, the enterprises of the association took part in such forums as: the World Exhibition Expo 2020 (Days of the Brest Region, Dubai, UAE), the 29th International Exhibition Prodexpo 2022 (Moscow), the 21st International Exhibition of Food Products, Ingredients and Production Technologies UzFood 2022 (Tashkent, Uzbekistan), Belarusian Food Forum (St. Petersburg), International Exhibition InterFood Azerbaijan (Baku, Azerbaijan), International Agro-Industrial Exhibition

Belagro- 2022 (Minsk), as well as the Belarusian-Uzbek Business Forum (Tashkent, Uzbekistan) and many others.

Internet resources are actively used to promote products, information materials are prepared in different languages, commercial offers of a number of enterprises are sent to the diplomatic missions of countries operating in the Republic of Belarus."

"There are interesting developments in the region's industry, investment projects are being implemented, new production facilities are being opened. Tell me more about some."

"The products of our processors, such as Savushkin Product, Santa Bremor, Brest Meat Processing Plant and others are known in many countries of the world. This industry has already been discussed. The furniture and woodworking industries also continue to actively develop; over the past five years, production volumes have almost tripled.

Among the leaders are Pinskdrev Holding Company, Ivatsevichdrev, Laguna Furniture Factory, Dipriz, Velpak-Kobrin, Stanles, and a number of others. For certain districts of the region, for example, Ivatsevichy, Baranovichi, Gantsevichi, Stolin, the activities of woodworking organisations have become one of the main 'drivers' of economic growth.

In recent years, dozens of new types of products have been mastered in the region in various industries, including new types of materials for road markings, special types of brewing malts, household electronic gas meters, knitted knitwear, fancy yarns, bulk polyester thermally bonded, needle-punched and aerodynamic fabrics, a little earlier, car batteries, plant protection products, plastic toys, cross-linked polyethylene pipes, air conditioning and heat recovery systems for public buildings, various types of building materials, materials for furniture production were mastered. The enterprises of the region produce complete lines of machines



and mechanisms for agrotechnical tillage and sowing of crops, fertilization and plant protection products. Even from this simple list you can see how diverse our production is developing.”

**“The last question of today’s interview concerns the IT industry. Today it is impossible to imagine the national economy of the region without it, especially in development. What are the achievements in this direction?”**

“Literally before our eyes, the role of science and technology parks in the development of the industrial innovation sector of the region is growing. On the territory of the Brest Region, there are three facilities of innovation infrastructure: Brest Science and Technology Park, Polesie Technopark (Pinsk) and the Technology Transfer Centre of Baranovichi State University.

The Brest Science and Technology Park is the largest subject of innovation infrastructure and the main business incubator of the Brest Region, accumulating innovatively active enterprises; a unique start-up centre in Brest has been created on its basis. The Technopark is actively working with small and medium-sized businesses to popularise the cluster development model and form pilot cluster projects.

On the basis of the Polesie State University and the Polesie Technopark, an innovative industrial cluster in the field of biotechnology and the ‘green economy’ was created, the participants of which are 32 organisations, most of them are farms. Particular attention in the region is paid to the development of areas of digital transformation of business processes, the organisation of a digital information environment.

It should be noted that the region is one of the country’s leaders in the development and implementation of modern IT solutions in such areas as finance, communications, medicine, trade, artificial intelligence, machine vision and others.

Training for IT companies of the region is carried out by Brest State Technical University, Brest State University named after A.S. Pushkin, Polesie State University, including in the field of telecommunications, electronics, artificial intelligence, cybernetics, robotics, economics.

By the way, last year the Brest Science and Technology Park became the digitalisation office of the Brest Region. Technopark residents are actively developing and implementing projects in the fields of telemedicine, smart technologies in the construction industry, working with big data arrays and robotics for domestic enterprises. To ensure the formation of proposals for the implementation of activities and pilot projects in the field of digital development in 2023 at the expense of the Regional Innovation Fund, the Brest Region Executive Committee developed and formed a list of regional events for inclusion in the State Programme for the Digital Development of Belarus for 2021—2025. Among them, for example, the development and implementation of digital twins for new and existing industries; implementation of PLM, MES, ERP at industrial enterprises; smart city (region): urban planning, transport, housing and communal services, energy, tourism, security, administration; digital health and education.

With the support of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, the Ministry of Economy, the National Investment and Privatisation Agency State Institution, work is underway to create industrial parks in the region. The creation of parks will be based on the experience accumulated in the Republic of Belarus of the subjects of innovative infrastructure, free economic zones, high-tech park, Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park, foreign experience in organising industrial centres for the development of various industries.

Svetlana **Yaskevich**

Photo by Aleksandr Shulgach

# THERE IS A FOUNDATION, AND BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS CONTINUES

**Belarus sees  
Pakistan as an  
important partner  
in South Asia**



Belarus is interested in developing trade and industrial cooperation with Pakistan. As Minister of Energy Viktor Karankevich stressed during a meeting of the Belarusian-Pakistani commission on trade and economic cooperation in Minsk, the country is ready to supply passenger, municipal, agricultural, quarry equipment, agro-industrial complex and textile industry products to Pakistan. The Belarusian minister also drew attention to the fact that partners can have mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of forestry, pharmaceuticals and science.

“We propose to intensify bilateral cooperation both in terms of increasing trade turnover and in the field of investment cooperation. Our countries have good prospects for the transition from simple trade to industrial cooperation, the creation of joint ventures in areas of mutual interest,” noted Viktor Karankevich.

At the same time, the Belarusian side is ready to create the necessary comfortable conditions for Pakistani business in the country with the possibility of further entering the markets of partner states in





■ Belarus and Pakistan have long-term friendly relations, which are based on the principles of respect and mutual trust.

the Eurasian Economic Union. And this is a united market of 170 million people, which is constantly growing and developing. Viktor Karankevich called regional cooperation an important direction in expanding bilateral cooperation, “Belarus and Pakistan have long-term friendly relations, which are based on the principles of respect and mutual trust. The states maintain a regular political dialogue, the necessary legal framework has been formed, trade, economic and humanitarian ties are developing, constructive cooperation is being implemented on the platforms of international organisations and integration associations.”

It was also noted that high-level meetings gave a significant impetus to the strengthening of bilateral partnership.

The agenda of the next meeting of the Belarusian-Pakistani commission on trade and economic cooperation, which was held in Minsk, included such most promising areas for both countries as industry, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, science, and education. However, this is not a complete list of areas where bilateral partnership can be successful. Not for nothing at the meeting Viktor Karankevich emphasised, “We invite you to an open, constructive dialogue and are ready to discuss the entire range of issues of our cooperation.”

This emphasis is far from accidental. After all, and the Belarusian Minister of Energy drew attention to this, the volume of trade between the countries is still far from meeting the potential of bilateral relations.

In turn, the Federal Minister of Energy of Pakistan Khurram Dastgir said that the two countries have come a long way in the development of relations, bilateral documents on cooperation have been signed, and a serious basis has been created for the further development of partnership between the two countries. However, there are many aspects that still need to be worked on.

As a result of the event, the parties agreed to expand cooperation. This is provided for in the minutes of the meeting. The document signed by Viktor Karankevich and Khurram Dastgir is in fact a roadmap for intensifying bilateral cooperation. Agreements were

reached on expanding trade and economic ties in areas of mutual interest — engineering, agriculture, science, education, health care.

In particular, Belarus is interested in increasing the supply of industrial products. Among the priorities is also partnership in the field of agriculture. And this is the readiness to expand the supply of not only Belarusian food products, but also products for animal husbandry: animal feed, protein supplements, veterinary drugs. Undoubtedly, the creation of a permanent exhibition centre of Belarus in Pakistan will contribute to a more active promotion of the products of the agro-industrial complex — this project is currently being worked out.

And of course, pharmaceuticals can become one of the mutually beneficial areas of cooperation. Belarus is interested in exporting medicines, and is also ready to consider the possibility of creating joint pharmaceutical production. The potential of medical institutions in our country can be successfully used for the development of medical tourism — relevant proposals have also been sent to the Pakistani side.

The possibilities of cooperation between the two countries in the field of science and high technologies were discussed separately. These are such areas as nano- and biotechnologies, laser optoelectronics, information and communication technologies, aerospace systems. The intensification of bilateral contacts will also be facilitated by new joint projects planned in the field of culture, sports, tourism, and museum business. Not for nothing that following the meeting, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Ministry of Sports and Tourism of Belarus and the Ministry of Interprovincial Coordination of Pakistan on cooperation in the field of tourism. A memorandum of understanding and cooperation between the Pakistani Lok Virsa Museum and the National History Museum of Belarus was also signed.

Vsevolod Yevseyev  
Photo BelTA



# **THE MEGAPROJECT IS STILL IN EFFECTIVE OPERATION**

A unique legal regime, cooperation with key IT players, export of services worth billions of dollars — all this is the Hi-Tech Park

**Without a doubt, the Hi-Tech Park has become one of the key projects of sovereign Belarus. It was created back in 2005, having received the approval and support of President Aleksandr Lukashenko. Since that time, key IT giants from all over the world have collaborated with the Park residents. During the work of the HTP, IT solutions have appeared in the country, which have become widely known. All this became possible not least thanks to the unprecedented conditions that all HTP participants still receive today. Our story about how the project develops, overcomes the growing competition, and also what are its immediate prospects.**

### The main resource is intelligence

Yes, over the past 17 years, the Hi-Tech Park has become the most powerful high-tech cluster, a leader in Eastern Europe and a significant player on a global scale. HTP today is not just a technology cluster. This is the most powerful driver of economic growth, which makes a huge contribution to macroeconomic stability and the development of the state. In numbers, it looks like this. For example, according to the results of 2021, the HTP is almost 5 percent of GDP, more than 30 percent of exports of services, and its foreign trade surplus amounted to more than 70 percent of the balance of foreign trade in goods and services of the entire country. At the same time, only two percent of those employed in the economy work in the Park's companies. Therefore, HTP today is one of the most effective sectors. Last year alone, exports for nine months amounted to two billion dollars. Due to this, the budget received almost six hundred million roubles of taxes, the share in the export of services amounted to about thirty percent.

“Everything became possible thanks to the implementation of unique approaches to the regulation of the information technology sphere in the Park,” said Kirill Zalessky, Deputy Director of the High-Tech Park. “On the one hand, these approaches form an ecosystem attractive for innovative business, and on the other hand, they provide a huge economic effect for the state.”

Objectively, the sphere of high technologies is noticeably different from any other sphere of the economy. Indeed, to create software, digital solutions, neither raw materials, nor machine tools, nor components, nor a significant amount of energy resources are required. The main resource in this ‘production process’ is intelligence.

Interesting statistics: on average in our country, the share of material costs in the cost of goods, works and services is more than 60 percent, while labour costs are less than 20 percent. But in the production of an IT product, on average in the HTP, wages form

about 80 percent of the cost, while material costs do not exceed 2 percent. It turns out that for the IT business, the key role is played by the tax burden on the salary fund. And with these taxes, the IT industry beats back all other preferences a hundredfold: today the average IT specialist pays four times more income tax than the average employed in the economy.

This is the uniqueness of the HTP legal regime: on the one hand, there are concessions that are attractive to investors, on the other hand, the return to the state pocket in the form of taxes and other fees is even higher than the national average.

The most important feature of digital business is the need for highly qualified personnel. In general, of course, the main foundation for the success of the HTP is the most powerful educational base that exists in Belarus. It is people who are the main and most valuable resource of the country in terms of digital production.

### The convenience of the digital world

An important factor for the development of the IT sector of any country is stable access to broadband Internet. It is needed to deliver the IT product to the customer. Unlike physical products, this happens instantly and without additional costs for logistics and customs clearance. In many states, IT parks are formed in limited areas precisely in order to be able to provide a stable supply of electricity and a powerful Internet channel.

Belarus has always attached great importance to the communications infrastructure, so there is simply no problem with the issue of high-quality Internet access in the country. And this, in turn, made it possible to develop the HTP on the principle of extraterritoriality, without investing budget funds in buildings and offices and without driving companies into a limited area.

“Taking into account the above features, excellent conditions have been created in Belarus for the development of IT business, and a special model of state regulation of the IT sphere has made



## TECHNOLOGY OF SUCCESS

the HTP one of the leading world-class IT clusters,” emphasises Kirill Zalessky.

But let’s be more specific. Namely: what real effect do HTP residents have on the economy of Belarus? The answer is obvious. The products of the Park residents have firmly entered the everyday life of our citizens, making life easier for them every day. The average person very quickly gets used to the convenience of the digital world and sometimes often does not notice how much digital is woven into everyday household processes. It is difficult to name an area of everyday life where the solutions of the High-Tech Park residents are not presented, from education and healthcare to industry and agriculture. There are solutions on the market that allow you to pay for purchases in stores and marketplaces, pay for parking and travel in public transport, and book tickets.

Most of the Park’s developments are designed for use by small and medium-sized businesses, simplifying their interaction with customers. Many large Belarusian enterprises order developments that meet their requirements from HTP residents. All domestic banks use software developed in the Park.

Therefore, now we can safely say that our IT-sphere is not only an independent branch of the Belarusian economy, but also has a significant impact on other industries and the daily life of our citizens.

### Establish a productive dialogue

It will not be a big revelation that the Hi-Tech Park is a vivid example of an effective and productively successful model of interaction between the state and the IT community for the introduction of high technologies in the economy and social sphere. In 2021 alone, the volume of sales of IT products and services by HTP residents in the domestic market of Belarus amounted to 1.3 billion roubles. This is an impressive amount, but it is far from the limit.

Belarusian IT companies have all the necessary competencies for the large-scale introduction of digital in Belarus. An urgent task for us today is to make this process fast and efficient, to establish a productive dialogue between digitalisation customers represented by enterprises and contractors represented by HTP companies.

In April last year, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus ‘On the Public Administration Body in the Field of Digital Development and Informatisation Issues’ was signed. This document streamlined a number of digitalisation issues from the point of view of public administration and endowed the Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation with additional functions. “In pursuance of the decree, we are working closely with the Ministry of Communications to bring to automatism the implementation of Belarusian IT products in the real sector of the economy and the social sphere,” says Kirill Zalessky, Deputy Director of the Hi-Tech Park.

### You can’t relax

Experts note how in many countries, such as Kazakhstan, Armenia, Poland, Lithuania, they are actively developing their IT platforms, creating convenient conditions for them. The following question reasonably arises: how to compete in such a situation? According to Kirill Zalessky, this topic causes a lot of emotions. On the one hand, pride. Pride for the country, for our Park. It’s no secret that

the majority of new IT clusters and technoparks in the post-Soviet space one way or another are guided by the Belarusian experience and copy the HTP model or its individual elements. This, Kirill Zalessky is sure, is confirmation that we are on the right track, “Pride for our people, for our companies, which have grown in Belarus so much that other states almost change their laws in order to strengthen themselves at the expense of our specialists.”

But on the other hand, it also suggests that in no case should you relax. Representatives of many countries have been studying the experience of the Belarusian HTP for years, the potential of its residents, came to Belarus with a direct question common to everyone: ‘What did you do to make the HTP take off?’ It is quite natural that competition in this area will only increase further. All countries are striving to rely on digital. In this situation, it is important to maintain the stability of the functioning conditions in the Park. This is the most important factor for any business. And if necessary, it is important to quickly respond to increasing competition.

### Need to move on

However, it is no secret that the global IT industry is now operating in a perfect storm. The largest players are losing capitalisation, laying off employees. Among them are customers who employ residents of the Belarusian HTP. How will this affect his work in the end?

Without a doubt, the Belarusian IT sector is inextricably linked with global trends. We are very closely intertwined in international cooperation: the absolute majority of the Park’s income comes from work in export markets. Undoubtedly, the global trends in the industry in recent months do not inspire optimism — the global figure is rapidly moving towards some significant shocks, and, unfortunately, they will not bypass us. And even Kirill Zalessky in one of his interviews was not only extremely frank. categorical too, “I do not want to reassure or scare anyone — we are going along the same road as the rest of the world. But we learned a long time ago: the word ‘crisis’, written in Chinese, consists of two hieroglyphs: ‘danger’ and ‘opportunity’.”

According to the top manager, today the Belarusian HTP occupies a good position in the premium markets. This, by the way, is our mark of quality. In highly competitive markets, Belarusian IT specialists win precisely due to the high quality of their work, this is a fact. But in today’s conditions, the situation sends a new signal: we need to move on. To new markets, to new countries, to new customers.

### Onward to the digital future!

It is known that the Hi-Tech Park actively participates in the development in Belarus of a continuous system of personnel training for the IT industry: kindergarten — school — university. Together with the Ministry of Education, they are conducting comprehensive work on the development of digital skills, covering all levels of education.

“Since 2020, we have launched a truly unique project, Informatics Without an Outlet for kindergartens across the country,” said Kirill Zalessky, Deputy Director of the Hi-Tech Park. “Its main goal is the formation of algorithmic skills and logical thinking



in children, starting from the age of five. Preschoolers in a playful way learn to structure information and operate with it, without using a computer or other electronic devices. About ten thousand children have already taken part in the project.”

And for more than five years, the republican educational project Programming as the Second Literacy has been implemented in schools. Within its framework, the Park's specialists developed curricula for learning programming in the Scratch environment, which are recommended for all schools in the country, starting from the second grade.

*“Everything became possible thanks to the implementation of unique approaches to the regulation of information technology in the Park. On the one hand, these approaches form an ecosystem attractive for innovative business, and on the other hand, they provide a huge economic effect for the state.”*

## FIGURES AND FACTS



The statistics of participants here is even more significant: more than 80,000 schoolchildren from all over Belarus have already registered on the HTP platform.

The companies of the Park have created and maintain joint research and production laboratories on the basis of higher educational institutions, specialised educational courses are held at specialised departments of universities. At the same time, several branches of university departments are organised directly on the premises of HTP residents.

For all the guys who are thinking about connecting their profession with IT, the Park annually publishes an electronic guide IT Student, which can be found on the website [www.park.by](http://www.park.by). It provides up-to-date and detailed information about various IT specialties, IT departments of Belarusian universities and other useful information.

Of course, not everyone should strive to become IT specialists. Someone has to grow bread and heal people. There are a huge number of irreplaceable professions. But one thing is certain: the digital future has already arrived. Here and now. You have to be ready for this. Or rather, use all the possibilities of digital to strengthen and prosper your country.

Aleksei **Fedosov**



# SMART VILLAGES CAN BECOME A REAL DRIVER...



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The demand for professionals — agronomists, machine operators, livestock breeders — in the regions has always been high, and it still remains so. But time also dictates new trends: engineers, roboticists and even programmers in rural areas are also at a great price.



Figuratively speaking, today such specialists are worth their weight in gold. Smart farms, precision farming and other concepts of efficient agriculture also require appropriate qualifications from employees. But how to lure, say, a young IT specialist to the province? The task is not an easy one. Accordingly, its solution should not be trivial. Rather creative and, if possible, original. To lure 'loner persons' even to a modern village is a very complicated story. But what if we approach the solution of the problem unexpectedly: shift the centre of high-tech industries from large cities to the regions? Fortunately, during the pandemic, suburban life has become fashionable for a number of skilled workers who can afford remote work. And smart villages (more precisely, cottage villages) to one degree or another are capable of becoming a driver for economic development even in small towns.

### Remote work in the countryside

Sociologists note that modern society in most countries — Belarus is no exception — is gradually and imperceptibly divided into two trends: 'virtual workers' (their work takes place behind a computer screen, and where this computer is located is completely unimportant) and 'traditionals'. Both categories of workers exist in parallel, intersecting on some issues. But in general, the worldview of these social groups is strikingly different. Recently, this 'split' is a kind of challenge for any state as a whole. As for the development of regions and certain industries in particular.

Be that as it may, to interest a young IT specialist in moving to the village is still a difficult question. Especially if you use motivation and incentives, and not exclusively administrative resources. The paradox is that the agricultural sector is also going through a period of digital transformation and requires appropriate specialists. And they are missing. Agriculture, unlike high-tech industries, cannot be transferred to large cities. But then you can try to shift the centre of IT technologies to the countryside. It's good that remote work is now common in specialised companies, and the principle of extraterritoriality is applied, for example, in the High-Tech Park, which is located in Minsk.

### Catch your trend in time

There is another important positive point: the importance of the environmental factor in assessing the quality of life is growing. Young people want to breathe fresh air, eat organic products, enjoy an authentic plein air... And representatives of the high-tech sector who are not tied to the office can afford it. And in general, the suburban lifestyle is already considered prestigious. After all, quite a lot of IT specialists during the pandemic reliably moved to cottages in small towns. Many of them never returned to the bustling cities. Why not 'catch' this trend and consolidate it with an eye to solving the conceptual problem of saturating the regions with highly qualified personnel.

Near Minsk there are already several villages for IT people. Conditional villages, rather cottage settlements. At the same

time, 'villages of the future' and agro-towns are being built in the regions. Their key function is to attract personnel to the village by creating a high-quality infrastructure. By the way, it's not cheap. Small business is not yet rushing to the periphery: after all, even in the most prosperous towns, the total effective demand is more modest than in large cities. And keeping a cafe or a shopping centre afloat is not easy. Even despite a certain kind of preferences. So why not combine smart villages and 'villages of the future' into a single complex?

### Cooperation is quite possible

Remote workers in Belarus, as a rule, are people with an income much higher than the average. This means that it is they who are able to bring effective demand to the regions. As well as to 'feed' the service infrastructure with money, to increase the attractiveness of investments for small businesses. Plus, there is a demand for products from local farmsteads: homemade cottage cheese, milk, eggs, fruits and berries. Again, an increase in the pension or salary of rural residents. Moreover, smart villages located close to agro-towns can become a source of intelligence for agribusinesses. Of course, if their leaders and local authorities build competent communication. Agricultural cooperatives have an invaluable

*Villages for IT specialists can become a trigger for attracting high-tech specialists to the regions*

resource for the suburban intelligentsia: equipment to clear roads from snow or lay paths with a grader, install a lighting tower, drill a well ... Smart villages also have something to offer in return. Mutually beneficial cooperation is quite possible. In addition, 'IT villages' can become a magnet for personnel 'digital' employees of agricultural enterprises. They will have the opportunity to communicate with people from their professional environment. And this is very important.

### If approached wisely

Yes, this approach requires a separate study. Economic calculations and justifications. Moreover, it is logical to involve domestic developers in the development of out-of-town 'business settlements' (not near the capital itself, but at a reasonable and justified distance). It is also possible to shift their efforts from high-rise buildings towards the formation of a 'one-story' Belarus. It is easy to calculate that if you approach it wisely, suburban projects can be as profitable and profitable as urban development. Let it be generally more familiar for the time being. But time requires getting out of the traditional comfort zone and looking for new solutions. Including in terms of regional development.

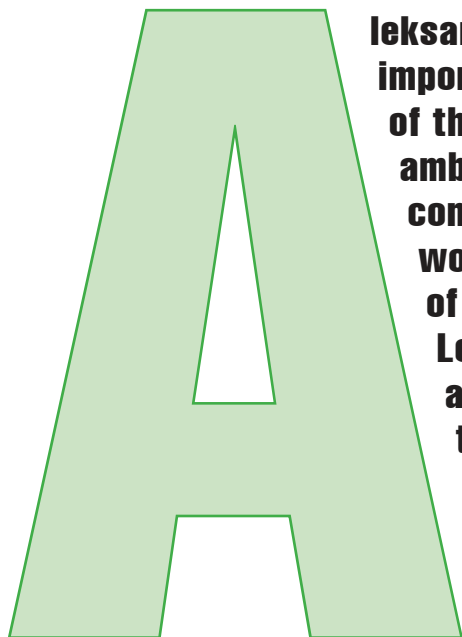
Aleksandr Pimenov



*Bernard Jörg Leopold  
de Garcia Klingl*



**"RELATIONS WITH  
BELARUS DESERVE OUR  
HIGHEST CONSIDERATION"**



**Aleksandr Lukashenko named Brazil one of the most important partners of our country in Latin America at one of the ceremonies of accepting credentials from foreign ambassadors. The President of Belarus expressed confidence that both states would not stop there and would continue to consistently expand the entire range of bilateral contacts in various fields. Bernard Jörg Leopold de Garcia Klingl, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the Republic of Belarus, talked in an interview with our publication about how the Belarusian-Brazilian cooperation is developing, whether our interaction is possible within the BRICS platform, and when Aleksandr Lukashenko and Lula da Silva might meet.**

**“Mr. Ambassador, last year our countries celebrated a significant date — the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Belarus and Brazil. What has been achieved during this time?”**

“I assess the cooperation between our countries over the past three decades as very positive, given the presence of diplomatic missions both in Brasília and here, in Minsk. By the way, they appeared after 2010 thanks to the agreement between Aleksandr Lukashenko and Lula da Silva. Embassies strive to expand and deepen cooperation and mutual understanding between our countries. For Brazil, cooperation with Belarus brings great joy, we are making every effort to make the dialogue between our countries more intensive and mutually beneficial. Over the past few years, we have managed to significantly strengthen ties in such important areas as political, economic and cultural. But most importantly, even in difficult times, both countries are focused on finding joint solutions to achieve new goals. You should know that Brazil is a country that is always ready to lend a helping hand to Belarus. I am convinced that relations with your country deserve our highest consideration. Here are serious entrepreneurs, a high level of qualification of specialists. Here one finds reliable partners and we appreciate it.”

**“How successfully is Belarusian-Brazilian cooperation developing against the backdrop of a rather complicated**

**international situation? How would you characterise the dynamics of bilateral cooperation at this stage? Why is our country interesting for Brazil?”**

“Bilateral relations are dominated by commercial and trade-economic issues. Now I pay special attention to the topic of fertilizers. Brazil is a major importer of potassium from Belarus, this product plays a key role in the well-coordinated work of the Brazilian agribusiness. There is a lot of talk about global food security these days. Different countries participate in world agricultural production, but without free trade and without fertilizers, the system does not work well. Another important topic is aviation. Brazil has traditionally been an exporter of passenger aircraft for Belavia. And we look forward to maintaining our presence in Belarus in the future. There are also many opportunities to expand trade. New products and services can be met with great interest in the local market. I mean, in particular, the food sector and the supply of high-quality coffee, fruits and oil seeds. I also see great opportunities in the textiles, pharmaceuticals, parts, metallurgy and information technology markets.”

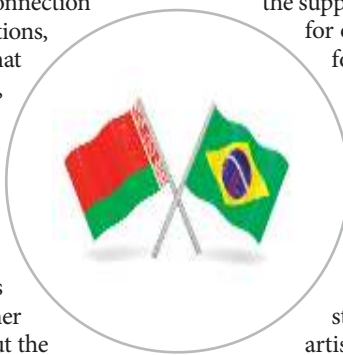
**“In Brazil, the agro-industrial complex is actively developing, and in a number of positions the country is among the world's leading exporters. How are issues with the supply of Belarusian fertilizers**





**and agricultural machinery to the Brazilian market solved?”**

“It has always been extremely important for Brazil to have its own independent foreign policy. We strive to build good relations with all countries and respect the position that the world should not be unipolar. To balance international relations, there must be different centres of influence. Brazil never works against anyone, always works only for the common good. To develop dialogue, strengthen peace. Sanctions are counterproductive, they divide countries. Dialogue is needed now more than ever. We should not forget that diplomatic relations should be based on dialogue. The goal of creating such large associations as the EU, MERCOSUR is unity, not disunity. Those restrictions are detrimental to business both in Brazil and in Belarus. Often, one forgets about the consequences of sanctions for other countries. The restrictions relate to global topics, global security, including food security. The economic stability of countries is being disrupted, prices are rising. Sanctions restrict not only trade flows, but also the movement of people between our countries. We would be glad to strengthen flight connection between Belarus and Brazil. However, due to sanctions, the cost of flights has now skyrocketed so much that it has become unaffordable for most people. Brazil, like Belarus, is trying to circumvent unilateral sanctions that negatively affect our countries. We can say that this issue is being resolved, but, unfortunately, not as quickly as we would like. We are looking for both financial and logistical alternatives. The Brazilian government has made great efforts to coordinate the actions of its diplomatic service not only in Minsk, but also in other key countries to resolve this issue. I'm talking about the so called “fertilizer diplomacy”. I believe that Belarus could also use its significant potential in the production of agricultural machinery to increase exports to Brazil. Our market is very large, but at the same time extremely competitive. Therefore, it is important to organise sales offices and participate in specialised fairs in Brazil in order to properly present these machines to potential buyers.”



**“What areas of bilateral cooperation can be defined as strategic?”**

“Historically, there has been good cooperation between our countries in the political, economic and cultural spheres. But I believe that there are many opportunities for deepening cooperation in the areas that I have already mentioned, as well as in others, such as sports, education and technology.”

**“Aleksandr Lukashenko, in his congratulations to Lula da Silva on his re-election as the President of Brazil, invited him to visit Belarus at any convenient time. “We, as good old friends, have something to talk about, something to discuss in the light of the changes that have taken place over the past twelve years,” the Belarusian leader said. When is such a visit possible?”**

“Visits at the highest level always give a noticeable impetus to the development of bilateral relations, allow you to bring them to a new level. Continued dialogue at the level of heads of state would be very important for deepening and expanding ties. All prerequisites have been created for this and, believe me, there is a common interest in such a meeting. While it is difficult to say something about specific dates, I hope this is the near future. I am sure that the return of Lula da Silva to the post of head of state will benefit Brazil. This is his third presidential term. He is a politician who at one time received the maximum number of mandates in Brazil. President Lula is a symbol of the struggle of ordinary Brazilians for their rights. I think they have something to talk about. Both have vast political experience.”

**“How is the cooperation between Brazil and Belarus developing in international organisations, including what is the possible prospect of bilateral cooperation within the framework of the BRICS platform?”**

“Our countries have a positive experience of joint work in international organisations. Belarus supports Brazil's application for permanent membership in the expanded UN Security Council. Also, your country often supports Brazilian candidates for positions in international organisations. Brazil is very grateful for the support given to us. BRICS is an important association for our country. Within its framework, a mechanism for an expanded dialogue with other developing states has been created (such as with Belarus).”

**“The Embassy actively supports and promotes projects related to traditional Brazilian culture and the Portuguese language. How are they perceived by Belarusians, how successful is the cultural exchange between our peoples?”**

“When I arrived, I met the Brazilian presence in street art on the streets of Minsk, the works of our artists are presented throughout the city, especially in the area of Oktyabrskaya Street. Many of them were created as part of the Vulica Brazil festival. In Belarus, the conductors of Brazilian culture were originally music and literature — the works of writers such as Jorge Amado, Paulo Coelho, as well as television series such as Escrava Isaura, which were shown back in Soviet times. Later, other series such as The Clone became popular.



This presence gives us confidence that there is fertile ground for further cooperation. When you learn a new language, you open the door to a new world in terms of friendship, culture, and business. Portuguese is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. I was glad to know that there are students studying Portuguese in Belarusian universities. The idea is to increase the number of students studying Portuguese in Belarus and Brazilians studying Russian and possibly Belarusian in Brazil in the coming years."

**"How is cooperation developing in the spheres of education and tourism?"**

"Since 2019, an agreement on cooperation in the field of education between Brazil and Belarus has been in force, this agreement is an important step, as it allows deepening cooperation between governments and universities. The idea is to encourage the exchange of knowledge between students and faculty through contracts, scholarships and research. In the field of tourism, an important milestone was the adoption by our two countries of a visa-free regime in 2016. So, Belarusians do not need a visa to travel to Brazil."

**"What are your first impressions of Belarus, where did you manage to visit our country, what national dishes did you try?"**

"My impressions are the best. Until now, unfortunately, I have not been to your wonderful country and it is a great pleasure for me to represent Brazil in Belarus, where I met very hospitable people and a positive image of Brazil. This gives me a lot of room to work. I

see that over the past 30 years Belarus has achieved a lot in various areas, ensuring a high quality of life for its population. I found a real treasure in your country. Minsk is an organised city, green, clean, safe, beautiful. Most importantly, wonderful people live here who are happy to help foreigners. Here you feel like a long-awaited and welcome guest. I can compare because I worked in embassies in a number of countries in different parts of the world. The way Belarusians behave is something very unusual in today's rational and rather tough world. Sincerity, kindness and openness are important traits of local personality.

I hope to continue to discover Belarus. Of the traditional dishes, I have already tried "draniki" and wonderful Belarusian cheeses. And I became a regular visitor to the Komarovsky market in Minsk."

**"At the opening of the first Festival of Latin American Culture, you spoke about the common features of the Belarusian and Brazilian peoples. In what way do they appear?"**

"First, despite the distance, we have a feeling of mutual sympathy. When I arrived in Minsk, I saw a positive image of Brazil. This is the result of what is broadcast through the media and cinema. The Belarusian people are not inferior to the Brazilian people in their peacefulness and sincerity. Belarusians value life, friendship and delicious food. I admire the high level of culture, friendly and hospitable nature of the Belarusian people."

Interviewed by Nikolai Litvinov

# DIFFICULTIES OF LITERARY TRANSLATION

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## ТРУДНОСТИ ХУДОЖЕСТВЕННОГО ПЕРЕВОДА

**Mastatskaya Litaratura is a book publishing house with its own history. It has a half a century of history, hundreds of published books. The authors of the Mastatskaya publishing house include writers from Belarus and Russia, all post-Soviet countries. The publishing house published book series, representing the Belarusian translation of the works of poets and prose writers of the United States (Leaves of Grass by Walt Whitman alone translated by Yanka Sipakov was published three times!), of Asian and African countries, poets of the Slavic peoples... Today our guest is the Director of the Mastatskaya Litaratura publishing house, poet, prose writer, translator, literary critic Ales Badak.**

«Мастацкая літаратура» – книжное издательство со своей историей. За плечами – полувековая история, сотни изданных книг. Среди авторов «Мастацкай» – писатели Беларуси и России, всех постсоветских стран. В издательстве выходили книжные серии, представляющие в переводе на белорусский язык произведения поэтов и прозаиков США (только «Листья травы» Уолта Уитмена в переводе Янки Сипакова выходили трижды!), стран Азии и Африки, поэтов славянских народов... Сегодня наш собеседник – директор издательства «Мастацкая літаратура», поэт, прозаик, переводчик, литературный критик Алесь Бадак.



— Какие новые проекты, серии планируете предложить читателю в 2023 году? Будете ли издавать хорошо известные, прошедшие проверку временем произведения белорусских авторов в переводе на русский язык?

— Начиная с 2023 года, у нас будет выходить серия «Новая библиотэка беларускай паэзіі» («Новая библиотека белорусской поэзии»). И наши авторы, и читатели со стажем, конечно же, помнят серию «Бібліятэка беларускай паэзіі», первые книги которой появились, если не ошибаюсь, в 1967-м, а последние — в 1993-м. Небольшого формата для своего времени стильно оформленные, они пользовались большим спросом. Но время, как известно, изменчиво. Что-то утратило свою актуальность, кто-то из молодых успел превратиться в именитых поэтов, да и появилось много новых замечательных произведений. Одним словом, мне кажется чем-то даже символическим обновленное возрождение популярной серии через тридцать лет.

Опять же, если оглянуться в прошлое, можно вспомнить популярные серии «Библиотека белорусской повести» и «Белорусский роман». Хотя время от времени произведения белорусских прозаиков сегодня издаются в переводе на русский язык, но сами серии давно перестали выходить. А ведь сначала именно в переводе на русский язык их произведений и советский читатель на просторах всего Советского Союза, и зарубежный читатель как в Восточной, так и Западной Европе узнал Мележа, Шамякина, Быкова, Короткевича... Вполне возможно, это недостоверная информация, но как свидетельствует один из библиографических российских сайтов, последний раз книги Шамякина издавались в России в 1991 году. А ведь во время СССР в России его произведения издавались огромными тиражами, а в Беларуси они и сегодня очень востребованы.

— Серия «Мир классики», которую вы проектируете в «Мастацкай», состоит из старых переводов известных произведений? Или будут какие-то новые перевоплощения?

— Дело в том, что и старых переводов известных произведений порой существует несколько. Например, роман «Люди на болоте» Ивана Мележа в разное время переводили Михаил Горбачев и Наум Кислик. Поскольку это произведение стоит одним из первых в нашем плане следующего года, мы сейчас консультируемся со специалистами, сами сравниваем эти два перевода перед тем, как дать предпочтение одному из них. Или взять «Новую зямлю» народного песняра Беларуси Якуба Коласа. Все ее известные на сегодняшний день издания в переводе на русский язык — далеко не полные, из них выброшены сотни строк. В прошлом году за новый — полный — перевод взялся Андрей Тявловский.



“What new projects, series do you plan to offer the reader in 2023? Will you publish well-known, time-tested works of Belarusian authors translated into Russian?”

“Starting from 2023, we will be publishing the New Collection of Belarusian Poetry series. Both our authors and experienced readers, of course, remember the Collection of Belarusian Poetry series, the first books of which appeared, if I am not mistaken, in 1967, and the last ones in 1993. Small format for their time, stylishly designed, they were in great demand. But time, as you know, is changeable. Something has lost its relevance, some of the young managed to turn into eminent poets, and many new wonderful works have appeared. In a word, it seems to me that the updated revival of the popular series after thirty years is even symbolic.

Again, if we look back to the past, we can recall the popular series Collection of the Belarusian Short Stories and Belarusian Novel. Although from time to time the works of Belarusian prose writers are published today translated into Russian, the series themselves have long ceased to be published. However, at first it was through the translation of their works into Russian that the Soviet reader in the vastness of the entire Soviet Union, and the foreign reader both in Eastern and Western Europe learned about Melezh, Shamyakin, Bykov, Korotkevich... It is quite possible that this is unreliable information, but as evidenced by one of the Russian bibliographic sites, the last time Shamyakin's books were published in Russia in 1991. But during the Soviet Union in Russia, his works were published in huge editions, and in Belarus they are still in great demand today.”

“Does the World of Classics series, which you are designing at Mastatskaya Litaratura, consist of old translations of famous works? Or will there be some new reincarnations?”

“The fact is that sometimes there are several old translations of famous works. For example, the novel Swamp People by Ivan Melezh was translated at different times by Mikhail Gorbachev and Naum Kislik. Since this work is one of the first in our plan for next year, we are now consulting with specialists, comparing these two translations ourselves before giving preference to one of them. Or take New Land by Belarusian people's poet Yakub Kolas. All of its currently known publications translated into Russian are far from complete, hundreds of lines have been omitted from them. Last year, Andrey Tyavlovsky undertook a new — complete — translation. We hoped that we would publish a poem for the anniversary of Kolas. But translating New Land, like any other classic, is very difficult. And here the main thing is not to rush. We understand this, and, what is very important, the translator himself understands. Therefore, the full translation will come to the reader a little later.”

“And how would you generally assess the state of translation in terms of presenting modern Belarusian literature in Russian?”

Мы надеялись, что издадим поэму к юбилею Коласа. Но переводить «Новую зямлю», как и любую классику, очень тяжело. И тут главное не торопиться. Мы это понимаем, и, что очень важно, понимает сам переводчик. Поэтому к читателю полный перевод придет несколько позже.

— А как бы вы вообще оценили состояние переводческого дела в части представления современной белорусской литературы на русском языке?

-- На самом деле, проблема существует. Как это, наверное, ни странно звучит для стороннего человека, но ту же поэзию с близких языков переводить очень сложно. Ее вообще переводить сложно. Я, например, не так давно столкнулся с тем фактом, что, оказывается, в Европе зачастую рифмованные стихи наших поэтов переводят как нерифмованные. Ну, так у них сегодня принято — писать нерифмованные стихи, это почему-то распространилось и на переводы. Но уберите рифму у Купалы, Коласа, Богдановича: разве сможет тогда зарубежный читатель почувствовать всю красоту, эстетику, сам нерв их творчества?! Так вот, что касается ярких, тонко чувствующих стихию белорусского и русского языков переводчиков, то их у нас не так и много. В прозе это, конечно же, Олег Ждан, сам замечательный прозаик. Или Петр Жалнерович, который по-новому перевел некоторые вещи Владимира Короткевича. В прозе и одновременно в поэзии — это Андрей Тявловский. Очень хорошо переводят белорусскую поэзию Татьяна Лейко, Валерий Гришковец... К сожалению, у нас сейчас почти не осталось «чистых» переводчиков с белорусского на русский, тех, для кого это основное творческое занятие. Если же поэта переводит поэт, причем, яркий, самобытный, он всегда вольно или невольно привнесет в перевод что-то характерное для своего художественного стиля. Я помню, как однажды познакомился с одним очень хорошим поэтом и человеком из одной из республик бывшего СССР. Он принес мне целую папку своих стихов в переводе на русский язык. Я прочитал сначала те, что были сверстаны для издания книги в Москве, и ахнул: замечательные стихи! А потом прочитал другие, набранные на компьютере: увы, такого наслаждения я совершенно не получил. Посмотрел на выходные данные верстки: оказывается, эти стихи переводил знаменитый русский поэт Юрий Кузнецов. А имя другого переводчика мне ничего не говорило. Вот так по переводу может сложиться мнение о поэте или в хорошую, или в плохую сторону.

— Издательство сегодня выпускает и литературно-художественную периодику -- «толстые» журналы «Маладосць» («Молодость») и «Полымя» («Пламя») на белорусском и «Нёман» на русском... Насколько актуален поиск переводчиков современной белорусской поэзии и современной прозы для «Нёмана»?

— Да, ведь, скажем, одна из задач, которая стоит перед журналом «Нёман», это публикация лучших произведений современной белорусской литературы в переводе на русский язык. Отрадно, что редакция опирается не только на известных переводчиков, но и ищет новых, особенно среди молодежи. У «Нёмана» наладились очень хорошие от-



“Actually, there is a problem. As strange as it may sound to an outsider, it is very difficult to translate the same poetry from close languages. It is generally difficult to translate. For example, not so long ago I came across the fact that, it turns out, in Europe the rhymed poems of our poets are often translated as unrhymed. Well, that's the way it is today for them to write unrhymed poems, for some reason this has also spread to translations. But remove the rhyme from Kupala, Kolas, Bogdanovich: how can a foreign reader then feel all the beauty, aesthetics, the very nerve of their work?! So, as for the bright translators subtly feeling the elements of the Belarusian and Russian languages, we do not have so many of them. In prose, this, of course, is Oleg Zhdan, a wonderful prose writer himself. Or Pyotr Zhalnerovich, who translated some of Vladimir Korotkevich's works in a new way. In prose and at the same time in poetry, this is Andrey Tyavlovsky. Tatyana Leiko and Valery Grishkovets translate Belarusian poetry very well... Unfortunately, we now have almost no 'pure' translators from Belarusian into Russian, those for whom this is the main creative occupation. If a poet is translated by a poet, moreover, a bright, original one, he will always voluntarily or involuntarily bring something characteristic of his artistic style to the translation. I remember how I once met a very good poet and person from one of the republics of the former USSR. He brought me a whole folder of his poems translated into Russian. I first read those that were made up for the publication of the book in Moscow, and gasped: wonderful poems! And then I read others typed on the computer: alas, I did not get such pleasure at all. I looked at the output of the layout: it turns out that these poems were translated by the famous Russian poet Yuri Kuznetsov. The name of the other translator meant nothing to me. This is how the translation can form an opinion about the poet, either in a good or a bad way.”

“The publishing house today also publishes literary and artistic periodicals — ‘thick’ magazines Maladost (‘Youth’)

ношения с Минским государственным лингвистическим университетом, студенты которого пробуют свои силы в художественном переводе — как с зарубежных языков, так и с белорусского на русский. Думаю, уже в следующем году наши сотрудники предложат им проводить свои мастер-классы на регулярной основе. Хотя, что касается встреч в лингвистическом университете, то в этом году, по-моему, там побывали сотрудники всех наших литературных периодических изданий — и «Нёмана», и «Полымя», и «Маладосці». Возможно, в ближайшее время мы проведем конкурс для молодых переводчиков. Потому что, если сегодня не думать о молодых, завтра будет некому переводить нашу литературу.

— Сравнительно недавно «Мастацкая» выпустила в свет «Блокадную книгу» Даниила Гранина и Алены Адамовича на русском языке. Это произведение — плод сотрудничества двух больших писателей — белоруса и россиянина. Планируете ли издавать что-либо из книг российских писателей?

— Что касается русской классики девятнадцатого века или довоенного времени, то «Мастацкая литература» издает ее более-менее регулярно. Если говорить о знаковых произведениях русской литературы более позднего времени, то тут возникают вопросы авторских прав, которые решить бывает не всегда просто. Мы как-то хотели издать сказку С. Маршака «Двенадцать месяцев», обратились к наследникам, и оказалось, что они права на нее отдали одному крупному российскому издательству, и дальше дело не пошло. Да и не всегда просто отыскать этих самых наследников. Что же касается издания современной русской, или даже если брать еще шире — российской литературы именно в книжном формате, то тут возникает другой вопрос. Если речь идет о сугубо коммерческом проекте, то такая литература, выпущенная российскими издательствами, и так у нас достаточно широко представлена, а в силу того, что у российского книжного рынка большие возможности распространения, то и тиражи их книг заведомо больше наших, а значит, сами книги получаются дешевле. Если же речь идет о некоммерческих проектах, то для их издания нужен какой-то другой — причем, достаточно важный мотив. Ну вот, приведу только один пример. На следующий год у нас запланирован выход очередного сборника довольно популярной нашей серии «100 вершаў» — «100 стихотворений». Это как авторские сборники, так и тематические. Сборник, который я имею в виду, — это сто стихотворений белорусских и зарубежных поэтов о Беларуси. Конечно же, российская поэзия в нем будет представлена большим количеством имен. Если будут другие идеи в этом направлении, думаю, и они реализуются. Это касается не только коллективных сборников, но и авторских книг. Главное, чтобы идея была действительно интересной, а произведение или произведения — высокохудожественными, которые будут востребованными белорусским читателем. Ведь первейшая цель любого издательства — выпускать те книги, которые нужны своему читателю и своей стране.

Беседовал Кирилл Ладутко

**and Polymya ('Flame') in Belarusian and Neman in Russian... How relevant is the search for translators of modern Belarusian poetry and modern prose for Neman?**

“Yes, after all, let's say, one of the tasks that the Neman magazine faces is the publication of the best works of modern Belarusian literature translated into Russian. It is gratifying that the editors rely not only on well-known translators, but are also looking for new ones, especially among young people. Neman has established very good relations with the Minsk State Linguistic University, whose students try their hand at literary translation, both from foreign languages and from Belarusian into Russian. I think that next year our employees will offer them to hold their master classes on a regular basis. Although, as for the meetings at the Linguistic University, this year, in my opinion, employees of all our literary periodicals, including Neman, Polymya, and Maladost, have been there. Perhaps in the near future we will hold a competition for young translators. Because if today we do not think about the young, tomorrow there will be no one to translate our literature.”

**“Relatively recently, Mastatskaya Litaratura published Siege Book by Daniil Granin and Ales Adamovich in Russian. This work is the fruit of the collaboration of two great writers — a Belarusian and a Russian. Do you plan to publish any of the books of Russian writers?”**

“As for the Russian classics of the nineteenth century or before the war, Mastatskaya Litaratura publishes it more or less regularly. If we talk about the iconic works of Russian literature of a later time, then copyright issues arise, which are not always easy to solve. One time, we wanted to publish S. Marshak's fairy tale Twelve Months, turned to the heirs, and it turned out that they gave the rights to it to one large Russian publishing house, and things did not go any further. And it is not always easy to find these very heirs. As for the publication of modern Russian, or even more broadly, Russian literature in book format, then another issue arises. If we are talking about a purely commercial project, then such literature published by Russian publishing houses is already quite widely represented in our country, and due to the fact that the Russian book market has great distribution opportunities, the circulation of their books is obviously larger than ours, which means that the books themselves are cheaper. If we are talking about non-commercial projects, then for their publication some other motive is needed, and a rather important one at that. Well, let me give you just one example. Next year, we are planning to release another collection of our rather popular series 100 Vershau (100 Poems). These are both author's collections and thematic ones. The collection that I mean is one hundred poems by Belarusian and foreign poets about Belarus. Of course, Russian poetry in it will be represented by a large number of names. If there are other ideas in this direction, I think they will be implemented. This applies not only to collections, but also to author's books. The main thing is that the idea should be really interesting, and the work or works should be highly artistic, which will be in demand by the Belarusian reader. After all, the primary goal of any publishing house is to publish those books that are needed by their reader and their country.”

Interview by Kirill Ladutko



# Сунь Шэн'у: адданы перакладчык Янкі Купалы

Янка Купала – неаспрэчная велічыня, класік беларускай літаратуры, наш народны Песняр. Але што трэба зрабіць, каб і ў іншай краіне, асабліва такой далёкай ад нас, як Кітай, таксама гэта разумелі. Купалу ў гэтым дачыненні вельмі пашанцавала. З беларускіх пісьменнікаў яго на кітайскую мову пераклалі першым, і сама асоба кітайскага перакладчыка спрыяла, каб Янку Купалу ў Кітаі любілі і шанавалі.

“Перакладаючы любы матэрыял па гісторыі савецкай літаратуры, у раздзеле пра развіццё беларускай літаратуры вы абавязкова сустрэнеце простае і прыязнае імя Янкі Купалы. Ён з’яўляецца прадстаўніком дзвюх паэтычных эпох Беларусі – да і пасля Кастрычніцкай рэвалюцыі. Янка Купала, як яркая зорка, асвятляе мінулае і будучыню Беларусі.” Гэтая характарыстыка, дадзеная беларускаму песняру ў 1958 годзе ў прадмове да кітайскага пераваўсаблення паэмы “Над ракой Арэсай”, хутчэй за ўсё, належыць Сунь Шэн’у. Кніга выйшла ў выдавецтве “Жэньмінь вэньсюэ чубаньшэ” ў перакладзе Ду Чэн’наня, але прадмова была за подпісам “Рэдактарскі аддзел выдавецтва Жэньмінь вэньсюэ”. У гэтыя гады там ужо працаваў Сунь Шэн’у – перакладчык купалаўскага зборніка “Жалейка”,



**孙绳武:**  
**杨卡·库巴**  
**拉的忠实翻译家**





Баоцюань толькі вярнуўся пасля працы журналістам у Савецкім Саюзе і працаваў рэдактарам у газеце “Сінхуа жыбао”, якая пераехала ў Чунцін. Гэта газета была пад кантролем Гаміньдана, але ўсе ведалі, што Гэ Баоцюань – камуніст, і яму не давалі шмат заданняў. Гэ Баоцюань часта прыходзіў да нас у Кітайска-савецкую асацыяцыю па справах культуры, каб пагутарыць. Мы з ім прыкладна аднаго ўзросту, абодва любілі літаратуру, таму пасябравалі і падтрымлівалі добрыя сяброўскія адносіны на працягу многіх гадоў, – успамінаў Сунь Шэн’у. “Пазней кіраўніцтва адправіла яго на караблі з Чунціна праз Ганконг на працу ў Пекін ... Больш чым праз дзесяць гадоў Гэ Баоцюань вярнуўся з Савецкага Саюза, дзе быў на дыпламатычнай рабоце, і стаў у асноўным займацца рускай і савецкай літаратурай. Мяне таксама перавялі ў выдавецтва “Жэньмінь вэньсюэ чубаньшэ” для выдання рускай і савецкай літаратуры, там мы зноў апынуліся разам”.

У 1957 годзе Сунь Шэн’у ізноў мае магчымасць распавесці пра Янку Купалу на старонках часопіса “Івянь”. Гэтым годам кітайскія літаратары ў гонар саракавой гадавіны Кастрычніцкай рэвалюцыі падрыхтавалі спецыяльны нумар часопіса “Івянь” з перакладамі твораў савецкай літаратуры. “Івянь” – першы ў Кітаі часопіс, які спецыялізаваўся на перакладзе і выданні замежнай літаратуры. У 1930-я гады галоўным рэдактарам выступаў Лу Сінь. Часопіс выдаваўся з 1934 па 1937-ы. Пасля ўтварэння КНР выданне аднавілі, галоўным рэдактарам стаў Маа Дунь. 1950-я гады – зорны час савецкай літаратуры ў Кітаі. Спецыяльны нумар адкрывае прадмова Цао Цзінхуа “Савецкая літаратура, дзякуй, што натхняеш нас!”. Складальнікі зборніка разумелі, што савецкая літаратура – гэта шматнацыянальная літаратура, таму ўсе змешчаныя ў нумары творы надрукаваны з пазнакай, да якой нацыянальнай літаратуры яны

адносяцца. У нумары больш за чатырыста старонак з паэзіяй, прозай, драматургіяй, успамінамі і літаратурнай крытыкай у выкананні аўтараў з Расіі, Украіны, Беларусі, Узбекістана, Казахстана, Грузіі, Азербайджана, Літвы, Малдовы, Латвіі, Кіргізіі, Таджыкістана, Арменіі, Туркменістана, Эстоніі, Башкірыі, Абхазіі, Карэліі.

З беларускай літаратуры былі абраны апавяданне Кузьмы Чорнага “Вялікае сэрца” і вершы Янкі Купалы “Я – калгасніца” і “Хлопчык і лётчык”. Купалаўскія вершы, канешне, у перакладзе Сунь Шэн’у (выступіў пад псеўданімам Сунь Вэй). “Я – калгасніца” і “Хлопчык і лётчык” адносяцца да купалаўскай паэзіі “новага

часу”. “Я – калгасніца” напісаны ім у 1934 годзе, як вынік творчай камандзіроўкі ў калгас “Чырвоны баец” Барысаўскага раёна. Аўтара ўразілі змены ў вёсцы, і ў вершы-маналогу калгасніца расказвае пра тое, як палепшылася яе жыццё. Складзены Купалам у 1935 годзе верш “Хлопчык і лётчык” – адзін з самых папулярных твораў савецкай дзіцячай паэзіі. Сямігадовы хлопчык марыць стаць лётчыкам, яго вабіць шырокі свет, і з гэтай просьбай ён звяртаецца да сапраўднага лётчыка. Праз раскрыццё жывой індывідуальнасці дзіцяці паэт здолеў ператварыць гарманічны і агульначалавечы вобраз. Паводле слоў маці Юрыя Гагарына, “Хлопчык

朱笄是孙绳武先生（1917-2014）的笔名。他是一位著名翻译家、出版家。孙绳武，河南偃师人。1942年毕业于西北大学商学院俄语专业。1949年到时代出版社工作，从事翻译工作。1953年调入人民文学出版社，历任外国编辑室主任、副总编辑，《外国文学季刊》创办人，人民文学出版社第一个外国文学选题规划的负责人。在1960年代，孙绳武从事出版“黄皮书”——分发给著名作家和部长级官员的内部使用的书籍。张福生在《中苏文学交流史上一段特殊岁月——我了解的“黄皮书”出版始末》一文中指出，孙绳武翻阅每一期外文图书目录，然后选择受到最多表扬或者批评的作品。当时，编辑部还订阅了许多苏联文学杂志和报纸：《文学报》、《旗帜》、《星星》、《十月》、《新世界》、《我们同时代人》等。出版社工作人员也查阅这些杂志和报纸提建议，但是最终决定由孙绳武来做的。此外，孙绳武后来还成为中国翻译工作者协会的理事兼副秘书长。以另一个化名——孙玮——出现在中国大百科全书的页面上。在1980年代，他撰写了关于杨卡·库巴拉、瓦西里·贝科夫和伊凡·沙米亚金的百科全书的文章，以及一篇

专门介绍白俄罗斯文学史的评论文章。

戈宝权 and 孙绳武并非偶然成为《芦笛集》的编辑者。1938年，著名翻译家、教师曹靖华来到重庆，被请到中苏文化协会做理事，孙绳武在重庆结识了曹靖华。有人劝曹靖华建立一个编译委员会。实际上后来这个编译委员会总共也就三个人：曹靖华领导，叶以群（后来在文学艺术领域有影响的理论家）是编辑，孙绳武是编辑助理。“戈宝权那时从苏联当记者回来，在搬迁到重庆的新华日报社做编辑。这个报社是受国民党监控的，而且大家都心知肚明戈宝权是共产党人，他的活动范围不能太大，所以他常常来中苏文化协会找我们玩。我和他年岁差不多，又都喜欢文学，许多年都保持着很好的友谊。”孙绳武回忆道。“后来领导要他从重庆经香港坐船去北京工作……十多年后，戈宝权从苏联回来做外交工作，主要研究俄苏文学，而我也调到人民文学出版社出版俄苏文学，我们才又相聚在一起。”

1957年，孙绳武再次有机会在《译文》杂志中写了关于杨卡·库巴拉。那年，为纪念十月革命四十周年，中国作家为《译文》杂志准备了特刊，翻译苏联文学作品。《译文》



是中国第一本专门翻译出版外国文学的杂志。在 1930 年代，总编辑为鲁迅。该杂志于 1934 年至 1937 年出版。中华人民共和国成立后，该刊恢复出版，矛盾任总编辑。1950 年代是苏联文学在中国的鼎盛时期。特刊开篇曹景华作序《苏联文学——我们的鼓舞者，感谢你！》。该特刊的编纂者明白苏联文学是多民族文学，因此该期收录的所有作品都印有所属民族文学的说明。这期杂志有超过四百页的诗歌、散文、戏剧、回忆录和文学评论，作者来自俄罗斯、乌克兰、白俄罗斯、乌兹别克斯坦、哈萨克斯坦、格鲁吉亚、阿塞拜疆、立陶宛、摩尔多瓦、拉脱维亚、吉尔吉斯斯坦、塔吉克斯坦、亚美尼亚、土库曼斯坦、爱沙尼亚、巴什基里亚、阿布哈兹、卡累利阿。

库兹马·巧尔纳的短篇小说《伟大的心》和杨卡·库巴拉的诗歌《我是集体农庄庄员》和《孩子和飞行员》均选自白俄罗斯文学作品。库巴拉的诗歌是孙绳武（笔名为孙玮）翻译的。《我是集体农庄庄员》和《孩子和飞行员》属于“新时代”的库巴拉诗歌。《我是集体农庄庄员》是他在 1934 年写成的，这是他到巴里绍区“红色战士”集体农庄进行了一次创造性的旅行之后的成果。村里的变化给诗人留下了深刻的印象，在独白诗歌中，一位集体农庄工人讲述了她的生活是如何改善的。库巴拉创作于 1935 年的诗歌《孩子和飞行员》是苏联儿童诗歌中最畅销的作品之一。一个七

岁的男孩梦想是成为一名飞行员，广阔的世界向他招手，为了追逐这个梦想，他成为了一名真正的飞行员。通过揭示孩子活泼的个性，诗人成功地塑造了一个亲切而且平凡的形象。据尤里·加加林的母亲



说，《孩子和飞行员》是这位著名宇航员最喜欢的诗。白俄罗斯作家的作品是从俄语翻译过来的。对杨卡·库巴拉来讲，米哈伊尔·伊萨科夫斯基成为了一位特别的媒介人物。孙绳武对伊萨科夫斯基的著作十分熟悉，1954 年他还翻译了伊萨科夫斯基的书《论诗

学》。另一个证明这位著名的俄罗斯诗人成为白俄罗斯和中国文学之间的桥梁的证据是，在《译文》杂志孙绳武准备的关于杨卡·库巴拉的信息栏中引用了伊萨科夫斯基：“杨卡·库巴拉的诗，这不但是优美的、高度艺术价值的作品，而且这也是白俄罗斯民族的生活史，记录了他们的性格和风俗、思想和希望、斗争和胜利。当我初次阅读杨卡·库巴拉的诗集时，使我惊奇的不仅是诗人的令人难忘的诗句，而且还有另外一个特点，那就是我仿佛亲眼看见了活生生的白俄罗斯，它的平原和小山，它的草地和树林，河流和湖沼。我深深地明白了勤劳英雄的白俄罗斯民族的生活。我衷心地爱上了白俄罗斯，虽然我从前一次也没有到过那里。从那个时候起，当我想起白俄罗斯时，我不由自主地就会想到杨卡·库巴拉，同样，当我读杨卡·库巴拉的诗时，我也好像看见了整个白俄罗斯，它的艰难的过去和幸福的现在。”

由于孙绳武作为出色的翻译和编辑的才华，杨卡·库巴拉在中国广为人知——中国的研究者和读者都熟悉他在其发展过程中的创作观，既了解历史背景，也了解白俄罗斯和苏联文学评论家的评价。看来译者对作者的友情就在于此，对 20 世纪中国文学进程中举足轻重的人物孙绳武也是如此。可以称得上是杨卡·库巴拉真正忠实的翻译家。

维罗妮卡·卡柳凯维奇（韦兰妮）  
（作者）

韦兰妮、张萌萌（译者）

і лётчык” быў любімым вершам знакамітага касманаўта.

Творы беларускіх пісьменнікаў перакладалі з рускай мовы. У выпадку Янкі Купалы адмысловым правадыром стаў Міхаіл Ісакоўскі. Сунь Шэн’у добра знаёмы з творчасцю Ісакоўскага, у 1954 годзе ён нават пераклаў кнігу М. Ісакоўскага “Аб паэтычным майстэрстве”. Яшчэ адным падцвярджэннем, што знакаміты рускі паэт стаў мостам паміж беларускай і кітайскай літаратурамі, з’яўляецца цытаванне Ісакоўскага ў падрыхтаваным Сунь Шэн’у інфармацыйным блоку пра Янку Купалу ў часопісе “Івянь”: “Паэзія Янкі Купалы — гэта не толькі прыго-

жыя творы высокай мастацкай вартасці, але і гісторыя жыцця беларускага народа, дзе зафіксаваны яго характар і звычаі, думы і надзеі, барацьба і перамогі. Упершыню прачытаўшы зборнік Янкі Купалы, я быў уражаны не толькі запамінальнымі радкамі паэта, але яшчэ і тым, што я нібы ўбачыў жывую Беларусь з яе раўнінамі і ўзгоркамі, яе лугамі і лясамі, яе рэкамі і азёрамі. Я атрымаў глыбокае разуменне пра жыццё працавітага і гераічнага беларускага народа. Усёй душой палюбіў Беларусь, хоць ніколі раней там не быў. З таго часу, калі я думаю пра Беларусь, я не магу не думаць пра Янку Купалу, і гэтак жа, калі я чытаю вершы Янкі

Купалы, я быццам бачу ўсю Беларусь, яе цяжкае мінулае і шчаслівае сёння”.

Дзякуючы таленту Сунь Шэн’у, як бліскавага перакладчыка і арганізатара, Янку Купалу ведаюць у Кітаі ўсебакова — кітайскія даследчыкі і чытачы добра знаёмыя з яго творчым поглядам у сваім развіцці, разумеюць і гістарычны кантэкст, і адзнакі беларускіх, савецкіх літаратурных крытыкаў. Падзея, што прызнанасць перакладчыка свайму аўтару ў гэтым і складаецца, і Сунь Шэн’у, знакавую асобу ў літаратурных працэсах XX стагоддзя у Кітаі, можна па праве лічыць сапраўды аддадзеным перакладчыкам Янкі Купалы.

Вераніка Карлюкевіч

# Старонкі літаратурна-мастацкай памяці

## 舒钦。文学著作和艺术古迹

舒钦是格罗德诺州最有趣的地方之一。它自古以来就享有盛誉……哪位作家、艺术大师对这个地方做出了贡献？……

Вёска Вялікая Лябёдка Лідскага павета (цяпер Шчучынскі раён) – радзіма публіцыста, перакладчыка Напалеона Чарноцкага (1866 – 1937). Аўтар кнігі “Як будзе з зямлёю” (Пецяrbург, 1907). Скончыў Слуцкую гімназію. Вучыўся на медыцынскім факультэце Маскоўскага ўніверсітэта. З 1895 года працаваў лекарам у Ліпнішках сучаснага Іўеўскага раёна. У 1936 годзе пакінуў лекарскую практыку і заняўся вырошчваннем зёлак у вёсцы Вялікая Лябёдка. Пераклаў на беларускую мову творы М. Крапіўніцкага і А. Чэхава (выйшлі асобнымі выданнямі). Друкаваўся ў 1908 – 1912 гадах у газеце “Наша ніва”... На мяжы Лідскага і Шчучынскага раёнаў размешчана агракультурны сядзіба “Лябёдка”. Чаму б поруч з ёю не паставіць мемарыяльны знак, які нагадваў бы пра сувязь з гэтымі мясцінамі лекара і пісьменніка Напалеона Чарноцкага..?

У фальварку Пясчына Лідскага павета (цяпер Шчучынскі раён) нарадзілася паэтэса, празаік, публіцыст, асветніца, удзельніца рэвалюцыйнага руху пачатку XX стагоддзя Цётка (Алаіза Пашкевіч) (1876 – 1916). Піса-

ць пачала ў 1902 годзе. У часопісе “Свабода” змясціла верш “Мужык”. У 1904 годзе ў “Каляднай пісанцы” і “Велікоднай пісанцы” былі надрукаваны яе вершы “Мужыцкая доля”, “Мужык не змяніўся”, “Нямаш, але будзе”, “Музыкант беларускі”. Асаблівую вядомасць у беларускага чытача набыло яе “Першае чытанне для дзетак беларусаў” (Пецяrbург, 1906).

Празаік, літаратуразнавец, кандыдат філалагічных навук Лідзія Арабей, якая нарадзілася 27 чэрвеня 1925 года ў вёсцы Нізак Уздзенскага раёна, на Міншчыне. У 1927 годзе разам з маці пераехала ў Мінск. Да пачатку вайны скончыла восьм класаў. У 1942 годзе пераехала ў Шчучынскі раён Гродзенскай вобласці. Выйшла замуж за А. А. Арабея. Жыла ў Шчучыне. А. А. Арабей за сувязь з партызанамі быў расстраляны нямецка-фашысцкімі захопнікамі. У 1944 годзе, пасля вызвалення Шчучына, працавала ў мясцовай газеце “Чырвоны сцяг”. З 1945 года жыла ў Мінску. Пайшла ў лепшы свет Лідзія Львоўна 20 лютага 2015 года. Пражыла 89 гадоў... Абараніла дысертацыю на званне кандыдата філалагіч-

**Шчучын – адзін з найцікавейшых куточкаў Гродзеншчыны. Вядомасць сваю мае з даўніх часін. Якія ж з пісьменнікаў, майстроў мастацкага слова спрычыніліся да гэтай старонкі?**



利达区（现舒钦区）的瓦利卡亚利亚贝德卡村是政治家和翻译家拿破仑·夏诺茨基（1866 – 1937 年）的出生地。他是《地球将会发生什么》（圣彼得堡，1907 年）一书的作者。毕业于斯卢茨克重点学校。他曾就读于莫斯科大学医学系。自 1895 年以来，他在现代伊夫叶区的利普内斯基做过医生。1936 年，他离开了医疗行业，开始在瓦利卡亚利亚贝德卡村种植草药。他将米·克拉皮夫尼茨基和安·契诃夫的作品翻译成白俄罗斯语（分别出版）。1908–1912 年，他在《我们的麦田》发表文章……在利达和舒钦区的边界上，有个乡村度假旅游别墅《利亚贝德卡》。为什么不在它旁边建一个纪念碑，记录医生和作家拿破仑·夏诺茨基与这些地方的联系……？

诗人、小说家、政治家、教育家、20 世纪初革命运动的参与者，“姨妈”（阿莱扎·帕什克维奇）（1876–1916）出生于利达区（今舒钦区）的皮亚西奇纳农场。她于 1902 年开始写作。她在《自由》杂志上发表了诗歌《庄稼人》。1904 年，她的诗作《庄稼人的命运》、《庄稼人没有变》、《还没有，但会变》、《白俄罗斯音乐家》发表在《圣诞皮桑卡》和《复活节皮桑卡》上。她的《白俄罗斯儿童初读本》（圣彼得堡，1906 年）在白俄罗斯读者中享有盛名。小说家、文学研究家、语言学博士莉迪亚·阿拉贝，1925 年 6 月 27 日出生于明斯克州乌兹达区尼佐克村。1927 年随母亲移居明斯克。战前，她完成了八年级学习。1942 年，她搬到了格罗德诺区的舒钦区。她嫁给了阿·阿·阿拉贝，住在舒钦。阿·阿·阿拉贝因与游击队有联系而被德国法西斯侵略者射杀。1944 年舒钦解放后，在当地《红旗报》工作。她从 1945 年起就住在明斯克。莉迪亚·阿拉贝于 2015 年 2 月 20 日去世，享年 89 岁……生前她完成了博士论文的答辩，并获得了语言科学博士学位。这篇论文讲述阿莱扎·帕什克维奇（姨妈）的生活和工作。也许，姨妈不止一次游走在阿拉贝家乡的舒钦道路上。莉迪亚·阿拉贝写了关于姨妈的中篇小说《在风暴的弦上》和《我将成

为一首歌》，还有《爱的火焰》一书。在《寻找真相》（2005 年）一书中，莉迪亚·阿拉贝写下了以下几行：“一个带十字架的木制十字架挂在我桌子上方的墙上，它是我们著名的姨妈的姐姐卡罗莱纳·帕什克维奇送给我的。我于 1977 年在波兰罗兹附近的弗拉宁村认识了她，卡罗莱纳夫人告诉我，这个十字架挂在她母亲在旧德沃尔的床上，也就是阿莱扎·帕什克维奇的床上……这就是一个人的命运，一个东西的命运。家人，曾经甚至都没想过，挂在她床头的十字架，有一天会挂在一个当时还没有出生的女人的办公桌上。这个十字架对那个女人来说将是非常珍贵的。”1938 年 10 月 7 日，小说家、时评家、诗人瓦良钦·布拉基特出生在舒钦区沃斯特拉瓦村。1953 年，他在登布拉瓦村完成了七年制学校的学业。然后，三年后，斯基泽尔第一号中学。十年后，他被聘为舒钦区报纸《红旗》的专栏作家。1960 年，他被调到扎鲁多克地区报纸《为祖国》。地区取消后，再次在舒钦，在区报纸《苏维埃村》工作。幽默故事集《发明家》、短篇小说集《灰鹤的到来》、《尊重你自己的名字》、《幸运在微笑》、《南飞》的作者……长期担任讽刺杂志《火焰》的主编……出生于柯尼斯堡（今俄罗斯联邦加里宁格勒）的文学评论家、翻译家、语言学家雅科夫·帕列茨基（1913–1992 年）的命运与舒钦地区有关。伟大卫国战争前夕，一家人住在白俄罗斯西部。雅科夫在比亚韦斯托克学习，然后在利达重点学校学习。他是维尔纽斯大学的学生（直到 1939 年）。白俄罗斯西部解放后，他回到比亚韦斯托克。1941 年 6 月，他与妻子和九个月大的女儿一起被疏散到



■ Мацей Казімір Сарбевскі

ных навук. Дысертация прысвечана жыццю і творчасці Алаізы Пашкевіч (Цёткі). Пэўна, неаднойчы вандравала яе роднымі шчучынскімі сцэжкамi. Пра Цётку Лідзія Арабей напісала апавесці “На струнах буры” і “Стану песняй”, а таксама кнігу “На полімі любові”. У кнізе “Пошукі ісціны” (2005 год) Лідзія Арабей занатавала і наступныя радкі: “Над маім сталом, на сцяне, вісіць драўляны крыжык з распяццем. Яго падаравала мне родная сястра нашай славутай Цёткі – Караліна Пашкевіч, з якою я сустракалася ў Польшчы, у вёсачцы Франін каля Лодзі ў 1977 годзе. Пані Караліна сказала мне, што гэты крыж вісеў над ложкам яе маці ў Старым Двары, значыцца, над ложкам Алаізы Пашкевіч... Лёс чала-

века, лёс рэчы... Ці магла некалі нават уявіць сабе маці Алаізы Пашкевіч Ганна з роду Вызгаў, што крыжык, які вісіць над яе ложкам, будзе некалі вісець над пісьмовым сталом жанчыны, якая ў той час і не нарадзілася. І гэты крыжык той жанчыне будзе вельмі дарогі”.

7 кастрычніка 1938 года ў вёсцы Вострава Шчучынскага раёна нарадзіўся пражанік, публіцыст, паэт Валянцін Блакіт. Закончыў сямігодку ў вёсцы Дэмбравы ў 1953 годзе. Затым,

праз тры гады, Свідзельскую СШ № 1. Пасля заканчэння дзесяцігодкі быў прыняты на работу лістуспрацоўнікам у шчучынскую раённую газету “Чырвоны сцяг”. У 1960 годзе пераведзены ў жалудокскую раённую газету “За Радзіму”. Пасля скасавання раёна – ізноў у Шчучыне, працуе ў міжраённай газеце “Савецкая вёска”. Аўтар зборніка гумарыстычных апавяданняў “Вынаходнік”, апавесцяў “Час прылёту журавоў”, “Шануй імя сваё”, “Усмешка фартуны”, “Вырай”... Доўгі час працаваў галоўным рэдактарам сатырычнага часопіса “Полымя”...



东部。曾在巴什科尔托斯坦的几家集体农场和林业企业工作。从1942年任教。战争期间，雅科夫·帕列茨基的父母在舒钦被纳粹入侵者枪杀。雅科夫·帕列茨基是《西蒙·巴德尼》（1972年）、《尼古拉·胡索夫斯基》（1984年）、《杨·维斯利茨基》（1991年）以及其他历史和文学作品的作者。

1950年，女诗人、文学评论家、教师阿莲娜·鲁茨卡娅出生在舒钦区齐亚卡夫齐村。1956年，她开始在齐亚卡夫齐小学学习。全家搬到斯洛尼姆后，她就读于斯洛尼姆市第七号中学，并于1966年毕业。1966年至1971年，她是白俄罗斯国立大学语言系的学生。她参加了由教授、诗人、文学评论家、翻译家、小说家奥列格·安东诺维奇·洛伊卡领导的《起飞》文学小组的课程。大学毕业后，阿莲娜·鲁茨卡娅在斯洛尼姆的斯洛尼姆州担任教师。自1992年以来，她一直在杨卡·库巴拉格罗德诺州立大学任教。她是诗集《反思》的作者、一系列关于在中学和大学教授白俄罗斯文学的科学方法手册的作者。她也翻译了俄语和乌克兰语的当代和经典的诗歌作品。

1955-1956年，评论家和文学评论家谢尔盖·胡萨克（1930-1969）在扎鲁多克中学教授白俄罗斯和俄罗斯语言和文学。扎鲁多克曾经像舒钦一样，是一个地区中心。

1949年6月9日，文学研究家、文献学家、翻译家、评论家维克托尔·多拉什克维奇出生在舒钦区的黑暗沼泽（索斯诺维博尔）村。

1965年以来，诗人玛丽亚·绍乔纳克（1944年5月11日出生于莫吉廖夫州克里绍区新沃斯特罗村）一直在舒钦区拉科夫中学任教。她还曾在舒钦地区报纸《苏维埃村》工作。自1978年以来，她住在格罗德诺。1954年，她在《白俄罗斯少先队员》报纸上发表了第一首诗《我是少先队员》。著作有诗集《白色燕子》（1971）、《大地的节日》（1976）、《父亲的名字》（1981）、《玫瑰花》（1985）等。在舒钦地区工作期间，积极在《火焰》、《红色变革》、《青春》、《青春的旗帜》、《工农》、《文学和艺术》、《祖国之声》、《格罗德

诺》。Са Шчучынскім краем звязаны лёс літаратуразнаўца, перакладчыка, мовазнаўца Якава Парэцкага (1913 – 1992), які нарадзіўся ў Кёнігсбергу (цяпер Калінінград, Расійская Федэрацыя). Сям’я ў пярэдадзень Вялікай Айчыннай вайны жыла ў Заходняй Беларусі. Якаў вучыўся ў Беластоцкай, затым Лідскай гімназіі. Быў студэнтам Віленскага ўніверсітэта (да 1939 года). Пасля вызвалення Заходняй Беларусі вярнуўся ў Беласток. У чэрвені 1941 года разам з жонкай і дзевяцімесячнай дачушкай эвакуюраваўся на Усход. Працаваў у розных калгасах і леспрагасах Башкартастана. З 1942 года настаўнічаў. У час вайны бацькі Якава Ільча былі расстраляны ў Шчучыне нямецка-фашысцкімі захопнікамі. Якаў Парэцкі – аўтар кніг “Сымон Будны” (1972), “Мікола Гусоўскі” (1984), “Ян Вісліцкі” (1991) і іншых гісторыка-літаратурных выданняў.

У 1950 годзе ў вёсцы Дзякаўцы Шчучынскага раёна нарадзілася паэтэса, літаратуразнаўца, педагог Алена Руцкая. У 1956 годзе пачала вучобу ў Дзякаўскай пачатковай школе. Пасля пераезду сям’і ў Слонім вучылася ў СШ N 7 горада Слоніма, якую закончыла ў 1966 годзе. З 1966 па 1971 гады – студэнтка філалагічнага факультэта Беларускага дзяржаўнага ўніверсітэта. Хадзіла на заняткі літаратурнага аб’яднання “Узлёт”, якія вёў прафесар, паэт, літаратуразнаўца, перакладчык, празаік Алег Антонавіч Лойка. Пасля заканчэння ўніверсітэта Алена Руцкая працавала настаўніцай на Слонімшчыне, у Слоніме. З 1992 года яна – выкладчык Гродзенскага дзяржаўнага ўніверсітэта імя Янкі Купалы. Аўтар кнігі вершаў “Роздум”, цэлага шэрагу навукова-метадычных дапаможнікаў па выкладанні беларускай літаратуры ў школе і ва ўніверсітэце. Перакладае паэтычныя творы сучаснікаў і класікаў з рускай і ўкраінскай моў.

У 1955 – 1956 гады беларускую, рускую мову і літаратуру ў Жалудоцкай сярэдняй школе выкладаў крытык, літаратуразнавец Сяргей ГУСАК (1930 – 1969). Жалудок некалі таксама, як і Шчучын, быў раённым цэнтрам.



■ Валянцін Блакіт





■ Лідзія Арабей

诺真相》、《苏维埃村》等刊物上发表文章……玛丽亚·绍乔纳克的第一本书《白色燕子》在媒体上引起了很多评论。尤尔卡·戈卢布、阿纳托利·格拉恰尼科夫、弗拉基米尔·久巴、阿列西·兹沃纳克、尼古拉·赫维达罗维奇、赖霍尔·亚夫谢耶夫对这位才华横溢的作家的诗集进行了评论……

小说家、剧作家伊万·皮亚什科1940年12月4日出生于格罗德诺区利亚什奇齐村。毕业于斯基德尔的高中，格罗德诺的技术学校。从格罗德诺师范学院（现杨卡·库巴拉格罗德诺国立大学）的历史系毕业后，他在舒钦地区担任教师，从事党务工作。毕业于莫斯科编剧和导演高级课程专业。自1984年以来，他一直担任舒钦地区报纸《苏维埃村》（现《晨星》）的副主编。住在舒钦市。白俄罗斯作家联盟成员。著有散文集《红草莓》（1977）、《来自卡萨雷斯的玛戈》（1992）、《七十年代的情景》（1997）、《在那岸》（2007）、《蓝色矢车菊》（2015）。《七十年代的情景》这个故事似乎很有趣。也许其中没有

深刻的社会冲突，因此也没有艺术冲突，但在作品中有才华的人物描写、他们的性格。主角通过自己命运的棱镜在观察其生活。他是一名老师、作家。他试图成为电影剧作家，但是面临着困难且相当矛盾的世界。在作品的最后，寻找工作的主角来到扎鲁多克 - 舒钦区小城市之一……我们引用小说《七十年代的情景》：“扎鲁多克城市定居点距离舒钦二十公里。开车到那里需要四十分钟。一个有自己历史的小村庄。未来的革命者、1863年起义的参与者、后来的巴黎公社将军、卡尔·马克思的朋友瓦列里·乌鲁布列夫斯基就出生在这里。在定居点的中心，在广场上，有一座在战争中牺牲的苏联英雄飞行员巴特罗夫的纪念碑。这个村庄是一个风景如画的地方，经常有拍摄电影的摄影师来。

我很喜欢这个学校的校长，一个身材矮小的男人，四十多岁，精力充沛。我的工作量是二十二个课时、九年级B班班主任，以及社会责任任务 - 乌鲁布列夫斯基博物馆主管工

У вёсцы Цёмнае Балота (Сасновы Бор) Шчучынскага раёна 9 чэрвеня 1949 года нарадзіўся літаратуразнавец, тэкстолаг, перакладчык, крытык Віктар Дарашкевіч.

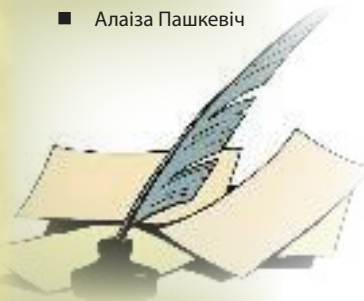
З 1965 года настаўнічала ў Ракавіцкай СШ Шчучынскага раёна паэтэса Марыя Шаўчонак (нарадзілася 11 мая 1944 года ў вёсцы Новы Востраў Клічаўскага раёна, на Магілёўшчыне). Працавала таксама ў шчучынскай раённай газеце “Савецкая вёска”. З 1978 года – у Гродна. Свой першы верш – “Я – піянерка” – надрукавала ў 1954 годзе ў газеце “Піянер Беларусі”. Аўтар паэтычных кніг “Белая ластаўка” (1971), “Свята зямлі” (1976), “Бацькоўскае імя” (1981), “Раса-расінка” (1985) і іншых. У час працы на Шчучыншчыне актыўна друкавалася ў розных перыядычных выданнях – “Полымя”, “Чырвоная змена”, “Малодосць”, “Знамя юности”, “Работніца і сялянка”, “Літаратура і мастацтва”, “Голас Радзімы”, “Гродзенская правда”, “Сельская газета”... Ужо першая кніга Марыі Шаўчонак – “Белая ластаўка” – выклікала шмат водгукў у друку. З рэцэнзіямі на паэтычны зборнік таленавітага аўтара выступілі Юрка Голуб, Анатоль Грачанікаў, Уладзімір Дзюба, Алесь Звонак, Мікола Хведаровіч, Рыгор Яўсееў...

Празаік, драматург Іван Пяшко нарадзіўся 4 снежня 1940 года ў вёсцы Ляшчыцы Гродзенскага раёна. Скончыў сярэднюю школу ў Скідзелі, тэхнічнае вучылішча ў Гродна. Пасля заканчэння гістарычнага факультэта Гродзенскага педагагічнага інстытута (цяпер – Гродзенскі дзяржаўны ўніверсітэт імя Янкі Купалы) працаваў настаўнікам у Шчучынскім раёне. Быў на партыйнай рабоце. Скончыў Вышэйшыя курсы сцэнарыстаў і рэжысёраў у Маскве. З 1984 года працаваў намеснікам рэдактара шчучынскай раённай газеты “Савецкая вёска” (цяпер – “Дзянніца”). Жыве ў Шчучыне. Член Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі. Аўтар кніг прозы “Чырвоная клубніка” (1977), “Марго з Казарэзаў” (1992), “Сцэнарый з сямідзесятых” (1997), “На тым беразе” (2007), “Сінія васількі” (2015). Вельмі





■ Алаіза Пашкевіч



作。博物馆由学校二楼的两个房间组成。苏维特尼科夫呢？一个普通的故事。远离生活，远离科学，开始喝酒。他的妻子是一名残疾人士，在旅馆当厨师。他喝醉，和她吵架，她把自己反锁在宿舍，他翻窗，砸窗。一切都发生在孩子眼前。那么，他是什么样的老师呢？没有权威，孩子们在课堂上随心所欲，没有纪律。好吧，我们决定把一切安排好。我们一直在等合适的时间，就给你打电话了。工作安排得比较快，但是找房子就困难得多。问了十所房子，每一所都被拒绝了。直到第二天，事情才开始慢慢明朗了。找到了两套公寓，一套在村郊，那里除了厨房外，还有一个大房间，那个房间里有一张床。普图什科想，在哪里成为主人？在厨房？普图什科选择了第二个选项。这套公寓位于村子的中心，它的主人是赖霍尔·萨韦利耶维奇·杰罗维扬斯基，一个留着短胡须的矮个子犹太人，他的工作是收集可回收材料。他建议在前厅里放一张沙发，放在

цікавай падаецца аповесць “Сцэнары з сямідзесятых”. Можна быць, няма ў ёй глыбокіх сацыяльных і адпаведна мастацкіх канфліктаў, але ў творы ёсць партрэты, характары герояў, ёсць само жыццё, за якім праз прызму ўласнага лёсу назірае галоўны герой – настаўнік, пісьменнік, які спрабуе стаць кінадраматургам і сутыкаецца з няпростым і часта даволі супярэчлівым светам. Напрыканцы твора галоўны герой у пошуках працы прыязджае ў Жалудок – адно з паселішчаў Шчучынскай старонкі... Цытуем з аповесці “Сцэнары з сямідзесятых”: “Гарадскі пасёлак Жалудок ад Шчучына за дваццаць кіламетраў. Ехаць туды мінут сорак. Невялікі пасёлак, які меў сваю гісторыю. Тут нарадзіўся будучы рэвалюцыянер, удзельнік паўстання 1863 года Валерыя Урублеўскі, потым генерал Парыжскай камуны, сябра Карла Маркса. У цэнтры пасёлка, у скверы – помнік Герою Савецкага Саюза лётчыку Батыраву, які загінуў у гады вайны. Пасёлак у маляўнічым месцы, часта сюды наведваліся кінематографісты, здымалі фільмы.

Дырэктар школы, невялікага росту мужчына гадоў сарака, энергічны і рухавы, спадабаўся.

Дваццаць дзве гадзіны, класнае кіраўніцтва ў дзявятым “Б”, а таксама грамадская нагрузка – загадваць музеем Урублеўскага. Музей – з двух пакояў на другім паверсе школы. Што з Савет-

нікавым? Звычайная гісторыя. Адстаў ад жыцця, ад навукі, пачаў піць. Жонка яго, інвалід, у інтэрнаце працуе кухаркай. Напіўся, пасварыўся з ёй, яна зачынілася ў інтэрнаце, ён праз акно лез, шыбы павыбіваў. Усё адбывалася пры дзецях. Ну што ён за настаўнік? Аўтарытэту ніякага, дзеці на ўроках што хочуць робяць, дысцыпліны няма. Ну мы і рашылі спыніць бязглуздыцу. Чакалі моманту, якраз тут ваш званок.

Калі з работай уладкаваўся даволі хутка, то наконт жыллі было намнога цяжэй. Абышоў хат дзесяць, у кожнай адмовілі. Толькі на другі дзень пачало нешта прасвятляцца. Гэтае нешта – дзве кватэры, адна на ўскраіне пасёлка, дзе, апроч кухні, быў адзін вялікі пакой, і ў тым пакоі адзін ложка. А дзе ж, падумаў Птушко, быць гаспадарам? У кухні?

Птушко спыніўся на другім варыянце. Кватэра была ў цэнтры пасёлка, гаспадар яе Рыгор Савельевіч Дзевянінскі, невысокі шапялявы яўрэй, працаваў нарыхтоўшчыкам другой сыравіны. Ён прапанаваў пярэдні пакой, дзе ля печкі стаяла канапа. Апроч пярэдняй, была невялікая зала, кухня і спальня.

Вось тут і заживем, Ваня. Цябе, здаецца, Ванем называюць? Заживем, Ваня! Хорошае імя далі табе бацькі. Я, каб ты ведаў, працую ў сістэме пух-пяро. Кантора, Ваня, салідная... Браце ты мой, такая работа, што заўсёды сярод людзей. А людзі, Ваня, ёсць самыя розныя. Трэба вуха востра трымаць. А не-





стытута (закончыў у 1977 годзе). Яшчэ ў школе пачаў супрацоўнічаць з перыядычным друкам. Працаваў на камсамольскай і партыйнай рабоце. З 1986 года Славамір Антановіч – у “Мінскай праўдзе”, а пасля – у газеце “Звязда”. Аўтар кніг “Пётр Машэраў” (вытрымала некалькі выданняў – у 1993, 1998, 2011, 2018 гадах), “Чорны вір Нёмана” (2012), “Дыверсант Сталіна” (2017), “Жыццё па-за законам” (2006), “Асуджаныя да расстрэла” (2001)...

Ёсць у Шчучынскай старонцы такая вёска Бершты. Даволі знакамітае паселішча. Вядомасць сваю мае ажно з XV стагоддзя. У 1496 годзе тут адбыўся сойм Вялікага княства Літоўскага. У Берштах у 1633 – 1639 гадах спыняўся на адпачынак і паляванне кароль Уладзіслаў ВАЗА. Берштаўскія лясы і каралеўскія паляванні апісаў у сваёй паэме “Лясныя забавы” новаляцінскі паэт, тэарэтык літаратуры і школьнага тэатра, філосаф, тэолаг Мацей Казімір Сарбеўскі (1595 – 1640), лёс якога паяднаны з Беларуссю. Выкладаў у Полацкім езуіцкім калегіуме ў 1618 – 1620-я, а затым у 1626 – 1621 гады. А ў 1620 – 1622 гадах – у Нясвіжскім езуіцкім калегіуме. Мацей Сарбеўскі – аўтар арыгінальных, адметных трактатаў “Пра дасканалую паэзію”, “Аб вартасцях і недахопах элегіі”, “Аб фігурах думкі” і інш. Пяру яго як паэта належаць зборнікі “Тры кнігі лірычных вершаў”, “Чатыры кнігі лірычных вершаў”, “Лясныя песні”... У Берштах 17 ліпеня 1959 года нарадзілася літаратуразнавец, паэтка, педагог Вольга Іванаўна Русліка. Закончыла ў 1981 годзе філалагічны факультэт Беларускага дзяржаўнага ўніверсітэта. З 1984 года працуе ў Віцебскім дзяржаўным універсітэце імя П. М. Машэрава. Загадчык кафедры беларускай літаратуры, кандыдат філалагічных навук, дацэнт. Аўтар многіх літаратурна-крытычных і гісторыка-літаратурных артыкулаў. У розныя гады пабачылі свет паэтыч-

夜晚的眼睛，  
在生活空间，  
我不是突然变弱的东西，——  
我有点累  
让他们在你的怀抱中休息。  
做记者的时候  
我开了很多车，通过了  
走过了很多路  
去了不少农场、作坊。  
还有生牛奶和干草的味道  
浸透了我的外套，  
摇了摇我  
关于不平等的生活  
根。

只在人的命运中总是充满善良  
当有人打他们时想划掉。  
像沉重的火车轨道  
我用笔把线条转了转，  
把它们放在最好的地方  
在途中  
对于被冒犯的心。  
乌拉齐米尔·瓦斯科是诗集《启蒙》（1981 年）、《在河岸的斜坡上》（1997 年）、《生命之环》（2011 年）、《森林狂想曲》（2013 年）、《命运的曲折》（2017），《灵魂的能量》（2019）的作者……  
舒钦地区是小说家、公关人员、律师斯拉沃米尔·安东诺维奇（1955 - 2020）的出生地，他出生在皮拉夫西村。1972 年毕业于卡缅斯卡亚中学。之后进入明斯克无线电技术学院自动化与计算机工程系（1977 年毕业）。还在上学时，他就开始从事期刊工作。曾在共青团和党内工作。自 1986 年以来，斯拉沃米尔·安东诺维奇一直在《明斯克真理报》工作，后来在《红星报》工作。著作有《彼得马舍罗夫》（多个版本 - 1993 年、1998 年、2011 年、2018 年）、《涅曼的黑色漩涡》（2012 年）、《斯大林的破坏者》（2017 年）、《法律之外的生活》（2006 年），《被判处死刑》（2001 年）...  
在舒钦区有这样一個伯什蒂村。相当有名的定居点。自 15 世纪以来，它就享有盛誉。1496 年，

立陶宛大公国议会在这里举行。1633-1639年，弗拉迪斯拉夫·瓦扎国王曾在伯什蒂停留和打猎。新拉丁诗人、文学和学校戏剧理论家、哲学家、神学家马捷·卡齐米尔·萨尔贝夫斯基（1595 - 1640 年）在他的长诗《森林乐趣》中描述了伯什蒂森林和皇家狩猎。他的命运与白俄罗斯结合在一起。他于 1618-1620 年和 1626-1621 年在波洛茨克耶稣会学院任教。并于 1620 年至 1622 年在涅斯维日耶稣会学院任教。马捷·萨尔贝夫斯基是原创、独特的论文《论完美诗歌》、《论挽诗的优缺点》、《论人物形象》等著作的作者。作为诗人创作了诗集《抒情诗三集》、《抒情诗四集》、《森林之歌》……1959 年 7 月 17 日，奥尔加·伊万诺夫娜·鲁西尔卡，文学评论家、女诗人，老师，出生于伯什蒂。1981 年毕业于白俄罗斯国立大学语言学系。自 1984 年以来，她一直在彼得·马舍罗夫捷布斯克州立大学工作。白俄罗斯文学系主任，语言科学博士，副教授。许多文学评论和历史文学文章的作者。在不同的年份，奥尔加·鲁西尔卡出版了诗集《致你》（1996）和《黑莓》（2004）。在舒钦，未来的作家和海洋文艺作家尼古拉·安德烈耶维奇·切尔卡欣（1946 年出生于沃卡维斯克）和他的妹妹 - 普希金研究者，多本书的作者拉里萨·安德烈耶夫娜·切尔科什娜（也出生于沃卡维斯克）童年的时候住在舒钦。白俄罗斯作家联盟成员、时评家乌拉齐米尔·叶夫根尼维奇·亚霍雷恰夫于 1949 年 1 月 1 日出生在舒钦区克拉斯利亚尼村。作为历史学博士，他曾长期在杨卡·库巴拉格罗德诺州立大学任教。著有 20 多本历史报告文学书籍。2012 年，他获得了社会和政治领域的“格罗德诺地区年度人物”奖。在格罗德诺州，以及在全白俄罗斯，儿童读者早已熟知的儿童文学作家安娜·斯卡日斯卡-西维茨卡的作品，她于 1966 年 8 月 3 日出生在舒钦区的库齐莱斯村。她出

版了《晚会》(2008)、《露珠与晴天兔》(2010)、《童话故事》(2013)、《松鼠牛肝菌》(2014)、《小家园之花》(2014)、《幽灵熊》(2016年)等作品。该作家凭借《娜杰日卡是女巫》一书获得白俄罗斯国家文学奖(2014年)。这位热心作家的作品被收入中学的教科书。安娜·斯卡日斯卡-西维茨卡住在格罗德诺。

“鸟儿翅膀的拍打，/黎明时湖面波浪的声音。/这条路再次引领/遇见你，舒钦。/总是舒适，年轻。/你随着年龄的增长变得更加美丽。/我们从远方赶来，/这座城市快乐地欢迎我们。/这里有灿烂的笑容，/这里住着真诚的人。/在舒钦很长一段时间里都是这样，/希望它永远这样！”——这些诗句都是出于1980年7月1日出生于舒钦区塞卡拉巴夫齐定居点的女诗人纳塔利娅·茨维尔科的笔下。她毕业于杨卡·库巴拉格罗德诺大学，她在西卡里巴中学担任白俄罗斯语言和文学教师。她为成人和儿童写诗。2015年出版《白俄罗斯青年诗歌》系列诗集《遗忘梦想的翅膀》。这位女诗人的许多作品都献给了她的家乡舒钦。

其中有一首诗：  
我的家乡！我童年时的小道！  
我的童年时的家乡是神奇的！  
尽管周围的世界如此无限，  
我的灵魂永远与你同在。

我的黎明在这里升起，  
我安静的夜晚在这里打瞌睡。  
所有的希望和所有的愿望  
我的灵魂永远和你在一起。

对你我的鞠躬是最低的，  
我所有的爱给你。  
我的土地，我的摇篮，  
我的灵魂永远与你同在！

(“我的家乡”)。  
... 舒钦地区还有其他写作人才。例如，诗人和小说家维克多·库茨(1940年2月2日出生于日帕基村)、诗人、当地历史学家弗拉基米尔·鲁尔(1953年9月3日出生于马蒂利村)、历史学家、时评家尼古拉·尼古拉耶夫(1955年2月21日出生于舒钦)……我们可能还可以提到许多其他作家……

阿列西·卡尔柳科维奇(作者)  
韦兰妮·张萌萌(译者)

няя кнігі Вольгі Русілки – “Табе” (1996) і “Ажына” (2004).

У Шчучыне ў дзяцінстве, падлеткавым узросце жылі будучыя пісьменнік-марыніст Мікалай Андрэевіч Чаркашын (нарадзіўся ў 1946 годзе ў Ваўкавыску) і яго сястра – пушкініст, аўтар многіх кніг Ларыса Андрэеўна Чаркашына (таксама нарадзілася ў Ваўкавыску).

Член Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі публіцыст Уладзімір Яўгенавіч Ягорычаў нарадзіўся 1 студзеня 1949 года ў вёсцы Красляны Шчучынскага раёна. Кандыдат гістарычных навук, ён доўгі час працаваў выкладчыкам Гродзенскага дзяржаўнага ўніверсітэта імя Янкі Купалы. Аўтар больш за 20 кніг гістарычнай публіцыстыкі. Па выніках 2012 года ў грамадска-палітычнай сферы атрымаў прэмію “Чалавек года Гродзеншчыны”.

На Гродзеншчыне, ды ў Беларусі таксама, юныя чытачы даўно ўжо до-

бра ведаюць кнігі дзіцячай пісьменніцы Ганны Скаржынскай-Сівіцкай, якая нарадзілася ў вёсцы Куцы Лес Шчучынскага раёна 3 жніўня 1966 года. Выдала кнігі “Вечарынка” (2008), “Расінка і Сонечны зайчык” (2010), “Казкі-чамучкі” (2013), “Вавёрчын баравік” (2014), “Кветка малой радзімы” (2014), “Мішка-прывід” (2016) і шэраг іншых. Пісьменніца -- лаўрэат Нацыянальнай літаратурнай прэміі Беларусі (2014) за кнігу “Надзейка-чарадзейка”. Творы дзіцячай пісьменніцы ўвайшлі ў падручнікі для агульнаадукацыйнай школы. Жыве Ганна Іосіфаўна ў Гродне.

“Узмах птушынага крыла, / шум хваль азёрных на світанні. / Ізноў да рога прывяла / з табою, Шчучын, на спатканне. / Заўсёды ўтульны, малады. / І прыгажэш ты з гадамі. / Здалёк спяшаемся сюды, / нас горад радасна вітае. / Усмешак добрых тут святло, / і шчырыя жывуць тут людзі. / Здаўна так у Шчучыне было, / дык і няхай

заўжды так будзе!”, -- гэтыя радкі належаць пяру паэтэсы Наталлі Цвірко, якая нарадзілася 1 ліпеня 1980 года на станцыі Скрабаўцы Шчучынскага раёна. Скончыла Гродзенскі ўніверсітэт імя Янкі Купалы. Працуе настаўніцай беларускай мовы і літаратуры Скрабаўскай сярэдняй школы. Піша вершы для дарослых і дзяцей. У 2015 годзе выдала ў серыі “Маладая паэзія Беларусі” зборнік вершаў “Крылы забытых мар”. Многія творы паэтэсы прысвечаны роднай Шчучынскай старонцы. Сярод іх – і вось гэты верш:

Мая зямля! Маленства сцежкі!  
Дзяцінства край чароўны мой!  
Хоць свет вакол такі бязмежны,  
Мая душа заўжды з табой.

Тут устаюць мае світанні,  
Тут дрэмле ціхі вечар мой.  
Надзеі ўсе і ўсе жаданні,  
мая душа заўжды з табой.

Табе паклон мой самы нізкі,  
табе ўся мая любоў.  
Мая зямля, мая калыска,  
мая душа заўжды з табой!  
(“Мая зямля”).

... Шчучынскі край выпяставаў і іншыя пісьменніцкія таленты. Як, напрыклад, паэта і прэзаіка Віктара Куца (нарадзіўся ў вёсцы Рыбакі – 2 лютага 1940 года), паэта, краязнаўца Уладзіміра Рруля (нарадзіўся 3 верасня 1953 года ў вёсцы Матылі), гісторыка, публіцыста Міколу Нікалаева (нарадзіўся ў Шчучыне 21 лютага 1955 года)... Можна, пэўна, згадаць і яшчэ шмат каго...

Алесь Карлюкевіч



Leonid Anfimov,

# **“Games of the CIS countries — a new stage of cooperation between the CIS member states”**



Sport is one of the most accessible and exciting languages of diplomacy. It erases borders, unites people of different views, religions and nationalities. And this is the main strength of the sport. Once again, residents and guests of Belarus will be able to feel it already in August 2023 during the 2nd CIS Games. It is not the first time for Belarus to host major sports forums, but for the first time in history, a multi-sport forum will be held in all regions of the country. A new project of the Zvyazda Publishing House — Friendship Games — is dedicated to a unique sporting event and its impact on the life of the country.

Preparations for major sporting events begin long before the public knows about them. Concept development, planning, forecasting results — all this may seem uninteresting, but without this stage, not a single large-scale event will take place. Today, when sport cannot be imagined as independent and isolated from the life of society, major competitions are becoming a platform for humanitarian interethnic cooperation. The CIS Games are both a continuation of the Soviet sports history and at the same time the beginning of a new sports page for sovereign states. Why is this forum of great humanitarian importance? What does it mean for the Commonwealth of Independent States? What to expect from the Games that Belarus will host? These questions were answered by Leonid Anfimov, First Deputy Chairman of the CIS Executive Committee.

**“What are your impressions of the 1st CIS Games in Kazan? What lessons from the preparation and holding of this forum are taken into account when preparing for the 2023 Games in Belarus?”**

“Such sports forums always leave pleasant impressions, especially when they are held for the first time. The CIS Games in Kazan were held at a high organisational level, we observed large-scale bright competitions. It is significant that they were held in the year of the 30th anniversary of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The Games have become a kind of gift for the anniversary. The decision to hold the CIS Games was made in 2019 and it was planned that they would be held in 2020. However, the coronavirus pandemic made its own adjustments and the CIS Games, like many other competitions, were postponed to 2021. Two years was quite enough for the organisers to hold the Games at a high level. It was a spectacle that was expected not only in the Russian Federation, but also in all CIS countries. Games in Kazan did not let down.

When organising the CIS Games in Belarus, one important lesson was taken into account. The Games in Kazan were held at the beginning of September, and this is the beginning of the academic year, athletes lived in student dormitories, so the start of classes had to be postponed.

The Games were held in one city, and no matter how hard they tried to organise the movement of public transport, not to interfere much in the life of the city, there were still complaints, rough edges arose. In Belarus, the competitions are spread over different cities, I think they will not cause much discomfort among their residents. On the contrary, they will become a big event for them.”

**“But will competitions in the regions arouse the same interest as in the capital?”**



“The capital is still more spoiled in terms of cultural and sporting events. I think that people will have a very high interest in competitions in the regions. This is not just a regional event, it is a large-scale international forum. And those people who are fond of sports will definitely come to watch the competitions, children involved in sports will definitely want to see the competitions with their own eyes. The regions have a modern sports infrastructure and qualified personnel. Therefore, I am convinced that in whatever city the competitions take place, they will meet the highest sports standards. Belarus has everything for this.

Do not forget that holding the CIS Games in the regions will reveal the tourism potential of Belarus and open it for guests. The Ministry of Sports and Tourism is developing a rich tourism programme. In addition to the goal of holding competitions at a high level, the republic aims to show Belarus in all its glory. I hope that the guests will not be limited only to the sports arena, but will also visit Belarusian sights with pleasure.

For example, guests of Soligorsk will be able to go down into the mine, in Brest — to admire the beauties of Belovezhskaya Pushcha and get in touch with the heroism of the defenders of the Brest Fortress. In any city and region where the Games will be held, there is something to see to discover Belarus.

I think that the experience of holding the CIS Games in this format will, firstly, be a good example for the organisers of future Games, and, secondly, it will become a valuable experience for Belarusians

in organising major international competitions.”

**“Prime Minister of Belarus Roman Golovchenko invited the SCO countries to take part in this forum. Why was it decided to make the 2nd CIS Games open?”**

“This issue was discussed at the stage of development and discussion of the draft Regulations on the

CIS Games, which was approved by the Council of Heads of Government of the CIS in 2019. In September 2022, the Council for Physical Culture and Sports in Tashkent agreed on the proposal of the Ministry of Sports and Tourism of Belarus to invite teams from states that are not members of the CIS. The CIS Games are a good platform where young athletes can gain competitive experience and mentally harden. I believe that the more teams will take part in the Games, the more serious the competition of athletes will be, the higher the level of competition will be and the more interesting the fight for medals. Cuba and Mongolia are already considering their participation, I think other countries will be added. We will not refuse any team that wants to participate in the CIS Games. For young athletes, this is a valuable experience and a good foundation for participation in future high-level competitions.”

**“Why was it decided at the first CIS Games in Kazan that these are competitions for athletes under 23 years old, and not for adult athletes?”**





■ The National Olympic Stadium Dinamo in Minsk is ready to host the II Games of the CIS countries

“There are several reasons for this. Firstly, since the Games were originally planned to be held in the 2020 Olympic year, the organisers took into account the interests of the athletes who had to systematically calmly prepare for the Tokyo Olympics, they did not want to be distracted from preparing for the main events. Secondly, there are not so many complex competitions for young athletes in which they can fight for medals on an equal footing with their peers. Therefore, it was decided to hold a multi-sport forum for young athletes in the Olympic year with all the traditions and attributes of the Olympic Games. In Kazan, we watched the spectacular opening and closing ceremonies, the medallists were awarded in a solemn atmosphere, the participants lived in the ‘Olympic Village’. Experts later noted that the Games became a kind of test for young athletes and gave them priceless experience. I am sure that it will help them in the future when participating in other large-scale international competitions, including the Olympic Games.”

**“But there won’t be Olympic Games in 2023...”**

“It will be unfair if a venerable experienced athlete competes with a young athlete who is just gaining experience. The principle of fairness must be respected.

Therefore, the participants of the 2nd CIS Games will be mainly athletes not older than 23 years. Nevertheless, the organisers are discussing with partners the participation of the main part of national teams in competitions in certain sports. This should add value to the sports programme and increase the interest of fans and the media. So far, it is planned that adult teams will participate in competitions in weightlifting, beach soccer, sambo and field hockey.”

**“Along with the Olympic Games,**

**Holding the CIS Games in this format will, firstly, be a good example for the organisers of future Games, and, secondly, it will become a valuable experience for Belarusians in organizing major international competitions.**

**the Youth Olympic Games are held every four years, an important part of which is the educational and cultural programme for young athletes. Is this also possible during the CIS Games?”**

“Undoubtedly. Within the framework of the 2nd CIS Games, a scientific and practical conference in the field of physical culture and sports will be held. A meeting of the Council for Physical

Culture and Sports of the CIS member states will be held. Exhibitions of cultures of the CIS countries will be organised. The Anti-Doping Agency will prepare an educational programme for athletes.

As for the cultural programme not only for athletes, but also for spectators, the most significant events will be the opening and closing ceremonies. The regions will prepare their cultural programmes. The organising committee has formed a separate subgroup for the organisation of ceremonies and cultural support for the

Games. The Ministry of Culture of Belarus takes an active part in its work. But according to tradition, all the details of the ceremonies of the Games will be kept secret.”

**“In November, the 9th International School Sports Festival of the CIS countries took place. Can we say that the CIS is developing its own sports system?”**

“You rightly noted that the Commonwealth of Independent States is developing its own system of sports competitions. And what is especially pleasant is that it is developing with the high interest of the CIS member states. Looking at the dynamics of the development of this system, we can say with confidence that in the near future in the Commonwealth of Independent States, sports competitions will cover all categories of participants and sports. Perhaps, in this way, we are slowly approaching the revival of the system of



physical culture and sports that existed in the USSR. The results of Soviet athletes at the main starts showed the effectiveness of that system. CIS Games, in my opinion, can be considered a continuation of the Spartakiad of the peoples of the USSR, only for young athletes. It was the strongest tournament, which was sometimes more difficult to win than the European or World Championships. So maybe it's worth resurrecting this system?"

**"And the first step is to make the holding of championships, tournaments, and cups of the CIS in various sports on the territory of the Commonwealth member states, especially since such proposals have already been received?"**

"Why not. The initiative to hold championships, tournaments, and cups of the CIS in certain sports was indeed put forward at the final meeting of the Working Group on the preparation and holding of the 1st CIS Games in 2021. A draft regulation on these competitions was prepared, it was approved by the Council for Physical Culture and Sports at a meeting in Tashkent. Now the document is being finalised by experts, after which it will be submitted for consideration by the supreme bodies of the Commonwealth. Similar championships and cups were regularly held during the existence of the USSR and had a high status. I believe that in the post-Soviet space we must revive the best sports traditions. Unfortunately, in some sports, the level of national championships is not high enough and the leaders do not have competition within the country. And the internal championships of the Soviet system gave the athlete the opportunity to compete with stronger opponents and improve their sportsmanship. Today, championships in the CIS space can give such an opportunity. And for Belarusian and Russian athletes who are now suspended from international competitions, this is a great chance not to lose shape and competitive practice.

In addition, at the meeting of the Council in Tashkent, the initiative of the Russian Federation on the establishment of summer and winter Spartakiads for disabled children of the CIS countries was supported. It is assumed that such competitions will be held every four

years, starting with the Winter Spartakiad in 2024 and the Summer Spartakiad in 2026."

**"Leonid Vasilyevich, how big is the role of the CIS Games in strengthening humanitarian cooperation in the CIS space?"**

"It is difficult to name a larger-scale event in the field of humanitarian cooperation of the Commonwealth countries than the CIS Games. They combine the values of

the days of the USSR, when Soviet teams smashed everyone and everything. And we subconsciously wait for the return of those results. Perhaps someday we will come to the creation of a national team of the CIS countries in football or hockey. Maybe in the future there will be leagues for different sports like the KHL or the NHL. In the development of the CIS sports system, which was discussed earlier, we are absolutely open to new ideas. There



■ Belarusian team at the opening of the 1st CIS Games

the Olympic movement, the energy of popular sports in the Commonwealth, and the traditions of our countries. The CIS Games are, of course, a new stage in the cooperation of the CIS member states in the field of physical culture and sports. The programme of the CIS Games, which will be held in Belarus, includes 20 sports. We expect that at least two thousand athletes will participate in the competition. And coaches, judges, sports officials, journalists, fans will come with them. I am sure that most of them will leave Belarus with the warmest impressions, share them with their compatriots, and even more people will want to see Belarus with their own eyes. We regard the Games as one of the incentives for strengthening cooperation within the framework of the CIS in the field of humanitarian activities and, in general, strengthening the unity of the peoples of the CIS countries."

**"In your opinion, what sports are the most popular in the CIS countries?"**

"Despite the fact that our football players lose wherever possible, football remains the most popular sport in the CIS. Hockey is also very popular. Probably, this has been going on by inertia since

can be nothing frozen in humanitarian cooperation. Of course, someone wants to see us as completely independent, sterile states that live and cook only within their own borders. But the CIS countries have historically gotten used to sticking together. And today we need to look for new forms of cooperation, expand it, then we will be able to talk about more serious integration in all spheres of activity of the peoples of the CIS countries."

**"Leonid Vasilyevich, what do you personally expect from the 2nd CIS Games?"**

"I want to visit as many competitions in different sports as possible. They will all be interesting, and I would like to see them with my own eyes. But, first of all, I expect a positive feedback from those who come to our country. I am sure that the Belarusians will not lose face, show their famous hospitality and show the traditions, way of life, sights of our people. I hope that the 2nd CIS Games will show that Belarus is open, transparent and ready for cooperation. If our guests leave with such impressions, we will consider that the mission is completed."

Valeria Stetsko



# TIME TO COLLECT AND TIME TO GIVE

**A kind of marathon of kindness,  
sincerity, charity was held in  
Belarus during the New Year and  
Christmas holidays**

This time around the country, a huge wave of joy and heartfelt gratitude was generated not only by the numerous meetings of adults and children under the sign of the large-scale charity event Our Children. For the first time, on the initiative of the Head of State, the new charitable From the Bottom of Our Hearts campaign was held everywhere, the purpose of which is to show the active concern of society, including young people, for the representatives of the older generation.

### What you give returns to you

Can we give something to absolutely strangers? To give them free of charge, to share what we ourselves have? And not from excess, not on the 'I help you, you help me' basis, not in anticipation of 'benefits' for your giving, but just like that, out of the kindness of your soul. As they say, out of love for one's neighbour. Not all of us, of course, are characterised by such generosity from birth. Basically, after all, the instinct of survival and self-preservation, activated by thrifty parents, and grandparents who survived the war, our own everyday situations, encourages each of us to take more than give. In addition, folk wisdom says: the goods in stock won't hurt anyone... Well, it's obvious: we are accustomed to think first about ourselves and our loved ones, and not about strangers, even if they need much more help and care than 'our' people.

■ The kids from the Republican Rehabilitation Center for Disabled Children in Minsk were visited by the command of the Air Force and Air Defence Forces. The picture shows the commander of the Air Force and Air Defence, Colonel Andrey Lukyanovich

Everyone goes through their 'universities' in life, chooses a personal strategy, tactics both in overcoming the obstacles that they encounter in life, and in living through its joyful moments. Both peoples and states, as you know, accumulate their experience, thanks to which they either develop or fall into decay over time. Moreover, the sages have seen for a long time: in a society focused on development and prosperity, one should certainly take care of the weaker ones — children, women, the elderly, the disabled... And even animals. Why? The secret of this wisdom is paradoxical and at the same time simple: by doing good, caring for others, learning to give, we ourselves become stronger in spirit. Let us remember the Sufi wisdom: what you gave is yours. Well, where the spirit of people is strong, the whole society will be healthier there.

### If the child smiles...

It is noteworthy that in Belarus care and charity are not just beautiful words, but also an important part of state policy. "If a child smiles, it means that the state exists, the society is healthy," Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed, speaking on New Year's Eve at the Main New Year Festival of the country. By good tradition, this New Year's holiday for children at the Palace of the Republic became the key event of the Our Children charity project. More than 2,300 children were invited to it, both from all regions of Belarus and from abroad. These are orphans and children left without parental care, pupils of cadet schools, children from refugee families, children from Donbass, children of persons who died in the line of military duty, winners of international, republican, regional olympiads, competitions,





and festivals. This time there was the performance *Constellation of the Bison* for them. And before it began, the President addressed the guests of the festival, noting that it is always necessary to remember those children who ask for peace and warmth in the house, “I emphasise: there are a lot of children in the world who do not have home warmth, many children who want eat and just live in peace, so that there is peace on their land. We must always remember these people, these children. If we remember, this trouble will never come to our land.”

### Whole month of kindness

For a month, starting from December 15th, 2022 and until January 15th, 2023, the New Year Our Children campaign was held in Belarus. At that time, the country's top officials, heads of government agencies and organisations, concerns and banks, and major public associations visited children's boarding schools, hospitals, large families, and family-type orphanages. Only at the republican level, more than 20 thousand children took part in the event, and in the whole country — about a million! Moreover, the Belarusian media paid much attention to the traditional Our event, as well as the new undertaking called 'From the Bottom of Our Hearts', other initiatives, events, festivals that are constantly held throughout the country. For more than a quarter of a century, during the New Year's time, we all ourselves seem to become participants in a kind of marathon of charity Our Children. Every home knows about it, and from year to year the so-called circle of good is expanding. To create a festive atmosphere for those children who, for one reason or another, are deprived of family warmth on New Year's Eve or have various ailments since childhood, activists, volunteers of the Belarusian Children's Fund began in the 90s. And thanks to the support of Aleksandr Lukashenko, the campaign became truly nationwide and grew into a large-scale

■ There were many guests in the Bobruisk orphanage. Representatives of the Presidential Sports Club and hockey players of the President's team came to congratulate the kids on Merry Christmas and New Year, and also conducted training on ice. The Christmas tradition charity event, which has been in our country since 2013, gave all its participants many of the most positive emotions.



project. And as before, it takes place under the patronage of the President, and in all regions of the country. Knowing this background, it will be clearer why, on the eve of the New Year, the 'starting', festive part of the Our Children campaign at the National Centre for Artistic Creativity of Children and Youth was held together with the children by Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus Igor Petrishenko, Minister of Education Andrei Ivanets, and Chairman of the Board of the Belarusian Children's Fund Lyudmila Kondrashova who is also the Director of the Republican Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Children. By the way, there is information on the Fund's website that for a whole month, within the framework of the Our Children campaign, the Belarusian Children's Fund was raising funds to diagnose and provide assistance to children with autism. Everyone could participate in a good deed. And soon, in February, the Belarusian Children's Fund will celebrate its 35th anniversary. Special guests were

invited to the celebration at the National Centre: orphans and children left without parental care, brought up in guardian and foster families; pupils of cadet schools; students-winners of international, republican and regional olympiads, creative competitions, festivals, sports competitions; students who have achieved success in social work; children with special needs of psychophysical development from all regions of the country. As you can see, this is precisely the 'target audience' that especially needs our care. For all the guests of the festival, the New Year's ART Territory worked, a concert of creative teams was held. Gifts to the participants of the festival were presented from the Belarusian Children's Fund.

By the way, the New Year campaign of the Fund itself, in which hundreds of volunteers work, is called 'Our Hearts to Children', and it flows in a powerful stream into the Our Children campaign. Thousands of children across the country received congratulations and



gifts from the Belarusian Children's Fund, its regional and district branches. Interesting, rich cultural programme with excursions, surprises, gifts, unforgettable meetings were held by the Fund's activists for mothers and children from family-type orphanages from different regions. At the same time, mothers-parents-educators took part in a seminar on organic farming, where they received specific practical advice. Families went home with gifts from the Fund: children brought juices and sweets, and mothers brought dryers for berries and fruits, plus vacuum packaging for freezing and long-term storage of fresh vegetables and berries. So not only a fish, figuratively speaking, was presented to the guests, but also a fishing rod, they were also taught how to fish. This New Year will be remembered for a long time by four orphans who now live in the urban village of Liozno: a new family-type orphanage has opened there. The children began to live in a large family, where their parents-educators take care of them. On the housewarming day, the Vitebsk branch of the Belarusian Children's Fund presented the family with household appliances, sets of dishes, bed linen, a large carpet in the living room and, of course, sweets.

### Protecting children, protecting the country

People of different professions and occupations are connected to the nationwide Our Children campaign. For example, the media reported that military pilots on the eve of the Old New Year (there is such a wonderful holiday in our cultural space: google it, if you don't know, find out more about it) visited the Republican Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Children. This centre, by the way, was also created thanks to the President. Experienced rehabilitation specialists work there, helping young patients improve their quality of life. During treatment, rehabilitation, modern equipment is very useful in the centre, part of which appeared thanks to the command and personnel of the Air Force and Air Defence Forces of Belarus. A year earlier, by the way, the sponsors presented the institution with a 'smart mirror': it voices the tasks to the children and monitors their implementation. And this time, a deep massage simulator and new modern microphones were brought to the centre: for the holidays. After all, as you know, even in conditions of rehabilitation, holidays are good for health.

Or here are some other people in uniform doing charity work: these are representatives of the State Customs Committee. During the Our Children campaign, they visited, as reported by the media, the Yelsk Special Boarding School (Yelsk is a district centre in the Gomel Region), the Grodno Region Orphanage, Istoki Children's Village (Minsk District, the village of Opytny) and other specialised institutions. Let us clarify that Istoki is a unique project created under a special programme of the President in 2010. In the children's village, 15 cottages were built with the money of various investors, where orphans have the opportunity to regain their home, loving people and hope for the future, for life in a full-fledged family. Time has shown that such a village is the best alternative to orphanages. At Istoki, conditions are created that are close to family ones, so that the children develop fully, learn to live in a family circle, and eventually acquire a profession.

There is also news from the Grodno Region, from the district centre of Oshmyany. There, State Secretary of the Security Council of Belarus Aleksandr Volfovich and his colleagues congratulated the pupils of the Centre



for Correctional and Developmental Education and Rehabilitation of the Oshmyany District, the Social and Pedagogical Centre and the Children's Social Shelter. The guests brought not only sweet gifts to the children, but also a computer and household appliances. As the *Belarus Segodnya* newspaper wrote, the pupils of the Centre for Correctional and Developmental Education and Rehabilitation sincerely rejoiced at the guests. 38 children receive education there, they are all different, each has their own difficult fate, but they have not lost faith in a miracle. Together with the guests, of course, Father Frost and the Snow Maiden visited the kids. Good songs sounded near the Christmas tree, and cheerful round dances were around it. The meeting of the guests with pupils and teachers of the Social and Pedagogical Centre and the Children's Social Shelter also turned out to be sincere. There are six children in the centre now, the teachers are doing everything to instill in them family values, teach them to be friends and love, forgive and rejoice. Speaking during the meetings and with journalists, Aleksandr Volfovich noted that employees of the State Security Council annually take part in the Our Children campaign during the New Year's time, "We give children a little happiness and warmth. The children we visited today require special attention. Many of them cannot fully feel the joy of childhood, someone really needs parental warmth. In their small lives, some have already experienced pain, disappointment, and betrayal. But, fortunately, today next to them are caring, creative and kind people. Experienced teachers, responsive educators, professional psychologists who give support in life, help to find oneself, share a piece of their soul. For this, we are very grateful to them. Despite the social support that the state provides to orphans, children left without parental care, they still need care, attention, warmth of our hearts. We talked with the kids, got to know them more. They are our future. We saw with our own eyes that here children are brought up in comfortable conditions, they feel support, warmth and attention."



■ In the Centre for Social Services of the Leninsky District, Mogilev, where about 150 people are in the daytime department for elderly citizens. Everyone who came for the holiday was presented with gifts.

■ The 102-year-old veteran of the Great Patriotic War Ivan Komar did not hide joyful emotions, "Every minute of this day I will scroll in my head for another week, and remember — for the rest of my life. By the way, when they made a desire, I suddenly realised that I had nothing to wish for something: I am a happy person! Although... I would like to live even longer — this is for me personally. And for everyone - the world. Now it is very important."

### Charity as a style of work

Of course, I risk seeming subjective. Because I am writing about the style of state work in Belarus, and not about church or monastic traditions. After all, the state, government officials, of course, have tasks that are solved without

sweet gingerbread in shiny wrappers. Charity is far from always appropriate where, figuratively speaking, a whip is needed. And yet... One of my colleagues, Sergei Mikhovich, speaking about the importance of the President's new initiative, also wrote in principle about



■ In the department of round-the-clock stay for elderly and disabled citizens of the Territorial Centre for Social Services for the Population in the Novogrudok District.



**There are more than 120 thousand lonely elderly citizens in Belarus. About 20 thousand more live in stationary social service institutions, and for 100 thousand people day care and leisure activities are organized by territorial social service centers.**

charity, but in somewhat different words, “The human, paternal attitude towards veterans, towards the elders is the style of behaviour of the authorities: from the village council to the President.” What is the essence of the initiative? To unite society with care and attention to the older generation, to people who have provided us with their work the opportunity to live in a peaceful, beautiful country. As expected in such cases, this initiative in the state apparatus was formatted into a project, gained specificity, becoming a Republican charity event for the elderly called, I repeat, From the Bottom of Our Hearts.

One of the first to join it, having gone to the veterans with gifts and kind words was the Chairwoman of the Council of the Republic Natalya Kochanova. Visiting the Boarding Home for Pensioners and Disabled People in Minsk, she also spoke with journalists and said, “I am happy that I met these wonderful people today. The From the Bottom of Our Hearts campaign is a great idea of our President. I am sure that it will become a good tradition in Belarus when we all meet people who have gone through their lives with dignity and have done everything to make our

country so beautiful. These people worked, taught children, treated, restored the country from the ruins after the war, worked hard during perestroika. Therefore, I bow to them.”

This year, the From the Bottom of Our Hearts campaign gained due momentum, and dozens of institutions for veterans received guests. And many of the older generation were visited by representatives of authorities, ministries, universities, firms, factories, and enterprises right at home. And here it would be appropriate to once again refer to a colleague Sergei Mikhovich, whose reasoning, I hope, will be of interest to our readers, “Without exaggeration, there is no such well-functioning system of territorial social services in the whole world as in Belarus. A fact recognised by all! Every neighbourhood has a community service centre with a well-trained staff of professionals who know all about their lonely and needy older people. 146 territorial centres and 83 boarding schools! The social worker goes to the smallest village, thanks to which everyone who needs them receives care and assistance. And further. In almost all districts there are stationary district hospitals for nursing care, we have more than a hundred of them. Here they accept

the elderly, and not necessarily strictly for medical reasons. With the onset of cold weather, a significant part of them are physically unable to cope with household chores alone. Price? No more than 80 percent of the pension. But at the same time, many services are provided free of charge, and most importantly, a person here is surrounded by competent staff and in the company of his peers. 20,000 single people receive temporary and reliable registration there. And there are even more people who want to move into this off-season comfort...”

2023 has been declared the Year of Peace and Creation in Belarus. We live in peace today, also thanks to those who helped to maintain and protect it before us. And in terms of creation in the near future, we really count on those who still receive gifts from Father Frost and the Snow Maiden today. Such a strong connection between times and generations is the strength of the Belarusian people. Well, peace and harmony in society are possible when people know this old truth: there is a time for everything. Therefore, we will not even discuss what is better: to collect or give away. After all, this is so obvious: as there is time to collect, so there is time to give...

Valentina **Zhdanovich**

# BALLROOM MUSIC SOUNDS AGAIN...

In the history of modern Belarus, balls, an exquisite tradition of the past, have long established themselves as a bright, unforgettable event in the cultural life of the country. With special pomp, balls are held on the eve of the old New Year at the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus.





For the 14th time the Bolshoi Theatre hosted a ball, as it was in previous years, on the night of the Old New Year: from January 13th to 14th. Over 600 people took part in the favourite celebration.

If you want to travel back in time, if you are a fan of the gallant etiquette of past centuries, if your dream is to become a participant in a brilliant ball, spin in a waltz whirlwind, if you cannot imagine the Old New Year without a good mood, sparkling jokes, witty practical jokes, wonderful music and dancing, if you miss a big and cheerful company and will be happy to celebrate the Old New Year surrounded by artists, then you should come here, to the Bolshoi Theatre for the New Year's ball, which has acquired its own traditions during its existence. The most famous of them is the observance of the dress code. A prerequisite for dancing: ladies are in floor-length dresses, gentlemen are in tuxedos or elegant suits.

The Bolshoi Theatre is transformed tonight. Beautiful music sounds everywhere. We listened to this crown of the ball in the large auditorium, and in

#### From social media reviews:

→ Ladies and gentlemen!  
So the ball of 2023 rushed by like an instant!  
Huge thanks to everyone! Thanks to you, friends, this year there was such an incredibly warm and sincere atmosphere, both at rehearsals and at the ball itself!

→ How joyful it is to feel comfortable next to strangers!  
They are all like-minded, sincerely participating in entertainment!  
All are on the same wavelength!  
And not a single bored face!

→ This is the best ball in my life. I also visited the Vienna Ball in Moscow 2 years ago, and in Gomel, and in Bobruisk, and in Nesvizh, and in the World. I saw several times the video of the main ball in Vienna. In terms of the atmosphere at the Bolshoi, in terms of sincerity, this is so far the best ball I have ever been to.



the chamber one, in impromptu salons in the theatre foyer.

The ball is dancing and fun, smiles and laughter, jokes and practical jokes, unexpected acquaintances and surprises, games and quests, confetti and champagne... The ball is an opportunity to visit the past centuries, surrounded by charming ladies in magnificent dresses and gallant gentlemen. As well as the

opportunity to celebrate the New Year in the old style in the company of talented artists of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus. By tradition, the main dance action took place in the foyer. Dance classes under the guidance of the choreographer, the Honoured Artist of Belarus Yulia Dyatko, began on November 6th. And on January 13th, the gentlemen and their ladies marched sedately in the polonaise,



marches, circled in waltzes and danced the polka. This time the programme of the ball, just like in previous years, was original.

The author of the concept of the festival was the Chief Director of the Theatre Anna Motornaya. The traditional surprise concert, programmes in the Chamber Hall, entertainment events in the foyer were prepared by directors Natalya Baranovskaya, Natalya Kuzmenkova, Olga Buravleva, Maria Isaeva. Lyubov Sidelnikova was responsible for the artistic design of the theatre.

At the ball, the audience danced according to the wave of the maestro's baton — Vladimir Ovodok and Yuri Karavaev. The Chief Choirmaster, People's Artist

of Belarus Nina Lomanovich, and the Chief Choreographer, Honoured Artist of Russia Igor Kolb, came to the celebration. Traditional balls — Royal and Viennese, a big concert on the main stage and bright programs in the Musical Lounge

■ This year, 320 boys and girls from different regions of Belarus took part in the traditional New Year's ball at the Palace of Independence. These are gifted and talented students of universities, colleges, colleges, students of cadet schools and the Minsk Suworov Military School, who have shown themselves in studies, scientific and creative competitions, youth projects, social and sports life.

— Chamber Hall, karaoke with the stars, exciting quests and master classes in dance (including Indian and even... pirate), a tea ceremony or the creation of a charm doll — all this is a ball-2023. On this festive night, one could take a walk along the Milky Way, visit the Hall of the Elves, visit the mysterious Gothic Hall, listen to Tales of Bollywood, find oneself in the unique Fragrant Tale of the East, study at the Fabulous School of Temptation...

The theme of the Big Ball 2023 is Magic Tales of the New Year. Everything was there! We, the guests, talked with the Snow Queen, took pictures in different photo zones — with a huge Elephant, with an Angel, and in the candy zone





■ From year to year, the Mir Castle gives guests a unique opportunity to go back several centuries and feel like a part of that distant era in Belarus, where on the eve of the New Year, according to the old style, more than fifty ladies and gentlemen whirled in an endless stream of dances.



we admired the Christmas tree with sweets. A lot of guests were attracted by the Fortune Teller and the Chiromancer. It was to them that there was a huge line of participants in the ball, who wanted to know about their past, present and future. The ball ended with a spectacular show right on the street, in which both the guests of the ball and the theatre artists took part.

Along the way, I want to recall another good tradition — the annual holding of brilliant balls in the medieval Mir Castle, which you can read about on the Internet. This ball is becoming more and more popular every year: the number of participants and spectators is constantly growing. In the town of Mir, in the Korelich District of the Grodno Region, guests come not only from Belarus, but also from abroad. Every year, Christmas

balls there, as well as at the Bolshoi Theatre, are held according to a new scenario, and their concept is developed long before the event. Luxurious interiors of the Mir Castle, in which balls are thundering, as well as an unforgettable atmosphere created by the court musicians and the owners of the castle, remain unchanged. Back in 2017, a Christmas ball was given on the occasion of the name day of Theophilia Constance Radziwiłł, sister of Prince Karol Stanisław (better known in history as Panie Kochanku). Dances were organised in the Portrait Hall. Guests and participants of the celebration became direct participants in a new exciting programme, which included dance, music and interactive performances. During the ball, the guests demonstrated their dancing skills, and also participated in a dance master class

from real professionals. The owners of the castle, Theophilia Constance Radziwiłł and Panie Kochanku, entertained and surprised the guests. The current ball is all about mysterious masks and silhouettes, exquisite outfits and live music, which this creates a unique atmosphere and returns the participants to the romantic past. Polonaise, minuet, country dance, polka, waltz, mazurka — everything is like hundreds of years ago. Ladies in dresses of the 18th century, gentlemen in formal suits and, of course, socialising in a secular salon.

The highlight of the evening at the Mir Castle was a night tour of it. And this means evening lights, secrets and revived legends. And, of course, treats from the castle cook!

Mikhalina **Cherkashina**





**“My nature  
requires  
movement,  
liveliness,  
drive and  
creation”**



## There is not the word 'no' in the vocabulary of Irina Dorofeeva, Honoured Artist of Belarus, in relation to her work: after all, a professional, according to her, can do everything

Irina is known in Belarus as a famous pop artist who has titles, awards, creative solo concerts, albums, a huge number of fans... In general, everything that is invested in the concept of success and popularity of the Belarusian pop star, who at various times worked as a soloist and in the legendary Verasy band, and in the State Concert Orchestra conducted by Mikhail Finberg... There are many worthy publications on the Internet about her achievements in the profession, about the Irina Dorofeeva Theatre, about numerous tours around the country and abroad, about dreams and childhood, beloved parents and even about immediate plans... But, as you know, behind the fame and brilliance on the stage there is another Irina Dorofeeva, who can be sad and upset, who does not manage to fulfill her plan as quickly as she would like... And we talked about this, sitting in a coffee shop near the University of Culture and Arts

**“Irina, please open up a little, if you don't mind, the backstage, one that is not in the spotlight... How do you cope with the difficulties that are so natural in the life of every person?”**

Irina Dorofeeva thought a minute. She sipped her coffee. The expression of the concentrated face of my counterpart brightened up when I said that I heard her, 16-year-old, at the competition for young performers and at her solo concerts. As Irina spoke, her face brightened. It seemed to be filled with sunlight from within. Not for a moment did it darken even when she had to remember that she had been ill with COVID three times.

“There is no really any backstage there... It's like for many people: I am a living person after all. I have recently recovered. Perhaps this is the only difficulty for today that required great patience from me in order to defeat the disease. I somehow understood in a special way: health is a huge value. And when I am healthy,

sadness is not characteristic of me. I do not have time for this! After all, life is so beautiful in its many manifestations. It is amazing! My life is full of events, I really like it. It is so changeable that there is no way to relax, get bored, or waste time on grief. I am purposefully busy all the time. And difficulties may be overcome. This, if you like, is my 'behind the scenes'”

**“As far as I know, you have different areas of activity...”**

“Yes, they are different, but they all have something in common with each other. I sing, tour, and work at the University of Culture (heads the Department of Pop Music at the Faculty of Musical Art), and I play in the theatre... By the way, it all started with the play Caution! Women of Paris in the city of Bobruisk. And later I was drawn into the world of the musical by a wonderful composer, producer, Honoured Artist of Russia Kim Breidburg. I was lucky then to play the main role in

the play The Blue Cameo in our Academic Theatre (State Musical Academic Theatre). Together we were able to carry out two performances at the university with the help of students. These are the musicals Dubrovsky and Casanova. I had another interesting job in the play Jane Eyre, which continues today. The libretto, music, scenography, direction and all other components of the performance sound so high quality that this bright, spectacular, dynamic production, full of beautiful melodies, various musical and dance numbers, cannot but be remembered. The performance has been successfully running for many years, it is still in demand by the public, which brings me great pleasure.”

The profession of an artist allows Irina to appear in different guises. When working with designers, she thinks about costumes, how the stage will look like when big projects are being carried out, say, her solo concerts are going on... Constantly, as she puts it, images for a particular song are thought out...

■ Irina Dorofeeva (left) in the musical «Jane Eyre». Musical Academic Theatre.



Then shooting, communication with the press, meetings with poets, composers, arrangers and other creative people. There is also work with students, with teachers at the University of Culture.

**“Do you like working with students?”**

“I really do! But I may be unnecessarily demanding of them (laughing)...”

**“As to yourself! Your fans must know this.”**

“Yeah! I am demanding of myself. I want everything to be perfect all at once. Although, of course, I understand that students have different thresholds for perceiving the world, their profession, and their future. It’s hard to get them hooked. Although I belong to the pop artists of the 21st century, my formation took place at the turn of the times, and I was always impressed by the classical school of performance, if we talk about the Soviet school. Young people today prefer the Western style of performance, partly mannerisms and, as I say, ‘parrotting’. Which, alas, is not in tune with our phonetics. Even simple Belarusian

songs cannot be sung well by the guys, some of them do not have the perception that this is their own, dear. We have to teach them, instill love. This applies to both musicians and vocalists. By the way, we also have a department of computer music. It’s so cool!” Irina welcomes a new fashionable direction — computer musical arrangement. This year, she says, there will be another set. And she is proud that the University of Culture is the only university in the country that trains such specialists.

**“Do you find a common language with foreigners?”**

“We have many Chinese students. These are vocalists, instrumentalists. The University of Culture closely cooperates with China: our education is in demand.”

**“Is it easy to combine work at the university with artistic activity?”**

“It’s not about easy or not easy. The answer to the question lies in my interest, in the desire to develop. It may seem to someone that the fate of a pop artist is easy, they say, well, what’s there: go out and sing, then you

can work somewhere else. I had to hear such idle opinions. How far from reality! Going on stage requires a huge effort of mental strength. You understand that you must be as concentrated as possible both physically and spiritually. If you do not have a fighting spirit, a kind of energy generator that produces it, you will not interest the public. But this quality does not come from nowhere. It is brought up. To some extent, artists must be fearless. Like Don Quixote de la Mancha. Success on stage depends on a huge number of components. How receptive the audience will be, with what mood they will come and go, how much better they will feel at my concert, what the sound and video content will be like, how the musicians will play and how the ballet will dance...” Irina seeks to teach her students about fearlessness, the ability to find a source of creative energy within themselves.

**“Do you still think about all this today?”**

“As much as before. These subtleties are very important to me. Of course,



■ “Entering the stage requires a huge strain of mental strength. You understand that you must be as concentrated as possible both physically and spiritually. If you do not have a fighting spirit, a kind of energy generator that generates it, you will not interest the public” (one of Irina Dorofeeva’s tips to students at the University of Culture, where she teaches).

■ Concert *On the Wings of a Dream* in Bobruisk, 2022





you need to have absolute, I repeat, fearlessness and attitude to success, be confident in your abilities, so as not to worry about anything like that. That's how I get it."

**"Then comes victory?"**

"It's not about winning, it's about achieving a quality result. I don't need to win, to succeed as much as possible in something... I strive to ensure that the public likes my song, so that the audience hears what I sing about, understands the essence of the song."

**"Were there many such concerts?"**

"In my life, perhaps, every one of them was like that. True, in the early periods of my formation, when I made many tours, I felt like a steadfast tin soldier who lives in a crazy rhythm. I thought: if only to endure, if only to sing and not fall on the stage. And the halls and stages are all unfamiliar. Often, going out in public, I did not know what kind of stage space was waiting for me. But the audience sees all the little things, even how comfortable you are there."

Today, Irina would like the audience to come to her concert as to an unrealistically magical world in which everything would surprise, impress and fascinate them. So that they plunge into it and do not think about anything, but only feel the beauty of the sound of this world. Then, she is sure, one can achieve true art, when the performer and the audience are a single whole.

**"Is the literary sound of the song important to you?"**

"Good lyrics is the foundation of a song. I bow before the poetic classics, when everything in it is soulful, sublime, subtle. I was lucky to work with the best poets, composers, musicians. As a rule, I admire what I perform. Therefore, I am so reverent about the repertoire — musical and poetic. I communicate with the authors, understanding that this is their soul, their inner world, work on images, a flight of fantasy... It is very important to feel all this, convey it and act like an actor so that every viewer understands what you want to say. The profession of an artist is multifaceted, it accumulates a lot: you are a psychologist, a musician, and a poet... And if you still know how to teach, you see the process from the inside, you know the methods and techniques with which you teach those who will eventually enter the stage."

**"Are there any students about whom you can say that they hear and understand you well?"**

"There are. There are those who hear everything, and those who can read the musical intonation and convey it. But, alas, there are those who hear and understand well, but cannot reproduce the desired intonation. Again, students are different. You work with some for hours, while others can master something at once."

**"Today, to which of those who are in their last year can you predict a bright pop future?"**

"This year's graduation course is especially bright. I can single out talented performers:



Angelina Vasilevskaya, Aleksey Budko, Yelena Kuznetsova... I am very pleased to follow their performances. Now I am working with a young and also talented author Anna Blagova. She was my student when I worked at the university just as a teacher and was gathering a sophomore year. Today Anna writes beautiful songs. And she herself is a wonderful singer. Of the graduates and other students, I can name. Yevgeny Kurchich, winner of numerous competitions, he used to perform under the pseudonym Slutsky when he went on concert tours with me. Today he also teaches at the university. Andrei Kolosov, soloist of the Iosif Zhinovich Orchestra, who, by the way, has recently become a laureate of the President's Special Prize for Cultural and Art Workers. Yekaterina Muratova is also my graduate. Like Andrei, she played the main roles in musicals, and at the same time taught with us."

**"Do you involve your students in the teaching field?"**

"Someone must follow in our footsteps so that the best school is preserved and passed on."

**"Tell us about your activities in Parliament. This is also one of your incarnations..."**

"I was a deputy of the 6th convocation of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly. I was a member of the commission on education, science and culture. There, for three years, I gained rich life experience and shared my own. Just at that time, we were making improvements to the Law on Copyright and Related Rights. It seems to me that I also made my contribution in addition to this law. I was concerned about issues related to creative universities and higher education, so I tried to offer options for improving legislation in this area. It was also interesting to meet people, I wanted to help in solving their problems."

Irina admitted that she did not even expect that it would sometimes be so difficult for



■ Irina Dorofeeva became a member of the pioneer organization for the second time in the New Morning program on RTR-Belarus in 2015. She said there: "I remember my childhood. It was a crucial moment when, after we were Octobrists, we were accepted as pioneers. It was all very honorable. We all took a solemn oath that we would all be so patriotic. I remember with what trepidation I ironed this tie every day and made sure that everyone's tie was well ironed."

her to communicate with them on a daily basis. As an artist, she is in contact with the audience, they give her delight, positive emotions. Having become a deputy, she immediately felt the difference: people came to her to talk about problems, and she took these problems to heart. At some point, my interlocutor's eyes moistened. It was clear that Irina knew the feeling of empathy well. The work of the deputy brought her closer to the realities of life ('grounded'), to one in which there is a lot of pain, suffering, delusions, illusions. She, as she put it, while working in Parliament, matured a lot, formed as a person, because she saw life as it is. And she realised her profession in a different way. The artist, as she said, serves the people. Therefore, he or she must be sensitive and awaken the best feelings in people. At some point, Irina realised that she could miss something important in her profession, without which, as she put it, she could not live. To the question asked to herself: what can you do better than others, she then answered — to sing!

**"You seem to have had a reset thanks to your work in Parliament?"**

"I would say an upgrade. I again wanted to be who I was, to return to the stage, but more conscious, rethinking my creative path, my profession. The office work of a deputy requires a lot of perseverance, for sure someone will be able to

do it better than me. I'm different. My nature requires movement, liveliness, drive and creation. To do this, I need my own theatre, where I will run around the workshops, solving both economic and organisational issues, delving into the problems associated with construction or modernisation. I like all this very much. I know what construction is: I built a house myself, where I moved my parents from Mogilev. And I need leadership experience. This year I graduated from the Academy of Public Administration under the President of Belarus. Thanks to this study, I understand better what creation is."

**"This year, as you know, has been declared the year of peace and creation in Belarus. What does the world mean to you? Have you had the opportunity to feel for yourself what the absence of peace is, the state of war, at least in terms of relations with other people?"**

"War is always destruction, loss, pain, resentment, disappointment... All the worst is connected with it. We humans are either builders or destroyers. Each time one must choose either the side of creation or destruction. There is no third. And the peace in relations between people is something sacred for me. Therefore, I choose a compromise — in the name of peace. Even my name contains the concept of peace and tranquility. But communication with this or that person is a job to which you must devote both time and energy. If you don't like something in a relationship, distance yourself, go your own way, live by your own laws."

My laws are peaceful, I do not wish harm to anyone. That is, until someone wants to destroy my world. Then I will start to fight, and in this I will have no equal."

**"One wise man said: wars in the world will not stop until people stop producing anger, aggression, bad thoughts and even discontent with their own kind. However, many other modern thinkers and scientists say the same thing. And**

■ Irina Dorofeeva is not mannered and not pretentious in life, she loves silence and solitude. He says: "Of course, outside of performances, I am the same as in this photo. I'm different, just like on stage.

**what do you think about this?"**

"I am familiar with such ideas. I accept them. Unfortunately, a person is arranged in such a way that, it seems to me, it is difficult for him to realise a very simple thing concerning the causes of his failures and troubles, including his mood. And the reasons are not in anyone, but in himself. He is his own destroyer and creator. The world, like a large mirror, reflects to a person what is going on in his thoughts and feelings. But, alas, most of us think that other people prevent them from maintaining harmony in their souls."

**"What kind of people do you like?"**

"Let me tell you which ones I don't like first. Arrogant and haughty people. I don't understand why they think they are better than others. I am pleased with people who are calm, friendly, balanced. I am inspired by those who do not feel their age. They are happy."

**"How do you think happiness can be cultivated?"**

"Happiness, in my opinion, is connected with desires. Desire itself is akin to an idea. It is like a spark... It ignites a person and fills him with happiness. The desire to see the good in the world helps to ensure that this happens. I have observed this pattern many times."

**"Do you have many wishes?"**

"Oh yeah! Therefore, I am happy. Some desires become long-term, prolonged, some momentary. Here I drank a cup of coffee, enjoyed its taste, aroma — and I am happy! You need to enrich your world, learn to create yourself. Which is what I try to do. This is how I go on stage."

**"Do you know how to go out to the stage under any circumstances, in any mood?"**

"Yes, I do. This is already a great accumulated experience, it will not allow you to succumb to weakness. No matter what happens, no matter how you feel, no matter what unpleasant little things happen, all this becomes unimportant before going out into the public. On stage, you forget about troubles... The stage heals, you can't even imagine it. You run, jump, dance, do some somersaults, improvise and sing along the way... Then you go backstage and stay in a state of exaltation for a while... And only then do you realise how wonderful it would be to not leave this state. It is like a rejuvenating force: it makes you fresh, energetic..."

**"Modern folk music, traditional folk music, blues, jazz-rock, pop and rock, ballads... You are versatile in songwriting, convincing in all styles and guises. Such an amplitude would also delight Barbara**



**Streisand and Liza Minnelli, as one respected colleague complimented you in an interview. And yet: what song style is closest to your soul?”**

“They are all close to me. I love everything I do. Rock, and ballads, and jazz... I breathe this, passing everything through myself. I like to combine different styles.”

**“How do you ‘recover’ after stressful situations? They still happen. Maybe something or someone can help with this? Do you keep any instructive stories, advice on this matter as a ‘legacy’ from your grandmothers, parents?”**

“The main thing that I inherited from my relatives, especially my parents, is love. It is true when they say: happy are those children whose parents love each other. This is about my mom and dad. And about grandma and grandpa. And about me. My paternal grandmother was a nurse during the war years. She played the guitar, knew how to compose music, sang beautifully. In general, she was a poetic nature, but she could impress you with a strong word. And grandfather Ignat (lieutenant, veterinarian by profession, artist) died in the first days of the war. The only and last postcard from him came in July 1941. I still keep

it, as well as grandfather's paintings. And I have a song dedicated to my grandparents called Hello, Love! Grandma's name was Lyubov (Love). She carried this love throughout her life. She was strong-willed. From her and from my grandfather there is an important quality in my character: do not feel sorry for yourself under any circumstances. This is what I am saving. True, sometimes you want to (laughs). But if you are a fighter, then you have no right to weakness. Therefore, I do not strain anyone in my life with my experiences. Diseases, some unpleasant moments that happened to me and my older brother in childhood, we treated like trifles.”

On my mother's side, grandmother Anna and her sister Maria were needlewomen, everyone in their family embroidered and wove. Irina's mother Yevdokia then was engaged in arts and crafts, led this direction at the Mogilev School of Culture. Therefore, this topic also thrills Irina. She loves our national patterns, towels, tablecloths. When she sees this beauty, she is simply thrilled. It is also important for Irina what the pattern on her costume will be, how it will play, corresponding to the song image.

**“What did you inherit from your dad?”**

“Dad is a historian. His name is Arkady. Throughout his life, he led a school, a school of culture, his sphere of interest was teaching, ideology. From childhood, I was saturated with all this. Political news and everything that is happening in the world was discussed in the family. I, like dad, am not indifferent to what is happening today in Belarus. I am close to the ideology of the peaceful course of my country, peace initiatives, attention to the elderly and children. After all, in relation to them, one can judge the level of development of society. In addition, I am deeply convinced that the state is us. Therefore, I believe that a person should not shift responsibility for himself to the state, but think about how he can be useful for his country.”

**“How often do you have to do a ‘spring cleaning’ of your inner world? How close to you is the reasoning of the famous literary hero, the Little Prince of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, about the need, upon waking up, to clean your planet every day, weed out baobab sprouts on it so that when they grow up, they do not tear the planet apart with their roots?”**







■ The main thing that I inherited from my relatives, especially my parents, is love. It is true when they say: happy are those children whose parents love each other. This is about my mom and dad, Evdokia and Arkady. That's why it's so easy for me to sing about love.



"I understand that we are talking about the main thing here — about our inner world. How are things there? Is there a lot of negativity, bad thoughts in it? How to weed them out? That's why I try to pump myself up with positive information: I turn to good films, classical literature, music, walk in the woods, talk with a dog. She is the cutest creature. Just looking at her makes you smile. It is also very important that you are surrounded by kind, positive people." Irina Dorofeeva is not mannered and not pretentious in life, she loves silence and solitude, this is rest for her. Sensitive, emotional... She says: if you want to sing, then you are healthy, and when you don't want to, you are very sick... As for public life, she participates in all possible charity events. And not because it is so due to the status of a merited artist, but from the heart. Often she can be seen in the jury of various competitions. Irina understands that in a song career, when you are pursuing your dream, everything cannot be done on the principle of 'here and now'. Therefore,

she knows how to patiently wait for this moment and be ready for it. As she says, both morally, and physically, and creatively. She does not lose sight of what is planned, as she intuitively foresees at what stage, what and how will happen to her. And if circumstances permit, she will strive to get what she needs closer. She plans to have a solo concert dedicated to the 30th anniversary of her creative activity, she dreams of holding it at the Slavianski Bazaar. From there, her steps to the stage began in 1993. And in 1999, she took first place at the competition there, which was a great honour for both Irina and the country. The programme of the anniversary show is being prepared, work is underway on the repertoire. It is important, it is recognised, that the stars converge in July 2023, so that her solo concert fits into the programme of the Slavianski Bazaar. She dreams about it, and does everything in order to surpass herself. "And who else, if not me!" she says so famously, with a childlike uncomplicated faith in

success. If you, she admits, are 'focused' on success, it cannot be otherwise. In addition, having chosen the role of a locomotive for herself from a young age, she pushes everyone to move and pulls others along with her. She always sings with joy about what she likes and loves everything she does.

Her approach to life and work: I want, I love, I can! Therefore, the word 'no' is absent in the vocabulary of the Belarusian pop star: after all, a professional can do everything. What is Irina Dorofeeva still dreaming about? About peace. She sang a song about it from the repertoire of Sofia Rotaru with her 'alto voice' at the age of six, standing on the bedside table. So that the neighbours thought: Rotaru came to Mogilev. That very popular song is about a stork on the roof and peace on earth. And now she is preparing a song about the world of Anna Blagova and Anna Seluk My Shore. Irina sang a few lines to me: 'My shore, my home — everything is dear here // Here everyone will forgive and understand // Their young in the distant flights // Only the Motherland sincerely waits ...'. At that moment, I felt: Irina Dorofeeva loves this Motherland, our Belarus, immensely.

Valentina Zhdanovich

Photo from the personal archives

# WARM, COZY, SINCERE — LIKE AT HOME



Coffee culture in Belarus continues to develop from year to year  
and the number of coffee shops is growing

## A bit of history

How did coffee come to Belarus? There are different legends about this. Fascinating and reliable, in my opinion, are the stories about this exotic drink from the chef, expert in Belarusian and



■ Yelena Mikulchik, Belarusian and Slavic cuisine expert, author of fascinating stories about coffee and coffee culture in Belarus

Slavic cuisine, culinary historian, author of cookbooks, famous TV and radio host Yelena Mikulchik. According to her, coffee became popular in Belarus in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. It became an integral part of the life of the gentry, and by the beginning of the 19th century, Belarusian cities could not be imagined without coffee and coffee houses. There were 50 of them in Vilnius, 30 in Slonim, and a little over twenty in Minsk. Coffee was relatively inexpensive — for a cup of coffee they paid 6 half-kopecks, for comparison — a cup of tea was served for 3. In the 19th century, as Yelena Mikulchik tells, specially trained female coffee makers appeared, baristas in the modern sense who went from house to house, to make good coffee, without which the morning of the Belarusian aristocracy did not begin. Coffee was brewed in the Turkish manner in a cezve, it was quite strong and spices were often added: cardamom, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger and almonds. Drinking such a drink was

supposed to be like this: a sip, a pause, then a sip of water with lemon to refresh the receptors, so that the second sip of coffee was as bright as the first. After that, one had to pause again and take another sip of coffee. Then something sweet was served. Oriental sweets did not take root in our country: sugar and honey were served with coffee, and by the end of the 19th century they began to prepare special sweets. Yelena Mikulchik learned their recipe from a respectable lady who had gentry roots. Therefore, she knows how to cook them. On the Internet, you can learn a lot of interesting things about the appearance and preparation of these sweets (from [kubel.by](http://kubel.by)).

At all times, the expert notes, people wanted to live 'in a rich way', and when there was not enough money, recipes for coffee surrogates were born in the minds of savvy Belarusians. For example, if you take burdock roots, wash them, roast them in an oven to a dark colour, add well-dried rose hips without seeds and



■ Austrian Elmar Eger brews coffee with his family in the Belarusian village of Izubritsa, in the Verkhnedvinsk District in the Vitebsk Region.

■ Elmar says, "Coffee can give rise to friendship, warmth and sympathy, it brings people together, melts the ice of estrangement in relationships."



hairs to them, grind them into flour and brew, you will get a drink similar to coffee in colour and taste. Or a drink made from toasted barley, which can still be found on store shelves today. But it seems to us that though this is original it is not coffee. Only in recent decades have we been able to enjoy its different varieties. Although, until now, in many villages, old people would never agree to replace their herbal tea called 'zelki' with 'fashionable' coffee.

There is a lot of interesting information in the books of Yelena Mikulchik about whom we can thank both for coffee and for the dishes in which we cook it. It turns out that in the 15th century, the Turks learned what coffee was and began to prepare it in a cezve. It came to us from Turkey. Its other name is also known — jezve. By the 17th century, all of Europe was tasting this bitter product. Gradually, the fashion for coffee migrated to our latitudes. Initially, coffee beans were imported pointwise, as an exotic product. Coffee did not have a special distribution, because the public catering of that time had its own traditional drinks. Until the 19th century, the ancestors of modern Belarusians preferred to drink kvass, sbiten, willow herb tea, and gramatka was given a special place. It was served

for all occasions: as a light breakfast, as an act of respect for the interlocutor and as a factor in maintaining communication. Gramatka did everything that a cup of coffee does now. Gramatka is a dish, unfortunately, according to Yelena Mikulchik, forgotten, it is in Polish cuisine called 'beer soup', although this is not quite the first course. The real gramatka was prepared on the basis of beer and black bread with the addition of yolks, sour cream, caraway seeds, cinnamon, and in some cases ginger. Its taste is pleasantly bitter, which led to comparison with coffee.

The origin of coffee is still debated to this day. Arabs consider Yemen to be the birthplace of coffee, someone claims that it was discovered by Coptic monks (who lived in Egypt), whom coffee helped fight sleep during many hours of prayer. But it is known for certain, as Yelena Mikulchik writes, that coffee came to Europe thanks to the Litvin gentry Yuri Kulchitsky, who served in the army of the Polish king Jan III Sobieski. When in 1683 the troops of the Commonwealth defeated the Turks near Vienna, Kulchitsky found a couple of hundred bags of coffee in an abandoned Turkish camp and founded the first coffee house in Europe in Vienna.

In Russia, coffee houses began to open only in 1740. And in our time, coffee houses appeared there only in 1996. This market niche in Russia, as well as in Belarus, is in its infancy.

### What are coffee houses for?

Why do many Belarusians like coffee houses so much? Of course, everyone has their own preferences. Someone likes a coffee house for the opportunity to have a quick bite with a cup of strong espresso and then rush about their business. Or for the opportunity to relax in a fragrant atmosphere. Someone is carried away by thoughts into the past with pleasure, distracted from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, as you experience, for example, in the Vilenskaya coffee house in Grodno, where we happened to be. Interestingly, this city also has the coffee house Kakao, where, in addition to coffee, you can enjoy the taste of hot chocolate and cocoa. Someone likes to sit with a laptop, as in the Coffee Embassy in Minsk, which is opposite the Linguistic University, where frequent visitors are students and teachers of this university. Often they are there for coffee to communicate with English-speaking guests.

You can drink good coffee in the outback. We have not yet been able to visit one of the coffee houses, opened about three years ago in the village of Izubritsa, in the Verkhnedvinsk District in the north of the Vitebsk Region, although we rested nearby — in the Reserved Island agroestate. There we heard about the Krasny Bor Landscape Reserve, where this village is located. We will visit Izubritsa some day. I would like to get acquainted with the concept of the Traveling Elk coffee house, which belongs to the Austrian Elmar Eger. It is very close to us in spirit. And the point is this. For Elmar, coffee, as he says, is like airplane fuel, and it works like a black liquid bridge between people. To quote him, "For me, coffee is not just a drink, but rather a 'social glue' that brings people together. If we agreed to drink coffee together, we do not just sit silently and drink it, but we communicate, share news, opinions and emotions. I like the idea that coffee acts like a medicine that opens a person



to communication. We can get together to drink coffee and pay little attention to the drink itself while we are immersed in a conversation. Coffee unites — it's wonderful and very inspiring. I am touched by a small story from our life in the village: the neighbours on both sides of my house live there for a very long time — one family has been there for 30, and the second, 150 meters away — more than 10. And they never communicated with each other, never talked! Perhaps they saw each other periodically, greeted each other, but no more. And this despite the fact that Izubritsa is tiny. When we opened a coffee shop in our house a couple of months ago, both families came at the same time — and now they maintain good neighbourly relations. Coffee can give rise to friendship, warmth and sympathy, it brings people together, melts the ice of estrangement in relationships. Such a simple invitation: 'Hey, let's have coffee together' can grow into an exchange of ideas, into a creative project: many large companies were born over a cup of coffee — and plans drawn on napkins..." (from [coffeenews.by](http://coffeenews.by))

Austrian Elmar and Belarusian Aleksandrina met in 2004 in Minsk, when Elmar worked for Austrian Airlines. Now they have four children. The family first travelled around the world, and in 2018 the couple decided to settle in Minsk, Aleksandrina's hometown. When the pandemic broke out, the Ergers packed up, bought a motorhome and set off on a trip to Belarus. Elmar and Aleksandrina liked the village of Izubritsa so much that they first bought a house there, then opened a coffee house, and then stayed there to live.

People drive from Minsk just to enjoy a cup of coffee from Elmar. But the owner himself believes that their coffee house is even more about stories than about coffee. The Traveling Elk sign says 'Coffee&Stories'. Coffee for the Erger family serves as an occasion, stories are much more important. The director of documentaries, and the prima ballerina of the Bolshoi Theatre came to visit them — the coffee house has a strong force of attraction. But, however, we will tell you more about this family when we ourselves visit Izubritsa.



■ Psychologist Yelena Koval, "We will discuss what self-realisation is and why people strive for it, and for whom the process of self-realisation can become difficult and confusing?" At one of the meetings with those who need the help of a psychologist.

### Coffee in Kofta as a recharge for creativity

Coffee houses in Belarus are very different. For every taste. Each is good in its own way. There are more than a hundred of them in Minsk alone. There are coffee houses where you can come with a dog who will be offered a bowl of water. In many, where there is Wi-Fi, they will provide

the opportunity to work with a laptop for free. In Perspektiva, not far from Victory Square, coffee is brewed in an oriental way — in a cezve on the sand. In the 'flower' coffee house Kava i Kvetki you drink coffee, sitting among fresh flowers, which can be purchased. But in Kofta you can listen to a live saxophone, or solve your problems with a psychologist. For the kids, there is

a cosy children's corner for playing and communicating with peers. More than once I have heard how they tell each other their simple stories: they learn to communicate, socialise. We learned about Kofta and its owners four years ago. Kofta was strikingly different from other coffee shops 'dressed' in concrete, plastic or brick. It's warm, light, soulful...

Even during the day, candles are lit on the tables for guests in Kofta-2 — for cosiness and comfort. Comfortable sofas. Plaids in a cage. The abundance of soft, different shapes in coloured knitted pillow covers, since the name of the institution is also 'knitting': 'Kofta'. Behind one of the windows is a wall a meter from the coffee shop: after all, the room is semi-basement. However, thanks to the artists she knew, whom the hostess Irina Fedorova invited, the wall turned into a big picture with a huge tree, croissant clouds... Moreover, the whole world on this fabulous wall is created as if from under the knitting needles of a skilled knitter. And on a narrow green lawn in front of her, two cute rabbits graze, which, by the way, are very relevant this year of the Rabbit. And the centre of a small hall is decorated with two red hanging chairs, which are mounted on stable metal frames. They are the embodiment of the dream and pride of the hostess. Kofta is recognised by these chairs in numerous posts on social media, as she said, inviting us to the birthday of Kofta-2. By the way, such highly educated hostesses as Irina are few, as they say. She is a candidate of biological sciences, she presented her thesis. She published a book, successfully proved herself as a senior researcher at the Academic Institute of Zoology — now it is part of the Scientific and Practical Centre for Bioresources of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. And now, with her husband Aleksandr Fedorov, a former chemist and now a financial director, they continue to successfully master and develop a new business. We are talking with Irina in the cosy room of the new Kofta.

**"Irina, Kofta-2, let's call it that, is kind of like your second child. The one on Petra Mstislavtsa Street, Kofta-1, is already firmly on its feet, and this one is slowly gaining momentum, because**

**it is only a year old. Is there a lot of competition?"**

"Yes, there is. Close to Coffee Embassy and other coffee houses. So far, I can't even guess how long it will



■ Irina, "A coffee house is not just a business. This is something more — both for me and for my husband. I remember when we first opened, one person asked me: 'Do you like to meet guests?'. And I was happy to find the answer in myself: 'Yes, I like it very much!' Which is what I do."

take to turn around like on Mstislavtsa Street. The coffee house there is located in the Mayak Minska multifunctional complex. But what is interesting: here, in the Minsk World residential complex, is a more 'central' point than there. The coffee house is a five-minute drive from the train station, and the city centre is within easy reach. Although I understand that the location of the 'old' coffee house, even though it is further from the centre, has an indisputable advantage: it is not far from the National Library of Belarus, the symbol of the country, and the main avenue of Minsk, Nezavisimosti Avenue. And here a huge residential complex is growing: like a city in a city."

**"What can you say about your baristas?"**

"I'm satisfied with them — they all correspond to the modern level. Easily trainable. They have customer service skills, sociable, friendly, positive attitude. Capable of performing many tasks. By the way, they know how to determine the quality

of coffee beans. For example, Masha came to us already with experience as a barista. She used to work in the Polish city of Lublin when she studied there at the Maria Skłodowska-Curie University. She says that she is not going to run away from Kofta. According to her, there are people who are comfortable and pleasant to work with.

And we have six baristas in total: five girls and one young man. Moreover, Andrei came to the Kofta and said: I want to work only for you. There is also a girl Yana. She came almost at the same time with Masha. The guys work in both coffee shops according to a special schedule. Moreover, I build the work in such a way that they can be both there and here, in pairs and one at a time. The story of Katya's entry into the team is curious, as we taught her this profession from scratch, and she went to another coffee shop. She returned six months later, referring to the fact that we have a friendly team here. I took her. Now Katya is successfully working with us. There is also an administrator Viktoria. We work together as one team."

**"How did it happen that Kofta-2 opened on the birthday of Kofta-1?"**

"We didn't do anything specifically for this. So it happened. It was difficult with the interior: I had to change designers. After all, we have a concept that I like, that I want to offer to people, no matter how many Koftas have to open. This is a homely chamber atmosphere in which it is cosy to immerse yourself and communicate in it, in general, hygge (a concept that arose in the Scandinavian countries, denoting a feeling of cosiness and comfortable communication with feelings of well-being and satisfaction). And they offered to make an anti-Kofta. Judging by the first coffee shop, my concept is working. I confess that it is difficult for me to work with designers. They have their own vision, which may not coincide with mine. Let's, they said, do everything under gray concrete, no soft pillows... So I broke the contract with them. And became involved in the design myself. The cats, however, were painted by Aleksandr Borichevsky, the artist, the same one who painted the picture for the first Kofta. After all, cats fit into the concept, don't they?"





■ Barista Masha, "I'm not going to run away from this coffee shop. There are people here who are comfortable with. With everyone. They respect me as a person, appreciate my efforts, responsibility in my work. Therefore, you even wait for Irina Andreyevna and administrator Victoria to come. We don't have scolding from them. There is friendly, benevolent communication. I had to work in other coffee shops. That's why I appreciate the atmosphere in Kofta."

■ Barista Andrei, "I am happy to work at Kofta, because it is especially warm here in the conditions of friendliness and professionalism created by the owner of the coffee shop." The photo shows Andrei with predictions of the day for each visitor, which give them a positive mood and self-confidence.

It is something soft, fluffy, soothing... Playing with balls of thread. Moreover, interestingly, each cat here is a prototype of a living cat of a specific person with whom the artist is familiar or friendly. Depicted here — over there, on the shelf you can see his muzzle (shows) — and his black pet, who hides even in real life."

**"Do guests who have been to Kofta-1 come here?"**

"Yes, it happens. Someone remained faithful to the 'old' Kofta, someone often visits here. A matter of taste. But all of them say: it's atmospheric both there, and here. I had an idea to lower the ceilings to visually make the coffee shop more intimate. As in the first. But why? If the guests like it, then let it stay as it is for now. After all, koftas (sweatshirts) are different in real life

too! The main thing is to be aesthetically pleasing and warm."

**"The sun does not look into Kofta-1, but what about here?"**

"Here it does! This is a great advantage of the new premises. Already in the morning the rays of the sun fall on the oak tables. Wonderful! It's nice to take a cup of coffee and enjoy its taste, aroma and sunlight. In the warm season, we carried our hammock chairs and one table onto the porch at the entrance. I will say that this is how we stood out from the general 'crowd' of coffee houses and other catering outlets. They recognised Kofta by these chairs."

**"What about the menu?"**

"And the menu too. It is varied. In addition to different types of coffee —

coffee classics and branded ones — we have very tasty teas: sea buckthorn, spicy apple, pear with elderberry, cherry with thyme and others. One tea contains 9—12 ingredients. There are people who really like these teas. Therefore, we have expanded our tea menu. In Kofta-World, as well as in Kofta-Mayak (we can call our two coffee houses that way) there is an opportunity to have breakfast with oatmeal with banana and almonds, rice with mango puree and orange, couscous with sun-dried tomato. There are bowls with different fillings, sandwiches and other goodies. But we are not a restaurant or a cafe, we are a coffee house. Our main product is coffee. You can come and sit as long as you want just with a cup of coffee. It is possible with a laptop."

**"Do foreigners visit you?"**

"Often. Both on Mstislavtsa Street, and here. The Chinese, the Israelis, the British... Somehow even tourists from Australia visited. One Chinese student really likes the alternative way to brew coffee — v60."

**"What projects do you please your visitors with?"**

"One of the latest features is the monthly meetings of guests with a certified psychologist Yelena Koval. She is from the team of the popular Belarusian psychologist Anastasia Frid. Almost all guests of Kofta are satisfied."

**"What topic is most in demand in communication with a psychologist?"**

"The theme of anxiety in the modern world. Our subscribers in social media pre-book participation in this free seminar. It lasts two hours and is in high demand. We have already held the meeting four times, and each time the coffee shop was packed. And recently there was a meeting with volunteers from the charitable foundation — the Minsk branch of the Centre for Assistance to Cancer Patients in Grodno. I was approached from there with a request to congratulate the volunteers who work for them."

We went to a meeting, organised a sweet table with drinks. I was pleased to help people, even with the few that I can. Before that, I had never participated in such events. I confess that while communicating with them, my eyes were



wet: it was so difficult to hide both excitement and admiration. Not everyone is capable of helping people like these volunteers. Since, for psycho-emotional reasons, I myself cannot help cancer patients, I can be useful to those who help them.

Business meetings are also held in our two coffee houses. This is such a format when ten people meet and discuss professional issues that are relevant to them."

**"Irina, are you going to return to science? How is the relationship with the past?"**

"I'm unlikely to return to biology... There is a lot to do. As for the past, I communicate with those with whom I studied and then worked at the Academy of Sciences. There are friends who visit both the first and the second Kofta. Some of them continue to work where they worked. I need a movement in which I can fulfil myself. Knit sweaters, scarves... Greet guests... So coffee houses are not just a business. This is something more — both for me and for my husband."

**"That is, you like to move walls, raise or lower ceilings, develop a design, assemble a team, create beauty and do good deeds ... In general, be creative?"**

"And so you can say. You have not been in the 'old' Kofta for a long time. And there is innovation. If you remember, there was a grey wall, I decided to remove the dullness. I painted it in a bright colour, took a photo of our dishes and posted them on the wall. It turned out beautifully. The guests are delighted. The coffee shop has scope. I can constantly introduce something new: both in the coffee menu and in the interior. Watch how this new fit in: whether it is liked by visitors. Let's say tea with blueberries and lavender. It was know-how. Or a meeting with a psychologist. Observed the perception of the guests. I was worried if you'd like it. So far they like it."

**"It remains to build an aviary for fluffy cats. Here we can rent ours for free. Decorate a coffee shop..."**

"(laughing) I know that there is a cat cafe in the Museum of the Cat, also coffee houses where they go with dogs, but with cats... It seems that certain conditions need to be created for cats..."

**"Do you make coffee yourself, do you not only drink it?"**

"Of course, I make. After all, before I opened my first coffee house, I studied barista courses. As for enjoying the taste of coffee, I am a coffee lover. Probably, this wonderful drink has a positive effect on my centre of creativity. No wonder they say that coffee is a panacea for creative infertility."

Valentina and Ivan **Zhdanovich**

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БЕЛАРУСЬ, МІНСК  
Листопад 2023

93

*VISUAL IMAGES AND  
SOULFUL MELODIES,*



*OR JOY AND  
DELIGHT FROM  
THE DIVERSITY  
OF THE WORLD*







**T**he Palace of Arts Republican Gallery of the Union of Artists of Belarus hosted an exhibition of Andrei Vysokinsky called *Consonance*, which left a bright bunch of impressions

“A person and emotions are inseparable, they are born in us as a living natural reaction to the world around us and a series of events. Emotions act like the sounds of our soul, creating a personality melody, with their help we can hear what our soul is consonant with ...” In these author’s reflections there is, to a certain extent, the essence of the artist’s creative credo.

Andrei Vysokinsky explores the world around him through abstract painting. In his creative process, there is both intuition and a rational part. Any theme that has affected the artist can serve as an impulse to start work: an event, a visual image, or a craving for a particular colour.

When approaching the canvas, the artist lets go of himself, listens to feelings and emotions, allows himself maximum freedom of self-expression. Having received the expressive result of an intuitive painting, he analyses it and decides how to finish the picture, preserving the liveliness and energy of the canvas.

The final stage of work is the title of the picture, which sometimes comes immediately, and sometimes takes time. The artist never changes its name, the first reaction to the born image is important for him.

In his painting, Andrei Vysokinsky seeks to reveal the inner world of a person, depicting their sensual states through

colour, spot, texture, juggling with them, composes melodic portraits of emotions. The artist makes these works based on himself, records his states, but they bear the universal character of human life. In dialogue with the paintings, the viewers can listen to their spiritual melodies, responding to visual images, entering into consonance with them or dissonance. Any reaction here is valuable, because it carries information about the inner world of a person.

But the main melody of the artist is joy and delight from the diversity of the world, which he shares with the viewer, exuding optimism and a thirst for life on bright expressive canvases.

This is the view from the outside: after getting acquainted with the *Consonance* exhibition. However, these subjective





## ORIGINAL AUTHOR'S STYLE



author's sketches very much intersect with the diary entries of the artist himself. Look here:

"My name is Andrei Vysokinsky.

I am a painter. In my abstract paintings, I strive to convey a positive vision of life, to inspire with bright colours and textures.

It is no secret that everything that surrounds us affects our mood, emotions, feelings.

Life can be as colourful and beautiful as we imagine it to be. Let's surround ourselves with positivity.

I create my works intuitively to the music, capturing the state of the present moment. In my paintings, everyone will see various images that were revealed only for them, consonant with their soul.

I use brushes and a palette knife to give each painting its own unique texture, I

use different techniques, I am constantly experimenting.

When writing pictures, I use only high-quality materials.

I draw inspiration from music, art, nature, conveying impressions through my feelings, through my inner world.

In my opinion, positive abstract paintings can transform the surrounding space, fill it with positive energy, inspire creativity, travel, new achievements, self-knowledge. With my work, I strive to bring harmony, joy of life and good mood to the world around me, and I want to share this with you."

By the way, Andrei Vysokinsky's works are in private collections in Belarus, the USA, Japan, Germany, Italy, Great Britain, France and Russia.

Veniamin **Mikheyev**

# ПАЛІТЫКА МІРУ І ЗГОДЫ



ГОЛАС РАДЗІМЫ | Весткі з Беларусі



Падтрымка беларусаў замежжа, абарона іх інтарэсаў заўсёды былі сярод прыярытэтаў дзяржаўнай палітыкі нашай краіны. У 2014 годзе згодна з Законам “Аб беларусах замежжа” вызначаны структуры, якія адказваюць за наладжванне сувязяў з суайчыннікамі. У гэтым жа годзе пры Міністэрстве замежных спраў створаны Кансультатыўны савет па справах беларусаў замежжа, які ўзначальвае міністр замежных спраў. На сёння ў свеце налічваецца больш за 200 грамадскіх аб’яднанняў нашых суайчыннікаў за мяжой, толькі ў Расійскай Федэрацыі – іх 81. У снежні на сёмым пасяджэнні Кансультатыўнага савета па справах беларусаў замежжа, на якое прыбылі прадстаўнікі дзяспары з розных краін, былі падведзены вынікі сумеснай работы за год і абмеркаваны планы па далейшаму паглыбленню супрацоўніцтва.

Пра тое, якія магчымасці адкрываюцца перад беларусамі замежжа дзякуючы такой супрацы, гутарым з начальнікам галоўнага ўпраўлення шматбаковай дыпламатыі Міністэрства замежных спраў Рэспублікі Беларусь Ірынай Вялічка.

— У Кансультатыўным савеце – прадстаўнікі каля 20 грамадскіх аб’яднанняў. Мы спецыяльна не рабілі гэтую структуру вялікай, у ёй – толькі найбольш актыўныя грамадскія арганізацыі суайчыннікаў, – адначыла ў пачатку размовы Ірына Аляксандраўна. – Беларусы пражываюць па ўсім свеце, але не ўсюды яны аб’яднаны ў пэўныя арганізацыі. Па просьбе нашых суайчыннікаў мы кропкава ўключаем у савет і прадстаўнікоў з розных краін. Такая сітуацыя была з Іарданіяй, якую спачатку прадстаўляла актывістка Аксана Чамеза, а праз чатыры гады было створана Культурна-асветніцкае аб’яднанне беларусаў Іарданіі. Мы лічым, што Кансультатыўны савет даў імпульс для развіцця гэтага аб’яднання.

— Сёння актыўнасць гэтай маладой арганізацыі ўражае, свае напрацоўкі яны ўжо трансляюць сярод аб’яднанняў беларусаў у іншых краінах. Далучаюць да сваіх праектаў дзяцей, для якіх такі вопыт па наладжванні кантактаў з ровеснікамі пасля будзе карысным у іх дарослым жыцці. Але ці магла б гэта арганізацыя і многія іншыя так вырасці, калі б не падтрымка з Беларусі?

— Сапраўды, мы не толькі ідэалагічна і маральна адзін аднаго падтрымліваем, вельмі важная і матэрыяльная дапамога. Напрыклад, удзел у Кансультатыўным савеце цалкам забяспечваецца за кошт дзяржавы. У межах праграмы “Культура Беларусі”, падпраграмы “Беларусы ў свеце” таксама аказваецца сур’ёзная дапамога: за бюджэтныя сродкі для суайчыннікаў набываюцца касцюмы, друкаваная прадукцыя, літаратура, музычныя інструменты. Па лініі Рэспубліканскага цэнтра нацыянальных культур праводзяцца семінары. Праграма скіраваная на падтрымку і захаванне беларускасці ў свеце, на прасоўванне нашых моўных, культурных здабыткаў. І мы ўдзячныя беларусам замежжа, што яны ў краінах пражывання захоўваюць свае нацыянальныя традыцыі. І, дарэчы, робяць уклад у развіццё тых краін, у якіх яны знаходзяцца.





■ 54 Сёмае пасяджэнне Кансультацыйнага савета па справах беларусаў замежжа. Фота Яўген Пясецкі.

Беларусы, іх патэнцыял, адукацыйны ўзровень, прафесійныя магчымасці запатрабаваныя ў свеце.

Аказваецца і гуманітарная дапамога. Сюды, на радзіму, людзі прыязджаюць на лячэнне. Ёсць запатрабаванасць суайчыннікаў навучаць дзяцей ў Беларусі.

Кансультацыйны савет мае добрую магчымасць не толькі прасоўваць нашыя нацыянальныя дасягненні, але і дае беларусам замежжа ад радзімы свайго рода эмацыянальнае падсілкаванне, падтрымлівае патэнцыял іх грамадскіх аб'яднанняў. Хочацца падзякаваць беларусам замежжа за тое, што яны заўсёды адгукаюцца на ініцыятывы. Сёмае пасяджэнне стала лагічным падвядзеннем вынікаў. Мы абмеркавалі праекты, якія сумесна рэалізуем і якія робяцца для развіцця рознабачковых кантактаў. Важна, што суайчыннікі не страчваюць сувязі з радзімай, шчыра цікавяцца грамадска-палітычнай, эканамічнай і сацыяльна-культурнай сітуацыяй у

краіне. Мы з задавальненнем дзелімся інфармацыяй, якую яны хочуць ад нас атрымаць. Мы заўсёды выступалі за тое, каб Кансультацыйны савет праходзіў вочна, каб беларусы замежжа маглі прыехаць на зямлю, якая для многіх з іх застаецца першай радзімай. Знаходзячыся тут, яны могуць бачыць усе на ўласныя вочы, на асабістых адчуваннях фарміраваць непрадзятую адносіны пра Беларусь.

— **Якія новыя праекты плануецца рэалізаваць у будучым?**

— Ёсць ідэя з дапамогай беларусаў замежжа адшукаць выпускнікоў савецкіх ці беларускіх ВНУ, якія пражываюць у іншых краінах. У Беларусі дзейнічае Міжнародная асацыяцыя выпускнікоў ВНУ і мы думаем, што будзе добра, калі з дапамогай нашых суайчыннікаў пашырым яе склад.

Традыцыйна суайчыннікі запрашаюцца на ўсе фестывалі. Летась упершыню беларусы замежжа бралілі непасрэдны ўдзел у Фесты-

валі нацыянальных культур, які праводзіцца для нацыянальных меншасцяў, што пражываюць у нашай краіне. Мы палічылі, што будзе правільным, каб беларусы замежжа, якія ў краінах пражывання таксама прадстаўляюць нацыянальныя меншасці, змаглі далучыцца да такога мерапрыемства. Спадзяёмся, што такая практыка прыжывецца, і ў наступны раз будзе больш калектываў, якія змогуць прыняць узяць удзел у фестывалі.

— **Мінулы год у нашай краіне быў абвешчаны годам гістарычнай памяці. Як гэтая тэма была прадстаўлена ў праектах, звязаных з беларусамі замежжа?**

— Праходзілі брыфінгі, круглыя сталы. Гэту тэму нельга замоўчваць. Беларусь яшчэ ў складзе Савецкага Саюза стала краінай заснавальніцай Арганізацыі Аб'яднаных Нацый, нават за яе ўнёсак у перамогу над фашызмам. Беларусы замежжа заўсёды далучаюцца да памятных ак-



цый і мерапрыемстваў, а таксама наладжваюць іх самі, адзначаюць даты 9 мая, 22 чэрвеня (Сусветны дзень памяці ахвяр Вялікай Айчыннай вайны і генацыду беларускага народа), 17 верасня (Дзень народнага адзінства). На пасяджэнні Кансультацыйнага савета вялікую цікавасць выклікала дыскусія з прадстаўніком Генеральнай пракуратуры, які падзяліўся звесткамі аб новых фактах генацыду беларускага народа. Дасягнута дамоўленасць абмяняцца інфармацыйнымі матэрыяламі. Нашы суайчыннікі папрасілі накіраваць ім літаратуру па гэтай тэме.

Міністэрства замежных спраў праводзіла круглыя сталы ў рамках міжнародных арганізацый. Мы таксама апублікавалі ў якасці афіцыйнага дакумента Генеральнай Асамблеі ААН і Савета бяспекі памятную запіску з падыходамі з пазіцыі Рэспублікі Беларусь аб генацыдзе ў адносінах да беларускага народа і недапушчэнні скажэння гістарычнай памяці. Лічым, што гэты важны дакумент дазваляе данесці да ўсёй сусветнай супольнасці нашу пазіцыю. Яна была даведзена нават да тых, хто не хацеў яе ўбачыць і пачуць.

— **2023-і абвешчаны ў Беларусі годам міру і стварэння. Ці можна сказаць, што Беларусь можа з’яўляцца крыніцай памяці пра тое, якія жахі прынесла Другая сусветная вайна, і праз гэту праўду якраз і паказваць, наколькі важна захоўваць мір?**

— Сапраўды, у Беларусі кожная пядзя зямлі прапітана крывёй, болем. Такой колькасці помнікаў, як у нас, напэўна, няма болей нідзе. Рэ-

спубліка знаходзілася пад акупацыяй і была тэрыторыяй транзіту, па якой фашысцкія войскі прайшлі і ў адзін, і ў другі бакі. А яшчэ тут было магутнае супраціўленне ворагу з боку насельніцтва, Беларусь стала партызанскай рэспублікай. Канешне, гэту памяць мы будзем захоўваць.

Мы не павінны дапусціць перапісвання вынікаў Другой сусветнай вайны. Таму мы ўдзячныя беларусам замежжа, якія ў краінах пражывання (пераважна гэта датычыцца заходніх дзяржаў) займаюцца пошукам месцаў баявой славы з удзелам нашых

рыялаў і помнікаў. На жаль, іх у заходніх краінах становіцца ўсё менш. З гісторыі старонак не выкрасліш. Можна “сцерці” хіба ў галовах асобных заходніх палітыкаў. Моладзь не павінна паддавацца навязванню аднабокіх і ўтрыраваных успрыманняў вынікаў Другой сусветнай вайны. Гэта тая палітыка, якая, мы ўпэўнены, робіць дэструктыўны ўнёсак у розумы і далейшы жыццёвы ўклад маладога пакалення, бо, акрамя як міжнацыянальнай варожасці, гэта не мае ніякага другога сэнсу. Нават з пункту гледжання маралі гэта абсурд. Трэба ўлічваць, што помнікі

– гэта і архітэктурныя творы. Іх знішчэнне – непавага да аўтараў, якія гэтыя помнікі рабілі.

— **Наколькі сёння Беларусь прывабная для турыстаў?**

— Мы бачым, як расце патрэба ў развіцці настальгічнага турызму і гатовы аказваць падтрымку беларусам замежжа, якія хочуць наведаць родныя мясціны, могілкі, дзе пахаваныя продкі. Асабліва такая дапамога актуальная для тых, у каго тут ужо не засталася сваякоў, сяброў. Мы імкнёмся папулярызаваць нашы турыстычныя магчымасці сярод беларусаў замежжа. Праводзілася вялікая прэзентацыя па лініі

Міністэрства спорту і турызму. Нашых суайчыннікаў зацікавіў гастронамічны турызм, культурна-пазнавальны, прамысловы, эканамічны, санаторна-курортны, медыцынскі. Беларусы замежжа наведвалі такія нашы прадпрыемствы, як “МАЗ”, “Камунарку”, Парк высокіх тэхналогій. Ёсць магчымасць такім чынам прасоўваць і нашы эканамічныя магчымасці. Беларусі ёсць чым ганарыцца. А яшчэ наш турызм крэатыўны. І галоўнае: у нас ёсць добрая перавага – захаванне культурнай самабытнасці, гістарычных каранёў, падтрымка памятных

■ Начальнік галоўнага ўпраўлення шматбаковай дыпламатыі Міністэрства замежных спраў Рэспублікі Беларусь Ірына Вялічка.



суайчыннікаў, збіраюць у архівах даныя пра канцэтрацыйныя лагеры, дзе былі закатаваныя беларусы, а таксама дзеляцца інфармацыяй пра месцы памяці, якія звязаны з Беларуссю і яе грамадзянамі, у замежных дзяржавах. Усё гэта актуальна ў рамках дзяржаўнай палітыкі ў адносінах да генацыду беларускага народа. Шмат мерапрыемстваў у рамках Года гістарычнай памяці прайшло і па лініі нашых дыпламатычных устаноў з удзелам беларусаў замежжа. Гэта ўдзел у памятных акцыях, ускладанне кветак і вяноў да мема-

мясцін, нематэрыяльнай спадчыны, традыцый, звычаяў. Палітыцы захавання беларускай ідэнтычнасці ўдзяляецца асаблівая ўвага.

Як вядома, у Рэпрэзентатыўны спіс нематэрыяльнай культурнай спадчыны ЮНЕСКА прыняты традыцыі саломаліцення Беларусі. Нашы суайчыннікі зацікавіліся гэтай традыцыяй. Плануецца, калі ў наступны раз яны будуць наведваць нашу краіну па праграмах Рэспубліканскага цэнтра нацыянальных культур, зрабіць для іх больш маштабную прэзентацыю. Без самабытнасці, без культурных, моўных асаблівасцяў чалавек раствараецца ў глабалізаваным свеце.

— **Прадстаўнікі дыяспары, якія прыязджаюць з далняга замежжа, уздымаюць пытанні аб увядзенні бязвізавага рэжыму не толькі пры наведванні краіны праз аэрапорт, але і пры пераездзе на аўтамабільным транспарце. Таксама**

**скардзяцца на адсутнасць прамых рэйсаў у Беларусь. Атрымліваецца, што санкцыі парушаюць камунікацыю людзей з блізкімі, сябрамі, перашкаджаюць пошукам сваіх каранёў?**

— Гэта пытанне ўздымалася і ў межах Кансультацыйнага савета. Мы пра яго гаворым на нашых пляцоўках, пры двухбаковых кантактах і з заходнімі краінамі, і з краінамі-партнёрамі. Мы лічым, што санкцыйная палітыка – гэта наогул архаічны элемент узаемадзення паміж дзяржавамі. Ёсць дыялагавыя пляцоўкі, ёсць кантакты, пытанні заўсёды павінны вырашацца толькі шляхам дыялогу. Метад прымусу вядзе да разбурэння сувязяў паміж народамі, таму мы заўсёды гаворым, што разумных, невыбіральных санкцый няма. Яны, на жаль, б'юць па самых неабароненых пластах грамадства. Шкада, што ёсць вялікія складанасці з лагістычнымі магчымасцямі, з

вядзеннем бізнесу. Але, як адзначыў Прэзідэнт Беларусі, у санкцыях мы бачым для сябе і акно магчымасцяў.

Любыя праблемы вырашальныя, аднак для гэтага патрэбны час. З 2017 года ў нас дзейнічае бязвіз пры наведванні краіны авіятранспартам. І мы думаем пра пашырэнне магчымасцяў у гэтым кірунку. Па ініцыятыве Прэзідэнта ўведзены бязвізавы ўезд для грамадзян памежных дзяржаў. У многім гэта зняло праблемы для наведвання не толькі беларусам замежжа, але і грамадзянам Польшчы, Літвы, Латвіі, Эстоніі. І мы бачым, як актыўна да нас едуць госці. Будзем разглядаць гэтае пытанне і надалей. Зразумела, не ўсё гладка. Ёсць элементы запужвання тых замежнікаў, якія хочуць прыехаць у Беларусь. Даходзіць да таго, што людзям расказваюць, як тут небяспечна. Аднак хто пабывалі ў нас, вяртаюцца ў сваю краіну і разбуряю-

■ Удзельнікі сёмага пасяджэння Кансультацыйнага савета па справах беларусаў замежжа.







ць гэтыя стэрэатыпы. Расказваюць, што Беларусь – абсалютна бяспечная, чыстая, спакойная краіна.

— **Можна сказаць, што ўвядзенне бязвізавага рэжыму сведчыць пра адкрытасць краіны?**

— Мы заўсёды пра гэта гаворым. І цікавасць да наведвання Беларусі заўсёды вельмі высокая. Гэта добры элемент, каб паказаць узровень развіцця, патэнцыял краіны. Каранавірус падкасіў турызм па ўсім свеце, а пасля санкцыйная палітыка звязла на “не” лагістычныя сувязі. Але Беларусь заўсёды выступала за міралюбівую палітыку. Мы ўвесь час з усімі сябравалі. Ва ўсіх краін СНД былі ці ёсць тэрытарыяльныя праблемы, і толькі Беларусь жыла спакойна і міралюбіва з усімі: і з суседзямі, і з краінамі дальняга замежжа. Мы заўсёды казалі, што суседзяў не выбіраюць, з імі сябруюць. Гэта неабходнасць. Мы абавязаны жыць у міры, адзін аднаго падтрымліваць.

Зыходзячы з гэтых пасылаў будзем прасоўваць і далей нашы прыярытэты. Мы ўдзячныя ўсім нашым суайчыннікам, якія неабыхавя ставяцца да лёсу нашай краіны. Тым, хто жадае ёй міру і добра. Тым, хто не паддаецца на правакацыі, і тым, хто не нясе дэструктыўныя ідэі і дэструктыўныя пасылы, што могуць знішчыць усе нашы здабыткі, каштоўнасці, якімі ганарылася Беларусь. Мы будзем працягваць узаемадзеянне з беларусамі замежжа. Мы ніколі не палітызавалі гэтую тэму, ніколі не дзялілі беларусаў, якія пражываюць за мяжой, на добрых і дрэнных. Мы дзейнічаем толькі ў рамках нашага закона, узаемадзейнічаем на прынцыпах узаемапавагі і партнёрства. Мы падтрымліваем праекты, скіраваныя беларусамі замежжа на рэалізацыю іх нацыянальных, культурных моўных правоў, якія імкнуцца да ўмацавання і ўзаемадзеяння Беларусі з тымі краінамі, у якіх яны

пражываюць, і чые інтарэсы адпавядаюць нашым нацыянальным інтарэсам. Таму мы ніколі не праводзілі размежавальных ліній і гатовыя рабіць усялякае садзейнічанне беларусам замежжа. Мы адчуваем, што патрэбны нашым суайчыннікам, яны заўсёды могуць разлічваць на сваю радзіму. Яны ведаюць, што Беларусь – гасцінная, заўсёды адкрытая для іх. Тая светлая краіна, якая ніколі не адмаўляецца ад сваіх грамадзян. І нашы суайчыннікі нам патрэбныя, таму што яны дазваляюць інтэграваць Беларусь у свет. Можна ў пашпартах змяніць надпісы, але ментальна і душой людзі ніколі не страчваюць сувязь з радзімай. Мы бачым, з якой радасцю і цеплынёй суайчыннікі прыязджаюць да нас. Бачым, як яны радуюцца нашым поспехам і заўсёды чуюм ад іх: “Беражыце Беларусь, бо лепш за яе нічога няма”. І мы будзем гэты наказ выконваць.

Алена **Дзядзюля**



# СТАРОНКІ БОЛЮ

У Нацыянальнай  
бібліятэцы прайшла  
прэзентацыя зборнікаў  
“Без тэрміну даўнасці.  
Беларусь”

У шасці зборніках надрукавана больш за тысячу дакументаў, многія з іх упершыню сталі агульнадаступнымі. За кожнай старонкай – страты, гора, боль беларускага народа. Кожны са зборнікаў змяшчае інфармацыю пра ваенныя злачынствы 1941–1944 гадоў супраць мірнага насельніцтва рэспублікі. Тут можна пабачыць дакументы і ўспаміны сведкаў, якія датычацца знішчэння ў гета, канцэнтрацыйных лагерах, турмах. Уражваюць лічбы знішчэння вясковага насельніцтва. Работа па пошуку звестак пра “вогненныя” вёскі не спыняецца да гэтага часу. Апошняя лічба, якую агучылі архівісты, – 9300 спаленых населеных пунктаў.

З першых месяцаў акупацыі на захопленых беларускіх землях гітлераўцы праводзілі карныя аперацыі. Толькі на тэрыторыі Віцебшчыны такіх буйных аперацый было больш за 42. Такім чынам акупанты хацелі не проста знішчыць партызанскія атрады, але і пазбавіць іх любых рэсурсаў, пакінуць выпаленую зямлю. Падчас карных аперацый рабаваліся дамы, забіраліся сельгаспрадукцыя і скаціна, частку насельніцтва акупанты вывозілі на прымусовыя работы ў Германію. Безабаронных старых, жанчын і дзяцей палілі разам з хатамі. У Віцебскай вобласці больш за 240 вёсак у гады вайны гарэлі двойчы, яшчэ каля сотні – тры і больш разоў.

Як паведаміў дырэктар Нацыянальнага архіва Рэспублікі Беларусь Андрэй Дземянюк, праца над зборнікамі вялася два гады, былі перагледжаны дакументы Нацыянальнага і абласнога архіваў. За гэты час устаноўлены новыя факты, удакладнены і дапоўнены раней вядомыя звесткі. У навуковы зварот уведзены ўнікальныя крыніцы злачынстваў фашысцкіх акупантаў.

Шасцітомнік прадстаўляе дакументы пра злачынствы, здзейсненыя ў кожнай вобласці, а таксама дакументы звязаныя з расследаваннем тых падзей і мемарылізацыяй памяці. Сярод крыніц, выкарыстаных пры падрыхтоўцы кніг – дакументы з архіўных фондаў Беларускага штаба партызанскага руху, крымінальныя справы пасляваенных гадоў на злачынцаў, якія знішчалі безабаронных людзей і былі



асуджаныя ваеннымі трыбуналамі на тэрыторыі Беларусі.

Шасцітомнік – вынік напружанай работы гісторыкаў, архівістаў, краязнаўцаў. У кнігах пададзены дакументы з архіваў не толькі Беларусі, але і Расіі, Германіі, Злучаных Штатаў Амерыкі. Новыя ўнікальныя звесткі будуць карысныя даследчыкам, якія распрацоўваюць тэмы, звязаныя з Вялікай Айчыннай вайной.

Беларускія архівісты пры падрыхтоўцы выдання шчыльна супрацоўнічалі з расійскімі калегамі з фонда “Гістарычная памяць” і “Асацыяцыя гісторыкаў Саюзнай дзяржавы “Саюзная ініцыятыва памяці і згоды”. У Расіі ў 2020 годзе на федэральным узроўні ўжо быў рэалізаваны такі ж праект “Без тэрміну даўнасці”.

Матэрыялы, прадстаўленыя ў зборніках, ляглі ў аснову крымінальнай справы па факце генацыду беларускага народа ў гады вайны. Кіраўнік следчай групы па расследаванні крымінальнай справы, начальнік упраўлення па надзоре за расследаваннем асабліва важных крымінальных спраў Генеральнай пракуратуры Валерый Талкачоў заўважыў, што ў час расследавання стала відавочным, што маштаб трагедыі быў значна большым, чым лічылася раней. Удакладняць і ўстанаўліваць новыя звесткі дапамагаюць вучоныя, гісторыкі і простыя грамадзяне. Ужо апытана больш за 12 тысяч сведак, сярод якіх як непасрэдня ўдзельнікі ваенных падзей, так і нашчадкі, якім бацькі і дзяды распаўдалі пра злачынствы, што ад-

бываліся. Новыя даныя паступаюць у пракуратуру і пры падтрымцы калег з Расійскай Федэрацыі. Створана сумесная следчая група са следчым камітэтам РФ, рабочая група з Генеральнай пракуратурай Расіі. Як вынік, штомесяц паступаюць звесткі, аблічбаваныя дакументы, у тым ліку нямецкія.

Вялікая ўвагаўдзяляецца інфармацыйнаму, ідэалагічнаму і прававому кірунку. Летась быў прыняты Закон “Аб генацыдзе беларускага народа. Праводзіцца работа, накіраваная на выхаванне падрастаючага пакалення. Сёння, калі ў свеце пераглядаецца гісторыя і многія даныя скажаюцца, важна данесці праўду да моладзі. Як заўважыў Валерый Талкачоў, такім чынам мы захоўваем памяць пра ахвяр, пра подзвіг нашых продкаў, што з’яўляецца духоўнай асновай жыцця нашага грамадства. Інфармацыйная, прававая, ідэалагічная работа будзе працягнута на аснове матэрыялаў крымінальнай справы.

Шасцітомнік “Без тэрміну даўнасці. Беларусь” утрымлівае вялікую колькасць жаклівых фактаў, змяшчае кадры з месцаў масавага знішчэння людзей, паказвае абгарэлыя і скалечаныя целы, папалішчы і разваліны. Ці павінна памяць пра Вялікую Айчынную вайну быць такой жорсткай? Ці трэба яе менавіта так падаваць новым пакаленням? Ці магчыма інфармацыяй пра вайну, як маштабную, невылечную рану, данесці наступным пакаленням пасыл аб недапушчэнні паўтарэння падобных трагедый? Дырэктар Інстытута гісторыі НАН Беларусі Вадзім Лакіза ўпэўнены, што з мэтай недапушчэння скажэння гістарычнай памяці трэба прымаць больш жорсткія рашэнні па прапагандзе і паказе гэтай праўды.

Алена **Дзядзюля**



■ Прэзентацыя выдання ў Нацыянальнай бібліятэцы Беларусі

# ГРУНТОЎНЫ ЁНЁСАК У ЭНЦЫКЛАПЕДЫЧНУЮ СКАРБОНКУ

**Прэзідэнт Беларусі Аляксандр Лукашэнка прысудзіў прэміі «За духоўнае адраджэнне» і спецыяльныя прэміі дзеячам культуры і мастацтва. За значны ўклад у выхаванне любові да радзімы, даследаванні гісторыка-культурнай спадчыны і выпуск навуковага энцыклапедычнага выдання «Гарады і вёскі» адзначаны калектыў Цэнтра даследаванняў беларускай культуры, мовы і літаратуры Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук Беларусі.**

У дваццаці тамах выдання на падставе архіўных і іншых крыніц сабраны багаты матэрыял па гістарычным, сацыяльна-эканамічным і культурным развіцці ўсіх адміністрацыйна-тэрытарыяльных адзінак Беларусі: 6 абласцей, 118 раёнаў, а таксама вёсак і хутароў, у тым ліку тых, якія перасталі існаваць. Пра некаторыя населеныя пункты інфармацыя падаецца ўпершыню.

Аналагаў падобнаму выданню няма не толькі ў Беларусі, але і ў краінах СНД. Задума аб стварэнні энцыклапедыі, у якіх будзе сабрана інфармацыя пра здабыткі і культуру розных народаў, узнікла яшчэ ў часы існавання Саветаў Саюза, тым не менш даведзена да канца яна была толькі ў суверэннай Беларусі.

Яшчэ да развалу СССР айчыныя даследчыкі паспелі выдаць «Збор помнікаў гісторыі і культуры Беларусі», у якім пададзена інфармацыя пра архітэктурныя аб'екты і помнікі, звязаныя з Вялікай Айчыннай вайной. Вопыт, атрыманы пры падрыхтоўцы збору, падштурхнуў вучоных да по-

шуку матэрыялаў для новых маштабных прац. Менавіта з 80-х гадоў пачаў назапашвацца матэрыял, які быў выкарыстаны пры падрыхтоўцы энцыклапедычных выданняў. Сёння нават цяжка падлічыць, колькі сцэжак пройдзена даследчыкамі, колькі людзей апытана, перагледжана архіўных дадзеных і занатавана каштоўных звестак па гісторыі розных населеных пунктаў Беларусі. У шматтомніку прадстаўлена інфармацыя пра 24 тысячы паселішчаў. Яна збіралася ў архіўных установах нашай краіны, а таксама за мяжой – у бібліятэках і архівах Расійскай Федэрацыі, Украіны, Польшчы, Літвы.

Вывучаліся таксама статыстычныя даныя, бібліяграфічныя крыніцы пра сацыяльна-гаспадарчае, культурнае, горадабудаўнічае развіццё населеных пунктаў. Адноўленыя гістарычныя звесткі па многіх вёсках і мястэчках, першыя пісьмовыя згадкі якіх датычацца XV – XVI стагоддзяў. Адлюстравана як інфраструктура паселішчаў, так і дарогі, якія вядуць да населеных пунктаў. Выданне змяшчае фотаздымкі і карты.

У даведачных артыкулах энцыклапедыі «Гарады і вёскі Беларусі» можна знайсці матэрыялы пра памятныя падзеі і ўраджэнцаў, якія вядомыя на малой радзіме і за яе межамі, дзякуючы сваім працоўным заслугам, якія былі Героямі Саветаў Саюза і Сацыялістычнай працы, сталі вучонымі, пісьменнікамі, мастакамі...

Унікальнае навуковае энцыклапедычнае выданне «Гарады і вёскі Беларусі» – тая крыніца, да якой сёння звяртаюцца настаўнікі і экскурсаводы, работнікі музеяў і дамоў культуры, краязнаўцы, наогул, усе, хто хоча больш даведацца пра сваю малую радзіму. Дзякуючы працы навукоўцаў ствараюцца новыя музейныя экспазіцыі, бяруцца пад ахову аб'екты спадчыны, адраджаюцца абрады і рамёствы, з'яўляюцца новыя турыстычныя маршруты.

— Ці могуць працы беларускіх вучоных быць карыснымі для прадстаўнікоў іншых краін, – цікавілася ў кіраўніка аўтарскага калектыва энцыклапедычнага выдання, дырэктара Цэнтра даследаванняў беларускай





структыўізму ў Еўропе. У шматомніку паказаны лёсы людзей, якія вандравалі па свеце. Мне давалося ў Маларыцкім раёне Брэсцкай вобласці ў вёсцы Дарапеевічы пабачыць каля мясцовай царквы незвычайныя помнікі. Яны былі размешчаны блізка адзін да аднаго. На могілках звычайна так не ставяць. Аказалася, такія абеліскі ўзведзеныя ў памяць аб тых людзях, якія пакінулі гэты край і па-



культуры, мовы і літаратуры Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук Аляксандра Лакоткі. І чую ў адказ:

— Замежным гасцям цікавыя тэмы помнікі гісторыі і культуры, з якімі асацыюецца краіна і народ. Гэта не толькі арнамент, выцінанка, хата з саламяным дахам. Ёсць і сучасныя помнікі культуры, якія “прэзентуюць” краіну. Іх можна бачыць на паштоўках, у турыстычных буклетах, на старонках у інтэрнэце. Гэта і абеліск Перамогі ў сталіцы, і комплексы Брэсцкая крэпасць, Хатынь, Дальва, Чырвоны Бераг. Варта назваць і такія архітэктурныя каштоўнасці як Дом Урада, тэатр оперы і балета, будынак Акадэміі навук. Між іншым, будынак тэатра оперы і балета лічыцца лепшым узорам архітэктуры кан-

с а л і шукаць шчасця ў розных канцы свету. Гэта таксама наша гісторыя. Яна цікавая і мясцовым жыхарам, і гасцям краіны. Мы разлічвалі на тое, што шматомнае выданне будзе запатрабаваным у галіне турызму. І менавіта на падставе гэтай работы былі выдадзены ў апошні час двухтомнік “Турыстычная мазаіка Беларусі” на англійскай і рускай мовах і кніга “Маршруты беларускага турызму”, у якіх пададзена вельмі шырокая мясцовая тапаграфія: назвы вёсак, урочышчаў, гаёў, ростаняў. Выдадзены асобныя даследаванні для Міністэрства спорту і турызму, што вельмі важна, каб развіваць мясцовыя турыстычныя цэнтры.

— Дзяржпадтрымка дапагае, у тым ліку, абуджаць цікавасць да народнай культуры?

— У гэтым годзе пры ўручэнні прэміі “За духоўнае адраджэнне” і спецпрэміі дзеячам культуры і мастацтва адзначаны менавіта цэнтры аўтэнтычнай народнай культуры: кераміка Копысі, дрыбінскія шапавалы, традыцыйная культура Тонежа на захадзе Лельчыцкага раёна. У Год міру і стварэння такі вынік вельмі актуальны і знакавы. Цэнтры народнай творчасці важна падтрымліваць, выходзіць пераемнікаў традыцый, рыхтаваць майстроў. Напрыклад, калі ў XVII–XVIII стагоддзях існавала прамысловасць слупкіх паясоў у мануфактурах Слуцка і Нясвіжа, там рыхтавалі майстроў з юнага ўзросту. Гаспадар мануфактуры загадзя клапаціўся пра спадчынасць, разумеў, што майстры могуць сыходзіць, а справа пры гэтым не павінна спыняцца. Тое самае павінна быць і цяпер.

Захаваанне і папулярызацыя цэнтраў народнай культуры – гэта і магутны рычаг прыцягнення замежнікаў. Сёння ў краіне амаль тры тысячы агра-сядзіб. У многіх з іх ёсць свае музейныя зборы. Я ўзгадваю, як яшчэ на пачатку 90-х гадоў да мяне прыязджаў фермер з Англіі, які распавёў, што мае двор XVI стагоддзя, на ўтрыманне якога ў прыстойным стане дзяржава выдаткоўвае сродкі. Там ён жыве, трымае гаспадарку і прымае турыстаў. А ў Беларусь ён прыехаў набыць вырабы ткацтва, каб пасля ўпрыгожыць інтэр’еры. Такія рэчы цікавыя яго гасцям.

— Матэрыялы для шматомніка збіраліся 40 гадоў. Якія праекты за гэты час нарадзіліся, дзякуючы назапашанай інфармацыі?

— Сапраўды, з’явіліся такія працы, як “Архітэктура Беларусі” ў шасці кнігах, шматомнік “Нарысы гісторыі культуры Беларусі”, кнігі і артыкулы, якія знаёмяць з гісторыка-культурнымі ландшафтамі, асобныя выданні, прысвечаныя фальклору і этнаграфіі. Усё гэта выдатныя рэсурсы, якім можна карыстацца пры пошуку сваіх каранёў, пры збіранні грунтоўных, вывераных матэрыялаў пра родныя мясціны

Ганна Трошына



# НАПАМІН ПРА ДОБРАЕ СЯБРОЎСТВА

**У анталогіі “Вясёлка”, якая толькі што пабачыла свет, з’явіўся новы пераклад верша народнай паэтэсы Узбекістана Зульфії. “Калі сябра табе руку падаў” – такую назву носіць гэты твор. А перакладчык – вядомы беларускі дзіцячы пісьменнік Генадзь Аўласенка, які жыве на Міншчыне, у Чэрвені.**

... У гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны вялікая група прадстаўнікоў маладой беларускай творчай і навуковай інтэлігенцыі знаходзілася ў эвакуацыі ў Ташкенце. Сярод гэтай грамады была і сям’я народнага песняра Якуба Коласа. Ташкент стаў сапраўдным родным домам для пісьменніка. Тут друкаваліся на рускай і ўзбекскай мовах яго творы. Выйшлі дзве кнігі.

У сталіцы Узбекістана Колас пазнаёміўся і пасябраваў з многімі дзеячамі

культуры, пісьменнікамі, у тым ліку і з таленавітым маладым творцам – паэтэсай Зульфійей. Знаходзілася ў эвакуацыі і беларуская дзіцячая пісьменніца Эдзі Агняцвет. І ў яе склаліся добрыя стасункі з узбекскай каляжанкай па літаратурнаму цэху. Так беларусы і беларускасць увайшлі ў дом Зульфії, у яе свядомасць.

Пасля вайны паэтэса не аднойчы прыязджала ў Мінск, вандравала па розных кутках Беларусі. Напісала

некалькі “беларускіх” вершаў. У Мінску пабачылі свет дзве кнігі Зульфії ў перакладзе на беларускую мову. Ды і сама паэтэса пераклала на ўзбекскую мову вершы паэтаў Беларусі.

Цяпер вось, магчыма, з’явіцца трэцяя “беларуская” кніга народнай паэтэсы Узбекістана. Годную падборку вершаў Зульфії, адрасаваных дзіцячаму чытачу, пераклаў на беларускую мову Генадзь Аўласенка. Вось адзін з твораў будучай кнігі – “Рубаб у Артэку”:

Сёння дзень на цуды здатны,  
Сонца ў небе танчыць лоўка.  
Алішэр – спартсмен, выдатнік --  
У Артэк ляціць з пуцёўкай.

Як жа тут не весяліцца!  
Самалёт у Крым імчыцца,  
І рубаб, як сябар верны,  
Неразлучны з Алішэрам.

Вось Мядзведзь-гара, дзе мора  
Сінь нябёсаў паўтарае.  
Песні, жарты, смех, гаворка  
Тут да ночы не змаўкаюць.

Хвалі б'юць аб бераг з сілай,  
Пыршчуць пенай вадзяною.  
Ды стаіць скала-асілак,  
Ёй не страшны гнеў прыбою.

Вецер, ты паслухай толькі  
Рытмы андыжанскай полькі.  
Струны Алішэр кранае  
І рубаб звяніць, спявае.

Выйшаў тут у круг вясёлы  
Смуглатвары госць іспанскі...  
Дзеці з Бірмы і з Анголы  
Танчаць танец андыжанскі.

З усяго, здаецца, свету  
Тут Артэк гасцей збірае.  
Карагод вядзе планета,  
Алішэр ёй польку грае.

І над Чорным морам слаўным  
Ад світанку да змяркання  
Песня чуецца рубаб,  
Як Ташкента прывітанне.



Рубаб – назва ўсходняга музычнага інструмента. Узбекскі хлопчык Алішэр – і герой верша, якому знайшлося месца ў анталогіі “Вясёлка”: “Розныя на свеце ёсць дарогі./ Цяжка выбраць, хто б што ні казаў.../ Алішэр малое вельмі многа./ Ён і мне карціну напісаў./ Вось таю:/ на пярэдняй парце/ Побач двое сябрукоў сядзяць./ І стаіць дзяўчынка каля карты.../ На дзяўчынку хлапчук глядзяць”.

Нагадаем, што Зульфья, якая пісала і для дзяцей і для дарослых, -- ураджэнка Ташкента. Пачатак яе жыццяпісу – 1 сакавіка 1915 года. Закончыўшы педа-

гагічнае вучылішча, Зульфья працавала ў рэдакцыях рэспубліканскіх газет і часопісаў. Першая кніга таленавітай маладой аўтаркі пабачыла свет у 1932 годзе. Зульфії тады было ўсяго 17 гадоў... У 1984 годзе народнай паэтэсе Узбекістана было прысвоена званне Героя Сацыялістычнай Працы. За кнігу вершаў “Радкі памяці” і цыкл твораў “Вясёлка” Зульфья адзначана Дзяржаўнай прэміяй СССР. Пайшла з жыцця паэтэса ў жніўні 1996 года, пакінуўшы багатую творчую спадчыну. На Алеі літаратараў у Ташкенце

з 2017 года стаіць бронзавы помнік Зульфії... Мне нядаўна давялося пабываць у сталіцы Узбекістана – і я на свае вочы бачыў, як шануюць светлае імя вялікай пісьменніцы, чый лёс звязаны і з Беларуссю.

У сакавіку 2023 года на традыцыйнай Мінскай кніжнай выстаўцы-кірмашы (XXX па ліку, юбілейнай!) краінай – цэнтральным экспанентам павінен быць Узбекістан. Мо да гэтага часу і ўбачыць свет новая “беларуская” кніга Зульфії?!

Алесь Карлюкевіч



# ПАД СВЯТЛОМ КАЛЯДНАЙ ЗОРКІ

У Беларусі вялікая ўвага ўдзяляецца захаванню традыцыйнай культуры. У Нацыянальным спісе гісторыка-культурнай спадчыны – больш за 160 аб'ектаў, сярод іх толькі абрадаў, традыцый і гульняў, звязаных з народным календаром, – ужо тры дзясяткі. І спіс з кожным годам працягвае папаўняцца.

Многія ўнікальныя традыцыі існуюць не толькі ў памяці старажылаў. Яны актыўна аднаўляюцца і нават становяцца раённымі брэндамі, прыцягваюць вялікую колькасць замежных гасцей. Зіма – час, калі ў Беларусь варта ехаць па ўражанні, знаёмствы з традыцыямі і паданнямі. Прычым у розных кутках краіны можна пабачыць непадобныя абрады, пачуць адметныя песні.

## Народны карнавал

Так, больш нідзе акрамя вёскі Семяжава Капыльскага раёна Мінскай вобласці на Стары новы год на вуліцах не сустрэнеш цароў. У абрадзе ўдзельнічаюць толькі хлопцы. Яны апранаюць эфектныя белыя строі, падобныя на вайсковую форму, перавязваюць іх мясцовымі тканымі чырвонымі паясамі, на галаве ў іх – высокія шапкі, аздобленыя рознакаляровымі стужкамі. За пояс удзельнікі каляднага шэсця затыкаюць бутафорскія шаблі, а ў цёмны час запальваюць паходні.

Такое ўбранне невыпадковае. Лічыцца, што ў Семяжава некалі стаяў вайсковы атрад, і на Каляды салдаты хадзілі па хатах з віншаваннямі, разыгрывалі вясёлыя прадстаўленні, за што

атрымлівалі ад гаспадароў пачастункі. А пасля ўжо мясцовыя хлопцы пачалі апранацца ў яскравыя карнавальныя касцюмы, якія нагадвалі вайсковую форму. Ёсць таксама іншая версія паходжання абраду. Падчас абыходу двароў хлопцы паказваюць урывак з драмы “Цар Максіміліян”. Гэта адзін з батлеечных спектакляў, які на беларускіх землях быў пашыраны яшчэ ў XVIII стагоддзі. Сюжэт патрапіў і ў народны тэатр, дзе замест лялек гісторыю разыгрывалі акцёры. Можна таму строі на сямейна-карынавалі сапраўды падобныя на яскравае ўбранне батлеечнай лялькі.

Унікальны абрад адроджаны ў 1996 годзе, а ў 2009-м ён увайшоў у Спіс ЮНЕСКА па ахове нематэры-

яльнай гісторыка-культурнай спадчыны. Сёння па дварах у Семежава з прадстаўленнямі ходзяць ужо некалькі гуртоў цароў. Актыўна да правядзення абраду рыхтуюцца мясцовыя школьнікі. Ёсць нават конкурс сярод падлеткаў, каму выконваць ролі цароў Максіміліяна і Мамаі.

У дзяржаўны спіс па ахове нематэрыяльнай спадчыны ўключаны абрад шчадравання ў вёсках Рог і Восава Салігорскага раёна. Тут можна пабачыць традыцыйных персанажаў: казу, жураўля, мядзведзя. Але ёсць сярод каляднікаў адзін герой, які вылучаецца. Для каляднага “дзёда” робіцца маска з бяросты, у якой выразаюцца адтуліны для вачэй і носа. Падобнага вобраза вы не пабачыце ў іншых беларускіх вёсках. У кожнай хаце “дзед” стукае сваім кіёчкам у столь. Месцічы жартуюць, што так ён шукае грошы. Насамрэч такім чынам “дзядуля” зычыць гаспадарам у новым годзе багацця, дабрабыту.

У Раздзялавічах Ганцавіцкага раёна калядоўнікі ходзяць з насаджаным на палку гарбузом, унутры якога гарыць свечка.

У Давыд-Гарадку з віншаваннямі і традыцыйнымі песнямі на Каляды бегаюць “Конікі”. Традыцыя, якая ўзнікла на аснове вясковых калядных абыходаў двароў, тут ператварылася ў сапраўдны гарадскі карнавал. Сёння да традыцыйных персанажаў часам далучаюцца мясцовыя жыхары і госці ў сучасных строях. Менавіта за такіх “новаўвядзенні” гарадоцкія “Конікі”



доўгі час не маглі патрапіць у нацыянальны ахоўны спіс як нематэрыяльная каштоўнасць. Але варта адзначыць, што толькі карнавалам абрад не абмяжоўваецца, важныя ўсе калядныя элементы. Гэта і тры сямейныя вячэры-куццы з традыцыйнымі стравамі перад трыма святамі — Раством, Шчадрацом і Вадохрышчам. Абавязковым з’яўляецца ўдзел у абрадзе дзяцей. Патрэбны час на развучванне багатага каляднага рэпертуару, у якім акрамя шчадравак, ёсць асобныя песні для гаспадара, яго сына ці дачкі. Трэба яшчэ ўмець сустраць ражаных гасцей, часам і загадзя прадумаць дыялогі, каб яны гучалі ў рыфму.

Унікальны абрад захаваўся ў Клічаўскім раёне. Тут на Шчодры вечар двары абыходзяць “куры”, ролю якіх выконваюць дзеці ва ўзросце ад шасці да 14 гадоў. На Шчодры вечар (13 студзеня) яны ўпрыгожваюць калядную зорку, і з песнямі, адна з





якіх так і называецца – “Куры”, выпраўляюцца віншаваць гаспадароў.

Ёсць вёскі, у якіх Каляды завярашаюцца толькі 21 студзеня. Так, у Клічаўскім, Бярэзінскім, Чэрвеньскім раёнах ладзіцца адметны абрад “Цягнуць Каляду на дуба”. У якасці “Каляды” можа быць кола ці барана, а ў вёсцы Новіна Бярэзінскага раёна “апранаюць” снапок – завязваюць на яго хустку і фартушок. Каб развітацца з Калядамі, на воз садзяць старэйшую паважаную ў вёсцы жанчыну. У рукі ёй даюць снапок ды гаршчок з куццёй. Вясёлая грамада выпраўляецца за вёску да старога велічэзнага дуба. Летаўню “каляду” ўдзельнікі абраду з дуба скідваюць, зацягваюць туды новы снапок ды водзяць вакол дрэва карагоды...

#### Ігрышчы

Зіма ў беларускіх вёсках была выдатным часам, калі можна было не толькі весела правесці час, але і прыгледзецца сабе пару. Узімку хлопцы і дзяўчаты варажылі пра будучыню, збіраліся на вячорках, разам рыхтаваліся да калядных карнавалаў. Бацькі час яны маглі і за вясёлымі гульнямі. Адна з іх – “Жаніцьба Цярэшкі”. Моладзь збіралася ў вялікай хаце, карчме, ці пазней – клубе. Выбіраліся “бацька” і “матка”, з удзельнікаў гульні ўтвараліся пары. Нярэдка такія вясельныя рэпетыцыі прыводзілі да сапраўдных шлюбаў. Гульня ладзілася па ўсёй Беларусі, але аднымі з першых за яе вяртанне і “рэкламу” ўзяліся жыхары Лепельскага раёна.

У некаторых беларускіх вёсках на зімовых вячорках моладзь гуляла ў “Яшчара”. У прыватнасці, гэта традыцыя адноўлена ў Віцебскай вобласці на Пастаўшчыне. У вёсцы Гута гульні пачалі праводзіць удзельнікі фальклорнага гуртка. Ролю яшчара выконвае хлопец, вакол якога ходзіць карагод дзяўчат. Калі яшчар забірае ў якой-небудзь з прыгажунь хустку, тая павінна праспяваць і выканаць заданні, каб вярнуць сваю рэч.

У аграгарадку Скірмунтава мясцовыя жыхары і заезжыя госці збіраюцца



на ігрышчы “Ката пячы”. З булак і сала робіцца фігурка, падобная на якогасці вясковага Ваську, са свойскай кілбасы – яго хвост. А пасля пачынаецца своеасаблівае спаборніцтва: ад высока падвешанага “ката” трэба пастарацца адкусіць кавалак. Не абыходзіцца тут і без танцаў, песень, жартаў, прыпевак і вячэры з пачастункамі.

#### Цуды са крыні

Якія ж Каляды без батлейкі? Назва гэтага лялечнага тэатра звязана з Віфлеемам (ці як яшчэ казалі на Беларусі “Бэтлеемам”). Драўляная скрыня ператваралася ў сцэну, на якой прыдапамозе самаробных лялек разыгрываліся спектаклі, прысвечаныя нараджэнню Ісуса Хрыста. Сёння батлеечныя спектаклі можна пабачыць у многіх беларускіх музеях, школах, клубах. Ладзіцца яны і на праваслаўным фестывалі “Радасць”, які штогод праходзіць у час зімовых канікул. Дарэчы, гэта адно з буйнейшых святочных праваслаўных мерапрыемстваў, якое ладзіцца з благаславення мітрапаліта Веніяміна. Да фестывалю далучаюцца сотні ўдзельнікаў, сярод якіх святары, артысты, мастакі, пісьменнікі.

Многія батлеечнікі паказваюць традыцыйны лялечны спектакль “Цар



Ірад”. Праўда, нават адзін і той жа сюжэт можна падаваць па-рознаму. “А ці тая то гаспода, што ждала нашага прыходу?” – пачынае сваё прадстаўленне Канстанцін Петрыман, намеснік дырэктара Мірскага дзяржаўнага мастацкага прафесійна-тэхнічнага каледжа. Разам са сваімі навучэнцамі ён ладзіць лялечныя спектаклі па сцэнарыях, якія ў Міры выкарыстоўвалі мясцовыя майстры – браты Сілко. У канцы XIX – пачатку XX стагоддзя хлопцы на Каляды паказвалі жыхарам мястэчка прадстаўленні. Пасля Дру-





гой сусветнай вайны браты справу не аднавілі, скрыня і лялькі былі страчаныя, але мясцовыя жыхары яшчэ доўга помнілі пра зімовыя забавы. У 1989 годзе педагогі Мірскага каледжа аднавілі мясцовую батлейку, ад тутэйшых бабуль даведаліся і пра сакрэты папярэдніх батлеечнікаў. Адноўлена і ўнікальнае прадстаўленне, якое раней тут паказвалі толькі ў Піліпаўскі пост. Удалося запісаць сюжэт адной з драм па матывах Першай сусветнай вайны, якую паказвалі браты Сілко.

Вялікую ўвагу сучасныя мірскія батлеечнікі, гэтак жа як іх папярэднікі, ўдзяляюць манеры выканання.

Так, браты Сілко падавалі свае прадстаўленні ў вершаванай форме, а лялек надзялялі рысамі мясцовых жыхароў. Бабулькі ўзгадвалі, што, напрыклад, анёл у даваеннай батлейцы гаварыў як панамар з царквы. Мясцовыя святары знайшлі старыя справаздачы, дзе і была падказка на тое, якімі выразамі карыстаўся той самы панамар. Часам сярод навучэнцаў каледжа могуць быць і падлеткі, якія маюць пэўныя дэфекты мовы. Для батлеечнага тэатра – гэта знаходка: акцёраў, якія агучваюць лялек, не трэба вучыць шапялявіць. А для моладзі ўдзел у спектаклях – своеасаблівая сацыялізацыя. Мірская бат-

лейка на Каляды вельмі запатрабаваная, яе артысты – удзельнікі шматлікіх фестываляў. У гэтым годзе навучэнцы каледжа разам са сваім выкладчыкам выступалі ў Мінску нават перад вучнымі Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук у межах семінара, прысвечанага Калядам.

## Залатое павуцінне

Традыцыі беларускага саломаляцення ў снежні мінулага года ўвайшлі ў Рэпрэзентатыўны спіс ЮНЕСКА па ахове нематэрыяльнай спадчыны. Якіх толькі вырабаў з саломкі ў Беларусі не сустрэнеш у наш час: ад плеченых карабаў да царскіх варотаў у царкве.



Але адной з першых саламяных традыцый, узятых у Беларусі пад ахову, стаў выраб быхаўскіх саламяных павукоў.

У гэтым кутку такія саламяныя цуды было прынята вырабляць і вешаць на Каляды. Гэтыя вырабы мелі ўтылітарнае прызначэнне – паміж іх гранямі павучкі плялі павуцінне, у якое траплялі мошкі. Але галоўны сакрэт запатрабаванасці ў тым, што такая рэч лічылася абярэгам – засцепагала гаспадароў ад усяго дрэннага. Невыпадкава абнаўляць саламяных павукоў трэба было зімой, бо ў некаторых беларускіх песнях, казках і паданнях павук выступае стваральнікам свету. І адбываецца такі цуд якраз, калі дні становяцца самымі кароткімі. Народная фантазія павука звязала і з біблейскім сюжэтам: маўляў, ён заплёў уваход у пячору, дзе хавалася Дзева Марыя. Наогул, у калядных паданнях можна знайсці “тлумачэнні”, звязаныя з рознымі прыроднымі аб’ектамі. Так,



елка, па паданнях, схілілася, каб схаваць Святое Сямейства, таму дрэва стала вечна зялёным, яго галінкі перасталі расці ўгару, і на святы менавіта яго прынята ўпрыгожваць. Асіна, наадварот, пабаялася аказаць дапамогу, так з тых часоў і “дрыжыць”. Зязюля сваіх дзяцей не мае і ўвесь час крычыць у пакаранне за тое, што хацела дапамагчы стражнікам і распавесці, дзе хаваліся ўцекачы. Конь ніяк не можа

наесціся, бо жаваў сена, на якім ляжаў немаўлятка Ісус. Карову ж гаспадар шануе, беражэ, сам вячэраць не сядзе, пакуль яе не пакорміць, за тое, што жывёла сагравала немаўля сваім дыханнем. Гэтыя і многія іншыя чароўныя сюжэты запісаныя даследчыкамі акадэміі навук.

Калядныя стравы ў народнай традыцыі не прынята ставіць на голы стол, а толькі на пакрыты сенам, ці саломай, таму што, так народ звязваў святы з сюжэтам пра нараджэнне Хрыста, які ляжаў у яслях на саломе.

Шмат паданняў у беларусаў было і пра зоркі, што бачныя на небе ў самыя доўгія зімовыя ночы. Таму каляднікі, якія абыходзілі двары, заўсёды бралі з сабой і самаробную зорку. Такіх гасцей заўсёды чакалі, лічылася, што не будзе цэлы год шчасця ў той хаце, якую яны абмінуць. А падарункамі, якія ў ранейшыя часы каляднікі неслі людзям, лічыліся песні.

Надзея Бузіноўская