

Report of Mr Syntimir Baiazitov,
Deputy Head of Ufa City Municipal District
Administration of Bashkortostan Republic
the City of Cork, Ireland

Lifelong learning development and UNESCO projects implementation in Ufa,
Russia in terms of sustainable city

Dear conference participants.

Let me greet you sincerely on behalf of Ufa city, Capital of Bashkortostan Republic.

The participation in III International Conference on Learning Cities of UNESCO is a very significant event in developing the cooperation between our countries.

UNESCO is good opportunity for the international humanitarian cooperation, it helps nations from the whole world protect and keep their heritage and human values. We fully support the ideas and principles of UNESCO and, of course, are grateful for the close collaboration and support in the field of education and art, science and saving the natural and ethnocultural values.

Ufa has been taking an active part in this international activity for 20 years and became a member of the Global Network of Learning Cities in 2016. Ufa has also been chosen as the capital of the World Folklore Festival in 2020 under the auspices of UNESCO and is about to become a member of UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

For the last years the city became the area of major events such as SCO and BRICS, Eurasian humanitarian forums.

Ufa is located on the border of Europe and Asia. Our city is unique for its history, modern cultural life. It is very important that Ufa manages not only to save the originality of its nations but also enrich spiritual values of the previous generations.

The main task of the municipality is to make the city as comfortable as possible and build life environment which is friendly to people. The cities with the high quality of urban environment improve economy and living standards. The demography in Ufa has been positive for 10 years, which proves the growing welfare of Ufa citizens.

The municipal network of Ufa educational organizations includes institutions implementing preschool, basic and additional education programs, secondary

professional education institutions, universities. All education levels are equal and complementary components which form common educational system.

Preschool education services are provided to children aged 1.5 – 7 years. Parents are guaranteed the right to choose organizations and education programs due to their children`s health status, their abilities, development prospects and individual peculiarities.

Basic education priorities include the forming of safe and healthy environment, implementation of e-learning, industry-specific training, career guidance, development of innovation activity. Schools create barrier-free environment which provides total integration of disabled children to the society. Disabled children have an opportunity to receive education in different forms such as full integration group; correctional group; home schooling; distance learning; family learning; self-education.

Ufa city have built a multicultural model of educational system. Children of about 80 nationalities learn in institutions of general education in the city. 34 % of school students receive education in their national language and learn their native languages (10 native languages in total).

At the moment 13 Sunday schools conduct their successful activity. They cooperate with national and cultural centers, expat communities of their peoples.

The continuity of education can be carried out only by active mutual family and school activities. Kindergartens and schools have an expanded network of consultation centers to help families educate children. Parents` community takes an active part in solving educational challenges, makes proposals of improving the quality of teaching and educational process.

Additional education fulfills the function of “social elevator” for a considerable part of children who don`t receive necessary or qualitative education resources in family and basic education system. It also provides alternative opportunities for children with special developmental needs and children in difficult life situation.

It is important to create efficient ways of improving educators` professional skills in order to provide quality of education. Educators develop their professional skills on-the-job. There are additional education institutions functioning in Ufa which provide short-term courses for educators including distant ones. We managed to make adult people`s education an important part of any work relations.

There are 24 basic professional and 19 higher education institutions in Ufa city. All this makes it possible to receive lifelong education in frames of the developed and differentiated network of education institutions.

Education for adults today under conditions of globalization provide them mobility and an opportunity to get assimilated to fast changes in the labor market.

Third age national university project provides retired people opportunity to receive additional education in more than 20 subjects. The project has been implemented since 2012. The amount of the university graduate students is over 35000 people. Those who would like to master a new profession can attend retraining courses.

We admit that providing of qualitative education is only one side of conducting the lifelong learning principles. The other important factor is forming of lifelong learning culture. Education institutions teach children to learn, get knowledge. They also make them interested in success and finding new knowledge.

The public private partnership mechanism is implemented successfully. Non-governmental education institutions provide alternative educational service in the sphere of pre-school and additional education for children. Private schools function in the city. This year the cooperation with investors made it possible to open 4 multifunctional sports grounds where not only school students can do sport and physical activities but also all citizens of the city.

We work actively on moving to a new level in providing sustainable development. This includes the international partnership with the purpose of establishing partner relations in order to exchange experience in the field of education sphere complex development.

Ufa actively cooperates with sister cities which international cooperation agreements have been signed with and became the first Russian city as a part of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities.

Participation in UNESCO's projects provides great opportunities for sustainable cultural, intellectual and educational development based on an access to knowledge and innovative technologies.

Associated UNESCO schools project today is one of the most popular and long-term projects implemented in our city. Currently 18 educational institutions in Ufa are associated UNESCO schools, 2 UNESCO departments function on the basis of higher professional education institutions.

UNESCO Friends Clubs function officially on the basis of more than 30 institutions of general education in Ufa.

The international projects of UNESCO implemented in our educational institutions develop efficiently. They found their continuation in their own projects. One of the prominent examples became “Water. Sun. Life” ecological educational project. School students of Ufa together with children from several schools of Germany supported by scholars managed to build an ultraviolet water filtration system which is used in schools and hospitals in Tanzania in Eastern Africa.

Institutions of additional education of Ufa city are the organizers of I International Creativity Festival “Water World” which is the informational part of “Regenbogen-Rainbow Water Week”.

The participants of international projects include not only schools but also preschool institutions for children. Thus children from Ufa became participants of Life-Link Swedish ecological program.

Ufa city implements "City in the park" concept which is aimed at creating a modern comfortable environment for life.

We face a task to improve further the educational system management of Ufa city as well as develop the inner and foreign partnership. Qualitative, modern education is not only guarantee for the self-actualization of a particular person but also the basis for the sustainable development of our world. Educated people who have a demanded profession and decent job will be able to make a great contribution to the economic development of the city and infrastructure, which will lead to an increase in the welfare of the whole society in the future.

I am confident our fruitful discussions will bring us new ideas and initiatives and the forum will become an efficient mechanism of active humanitarian cooperation.

I sincerely wish you all the best and good luck.