

THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST YEAR OF THE PROGRAM "ULYANOVSK – CITY OF LITERATURE" HAVE BEEN SUMMED UP IN ULYANOVSK

The meeting of the Organizing Committee of the program "Ulyanovsk – UNESCO City of Literature" devoted to summarizing of the results of 2016, as well as to the plans for 2017, was held in the City Administration of Ulyanovsk on March 23. The decision on the city's accession to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network was announced at the Saint Petersburg International Cultural Forum in December 2015 by the Director-General of UNESCO Irina Bokova. The application for membership of Ulyanovsk in the Creative Cities Network was filed at the initiative of Sergey Morozov, the Head of the region.

The host of the meeting was the Deputy Head of Ulyanovsk City Administration, the Deputy Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the program "Ulyanovsk – UNESCO City of Literature" Olga Mezina. In her welcoming speech she noted that over the year many citizens have learned about this program: "However, the fact that the citizens tell not about how the application was created or how the joining to the Creative Cities Network is important for the region, but how they participated in the activities of this program, is very significant. In my opinion, this is the most important achievement of the past year. It is, in fact, the major challenge for all the fields of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network".

During the meeting of the Organizing Committee a joint report of the Foundation "Ulyanovsk - Capital of Culture" and the Directorate of the program "Ulyanovsk - UNESCO City of Literature" on the activities, held in the framework of the program in 2016, was presented. Over this time, the program was presented at many international and national events: the International MitOst-Festival of managers in Georgia and Germany, the meeting of the UNESCO Cities of Literature in Ireland, the Summit of the UNESCO Creative Cities in China, the Meeting of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in Sweden, and also at the Book Fair "The Red Square", IX Congress of the Russian Book Union, XXIX Moscow International Book Fair, VI International Cultural Forum in Ulyanovsk and other cities. Ulyanovsk was visited by the representatives of such UNESCO Cities of literature as Montevideo, Krakow, Barcelona, Shenzhen, Baghdad. The creativity of the Ulyanovsk writers was presented at the events in Tartu, Melbourne, Reykjavik. The citizens were able to become participants of such events as the action "Shakespeare. Reading a Genius", "Night of Literature" with participation of a Czech writer Lenka Prokhazkova and a translator Anna Simotova, a tram literary tour "LiteraTour", VI International Cultural Forum, one of the major themes of which was literature and reading, Literary festivals "The Word. Volume II" and "The Word. Volume III", Karamzin Assembly "History In Faces", etc.

During the meeting there took place a teleconference with the manager of the program "Tartu – UNESCO City of Literature" Marja Unt (Estonia). She presented an overview of the Tartu project office activities and told about the events. One of the projects she noted in her speech was a large literary map that has involved a lot of literary events and institutions of Tartu.

"In our plans there is a large number of events. This autumn we want to start an international residence program, during which any writer or poet from a UNESCO City of Literature will be able to live and work in our city. Also we will implement projects that can help to attract tourists and thus to improve the economic situation in the city – for example, conducting

literary tours. And, of course, we plan to work with other cities on the Network, including Ulyanovsk, and we are very happy that we have this opportunity," said Marja Unt.

A member of the Board of the Foundation "Ulyanovsk – Capital of Culture" Galina Muromtseva has invited the Directorate of the program "Tartu – UNESCO City of Literature" to take part in the VII International Cultural Forum "Culture and Business: The Creative Capital of The Modern City", which will take place on September 14-15 2017, and stressed that since Ulyanovsk is the only city to be the member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, it imposes very serious obligations: "We perfectly understand that this program is municipal and the main player in it is the city. But each of the cities represents a country. The key purpose of the program is not to repeat what we already had, but using the possibilities of the Creative Cities to change the habitual activities and formats. When we learn how to use them, we will be able to represent Ulyanovsk and Russia at the international level."

Also it is worth noting that the cooperation of the Ulyanovsk region with UNESCO has a long history. It started a few years ago and is constantly expanding. Currently, there are plans for the participation of the region in the UNESCO projects in the field of culture, education and ecology.