

Events of the Global  
Entrepreneurship  
Week took place in  
Minsk



Polish Gliwice  
hosted *Junior  
Eurovision*  
2019



INTERNATIONAL

# The Minsk Times

Socio-political Weekly

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## With respect to history

Borisov District has hosted the International *Berezina-2019* Festival, with an historical military reconstruction dedicated to the 207th anniversary since Napoleon's crossing of the Berezina River during the Patriotic War in November 1812. A parade took place, featuring attendants and members of military-historical reconstruction clubs from Belarus, Russia, Poland, France and other countries, as well as a battle on the 'Battery' bridgehead and winter swim across the Berezina River.



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# Victories unite nation

**Aleksandr Lukashenko held the Olympic meeting of the National Olympic Committee. The event brought together members of the NOC, chairmen of the boards of federations' trustees, unions, associations, heads of sports and tourism departments of regional and executive committees, the Minsk City Executive Committee and Olympic training centres. The conversation was thorough and principled as it focused on discussion of the performances by our athletes at major international competitions, preparations for the 32nd Summer Olympics in Tokyo, as well as measures aimed at tightening the fight against doping.**

## Sport is people's diplomacy

Opening the Olympic meeting of the NOC of Belarus, the President said, "Sport is one of the most important parts of social life and politics in the world today. Everyone in Belarus, not only you and I, understands this. Olympic victories unite the nation and inspire a sense of pride for the country."

The President noted that, next year, the entire sports industry will have to pass an important test: the Olympics in Tokyo. "It's time to analyse the preparations for this sports forum and determine what else can and should be done to make our team meet the expectations of millions of Belarusians. We should be proud to see the Belarusian flag flying over the Olympic facilities of the capital of Japan," he said, adding, "We have successfully organised a festival of European sports. This is still being talked about in Europe and around the world."

However, according to the President, such success is not reason for complacency and significant work is to be done to prepare for the Games in Tokyo. "It's only just over half a year until the major sporting event — taking place once every four years — begins. The Olympic Games is a competition in a different format, with a different set of sports disciplines and an extremely high level of competition. The 2nd [European] Games are games but the Olympics are truly legendary in comparison. The athletes will also be different," said Mr. Lukashenko.

## Problems of our sport

The year is coming to an end, almost all the world championships of 2019 have finished and their results can already produce very specific conclusions. The President noted with regret

that Belarusian athletes won only eight medals in Olympic disciplines, including two gold, at this year's world championships. Most were in kayaking and canoeing. Our modern pentathletes have performed steadily over the last few years.

"Actually, these are only two sets of medals expected at the Olympics," the Head of State said. "What about the others? Excellent conditions have been created for you in the country and much money is spent — but we see no feedback, no results, just promises alone. In some sports, we even see no progress."

Mr. Lukashenko asked a rhetorical question: what do athletes lack in these sports when all the necessary conditions have been created for their development? Many countries envy our training bases, arenas and training conditions. For example, this year, a new building of the Republican Scientific and Practical Sports Centre has been put into operation.

"Do not tell us about titled rival athletes. There are chances qualify. Character and the will to succeed need to be shown! You must fight!" the President said.

## For fair sport

The President also touched on the doping issue. "Recent facts are alarming: Marina Arzamasova [800m run], Dmitry Nabokov [high jump], Kirill Grishchenko [Greco-Roman wrestling]. I'm waiting for a frank conversation. These problems are directly related to the



Aleksandr Lukashenko awards Aleksandra Gerasimenya

## FIGURES

As of November 11th, Belarusian athletes have **683** medals, including **215** gold, **210** silver and **258** bronze — won at the 2019 championships, cups, world and European championships and the 2nd European Games. Of these, **320** medals are in the Olympic disciplines.

Analysis of the number of medals won by our athletes at the Olympics shows that, since 1996 Atlanta Games, **78** percent of the awards have been captured in eight sports. Eight other disciplines account for the remaining **22** percent.

image of the country," he said.

Mr. Lukashenko noted that Belarus has adopted a set of measures aimed at toughening the fight against doping, including criminal liability for inducing an athlete to use prohibited means, "You know what happens to those who let these processes take their course — including on an example of our weightlifters to whom only two Olympic qualifications were left."

## Individual control for each Olympic participant

The President believes it's important to bring each athlete to their potential. "We should prepare them for a tough fight and provide everything necessary at the final stage of training. Each Olympian should be taken under individual control: medical, psychological and so on," Mr. Lukashenko said.

To now, 63 Belarusian athletes have won the right to com-

pete at the Olympics in Tokyo, and more than 100 are planned. "How many of these places will be transformed into medals? The rivalry in all sports is huge," the President stressed. "Why is our Olympic quotas falling after each Games? We had 177 in Beijing, 161 in London and 123 in Rio de Janeiro. The number of medals won by Belarusians has the same downward curve."

Mr. Lukashenko also asked about the conditions under which members of national teams are trained in the regions and how the sporting heads work on site. "Provision of children's sports schools with equipment, coaching staff and reserve training is also a contributing factor to Olympic medals," said the Head of State. "Of course, we have talented athletes and coaches, the necessary material and technical base. It is just important to use our opportunities wisely and effectively. The Government, the

Ministry of Sports and the NOC should take tough control of these issues."

The President put the question straight: in Japan, it is necessary to show the best result. "It is not even an issue of the return of the efforts and means invested in your preparation. This is, first of all, an issue of responsibility for the country and people who believe in their athletes and wait for victories. That's what you have to think of when coming into the Olympic arenas. This is my main message to the Olympians and all of you," Mr. Lukashenko said.

The meeting also resolved a number of organisational issues: the First Vice-President and Vice-President of the NOC were elected, the report of the NOC Audit Commission for 2017-2018 was approved.

Viktor Lukashenko has been elected the First Vice-President of the National Olympic Committee and the Deputy Chairman of the Belarusian Canoe Association, Olympic champion Dmitry Dovgalenok, is now the NOC Vice-President.

## IN ADDITION

During the meeting of the National Olympic Committee, outstanding athletes Yekaterina Karsten and Aleksandra Gerasimenya were awarded honorary NOC badges — receiving the awards from the President. "We highly appreciate your merits and sincerely appreciate that you connect your future with our sport," Aleksandr Lukashenko told them.

**Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by**

# Bridges of investment co-operation

**At the Palace of Independence, Aleksandr Lukashenko met with Mohamed Alabbar, the Chairman of Emaar Properties PJSC. This UAE company — a world's major developer and investor in the field of construction — is now considering investment options in our country. During the conversation, the Head of State stressed that Belarus is interested in joint projects not only in the construction sector but also in other sectors of the real economy.**

At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Lukashenko recalled that, during his visit to the UAE, the two sides had already discussed the direction of bilateral co-operation. Mohamed Alabbar was invited to Minsk to discuss more specifically the work of Emaar Properties in Belarus.



Mohamed Alabbar

of industry and agriculture. For us, these are the most important areas, in addition to construction. We can discuss projects that are currently being worked on but I must say that I am more interested in projects in the real sector of the economy," the President said.

The Head of State noted that Emaar Properties is known not only in the Arab world. He noted the company's co-opera-

"We are ready to co-operate with the Emirates not only in the sphere of interests of your company but also much wider: in the field

tion with Belarus would be a good signal for the entire world community and would confirm the existence of good conditions for investors in the country.

The projects the Arab company intends to implement in Belarus have been discussed behind closed doors. However, the President noted that he liked some of the ideas of the UAE leadership. "During my stay in the Emirates and during the stay of the Crown Prince here in Belarus, I liked a number of ideas that he expressed, including some that I would like to discuss here," he said.

Mr. Lukashenko asked to convey the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi — Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan — and the Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, warmest good wishes, words of gratitude

for all that has been done for the Belarusian Head of State and accompanying officials during their recent stay in the Emirates.

The First Deputy Prime Minister, Aleksandr Turchin, later commented on the talks. He noted that the meeting in Minsk was the logical continuation of the visit of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi to Belarus and the visit of our President to the UAE.

"We discussed a wide range of issues in the field of agriculture, industry and development projects. Decisions have been made and now these projects must be thoroughly worked out and feasibility studies prepared. The President is ready to meet again to discuss these things in more detail," Mr. Turchin explained.

**Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by**





Late autumn came into its own: the crops have been harvested in the fields and it's time to sum up the results of the agricultural year. President Aleksandr Lukashenko made a working trip to Vitebsk, where he held a meeting dealing with the development of the agro-industrial complex in the region. In the presence of the Head of State, problematic aspects of the agricultural sector in the region were considered and a discussion took place regarding the draft decree, which envisages the reform of the local agricultural management system, as well as the creation of a super-large holding there.

'This meeting will enter history'

Opening the meeting, the President said, "I would like this meeting to be historic in terms of positive consequences for the Vitebsk Region. Maybe not immediately, but we must begin to make a decision not just about the further development of the Vitebsk Region but about its further prosperity. No mistakes can be made, the time for experimenting is over."

The Head of State noted that the current meeting was convened in an expanded format to discuss the proposals of the Vitebsk Regional Executive Committee on the development of the agro-industrial complex in the region. Regarding the industry, the President expressed the following: modest positive dynamics can be seen as a certain indicator of the performance of the region's agricultural industry. Moreover, comprehensive analysis of the situation shows that there are serious problems. The trend towards a reduction in the number of cattle has stabilised, but the average daily gain is lower than in any other region of the country. The Vitebsk Region is the only one where the average milk yield per cow is less than 4,000kg. It shows low investment activity, a drop in export potential and, as a result, a deterioration in the finan-

cial condition of enterprises. The share of unprofitable organisations is growing, the highest proportion among all regions in the Republic.

The President stated that, "The heads of other regions should not be complacent. We have the same situation in all the eastern regions, both in Mogilev and Gomel. It's necessary to take both technological and organisational measures to cope with the problems."

Pointing to the inadmissibility of the weak performance of the agricultural sector of the Vitebsk Region, the President noted that although the economy is certainly important, the situation should be looked at in terms of people, "It's unacceptable that people suffer from sloppiness, mismanagement, and we must be honest, the ineptitude of people. However, this always starts with us [heads]."

Issues of unity

To solve problems in the agro-industrial complex of the Vitebsk Region it was suggested to set up a super-large holding, with the relevant draft decree being discussed during the meeting.

Mr. Lukashenko noted that several integration structures are already operating in the agro-industrial complex in the form

# The time for experimenting is over

of holdings; however, most of them do not show the expected results. "If you have gained negative experience from four out of five holdings, why would you want to create another giant super holding?" said Mr. Lukashenko, outlining the problem.

He also asked whether the financial flow in the proposed holding has been calculated, whether they would allow it to function normally, how the management system would be built, and how powers and responsibilities would be distributed.

Mr. Lukashenko carefully and in detail learnt about the work of integration holding companies previously established in the area, their problems and economic indicators. According to the President, the model of work of the Vitebsk Broiler Poultry Factory is effective, and it could become an example for others. The President believes it's right to put the processing enterprises under the head of the holding and to develop the raw material base (which is formed from various enterprises) to meet their needs.

At the same time, Mr. Lukashenko emphasised the need to develop the villages and take into account the interests of people, "I'm still worried about what will happen there, will the villages be preserved in the Vitebsk Region? It bothers me as President. And I'm worried about people. This is the main thing, this is the basis of my policy."

Mr. Lukashenko, analysing the work of the integration structures of the Vitebsk Region, noted that he did not see the point in creating another structure over them that would unite them. It's necessary to achieve results from the existing holdings.

Conclusions drawn

Aleksandr Lukashenko was greatly interested in the work of the holdings which already exist in the field of agriculture; however, in many respects, the conversation concerned the solution to the debt problem. The Head of State first of all associates this with a disorderly approach, "Listen to my decision: the holdings that you have established will continue. I don't mind if expand them territorially at the expense of farms. These households will retain their economic viability. If they earn more -- then it will be theirs, if less -- then nothing. We'll solve the issue with the debts. There will be no further measures at this stage," stressed the President. "As for debts and other things, even if we defer them, every year with hard work you will earn money and report an increase in profits." He also referred to the Mogilev and Gomel regions, amongst others.

Moreover, Mr. Lukashenko proposed the consideration of the possibility of the privatisation and sale to investors of those farms that cannot work independently effectively. "Until the new year there should be a clear management structure, as I said. Divide these farms and create resource zones, and do not frighten people with integration structures. These are the raw material zones," he said.

Mr. Lukashenko once again focused on the importance of maintaining discipline and order, concluding, "There shouldn't be any breaches of discipline as they will have a serious impact on our country!"

Based on materials of sb.by

## Most reliable communications

Closed government communications are a complex, subtle, and sensitive category. All states are careful about keeping the secrets of how such systems function. It is clear that the most reliable communications for senior managerial level are owned by those countries which have their own developments. That is why at one time President Aleksandr Lukashenko instructed research to be conducted in this area. Today, not only has this task been completed, but its practical component has been almost completely realised.

Last week, the Palace of Independence hosted the second, final, part of the conversation, which began in August this year when the President visited one of the objects of government communications.

Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed that much has already been done in the development of secure communications in the country, but there's no need to stop there, "The President uses stationary communications solutions developed in Belarus. All the top officials and members of the Government use good stationary communications solutions. The fact that we are independent in this is the most important thing. We've created our own communications systems, our own data encryption centres that are inaccessible to foreign intelligence services. Much has been done but not everything. Today we are making and testing fur-

ther mobile communications solutions."

According to the Head of State, the development of this area is not just about achieving a result in the form of a specific product, but in ensuring a good connection. "This will improve our encryption school and the ability to create such systems. We have good specialists and accomplishments and cannot afford to lose them. Moreover, many of the systems we've created, including secure government communications, enjoy the respect of foreign nations. Heads of state even ask me to sell them reliable communications solutions like the one Belarus has."

In this regard, the President said that the Belarusian side had already created such government communications systems for some heads of state, "They sell for considerable amounts of money, this is

why it would be reasonable to continue working in this direction and develop our systems."

The results of the meeting were described later by the State Secretary of the Security Council of Belarus, Stanislav Zas. He noted that significant development steps have been taken in stationary government communications, "We have completely left the Soviet heritage behind. This whole system is built on a new technological base. Moreover, only Belarusian encryption equipment is used to ensure communication security."

The Operations and Analysis Centre recently tested vulnerabilities in a secure government communications system and identified weaknesses to work on. Simply put, the Centre had to crack the system and gain access to information. Mr. Zas admitted that it was not



possible to do this, which indicates the high quality of the secure network.

The second direction is secure mobile communication. Mr. Zas said that the final stage of the mobile communication test operation is underway, "This connection has many strengths. Security is the most important thing. However, there are also weaknesses:

this is the quality of communication. It will be necessary to work on this. The Head of State spoke about this and set a new target. Next year, we must solve the issue and provide the country's leadership with high-quality secure mobile communications."

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

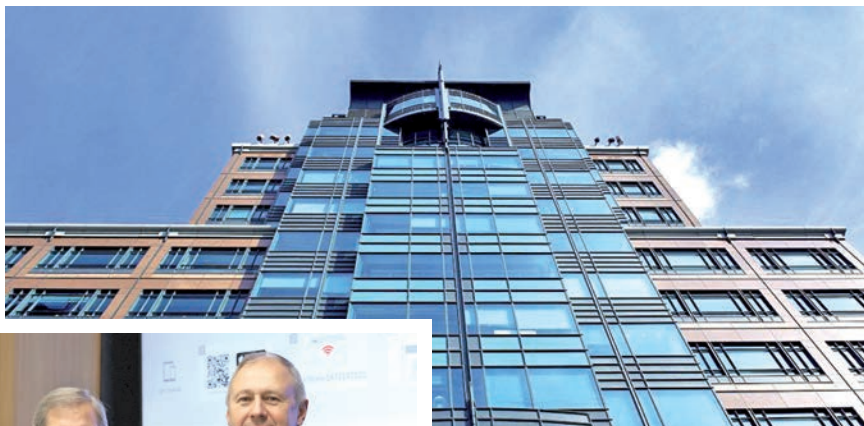


# Capital with British accent

By Vladislav Sychevich

Prime Minister Sergei Rumas paid a two-day working visit to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Head of the Belarusian Government held meetings with a member of the British royal family — Prince Michael of Kent — and President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Suma Chakrabarti. Negotiations were also held with the management of CAD CAM Automotive, as a result of which agreements were signed on the establishment of assembly production of Belarusian electric buses in the UK.

Sergei Rumas also took part in the 1st Investment Summit of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development for the *Eastern Partnership* member states. The event was attended by heads of state and government, senior representatives of the EU and the European Investment Bank, international investors and entrepreneurs. During the summit, new business opportunities were identified in six countries of the *Eastern Partnership* region. Panel sessions were devoted to the investment climate of the participating countries, investment trends and opportunities.



Eastern Partnership Investment Summit held at EBRD headquarters



Johannes Hahn and Sergei Rumas

At the summit, Mr. Rumas noted that the high-tech sector, IT and services are the most promising areas for attracting investments into the Belarusian economy. He said that the macroeconomic situation in Belarus contributes to the arrival of investors. The Government of Belarus is ready to

consider proposals from any investor on the privatisation of enterprises.

The representative level of the summit participants was a good opportunity to hold useful talks. Mr. Rumas met with the European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy — Johannes Hahn, the prime ministers of Ukraine and Moldova and the President of Armenia. Negotiations were also held with the management of the EBRD and the European Investment Bank. Documents were signed to develop co-operation between Belarus and European banks. In line with the agreements, the European Investment Bank will provide ASB Belarusbank JSC with another credit line of 85m Euros to finance small and medium-sized busi-

nesses, while the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development will allocate almost 27m Euros for a project to improve water quality in Belarus.

It should be noted that the preparation of a new EBRD strategy for Belarus for 2020-2023 is being actively discussed. The new strategy envisages the implementation of a number of major infrastructure projects.

Overall, the bank is the largest institutional investor in the economy of our country. Since 1992, it has invested about 2.5bn Euros in 114 projects, in various industries. Last year alone, the EBRD invested 360m Euros and, this year, is expected to exceed this amount.

Also, with the bank's assistance, a foreign investment council will soon be launched. During Mr. Rumas' last visit to London this June, a memorandum was signed aimed at the attraction of major investors to Belarus and the creation of a positive image of the country. When necessary, it was agreed to provide a platform for these investors to discuss relevant and exciting issues. A high level of participation from both investors and the Government is expected — which will become an important signal that the country is ready to co-operate and attract new high-quality investors. As expected, the first meeting of the council will be held with the participation of EBRD management in February 2020.



## Results of deputies' elections summed up

### Results of the elections to the House of Representatives of the National Assembly were validated at a session of the Central Election Commission (CEC)

After studying the reports of the chairmen of the regional and Minsk city election commissions, the CEC declared the elections valid and registered the new members to the House of Representatives of the seventh convocation.

Summing up the election outcomes, CEC Chairperson Lidia Yermoshina noted that the parliamentary vote was up to par, although there is still room for improvement.

"There were shortcomings. We are aware of them better than any observers, because we see the process from inside. Naturally, we need to improve it," she said, explaining that she was referring to law enforcement practices.

The election turnout exceeded 77 percent. 110 members of the House of Representatives were elected. Members of political parties comprise 19.1 percent of the new Parliament (21 people). The previous Parliament had 16 representatives of political parties.

The Agrarian Party will be represented by one MP. The Liberal Democratic Party will also have one representative. The

Belarus Patriotic Party won two seats. The Republican Party of Labour and Justice will be represented by six MPs. The Communist Party of Belarus will have 11 party members in the new Parliament. A total of 44 women MPs were elected to the new Parliament, which represents a significant increase from 34.5 percent (or 38) in 2016 to 40 percent in 2019. There are also two MPs under 30 years of age. Thirty people or 27.3 percent of MPs were re-elected.

The average age of MPs is 50.4. All of them have a university degree.

Based on materials of belta.by

## Without restrictions



The United States of America is not trying to make Belarus scale back co-operation with Russia — as Belarus' Deputy Foreign Minister Oleg Kravchenko said in an interview with a TASS reporter during his visit to Washington

"Nothing like that is happening. I have never encountered it," the diplomat said. "Relations with Russia is Belarus' business. The Belarus-USA narrative does not contain any calls or expectations regarding Belarus' co-operation with Russia," Mr. Kravchenko emphasised, adding that Americans are aware of the historical ties between Belarus and Russia and the existing co-operation formats. "Therefore, I would not say that our co-operation with Rus-

sia is part of our talks with the USA," the diplomat added.

He announced that Belarus and the USA are expanding co-operation in combating terrorism, organised crime and cybercrime. "There are several examples of successful co-operation between our law enforcement agencies in preventing crime against Belarusian and US citizens and nationals of third countries," Mr. Kravchenko emphasised.

Based on materials of belta.by

## Our cozy and safe home

By Nina Vasilyeva

Belarus is recognised as one of the safest countries in the world. In the Global Terrorism Index — GTI, it shared the 138th position with 26 states, which means almost complete absence of a terrorist threat.

Security, absence of internal political conflicts and peaceful policy in relations with all our partners are among the most important geopolitical resources of our country. These bear fruit, also being recorded in the world ranking. Belarus has raised the European security mark to the highest level — higher than in Switzerland, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia which lag behind us by several dozen points.

Poland is 106th, Lithuania — 108th, Latvia — 117th and Estonia shared 123rd place jointly with Moldova and Serbia. Switzerland is ranked 118th.

On the other hand, Ukraine ranks the highest in terms of terrorist threat among neighbouring countries: it's 24th. At the same time, the authors of the study note that, since 2014, the number of deaths from terrorism in Ukraine has decreased by 98 percent. Russia is 37th: the number of recorded terrorist attacks has decreased by a third and the number of victims has fallen by 51 percent compared to 2018.

Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan (85th), Georgia (90th), Armenia (94th) and Azerbaijan have improved their positions in the Global Terrorism Index scale.

Afghanistan is once again recognised as the most insecure country in the world in terms of terrorism, followed by Iraq, Nigeria and Syria. Pakistan closes the five most dangerous countries.

Global Terrorism Index 2019 is a comprehensive study of the situation in the world which assesses the level of terrorist threat. In determining its rankings, indicators such as the number of terrorist incidents, the number of deaths and injuries as a result of them, as well as the level of material damage are taken into account.

The GTI has been developed by an international group of experts under the auspices of the University of Sydney's Institute of Economics and Peace.

### Global Terrorism Index

Levels of terrorism influence					
very high	high	medium	low	very low	without influence
8	6	4	2	0	
Rating	country	level			
1	Afghanistan	9,603			
2	Iraq	9,241			
3	Nigeria	8,597			
22	USA	5,691			
24	Ukraine	5,547			
28	UK	5,405			
36	France	5,008			
37	Russia	4,9			
44	Germany	4,254			
85	Kazakhstan	1,566			
106	Poland	0,477			
108	Lithuania	0,458			
117	Latvia	0,229			
118	Switzerland	0,191			
123	Estonia	0,115			
123	Moldova	0,115			
123	Serbia	0,115			
138	Belarus	0			

Source: visionofhumanity.org



# Business climate high on the agenda

Events of the Global Entrepreneurship Week gather together state authorities, businesses and public organisations on one single platform every year. It's an excellent example of a successful public-private dialogue in which ideas are born, doubts are overcome and mutual understanding is established. Emphasis on innovation, prospects for small and medium-sized businesses and the main challenges for Belarusian business were among the topics of the discussions. Our *MT* reporter attended the event to learn more.



By Svetlana Mikhovich

## Key topic

Innovations were the key topic at this year's event — which was especially noticeable at the GEW Belarus EXPO where companies presented their breakthrough ideas and promising developments to potential investors. Prime Minister Sergei Rumas also focused on innovation at the GEW opening ceremony when he said, "The Government actively supports the development of innovation. In 2020, budget expenditures for these purposes will be increased by 16 percent. For our part, we try to do everything to make businesses feel that their bold and innovative solutions are perceived by the state correctly and, moreover, supported."

Mr. Rumas stressed that much has been done in the country to build partnerships between business and the state. He also recalled that much attention is paid to improving financial support for entrepreneurship: the Government has joined banks to work on the simplification of access to financial resources. The range of products offered to entrepreneurs is also being extended.

## Small businesses receive great attention

It's nonsense to talk about Belarusian business and not to remember the most important policy document. According to Economy Minister Dmitry Krutoy, this has really caused a stir: the number of small and medium-sized economic entities is growing countrywide. "We monitor the data on a monthly basis and see, especially this year, that the figures are growing very well. In general, the number increased by about 5 percent. If you look at the structure, there is a certain transformation: the number of micro-organisations decreases and the number of small and medium-sized entities increases. This year, the number of individual entrepreneurs is growing considerably. This is pleasing not only for

the trade but also for the production sectors." Noticeably, according to the Minister, the number of self-employed citizens (who run business on a declarative principle) and artisans has increased in the country. This April, the list of activities open for these categories was once again expanded. "We see that, in just four months, their number increased by 4,000 people — which is very good. Basically, regions and cities where — for objective reasons — there are difficulties with employment join. Naturally, the number of budget revenues has also increased," he added.

Mr. Krutoy did not hide that the share of small and medium-sized businesses in GDP is not growing as fast as we would like: at the end of 2019, this figure will reach 28.8 percent. Meanwhile, the Economy Ministry is ready to speak of more impressive plans. According to the First Deputy Economy Minister — Aleksandr Chervyakov, the 2030 National Strategy for Sustainable Development aims to increase the share of small and medium-sized businesses in GDP to 50 percent by the set date. As he noted, the achievement of this figure would require two main tasks, "Firstly, we need to create a comfortable and stable business environment for entrepreneurs to minimise institutional risks. Secondly, it's necessary to offer state support to small and medium-sized businesses to reduce their costs which are particularly high at the stages of business start-up, expansion and innovation."



## Look at challenges

GEW is a good platform to discuss problems. This year, the organisers of one of the main events of the week — the 9<sup>th</sup> International Entrepreneurship Forum — proposed to consider 11 challenges. Their range was wide — including the discussion of new markets, access to finance, gender balance and company rebranding. A panel discussion on the new environmental standards

of Belarus aroused interest among businesses and the public. The main conclusion was that 'eco' business is a global trend and that we should take this into account so as not to lose markets.

One of the speakers on the topic was the Deputy Chair of Belgospishcheprom Concern — Iya Malkina. She spoke about the work that is now underway in the country to develop a national action programme for the transition to environmentally friendly packaging. "We still propose to set out our plans to 2035. I should stress: they are probably not very ambitious. We do not set 100 percent as a goal of transition to biologically neutral and environmentally safe packaging. We have conducted an analysis of our market and the estimated figure for various industries is somewhere from 30 to 50 percent of the use of environmentally friendly packaging by 2035," she said.

## THE MT REFERENCE

The Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) is a global initiative that takes place at the same time in 170 countries in order to promote the image of entrepreneurship, develop business co-operation and search for new ideas. The official representative of GEW in Belarus is BelBiz Centre for Business Communication. The GEW partners in Belarus were the USAID, the Development Bank, the Economy Ministry, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the British Embassy in Belarus, Belagroprombank, BelVEB Bank and the UNDP project to develop local initiatives.

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### Belarusian producers presented their products at Agro Food Drink Tech Expo in Tbilisi

The Belarusian pavilion was the largest national exposition — featuring produce of Babushkina Krynka, Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1, Slonim Meat Processing Plant. A poultry products supplier — Dzerzhinsky agro-company — and one of the largest fish brands of the country, Santa Bremor, also brought their products to the fair. The exposition also presented giants of agricultural machinery: Minsk Tractor Works, Gomselmash and Belshina. Representatives of Belarusian enterprises held talks with Georgian businesses on increasing supplies and expanding the export range.



### Belarusian scientists have developed a system that can help diagnose lung diseases using x-ray images

On the basis of x-ray images, the system assesses the condition of lungs and concludes whether a patient is healthy or needs to see a specialist. Moreover, if a person is unwell, the system indicates with a certain probability what disease is in place — i.e. tuberculosis or pneumonia. It is not automatic; the system helps the doctor to diagnose the condition. The demonstration version of the system was presented at the 17th international conference — *Development of Information and State System of Scientific and Technical Information (RINTI-2019)* — in Minsk.



### BMZ signed contracts to supply around \$40m of steel products to Russia in 2020

The agreements were reached during the international *Metal-Expo 2019* industrial exhibition in Moscow. Russian companies are interested in purchasing seamless pipes, wire rods, structural steel and wire for high-pressure hoses. Traditionally, Russia leads the top 5 importing countries for Belarusian steel products.

*Metal-Expo* is considered one of the main events in the CIS metallurgy branch and gathers representatives of hundreds of companies from around the world. BMZ is a regular participant of this forum. Every year, more than 80 percent of BMZ products are exported.



# To solve problems of water and health

By Arina Novikova

The fifth session of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health has taken place in Belgrade, Serbia. The official delegation of Belarus was headed by the Deputy Minister of Health, Chief State Sanitarian of the Republic of Belarus — Natalia Zhukova.

The high-level ministerial session of the meeting reviewed progress towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals relating to water, sanitation and health, and foster strategic discussion on implementation gaps. Participants discussed political and technical dimensions of key issues for the pan-European region, such as the safe management of water and sanitation services in the light of climate change; equal access to water and sanitation and current water-related health concerns, such as Legionella outbreaks and antimicrobial resistance.

## Belarus has been elected chair of Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health



minzdrav.gov.by

At the meeting, Belarus was elected the chair of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol for 2020-2022, taking over the presidency from Serbia. The country's candidacy was approved by all participants of the meeting.

Recently Belarus has been one of the leading countries both in promoting the Protocol at international level and also in implementing it at a national level. According to the UNDP, Belarus is among the countries with 100 percent sustainable access to improved water sources (in terms of quantity, quality and proximity of water sources).

The presidency of Belarus will enable the implementation of global initiatives and policy decisions of the Protocol, aiming to improve the health and well-being of all residents of the European region by ensuring the safety of water use and sustainable management of water resources.

# Best place for travels

By Svetlana Savelieva

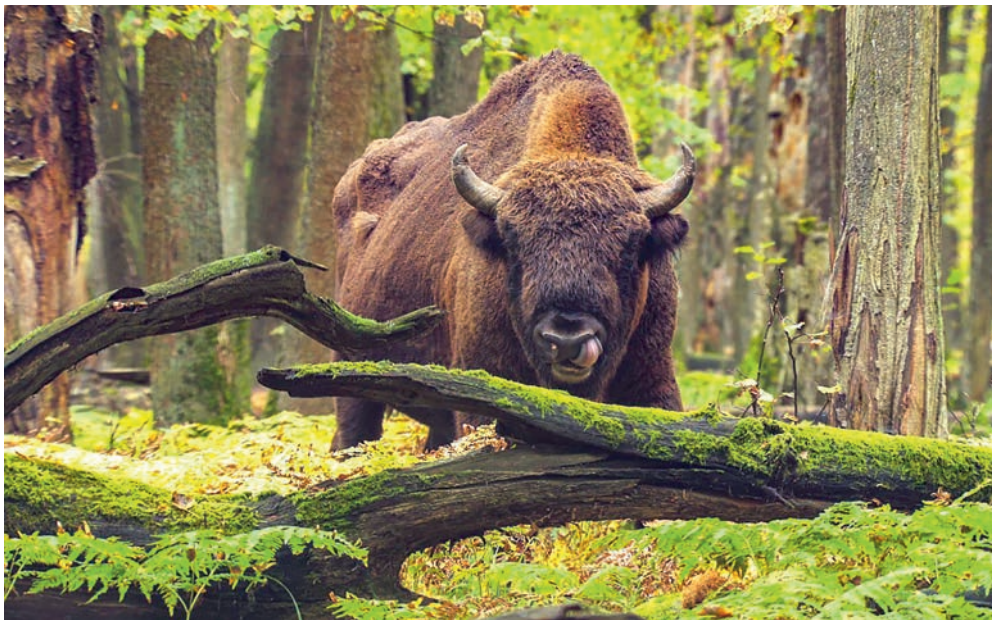
**Belovezhskaya Pushcha among National Geographic's best trips for 2020**

The magazine calls Belovezhskaya Pushcha — which is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List — one of the last corners of wild nature in Europe still to be preserved. This is undoubtedly

true. National Geographic also advises readers to be sure to visit this kind of oasis spread over a large area next year. September and October are the best months for such travel, though we'd love to add that the Pushcha is beautiful at any time of the year!

National Geographic also reminds its readers that, in Belovezhskaya Pushcha, it's possible to meet unique animals and birds, many of which are considered endangered. The site is also worth visiting for those wishing to see the population of European aurochs.

The top 25 places to visit in 2020 include also Guizhou Province in China, Tohoku in Japan, the National Blue Trail in Hungary, Telc in Czechia, Magdalen Islands in Canada, Fort Kochi in India, Zakouma National Park in Chad, Philadelphia in Pennsylvania, Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona, Maldives, Tasmania in Australia, Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia, and others.



nat-geo.ru

## New record at Topcoder Open 2019



**Belarusian Gennady Korotkevich set a record at Topcoder Open 2019 programming championship in Houston, USA**

By Irina Sergeeva

For the first time in the history of the competition, the programmer won in two categories. Since 2001, Topcoder Open (TCO) brings together development and design professionals from around the world. This year's TCO finals were held in Texas. The individual contest consisted of 6 sections, including 'Marathon' and 'Algorithm'. It was in these areas that Gennady Korotkevich triumphed. He participated in two at once and showed a high standard — becoming the first to win a double victory.

Gennady Korotkevich is a former graduate of the Gomel gymnasium and is now a graduate student at St. Petersburg's University of IT, Mechanics and Optics. The young man has won many top international programming competitions, including Google Code Jam, Yandex. Algorithm, VK Cup, Russian Code Cup, Facebook Hacker Cup. This August, he retained the title of winner at the international Google Code Jam tournament — for the sixth time in a row.

# Favourite country to holiday in

The annual tourist rating demonstrates an enviable consistency: Russians once again admit that Belarus is more often chosen among the CIS countries for autumn recuperation

By Svetlana Yevgenieva

The Turstat tourist portal has presented the rating of CIS resorts aimed at health and balneological recuperation in autumn. It states that most Russian tourists visit Belarus, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Moldova.

This year, the top five resorts are those on Lake Naroch in Belarus, Naftalan in Azerbaijan, Burabay in Kazakhstan, Jermuk in Armenia and Kalarash in Moldova.

On average, according to the portal, Russians holiday in the CIS from 10 to 14 days in autumn. The cheapest accommodation, food and treatment are in Belarus: usually less than 3,000 Russian Roubles per day. In Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Moldova, recuperation is slightly more expensive — up to 3,500 Russian Roubles per day.



lowcoster.by





By Natalia Yemelyanova

**At Dubai Airshow 2019, Belarus presented a range of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) of small and medium class aircraft and helicopter types, as well as effective means of countering the use of drones**

The international Dubai Airshow exhibition, which is among the world’s top five largest aviation and space events, was held in Dubai. It took place for the 16th time and was a major event in the more than 30-year history. The organisers reported about 1,500 exhibitors from over 60 countries. Thousands of aerospace specialists visited the exhibition.

“Enterprises of the Belarusian military-industrial complex presented the latest technologies and their capabilities in the field of development and production of robotic air-based aircraft and helicopter types, as well as systems for effective counteraction to the use of UAVs,” said an official representative of the State Military-Industrial Committee’s PR Department, Vladimir Lavrenyuk.

The Committee’s collective stand featured high-tech products of Radar and Bepilotnye Vertolety (Unmanned Helicopters) design bureaus and the Research and Production Centre of Multifunctional Unmanned Complexes. The range of UAVs of various types, purposes and ranges was developed and produced by Beltechexport jointly with

# Flight without pilots

the Research and Production Centre of Multifunctional Unmanned Complexes and the Bepilotnye Vertolety bureau.

“The heaviest multi-purpose UAV produced in Belarus — ‘Hawk’ — has the maximum take-off weight of up to 700kg and is capable of carrying a payload of up to 150kg. It’s also possible to attach 2-3 kamikaze drones to it — which are manned missiles of the ‘air-surface’ type. The duration of the flight can be up to 6 hours (10 hours if an outboard tank is used). The UAV will be manufactured in various versions, including reconnaissance and strike,” Mr. Lavrenyuk said. He also noted that Belarus now occupies a leading place in the world regarding the development, design and production of unmanned helicopter systems and that

the Bepilotnye Vertolety bureau is among the top ten companies in the world in this area.

Beltechexport also presented a ‘Groza-C’ electronic warfare station. Depending on the requirements of the customer, it can be supplied on the basis of various (military or civilian) vehicles. The station is able to detect and accompany UAVs by radiation of onboard transmitters, display the location of UAVs and a ground control point, carry out radio suppression, misinformation of navigation receivers and UAV withdrawal from the route.

Belarus was represented at the prestigious air show by an official delegation headed by the Chairman of the State Military-Industrial Committee, Roman



Golovchenko. On the fringes of the Dubai Airshow 2019, meetings were also held with the leadership of the UAE Armed Forces, the Director of the Federal Service for Military-Technical Co-operation of Russia — Dmitry Shugaev, and the General Director of Rosoboronexport — Aleksandr Mikheev. A wide range of issues of military-technical co-operation were discussed with Russian and Emirati partners.



REUTERS

B&W Belarus & World



## World’s fastest-growing industrial park

The World Free and Special Economic Zones Federation (FEMOZA) has named the Great Stone Industrial Park the world’s fastest-growing special economic zone

By Olga Korneeva

“The Great Stone Industrial Park has received the FEMOZA Awards 2019 in the ‘Fastest Growing Industrial Park’ nomination. The awards ceremony took place during the World Free and Special Economic Zones Summit in Monaco,” said the First Deputy Director General of Industrial Park De-

velopment Company, Kirill Koroteyev.

According to FEMOZA President — Juan Torrents, the key to determining the winner was the prospects of the Great Stone Park for global investment and the rapid pace of its development. FEMOZA’s main objectives are to support and promote free economic zones around the world, to assist residents

in entering the international market and attracting foreign investment. FEMOZA Awards are presented annually to the best industrial parks and free economic zones.

The main theme of this year’s summit was to strengthen co-operation and transform successful experiences into working tools. The Great Stone was the strategic project of the summit.

Its potential was displayed at thematic panel discussions and B2B meetings.

The Park also took an active part in numerous sessions and seminars held during the three-day programme, during which participants discussed the experience of special economic zones, FEZ activity in modern conditions, including new directions of activity within the special economic zone regimes, internal models of FEZ management, competitive standards for the environment, quality control and management and the digitalisation of industrial parks in line with the *Belt and Road* initiative.

Attending the event were more than 400 representatives of special economic zones in the UK, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Finland, Latvia, Poland, Italy, Spain, Greece, Turkey, and countries of Asia and Africa, chambers of commerce, government bodies, potential foreign investors and experts.

## No flaws will be hidden

Modern flaw detector carriage for Belarusian Railways



By Igor Svetlov

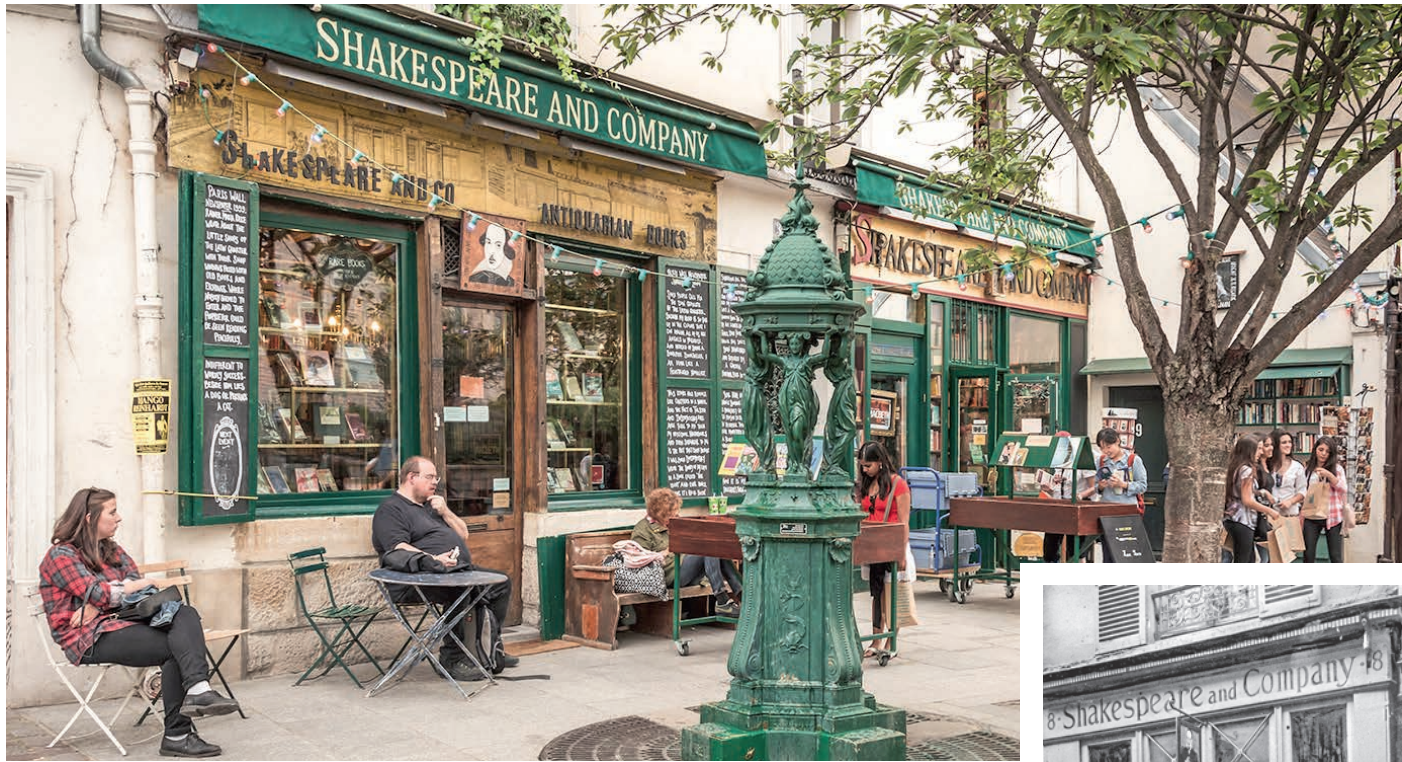
The carriage is aimed at complex diagnostics of the railway infrastructure using ultrasonic, magnetic, visual-measuring and optical methods. Innovative solutions are used in the flaw detector which has already arrived in Minsk; it has been equipped to take into account the requests of the Belarusian Railways.

After setting up the equipment and training personnel, the diagnostic complex will be used throughout the range of Belarusian Railways to examine the condition of the rails and other elements of the track. This will improve the efficiency and reliability of diagnostics of railway rails and switches, which, in turn, will have a positive impact on the safety of train transportation.



25.by





## 100 years of Paris bookshop Shakespeare and Company

Once a haven for modernist pioneers, the beautifully cluttered bookshop is now a legend, known for letting travellers stay the night — if they write an autobiography

Many people describe the shop as ‘magical’ or ‘a dream’. Some mention its pedigree — the famous writers including F. Scott Fitzgerald, James Joyce and Ernest Hemingway who went there, the films and TV programmes shot there. As a Paris landmark, which turns 100 this month, it is ranked below the Eiffel Tower and above the crumbling angels of Père-Lachaise cemetery. There are

no Shakespeare and Company equivalents in any other city.

There’s the fact that the shop itself is beautiful: the dark wood, creaking like a ship, low-hanging absinthe-coloured lanterns giving off a dim, gold light. Its slight disorderliness — books stacked on the floor, wedged in too-small gaps on shelves, rested in the rungs of ladders — is undeniably attractive in a world where the majority of our

novels are bought on the recommendation of an algorithm on a clean, white website. And its location is perfect too, allowing it to claim some of the long-dispersed bohemian charm left over by the artists and intellectuals of the old Rive Gauche, while being a quick walk from tourist favourites. And there is the much vaunted novelty that aspiring writers can stay in the shop for free; called ‘Tumble-

weeds’, the travellers must help out with a few hours’ work, read a book a day and write a short autobiography.

But much of Shakespeare and Company’s tourist-drawing power comes from its glamorous history. The original shop was founded by Sylvia Beach, one of many American expats after the WWI drawn by the lure of Parisian life and the declining value of the Franc.



## Rise in wind speed to boost green power

**A new study suggests that global wind speeds have increased substantially since 2010 after decades of decline**

Scientists say they believe that changes in the patterns of ocean and atmospheric circulation are behind the rise. The researchers say the discovery is very good news for the wind energy industry. They believe that speedier winds will see the energy produced by a single turbine grow by about 37 percent. From the 1980s, scientists detected a marked decrease in the speed of winds around the world.

Termed ‘terrestrial stilling’, the decline was large enough that had it continued until the end of this century, global wind speed would have declined by 21 percent. The authors of the study say this would have halved the amount of power available from the wind industry.

By looking at data from 9,000 ground weather stations combined with statistical models, the researchers show that over the years since 2010, winds have picked up ‘significantly’ around the globe. The rate of speed increase is in fact three times greater than the rate at which the winds were declining before 2010.

The authors believe that the reason for the increase is more to do with changes in the ocean and atmospheric circulation patterns and not down to surface roughness alone.



## EU countries warned of ‘lost generation’ of young refugees

**Europe is in danger of creating a ‘lost generation’ of young refugees who have fled war and persecution in their countries, the EU’s Rights Agency says**

The Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) said it had identified serious challenges in integrating people aged between 16 and 24 across the EU.

It has urged member states to speed up asylum procedures, simplify family reunification and provide more housing. From 2015 to 2018, almost two million people received protection in the EU.

Based on interviews with refugees and frontline staff in Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy and Sweden, the FRA released a report highlighting ‘serious obstacles’ for young people seeking asylum across the bloc.

It has called on countries to implement ‘smart investments’ to help encourage

successful integration.

“This report aims to contribute to reflection on how to achieve this, thus making sure that a whole generation will not be lost,” it reads.

Among the issues raised was that young people were being made homeless and forced to live on the streets in some cases while their asylum applications were dealt with — a process that could take months.

An improvement on the provision of mental healthcare for traumatised young refugees was also needed, the FRA said, adding that providing young people with education services was fundamental.

The FRA report has also highlighted some good local policy initiatives and calls on EU states to learn from each other and give young refugees an adequate chance in life.

## Boeing hopes regulator will approve revised 737 MAX jets in December

**Embattled planemaker Boeing said it is hoping to get authorities’ approval for its revised 737 MAX jets next month**

Regulators banned commercial flights of the firm’s fastest-selling aircraft in March after two fatal accidents. First, in October 2018, a Lion Air flight from Jakarta crashed into the Java Sea, killing all 189 passengers and crews on board. Then, in March this year, an Ethiopian Airlines flight, en route from Addis Ababa to Nairobi, came down shortly after take-off.

Plans for the jet’s return to commercial service have been pushed back to

“The plane will return to service when the Federal Aviation Authority and the other global regulators around the world tell us that it’s safe. So we’re awaiting certification. The changes in the software are ready to go and if all goes well we may gain certification from the FAA in December which would enable us to start to deliver planes and then, in January, new training will be approved and that would enable us to train pilots on the changes and start to get the planes into

service. But the primary issue here is safety and the plane will fly when it’s safe and the authorities tell us it’s ready to go.”

It comes as Kazakhstan flag carrier Air Astana said it had signed a letter of intent to order 30 Boeing 737 MAX 8 jets for its FlyArystan subsidiary.

Air Astana, which operates Airbus and Embraer jets in its main network, said it was confident in Boeing’s ability to resolve problems with the MAX.



early 2020 as Boeing finalises software and training revisions that need regulatory approval.

“So, first of all, this is a human tragedy that plays very heavily on the hearts and minds of everyone at Boeing every day,” Charlie Miller, the company’s Vice-President of International Corporate Communications, noted at the Dubai Air Show.

**Materials prepared with aid of information agencies**





Junior  
EUROVISION  
SONG CONTEST  
GLIWICE-SILESIA 2019

# Shared joy

Last weekend, the Polish city of Gliwice attracted a great deal of attention as it hosted the finals of the *Junior Eurovision 2019* Song Contest — gathering participants, fans and hundreds of journalists to the singing forum held under the ‘Share the Joy’ slogan

By Irina Sergeeva

Gliwice Arena — built a year ago and able to seat up to 17,000 people — gathered young performers on the Sunday evening from 19 countries: Australia, Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Ireland, Spain, Italy, Kazakhstan, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Northern Macedonia, Serbia, Ukraine, Wales, France and Poland (which hosted this year’s contest).

12-year-old Viki Gabor was named the winner: her *Superhero* song scored 112 points from the jury and 166 from the audience (278 in total). The young Polish singer was born in Germany, received her primary education in the UK and now lives in Poland. The peculiarity of her performance was the sign language translation of the song on stage.

First place was given to Poland by Spain and Kazakhstan, but this wouldn’t have been enough to win if it were not for the unprecedented support of the audience, who greatly appreciated her modern song and powerful vocals. As a result, Poland was triumphant at the *Junior Eurovision* for the second year in a row.

Second place went to Kazakhstan’s Yerzhan Maxim, who received 79 points from the audience and a maximum of 148 points from the national commissions of the participating



Yelizaveta Misnikova of Belarus performs

countries (227 in total). First place was given to Kazakhstan by Serbia, Georgia, the Netherlands, Ukraine, Wales, Belarus and Poland.

Spain’s Melanie Garcia was placed third, with 212 points (108 from the jury and 104 from the audience). She captured people’s hearts with her charming great soprano and great vocal range. Italy and Albania gave her the maximum 12 points.

Belarus’ representative, 14-year-old Liza Misnikova, was placed 11<sup>th</sup> with her song *Ashen*: receiving 44 points from the jury and 48 from the audience. Liza had an original sparkling costume, a lively backing dance and an energetic and technically complicated show.

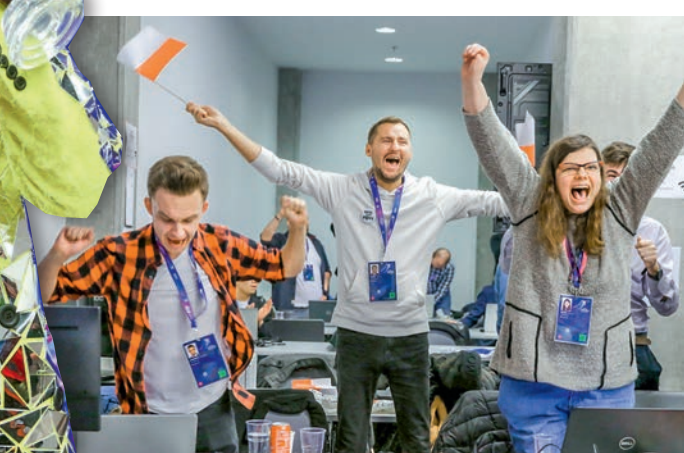
An expert commission of each country included 4 professionals from the field of music and two children; points



Viki Gabor (Poland), the winner

from the jury and the audience were awarded equally on the 50:50 principle.

Belarus has taken part in the contest since its foundation in 2003 and has two victories so far: in 2005, Ksenia Sitnik won with her song *We Are Together* and, in 2007, Aleksey Zhigalkovich was placed first performing *With Friends*.



Karina Ignatian (Armenia)

## IFMC’2019: country’s brand and audience’s pleasure

By Olga Korneeva

**Vitebsk hosts 32nd International Festival of Modern Choreography — gathering participants from Belarus, Belgium, Spain, the Netherlands, Russia and Ukraine**

The agenda of the artistic forum was presented by productions in different formats and opened with the legendary *Anna Karenina* — a word-free performance of the artistes from Moscow’s Vakhtangov State Academic Theatre. Director Anželika Cholina demonstrated her interpretation of the novel. The world premiere of the *Viy* ballet also took place — performed by the Kyiv Modern Ballet Academic Theatre. In addition, Belgian choreographer Jan Martens brought his *Sweet Baby Sweet* based on the different languages of the movement: yoga, circus acrobatics and rock’n’roll. In turn, Perm’s Yevgeny Panfilov Ballet State Theatre staged two premieres: one-act ballets *Labyrinth* and *The Man of the Air*. The final of the Belarusian contemporary choreography competition was held during the forum.

Over three days, the international jury viewed 31 works from the contestants and chose the 13 best productions for the public tour. Before the final, the jury members shared their impressions.

Radu Poklitaru (Ukraine), the chairman of the jury, choreographer,

laureate of international competitions, Honoured Artiste of Ukraine, the chief choreographer of the Kyiv Modern Ballet Academic Theatre, said, “I always appreciate the progress in the performance level of Belarusian artistes who come to the festival. It was nice to hear from colleagues, representatives of the western ‘wing’ of this art, that we saw a very modern dance here. I absolutely agree.” In turn, Nicole Said (France) — the General Manager of BALLET PRELJOCAJ — noted, “It’s the first time I’ve come to Eastern Europe to see this kind of dance.

I am very surprised by the variety of styles, the technical level and a good understanding of what modern dance can be. We’ve seen many troupes, many new ideas and many new movements.”

The first prize of the national competition, just as two years ago, has remained in Vitebsk: it went to Diana Yurchenko’s Theatre-Studio Modern Choreography, for her *Virgo* production. Dmitry Bezzubenkov’s *Or... Or...* received second prize; he represented the Department of Choreography at the Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts. The third prize was shared by *4 Stages* (by Olga Rabetskaya) and *Cycle* (by Aleksandra Demyanova), from Minsk.

Yegor Yarosh from Minsk won a special prize named after Yevgeny Panfilov; it is awarded to the best choreographer at the end of the competition. Yegor brought his 24 production and Nicole Said prepared a surprise for him — inviting the man to her ballet to work on new productions.

At the end of the festival, *Oskara* — the best production of the *Tanzmesse-2018* International Dance Forum in Dusseldorf — was performed by the *Kukai Dantza* dance company (Spain).



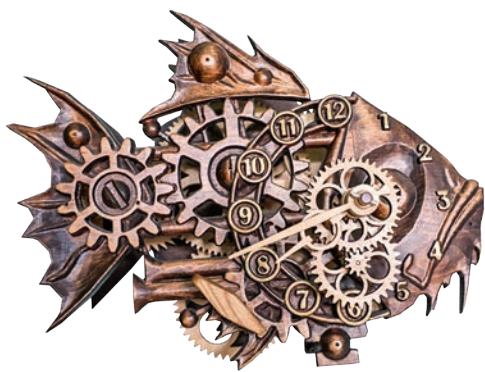
A scene from Anna Karenina

CULTURE

The Minsk Times  
Thursday  
November 28  
2019

9





# Movement straight as time's arrow

Andrey Martynyuk from Dzerzhinsk is known as a talented craftsman and a bold innovator in artistic woodcarving. In his hands, this natural material turns into... a watch. Martynyuk's wonders are ticking in museums, offices of state institutions and well-known companies. Moreover, chronometers from Dzerzhinsk decorate galleries and private collections around the world. *The MT* reporter met the watchmaker and learnt the secrets of his craftsmanship.

By Tatiana Shimuk

## 'I'm not a magician'

Andrey is a modest and friendly person who lives on a quiet street in the private sector of Dzerzhinsk. Despite his extremely busy schedule, he was able to unwind and talk for an hour...

You can't walk past Andrey Martynyuk's courtyard in Dzerzhinsk without noticing various strange mechanisms near his house. As soon as I opened the gate and stepped into the wonderful kingdom of the watchmaker, I was immediately struck contemplating the intricate designs. The only question in my head: 'How is it even possible to cut these out?'

Interestingly, the artist creates such a functional thing exclusively from wood — with no metal or plastic elements. Andrey Martynyuk shows his various works with an enigmatic smile and explains that a clock made of wood is not magic at all, but a simple mechanism with a certain number of gears.

"So you are not a magician, but an engineer?" I ask.

Andrey shrugs his shoulders, "It could be said, because by my specialty I'm actually a telecommunications engineer and used to work at a communication centre. I've always loved to draw. We have two sons, my wife teaches violin in a music school: one is a musician while the second is keen on design. They always support me in my experiments with understanding and patience. Honestly, the support of my loved ones is a very important component of the creativity and integrity of the family!"

At first, Andrey Martynyuk took up wooden mechanics as a hobby, exclusively for the soul. For a long time, he gave his items as gifts to friends and acquaintances ...

"Making a watch for yourself and then hanging it on the wall is not interesting. It's good to feel that a person enjoys looking at my products. And then the hobby gradually turned into a business. I see nothing new or complicated in the work of a mechanical watch. They were invented two centuries ago... And I only specify the subtleties: gear ratios, the number of teeth and the diameter of the gears. Then the mechanism must be qualitatively done, assembled, and ad-



justed... Previously, each gear had to be produced manually, as there were problems with the equipment. I was looking for the things necessary for my ideas in all sorts of places," the craftsman recalls.

Then Andrey got new tools for his work: a chip moulding and routing machine, as well as a laser machine. His watches were appreciated by the public and invitations to presentations and exhibitions 'rained down' upon him. However, he is modest about his popularity.

He does not create miniatures on the whole, leaving this to those who have taken the niche in woodcarving. For example, Valery Danevich, a master in the manufacture of wooden pocket watches, works in Kiev. The circle of watchmakers around the world, according to the artist, is narrow, "There are separate master craftsmen in Europe. I know that, in Russia, an ordinary teacher at a school can cut out gorgeous watches. It's good that he has attracted children to his hobby."

## Tick-tock: never stops...

Andrey Martynyuk is an obsessive lover of the movement of time on ordi-

nary-sized and large watches. The originality of the forms of his works from alder, oak, ash, and birch plywood impresses all who see them with his creative approach. Each watch is different in its mechanism, design, material and colour. Although a clock made of wood must be treated with a special composition so that it is not damaged by the temperature and humidity of the room.

Though everything has been explained about this living natural material, the watches' designs simply make me dizzy. There are striking and non-striking. There are those with different sounds, unusual triggering mechanisms in the form of fish, Cheshire cats, owls, mills, boats, weights, houses... and the craftsman does not want to stop his exciting creativity. Furthermore, his customers will not allow him to.

I ask where the inspiration comes from for new designs.

"Muse and music for me are friends. I'm an avid music lover and listen to prominent groups: from *The Beatles* to *Radiohead*... I enjoy heavy and classical rock and high-quality electronic music. I turn it on in the morning and work. Our family is also well-versed in this matter: listening and playing. Once I made an electric guitar for my son, on which he played two courses of the Glinka Musical College. Then I made different guitars, electric violins, electric cello, and other instruments," he adds.

A huge exposition of Andrey Martynyuk's works is kept in the Stankovo House of Culture. If possible, be sure to visit it — you'll undoubtedly get great aesthetic pleasure from the wealth of watch images and not only this. Here you will find pleasant surprises made by Andrey Martynyuk: an amazing batleika (a puppet theatre) for children and adults Bala-bukha, chronometers from the Vytinanka collection, striking watches in the 'Coat of Arms of the Minsk Region' and 'Sun-Moon' designs.

Andrey has a very optimistic and modern outlook on life. He seeks to find himself constantly and moves in time with time. The fact is that he feels it subtly, maybe because he sets the hours, minutes and seconds on his items. As a real creator, Andrey Martynyuk does not waste his life in vain; he lives every day with the meaning and search for a new one.





Skaters from all over the world have opened the season in Minsk. The main ice arena of the country hosted the first stage of the World Cup which brought together more than 230 athletes from 24 countries. There were many stars among them — including multiple Olympic champions Ireen Wüst (the Netherlands) and Martina Sablikova (the Czech Republic), as well as many other titled athletes. Many stars received awards but the Dutch skaters became the absolute leaders of the Minsk stage: winning about two dozen medals. Canadians, Japanese, Chinese, Americans, Russians also were among the medal holders. Our Belarusian skaters were overshadowed by their foreign competitors: neither in Division A, nor Division B were our athletes able to reach the podium. The best results were Marina Zueva’s 6th place in the 1,500m distance and Tatiana Mikhailova’s seventh position in the women’s final mass start. The latter just a few weeks ago returned from maternity leave.

By Tatiana Pastushenko

It is not the first time Minsk has hosted major speed skating tournaments. Last year, the city welcomed the final stage of the World Cup and, three years ago, the European Championship was held. Among the athletes who performed at the Minsk-Arena skating stadium this time there were those who had never been. Among them was one of the leaders of the Dutch team — Sven Kramer — who even arrived with his own orthopaedic mattress but, unfortunately, the injury received after a collision with a car during training did not enable the four-time Olympic

champion to fully demonstrate his skills in Minsk. After the competition, Mr. Kramer was upset. He admitted that he was far from being in his best form and his whole team would work to return high results. In turn, his teammates were full of compliments for Minsk. Jorien ter Mors, for example, praised the beautiful Minsk-Arena venue and this was echoed by Koen Verweij. Ireen Wüst said she felt the centre of attention, “Happy to win gold again. Minsk has excellent ice. I really was a star, and I loved the feel of it. Moreover, there are wonderful volunteers in Belarus!”

Another Dutch athlete — Patrick Roest — did not hide

# At the highest speeds



Yegor Domoratsky (Belarus)

BELTA

the fact that he went to Minsk with the sole purpose of winning, which he realised in the 5,000m. “I really liked the ice in Minsk, it helped us to run fast. I trained long and hard before the season and I am glad that my efforts were justified,” he said.

Skaters from Korea, Japan and other countries agreed with the Dutch. American Brittany Bowe was also impressed by the Minsk welcome, saying, “I really enjoyed performing here. It’s great to start the season in such a place and climb onto the top step of the podium! Now I look forward to continuing.”

Not only athletes appreciated the high level of organisation of the World Cup in Minsk. Representatives of the International Skating Union, who regularly travel to tournaments of different levels, could not find fault with the work of the organising committee.

Among many aspects (convenient location of all involved



Yury Mozolevsky

in the World Cup facilities, accommodation, food), a member of the technical committee of the ISU — Aleksandr Kibalko — paid special attention to, perhaps, the key thing: ice. It was fast and well prepared, as evidenced by the records set during the event. According to the expert, Minsk could host larger speed skating tournaments, “We held the European Championship here, and the current stage of the World Cup

has been held at the same high level. These events could have been easily called the World Championship. In the future, if Belarus applies for the right to host top tournaments, all these will play in its favour. Another major advantage will be the fact that, during the World Cup, the arena saw high attendance. It’s very important that the audience has a huge interest in the competition and the sport in general.”

## Aleksandr Kibalko:

*The beginning of the season was excellent. The first stage is always the most difficult since new rules and new requirements are applied for competitors. In Minsk, the organisers coped with all the issues perfectly.*



BELTA

## Brest Dinamo are champions

Footballers of Brest Dinamo defeat Vitebsk in the 29<sup>th</sup> round with a score of 1:0, to become Belarus’ champions for the first time, breaking BATE’s 13-year dominance

Czech coach Marcel Licka’s trainees took the home match of the penultimate round of the 29th national championship seriously: in the 38th minute, Aleksey Khoblenko scored the goal which brought victory. With 72 points, Brest Dinamo is now untouchable for its rival, Belarus’ 15-time champion, BATE, who

has not given the trophy to anyone since 2006. The Borisov team won their first titles in 1999 and 2002.

At Borisov-Arena, BATE defeated Minsk Dinamo — 3:0 — to be placed second. Bronze went to Shakhtyor Soligorsk who lost to Minsk — 0:1 — in an away match.

## Run of failure finally broken

**Minsk Dinamo beat Omsk Avangard in KHL championship away match: 2:1 (1:1, 1:0, 0:0)**

The ‘bisons’ began the match with a chain of three defeats in a row and one of these was by Avangard; in Minsk, where the Belarusians lost 1:2 (following penalties). Before the match, most experts unanimously favoured the hockey players from Omsk, who are in second place in the Eastern Conference and lead the Chernyshev Division. However, Craig Woodcroft’s players managed to give fans a pleasant surprise, showing their character throughout.

The ‘hawks’ opened the scoring in the 5th minute when Kirill Semenov

scored a goal. The start of the match was definitely not pleasant but didn’t manage to demoralise the Minskians. In the 6<sup>th</sup> minute, Teemu Pulkkinen restored the status quo. Moreover, in the 38<sup>th</sup> minute, the Dinamo legionnaire scored again and brought victory to his team.

By the end of the match, the Omsk players significantly exceeded our team in number of shots at goal (43:24) but couldn’t score more than once. Jhonas Enroth performed excellently in goal and all the Dinamo defenders played well.

After this victory, our team boasts 25 points, lagging outside the playoff zone by just eight points.



hawk.ru

SPORT





Photo of the week

Exhibitions of photographic artist Igor Gusakov and sculptor Sergey Sotnikov opened in Vitebsk

EXHIBITIONS

**NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM**  
*12 Karl Marks Street*  
Until 1<sup>st</sup> December. *Memory Keepers: Museums and Collectors*  
Until 12<sup>th</sup> January. *East-West*

**NATIONAL ART MUSEUM**  
*20 Lenin Street*  
Until 1<sup>st</sup> December. *Devotion to Small Homeland*  
Until 10<sup>th</sup> January. *Russian Impressionism*  
Until 19<sup>th</sup> January. *Oman: Pearl of the East. Handicraft Legacy*

**MUSEUM OF GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR HISTORY**  
*8 Pobediteley Avenue*  
Until 31<sup>st</sup> December. *Returning Time*

**NATIONAL CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS**  
*3 Nekrasov Street*  
Until 1<sup>st</sup> December. *Art of Live Fire* — based on results of 16<sup>th</sup> International ART-ZHYZHAL Ceramics Open Air Workso  
Until 8<sup>th</sup> December. *Information*  
Until 8<sup>th</sup> December. Personal photos projects of Yelenka Donbrova  
Until 8<sup>th</sup> December. *Run with Scissors*

**YANKA KUPALA LITERARY MUSEUM**  
*4 Yanka Kupala Street*  
Until 5<sup>th</sup> December. *I'm Free in My Spirit*

**MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN LITERATURE HISTORY**  
*13 M. Bogdanovich Street*  
Until 12<sup>th</sup> January. *There Is Charm in Old and Forgotten...*

**MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN CINEMA HISTORY**  
*4 Sverdlov Street*  
Until 8<sup>th</sup> December. *Solaris. Donatas Banionis*

**HIGH PLACE**  
*2A Gertsen Street*  
Until 8<sup>th</sup> December. *Source*

**MINSK GALLERY**  
*9 Pobediteley Avenue*  
Until 9<sup>th</sup> January. *Museum of Leonardo da Vinci's Inventions*

**MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN NATURE AND ECOLOGY**  
*12 Karl Marks Street*  
Until 12<sup>th</sup> January. *Dangerous Beauty*

**VILNIUS**  
*55 Kalinovsky Street*  
Until 1<sup>st</sup> December. *Pictorial Art by Dmitry Mshar*

**TROITSKY SUBURB**  
*7A Bogdanovich Street*  
Until 12<sup>th</sup> January. *Best Toys from USSR*  
Until 12<sup>th</sup> March. *Robo Art*

**LIBRA**  
*37 Nezavisimosti Avenue*  
Until 26<sup>th</sup> January. *Pablo Picasso. Paragraphs*

THEATRES

**BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE OF BELARUS**  
*1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square*  
28.11. Don Pasquale  
29.11. The Nutcracker, or Another Christmas Story / Operatic Scenes from Family Life  
30.11. Madama Butterfly  
01.12. Orr and Ora  
03.12. Miraculous Flute  
05.12. Whether Day Reigns...

**MAXIM GORKY THEATRE**  
*5 Volodarsky Street*  
01.12. Hot Mothers  
03.12. Summer Residents  
04.12. Oscar and Pink Lady  
05.12. Lady for a Day

**YANKA KUPALA THEATRE**  
*7 Engels Street*  
28.11 and 02.12. Prudok Radio  
29.11. Harvest / People on Marshes  
30.11 and 01.12. Kolyady Night  
02.12. Black Lady of Nesvizh  
03.12. ART  
04.12. Tolerance  
05.12. Elza's Land / Jeweller's Jubilee

**BELARUSIAN DRAMA THEATRE**  
*44 Kropotkin Street*  
28.11. Grandfather  
29.11. Wisdom Measurer  
30.11. Gender Tricks  
01.12. Concrete  
02.12. Athens Nights  
03.12. Love of People  
04.12. Adam's Jokes  
05.12. Mad Woman

**THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS**  
*33 Mashеров Avenue*  
28.11. No.13  
29.11. Aisedora. Dance of Love / In Search of True Self  
30.11 and 05.12. Pygmalion  
01.12. False Note  
03.12. A Very Simple Story  
04.12. Even a Wise Man Stumbles

**CHAMBER DRAMA THEATRE**  
*5 Frunze Street*  
29.11. Clinic  
03.12. Featherhead  
04.12. Mothers  
05.12. Veronica Decides to Die

**MUSICAL THEATRE**  
*44 Myasnikov Street*  
28.11. Tristan and Isolde  
29.11. Sofia Golshanskaya  
30.11. Jane Eyre  
01.12. I Want Your Husband  
03.12. Silva  
04.12. Wedding in Malinovka  
05.12. Hello, I'm Charlie's Aunt!..

**YOUTH THEATRE**  
*17 Kozlov Street*  
28.11. Goats' Island  
29.11. Pieta / Witch  
30.11. Tram 'Desire'  
01.12. It's Not Invented by Us  
03.12. Playing Happy Family  
04.12. Trickster Club  
05.12. The Fool