

The People's Diplomacy Forum brought 40 countries to Volgograd

On October 31 and November 1, 2019, Volgograd hosted the 6th International Forum of People's Diplomacy "Dialogue on the Volga: Peace and Mutual Understanding in the 21st Century".

Delegated from 40 world countries came to Volgograd to discuss the issues of global world agenda, cultural and humanitarian cooperation and, for the first time – the perspective of economic interaction and its galvanization.

Another peculiarity of the Forum was a big number of young people who attended the event as participants of the "New Generation" Federal Program coordinated by the "Rossotrudnichestvo" Federal Agency, which for the first time became the Forum's co-organizer.



Held on the **World Cities' Day**, the Forum of 2019 was dedicated to the 75th anniversary since the establishment of the friendship between **Volgograd and Coventry** and, respectively, since the birth of the whole international twinning movement.



The panel discussion "**Future of international relations: challenges and possible responses**" was held under the moderation of **Konstantin Kosachev**, Chair of the Committee on International Affairs of the Federation Council of the Russian Federal Assembly. After that, the experts of the Forum were offered a choice between 7 round tables. The "**Role of twin-cities in the development of international humanitarian cooperation**" united Volgograd's twin and partner-cities. "**International partnership of the future:**

meetings of young leaders" featured young legislators, politicians and scholars. "**Laboratory of people's diplomacy**" was dedicated to cooperation between non-profit organizations. Among the participants of the "**Russia and compatriots abroad**", there were representatives of friendship societies and Russian compatriots' coordination councils. The topic "**Germany and Russia in global politics: development vectors for their relations**" attracted representatives of government authorities and expert communities. The discussion "**Volgograd-Cleveland: twinning relations as a new format of the Russian-American dialogue**" was held under the supervision of VolSU's Center of Public Diplomacy, and the topic "**Future of people's diplomacy. The EU and Russia: through the eyes of experts,**

politicians and social activists” excited, among others, the interest of the Belgian and EU Ambassadors to Russia.

During the closing ceremony of the Forum, its Resolution was read out by the Honorary Guest – Lord Mayor of the British Coventry Cllr **Linda Bigham**.

By this document, the Forum participants are calling on the world community to contribute to the strengthening of peace in international relations, to bolster international cooperation and to strengthen global partnership. Besides, the event’s attendants supported the initiative to assign to Volgograd the status of the capital of people’s (public) diplomacy. The text of this Resolution will be forwarded to the municipalities and people’s diplomacy institutions of Volgograd’s twin and partner-cities, international organizations and unions.

The Mayor of Hiroshima Mr. **Kazumi Matsui** and the ex-Member of the European Parliament Dr. **Jiří Maštálka** were not able to attend the Forum in person, but sent their greetings and messages to the event’s participants.



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Additional information: <http://www.welcomevolgogradcity.com/NewsEn.aspx?idn=472>