



АССОЦИАЦИЯ «РУССКИЙ КЛУБ ЛЮКСЕМБУРГА»

[RUSSIAN CLUB OF LUXEMBOURG A.S.B.L](#)

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Luxembourg, May 31, 2021

**Monsieur Daniel Da Cruz,
Director General for Foreign Trade
And Investment Promotion**

Dear Mr. Da Cruz,

Since it has already become a tradition, I am writing to you as the President of the Russian Club of Luxembourg a.s.b.l. to provide you with last information regarding the activities of our associations since past April, 2020. I hope this information will help you understand our general development strategy.

It goes without saying that the last year has been unusual for everyone. The pandemic affected our activities, and many events were cancelled and rescheduled, but in general we continued our activities as much as we could.

Just to remind you, all activities of the Russian Club of Luxembourg take place in accordance with two principles, reflected by the statutes:

- Activities promoting the development of the relations between Luxembourg and Russia to deepen the intercultural dialogue and to contribute to a mutual understanding between Luxembourg locals and the Russian speaking community living in the country.
- Activities promoting the Russian language, history, traditions and culture for all residents of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg interested in a Russian culture.

Since its foundation, the Russian Club of Luxembourg became the center uniting non-profit Russian organisations and activities aimed at promoting the enormous Russian culture heritage and strengthening ties with the Grand Duchy Luxembourg. Our community is not as big as others diasporas, but we are very close and connected.

Our coordination counsel unites Russian-speaking associations and we continue to help organize many traditional events together. Among them are the 2nd Russian-Luxembourgish festival in Beaufort (June, 2019), the traditional winter event for children (the New Year's Eve and Russian Christmas holiday).

Since 2019 the Russian radio show is produced for the Russian-speaking residents of Luxembourg with its broadcasts on Radio Ara. During the entire quarantine last spring, editors of Ara Russia published a regular update of the latest news about the current situation with the coronavirus, which supported everyone in self-isolation.

Russian Club continues to be as an umbrella organization for all affiliated members, namely: the Russian School "Kalinka", the Russian stands on the International Bazar, Festival of Migration, Culture and Citizenship, the Russian Women's Club, the "Rythmo-Cats" Club, "Rythmica-Lux Schuttrange" (rhythmic gymnastics), the Tennis Club "Raketka", "Russian Charity Ball", event and singing group VIA "Inspiration", as well as the "Gala des Etoiles" ballet.

In July 2020, the Worldwide Business Alliance of Russian-speaking women was registered in Luxembourg. The goals of this association is the development of commercial, economic, cultural, scientific, financial, tax and legal relations between Russian-speaking and all other entrepreneurs around the world. In September 2020, a partnership agreement was signed between the Russian club and the Alliance. This Agreement facilitates the establishment of channels of communication that permit the creation and exchange of information, as well as collaboration in the area of business.

In September last year, the new educational center for children “Maison des arts” opened its doors to those who want to develop their creativity and talents. The teachers of the development center "Maison des Arts" offer classes on all-round development: physical, intellectual, emotional and creative. Children attend acting, singing, dancing, Russian language lessons, as well as drawing, chess and robotics.

Below you will find the last information about the most important projects and associations which are supported by the Russian Club.

- The strong support of the Russian school “Kalinka”, established in 2009, the actual number of pupils for 2020-2021 of over 220. “Kalinka” has two locations: Luxembourg City and Esch-Sur-Alzette. “Kalinka” school is considered as one of best Russian school in the Greater region. During the quarantine, the school continued to conduct classes for children online. In January and February 2021, the Laboratory "Satellites of the Planets of the Solar System" was held as part of a large project “Space Together”. In March and April 2021, employees of the Luxembourg-based East-West United Bank conducted annual online financial literacy lessons for children.
- Russian club tries to bring the best in the sports field from our country to Luxembourg, too. Rhythmic gymnastic is historically a strong side of Russian sport. Rythmica Lux and Rythmo-Cats organize yearly tournaments and competitions, such as the Rhythmic Gymnastics “BeNeLux and Grand Region Cup” and International Rhythmic Gymnastics Tournament “Luxembourg Trophy”. This tournament brings together delegations of gymnasts from at least 25-30 countries and it is one of the largest rhythmic gymnastics tournaments in Europe. Due to coronavirus restrictions, all competitions and tournaments have been postponed to June 2021 and just recently, on May 29-30 was successfully organized online tournament “BeNeLux and Grand Region Cup”. During the quarantine, gymnastics classes for children were conducted online.
- Every year we carry on with our support of “Gala des Etoiles” Ballet, one of the most beautiful and loved ballet events in Europe. Due to coronavirus restrictions the 8th edition of Luxembourg Gala des Etoiles is being postponed and will now take place on the Weekend of June 18 – 19, 2022.
- We also work with Russian-speaking students and youth and constantly support the youth projects and initiatives. In 2020 we announced a competition of youth projects with a prize fund of 1500 euro. The winner was the Green Paths eco-project, which began in October 2020, and will continue in 2021. The project is aimed at forming an idea of the need for a careful and creative attitude towards nature and the environment among children.
- We support our comrades and delegate our Luxembourgish participants to the International Educational Youth forums, such as BaltArtek: event that gathered around 350 participants from 72 countries of the world; Eurasia: 800 participants from 70

countries, International forum in Sofia: 250 participants from 60 countries including Luxembourg. Last year, for obvious reasons, all forums were canceled, but the first announcements of forums for 2021 are already appearing. We hope that the improvement of the epidemic situation will allow us to take part in its.

- We continue to notice an increasing interest in the great heritage of Russian traditions, culture, cuisine and we are ready to share our knowledge and skills with everyone. With the support of Russian Women's Club, we participate on regular basis in all international events in Luxembourg, such as Festival of Migration, Culture and Citizenship and the Bazar International Charity and really hope to take part again in these events in the near future.
- In order to facilitate the integration of Russian speaking arrivals in Luxembourgish, we have updated the content and continue the maintenance of web site Wel2Lux.com. It is a website in Russian that also informs about Luxembourgish and Russian cultural activities for adults and children. In addition to already existing groups on Facebook, we created similar accounts in Instagram.
- With the aim to provide everybody with the access to the activities conducted under the auspices of Russian Club, we developed and keep improving and supporting the websites of the Russian Club of Luxembourg (www.russianclub.lu) and the websites of associated members: <https://www.kalinka.lu/> , <http://www.rythmocats.lu>, <http://rythmica.lu> , <http://https://www.ballruski.lu/>, <http://www.wel2lux.com/>, . Moreover, additional Facebook community pages have been created for all the associations. Since 2021, we have launched our own YouTube channel, which has interesting videos about the activities of our organizations <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UcKQeow7vrUWafDNi0-XtcA>
- Since October 2020, we have organized a regular intellectual game "What? Where? When?" This game is very popular in Russia and we are very pleased to present the tradition of Russian intellectual games in Luxembourg.
- Finally, we are hosting the most significant and beautiful event of the year, the annual Russian Charity Ball of Luxembourg, a charity project of paramount importance. We are proud to inform you that during the last 9 charity events a total amount of **422,500 €** was raised from the participants' donations. All collected funds are fully donated to the association SOS Villages d'Enfants Monde and to the Russian foundation "Podsolnukh" (Sunflower). The next one is planned for January , 2022.

Last year, given the current pandemic situation we decided to support compatriots and hold the annual award "Person of the Year", encouraging active residents of Luxembourg who have made a great contribution to the social life and development of our Russian-speaking community. We selected the winners in four nominations and presented them with certificates for 100 euros, which they could spend in cafes or beauty salons of Russian-speaking owners in Luxembourg, thereby supporting the service and catering business, which suffered after the quarantine. Here is the list of the winners:

Event of the Year – Study of the Russian presence in Luxembourg in the 20th and 21st century "100 Jahre Russen in Luxemburg. Geschichte einer atomisierten Diaspora" (Author - Inna Ganschow).

Project of the Year - Russian-Luxembourgish educational project "Space Together" (Russian School "Kalinka"). They donated their prize to a charity foundation of Russian Charity Ball.

Patron of the Year - Russian Charity Ball (For raising funds for charitable foundations: SOS Villages d'enfants, Sunflower, Vera and Step together). They donated their

prize to a charity foundation of Russian Charity Ball.

Public recognition - Alena Filko (For a kind heart, selfless help and social responsiveness (sewing protective masks during a pandemic).

We hope that this such awards will become a good tradition.

Our annual activity report for the previous year (April 2020 – April 2021):

1. May 5, 2020 - The online ceremony "After the Ball". The presentation of cheques to the charitable foundations for which donations were collected during the Ball took place at a Zoom video conference. Participants in this virtual cheque presentation included the Ambassador of Luxembourg in Russia Jean-Claude Knebler, Russian actor Yevgeny Stychkin, Luxembourgish journalist Nathalie Reuter, Russian film-director and kino-producer Timur Bekmambetov (more than 30 people in total), as well as representatives of the foundations assisted by the Russian Charity Ball: SOS Children's Villages in Russia, which supports children in difficult situations, the Sunflower Foundation ("Podsolnuch"), which supports children with immunodeficiency and autoimmune disorders, Life with Cerebral Palsy, which helps children with cerebral palsy, and the Vera Hospice Fund. After the main part, all the participants could enjoy wonderful live music performed by Alexey Stychkin and Daniil Ars from the Liege Conservatory. Last year's Russian Charity Ball managed to raise **€48,500 euro**.
2. May 9, 2020 - Celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Victory Day. A large number of videos, songs, poems were created and published online. We organized The Immortal regiment march with portraits of WWII veterans online. Also the Russian Club held an online quiz on World War II and awarded three winners with gifts (together with the Russian shop). The wreath-laying ceremony was not crowded this year, with only 3 people, following the rules of social distance.
3. October 4, 2020 - Children's event "Green Paths": educational games, quiz, DIY crafts, picnic.
4. October 17, 2020 - First game "What? Where? When?".
5. November 4, 2020 – Annual award "Person of the Year".
6. November 21, 2020 – Second game "What? Where? When?".
7. January 31, 2020 - Third game "What? Where? When?".
8. January 31, 2020 - New Year and Christmas performance for the youngest and their parents by our singing association VIA "Inspiration". The musical show "The Mystery of the Snow Queen" the show was presented almost 2 months later than planned due to restrictions, but despite this, the artists had 2 performances and made the children happy.
9. February 27, 2020 - Fourth game "What? Where? When?".
10. March 13, 2020 - Fifth game "What? Where? When?".
11. March 27, 2020 - Sixth game "What? Where? When?".
12. April 10, 2020 - Events to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's flight into space: Russian school "Kalinka" organized the showing of thematic videos with a discussion of Yuri Gagarin's flight into space; thematic drawings at art lessons were created; a thematic laboratory with a group of participants in the "Space Together" project was conducted; Photo Challenge "Cosmic Luxembourg" was held. "Maison des Arts" held a drawing competition and the lessons dedicated to the Day of Cosmonautics.

13. April 24, 2020 - Seventh game "What? Where? When?"
14. April 25, 2020 – Participation in the campaign #GardenofPeace. Campaign under the slogan "Keep the World - Plant a Tree - Save the Planet", dedicated to the meeting of Soviet and American troops on the Elbe on the April 25th 1945. The ceremony took place in the Garden of Remembrance (Jardin des souvenirs) in the area adjacent to the Erpeldang cemetery in the commune of Bous. The head of the representative office of Rossotrudnichestvo in Luxembourg M.V. Bocharova, Victory volunteers, The chairman and CEO of the American Chamber of Commerce in Luxembourg (AMCHAM) and other activists of the Russian Club of Luxembourg attended this meeting.

From this year we register the members of the Russian club of Luxembourg in Register of Commerce and Companies (RCS) under registration number F7861.

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We would be pleased to see you on our events and provide you with any required additional information.

Yours sincerely,

Vsevolod Iampolski,
President of the Russian Club of Luxembourg a.s.b.l.

