



Urals Region Meets Youth Time

For the first time, the Youth Time international youth movement has taken part in the Eurasian Economic Youth Forum (EEYF), which was held in the Urals State Economics University (USEU) in Yekaterinburg from 14th to 18th May. The Forum brought together over 1,500 participants from all over the world, with guests of honour including the ambassadors of Ecuador, Peru, and Benin. Members of the Youth Time delegation delivered a presentation to the Forum on the movement's key initiatives and projects, shared their experience of supporting social projects and were directly involved in the competition programme as members of the jury and Forum experts. The delegation was led by Pavel Kamynin, head of Youth Time's Moscow office. On 15th May, he spoke to the Forum about the movement's main objectives, the Rhodes Youth Forum, a new initiative called "New Paradigm in Education", which the audience found most interesting, and other Youth Time projects. There was also a round table discussion of the future of online education and the impact of the new media. The issue of the role played by social networks in everyday communication generated a heated debate in the hall.

On 16th May, Kamynin also spoke as a member of the expert jury in the volunteer projects competition, which was held for the first time as part of the Civil Initiatives Congress within the EEYF programme. Kamynin made particular mention of a project to hold a volunteer scientific and practical conference in Yekaterinburg and expressed his hope for future collaboration with them. The Youth Time delegates also spoke on the topic of international trade in financial services as part of the Forum's WTO module.

At an exhibition of the nations of the world, organized in honour of the Forum, Youth Time presented its magazines and books. Visitors to the exhibition were attracted by the opportunity to contribute to Youth Time's publications, to enter interviews with successful local entrepreneurs in a competition and to talk about their projects.

"We were delighted to accept the invitation from the EEYF and to send a delegation to the frontier between Europe and Asia to seek out new talent", said Youth Time president Julia Kinash on the eve of the trip. "Even our most optimistic expectations were met", said Kamynin at the end of his visit to Yekaterinburg. In his thank-you speech during a ceremonial Friendship Ball, held in the USEU Culture Centre on 16th May, the head of the delegation noted not only the warm reception they had received, but also the positive changes taking place in the life of Russian youth: "It's very nice to see such a big rise in the level of political and economic awareness, knowledge and understanding of social responsibility and of the English language".

The Youth Time representatives invited young people from the Urals and the Forum participants to take part in the Rhodes Youth Forum. The movement is also hoping to continue fruitful collaboration with the Forum in the future.