

Multicultural Rostov





- Do you know that people of almost 130 nationalities who live in Rostov and Rostov region can make a declaration of love to their native land and the city?
- Since the foundation of Rostov all the conflicts between the people of different nationalities have always been settled peacefully. Internationalism has always been an integral part (part and parcel) of life on the Don. People have done their best to live and bring up their children in peace.



In the XIX century Rostov was called Russian Chicago. The city was the largest trading centre in the south of Russia and was developing very quickly. But the main reason to call it Russian Chicago was quite different. Streams of migrants rushed here from different parts of the world. Especially great was the number of the Greeks, the Jews, the Turks, the Italians and naturally the Slavs who came to Rostov. But according to the law of that time the Jews were not allowed to live in Rostov. Ten thousand Jews had to be evicted from Rostov. Only thanks to our forefathers who interceded for the Jews, the emperor allowed them to settle in Rostov.



By the way, the true internationalism the Rostovites displayed in 1914-1915 when thousands migrants arrived in the Don capital from Poland and Turkey.

Much water has flowed under the bridges since that time. But thanks God the character of the Rostovites hasn't changed nowadays. We are proud of the fact that the representatives of many nationalities live on Don land in peace and friendship. The second place take the Armenians – 2 per cent of them live in Rostov region.



According to the statistic , 90% of residents in our region are the Russians. Therefore if we look up into a class register, we'll find such "Russian" family names as the Grekovs, the Polyakovs, the Kalmykovs, etc., which remind us the origin of their forefathers.



- **And what is more, in any family, when having dinner, you may be treated, to the Ukrainian borshch (cabbage soup), Russian pancakes, Armenian flavouring or Jewish stuffed pike, which are traditional on the Don.**



Rostov has always been the gateway to the Caucasus. Among the migrants there are representatives of about 20 nationalities. They have brought with them their cultural traditions, customs and beliefs enriching our culture. Now in Rostov there are 12 national societies and associations of countrymen, several national weekend schools where children study the language and art of their ancestors (forefathers). But still the Russian language is the mean of intercourse for 97% of the population in Rostov region.