

June 2016

Newsletter to ESTA members

The International ESTA Conference in Kazan May 26th - 30th 2017

Background, application, conference activities, visa, travel, hotels and more.

BACKGROUND, THEME, APPLICATION.

Some years ago ESTA-Tatarstan was accepted as a regional Russian branch and already several ESTA-notabilities have visited Kazan to give master classes, lectures, workshops, concerts or to join the jury of the string competition "Sunny Land". Now for the first time in Russia, Kazan will host the 45th international conference of ESTA **from 26 till 30 May 2017**.

Kazan is a city with a long history. Kazan is situated on the left bank of the Volga, and today is one of the largest scientific, political, economic, sports and cultural cities of Russia. In fact, Kazan is the third most important city of Russia. Thousands of tourists are attracted to the Kazan Kremlin, included in the UNESCO World Heritage, and the rich history of the city. Not the last role in attracting tourists and plays a well-known Kazan hospitality, attention to guests.

The theme of the conference is "Where East meets West". The Tatarstan culture is a culture where all religions exist in a peaceful way. The conference schedule includes two big excursions - one to Sviyajsk Island (the center of Christian religion) and Bolgar (the centrum of Islamic religion, "the Northern Mekka"). The organizers also invited the neighbors from Chuvash and Udmurt Republics and Samara (Southern Volga) region to develop ESTA in other regions of Russia.

The following **promotional movie** gives an idea about the background of the cultural country Tatarstan: <http://esta-tatarstan.ru/video/1529/>. This is also the link to **the website of ESTA Tatarstan**.

At the time of the conference will held training courses for teachers of string instruments (violin, viola, cello, double bass) - master classes, open lessons, presentations, concerts featuring ensembles of string instruments, sightseeing tours for foreign and non-resident participants.

You can download Regulations of the 45th International ESTA Conference in Kazan and the application form here: <http://esta-tatarstan.ru/docs/>

Registration for participants will open from November 1st 2016 till March 31st 2017.

HONORARY PRESIDENTS
LORD MENUHIN †
PROF. SIEGFRIED PALM †

EDITH PEINEMANN
PRESIDENT
PROF BRUNO GUIRANNA

EUROPEAN
STRING
TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION



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TRANSPORTATION:

The following airlines are *the main operators* of flights between Western Europe and Kazan:

- Aeroflot
- Finnair
- Turkish Airlines

Direct flights already exist from Helsinki, Prague and Barcelona.

Example: *Helsinki – Kazan* (Finnair) 2 h 30 m 253 Euro

Prague – Kazan (CSA) night flight (Wednesday only) 3 h 35 m 419 Euro.

There are cheaper flights but you will have to spend 3-4 hours in a Moscow airport.

Barcelona – Kazan (Vueling Airlines) night flight 387 Euro

June 17th 2016 Aeroflot launched regular flights on the route *Kazan – Frankfurt – Kazan*.

Flights will be operated twice a week on *Monday and Friday* on comfortable and modern aircraft A320 according to the following schedule (note that all time is local):

Departure Friday: Frankfurt 14.20 – arrival Kazan 19.20 (Moscow time!). **Flight hours:** 4 h 00 m

Departure Monday: Kazan 9.45 – arrival Frankfurt 13.05. **Flight hours:** 4 h 20 m.

For more information and to book tickets, please visit www.aeroflot.com .

The economy-class tickets will cost 25.000 rubles , business-class tickets – 60-70 thousand rubles.

Exchange rate: 100 Russian rubles = 1,37 Euro

For the moment (June 2016) **return flight Frankfurt - Kazan** costs from **342 Euro**.

APPLICATION & VISA PROCEDURE:

The attached **application form** should be filled out by **every member** who plans to attend the conference so that he or she will receive an **official invitation** from the *Ministry of Culture of the Tatarstan Republic* which needs to be presented at the embassy/visa center in your country for your visa application. It is very important that all national ESTA-secretaries will forward this document to the members of their branch, collect them and send them back to ESTA general secretary Isabel Hahn; she will then forward them immediately to the organizers in Kazan.

The contact person in Kazan is the president of ESTA Tatarstan, **Ramil Sadriev**.

If you have any questions concerning the conference please contact him:

ramil1975@list.ru or +7 (917) 278-34-82

The **type of visa** is named “visa for participants in scientific and cultural exchanges, sporting and religious events” or humanitarian/cultural visa. Price in Scandinavia is approx. **30 Euro**.

The **visa procedure** – including the *procedure of fingerprints* (biometric visa) - is explained in 2 attached documents with Denmark as an example (procedure is the same in other countries).

Invitations for the visum will be made by The Ministry of Culture of the republic Tatarstan.

Earliest day of visa application is March 1st 2017, 3 months before the conference.

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(APPLICATION & VISA *cont.*)

Check that the *plastic coating* of the name page of your passport is *tight* and has no loose corners (this problem occurs in some passports issued between 1999 and 2005. In case the passport is damaged, the visa will *not* be issued.

One of the *mandatory* documents connected to the visum application is the so called “medical insurance”. This means quite simply a **travel insurance**. In order to obtain the visum you must have a *travel insurance that is valid in Russia*. Most all-year travel insurances as you get in your domestic insurance company in your country is valid throughout the world. We recommend you always to contact if you are in doubt. The blue EU-insurance card is only valid in EU, and therefore not valid in Russia.

A copy of the **travel insurance certificate/policy** must be enclosed (do not send originals as this will not be returned by the consulate). Insurance certificate must contain the following information: Name of the insured, the name of insurance company, police number and period of validity.. If the name on the insurance certificate is different from the person that applies for visum (f.i. flatmate, spouse, children aged under 18 etc.) the applicant must contact the insurance agency and ask for a certificate that proves the coverage of the insurance and that it is valid for the entire voyage.

The above procedure was implemented from December 2014, at the Consular department of the Russian Embassy and the Russian Visa Center. Submission of biometric data is not required for the issuance of diplomatic and service visas or by persons under 12 years. In the event that applicants refuse to go through the above procedure, the visa will *not* be issued.

ACCOMODATION in Kazan:

The selected hotels are all located in the city centre
Distance from the conference venues: 0,5 km to 2 km.

See attached **list of 3 youth hostels and 16 hotels** (category 2 – 5 stars).

Prices of rooms varies between 500 rubles (youth hostel) to 9000 rubles (5 star hotel).

FEE & PAYMENT:

The conference fee is 100 Euro for most Western European countries and 50 Euro for others – see the website of ESTA-Tatarstan.

It is not yet decided if the conference team will open a Western bank account.

The Ruble is very weak at the moment (100 rubels = 1, 37 Euro June 2016) so that expenses would be cheap for Western participants.

Welcome to the 45th ESTA-conference in Kazan !

Kindly regards,

Karen Valeur

International liaison ESTA Central Board

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