



# АССОЦИАЦИЯ ГИДОВ- ПЕРЕВОДЧИКОВ, ЭКСКУРСОВОДОВ И ТУРМЕНЕДЖЕРОВ

## Annual Country Report 2019 Russia

### Dear Colleagues,

This year Moscow attracted a record number of visitors of the last decade due to a very successful World Cup of 2018. 18 mln people visited Moscow with tourist purposes, including foreign and domestic travelers.

Tourists from BRICS Countries- Brazil, India, Chinese Peoples republic and South Africa showed the substantial growth in 2019. It is important to notice, that incoming tourism in Russia is hindered to a great extent by entry visa regulations. Tourists from BRICS come with facilitated visa procedures, hence the flow of Chinese tourists has doubled in the last three years. Russian Tourist guides learn how to work with Indian tourists and groups from Asian-Pacific Ocean. Tourists from the above area come in large groups and have full day programs with three meals and four or five included visits.

This season also showed a shortage of guides with French and German, as well as Farsi, Korean, Hungarian, Polish, Bulgarian.

As our colleagues in European countries and beyond, we face unprecedented growth of illegal guiding by tour managers and unlicensed guides.

On March 15, 2019 the Third City Event “ The Day of Moscow Guide” was held with the support of Moscow Department of Tourism, including the III International Guides’ Conference “Excursions: new challenges”, welcome speeches from the Government of Moscow representatives, Professional Unions, Diplomas presentations to fresh graduates, honoring of Veteran Guides. Twenty three regions of the Russian Federation have sent their representatives to participate in the Conference and support the Association initiative to establish the Federation of Tourist Guides Association of Russia. We have united such regions as Kalinigrad and St. Petersburg in North West, Kazan and Volgograd in the Eastern Volga Region, Irkutsk and Altai in Siberia.

In 2019 we have continued lobbying and promoting the amendments to the Federal Law on Tourism in the definition of the Tourist Guide’s profession. The Draft Law has been accepted by the Expert Council of the Federal Cabinet of Ministers and is ready for the first reading at the State Parliament. The three features of the guide’s profession: citizenship, accreditation (regional professional qualification) and professional education are in the draft version. This work allowed us to consolidate with 18 regions of the country and we are planning to unite in the Russian Guides’ Union.

We wish FEG European Tourist Guide’s Meeting all success, fruitful professional exchange!

Alexander Osipov  
President RTGA

Executive Director  
Elena Tikhonova



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**Russian Tourist Guides Association**