Item 32 of the provisional agenda

PROPOSALS BY MEMBER STATES FOR THE CELEBRATION OF ANNIVERSARIES IN 2014-2015 WITH WHICH UNESCO COULD BE ASSOCIATED

SUMMARY

This document provides detailed information on proposals by Member States for the celebration of anniversaries in 2014-2015 with which UNESCO could be associated, as submitted for decision in document 191 EX/32.
MEMBER STATES’ REQUESTS DEEMED ADMISSIBLE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

The Director-General considers that the requests listed in this document meet the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board, and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of these anniversaries, whose descriptions appear hereafter:

1. 600th anniversary of the foundation of al-Thaâlibiya School, heart of the Casbah of Algiers and centre of cultural influence in the Maghreb (1414) (Algeria)

The al-Thaâlibiya school has had an undisputable influence on the “settlement” of the Casbah, in that it enabled several foreign intellectuals, dignitaries and students to settle there. It is regarded as a place of cultural and religious exchange. The Casbah was inscribed on the World Heritage List in recognition of several of its features, including its importance as a place of exchange.

2. 100th anniversary of the death of Sheikh Abdelkader al-Medjâwî, astronomer, reformer and defender of the Arabic language (1848-1914) (Algeria)

Abdelkader al-Medjâwî (1848-1914) is considered to be a leading educationalist who taught many prominent figures from the world of culture and science. Al-Medjâwî’s chief distinction lies in the fact that he handed down his teachings to the leaders of the scientific movement in Algeria, as well as in the Maghreb and North Africa in general.

3. 100th anniversary of the foundation of the Alawi Sufi order, a school for tolerance and interreligious social interaction (1914) (Algeria)

The Alawi Sufi order was founded by Sheikh al-Alawî, for whom the promotion of interreligious dialogue was a priority. The order shows how we can best serve humanity and try to harmonize the world and make it a more beautiful place. It accepts and acknowledges everything that can bring us material comfort, but always in close relation with the inner dimension, in a permanent balance between the profane and the sacred. The order seeks to advance a loving brotherhood of men. It encourages us not to reject rationality at the expense of spirituality, and not to be boxed in by a tame religiosity.

4. 200th anniversary of the establishment of the Lazarev Institute of Oriental Languages (1815) (Armenia with the support of Russian Federation)

The 200th anniversary of the establishment of the Lazarev Institute of Oriental Languages (1815) will provide a valuable opportunity to promote UNESCO’s ideals and mission in the fields of education, culture, social and human sciences, and communication and promote tolerance, the ideals of peace, intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding among peoples.

5. 150th anniversary of the birth of Toros Toramanyan, architect and archaeologist (1864-1934) (Armenia)

Architect and founder of scholarly studies of Armenian architecture, Toramanyan had a significant influence on the development of culture in Armenia and Europe. He worked on studying the remains of medieval Armenian architectural monuments, such as the monuments of secular and church architecture of Ani. His treatise “The Church of Zvartnots” (1905) laid the foundation of the scholarly architectural literature in Armenia.

6. 400th anniversary of the birth of archbishop Voskan Yerevantsi (Voskan Vardapet) Ghlichents, publisher and linguist (1614-1674) (Armenia)
Voskan Yerevantsi has several professional qualifications, however his contribution to the Armenian-language book and the development of Armenian publishing is one of utmost importance. He published the Bible in Armenia and has published over 40 Armenian books. Voskan Yerevantsi has actively participated in the development of Armenian printing in the world.

7. 100th anniversary of the birth of Ilyas Afandiyev, writer and playwright (1914-1996) (Azerbaijan)

As the author of more than 80 works, including plays, novels, short stories and essays Ilyas Afandiyev was well known in foreign audience. His works show the realities of life, social issues, family issues, intergenerational relationships, as well as the way out of the situation and problems. The heritage of Ilyas Afandiyev is still alive and studied in many institutions and research centres. This proposal is an example of outstanding life of a writer and poet who contributed to the promotion of principles of cultural diversity, tolerance and respect between people.

8. 1100th anniversary of the death of Ahmad Al-Bardiji, philosopher and scholar (834-914) (Azerbaijan)

The work of Ahmad Al-Bardiji related to religious tradition and dialogue and contributed to Islamic historiography, law and ethics. Highlighting the historiography of Islam and promoting universal ethical principles should serve to strengthening the mutual understanding between different religions. UNESCO’s association with this anniversary is in line with one of its main missions – promoting intercultural dialogue and safeguarding diversity of cultural expressions.

9. 200th anniversary of the birth of Michał Kleofas Ogiński, composer, writer and diplomat (1765-1833) (Belarus, Lithuania, Poland)

This request, submitted by three countries – Belarus, Lithuania and Poland – focuses on the 250th anniversary of the birth of a composer and politician of the Polish-Lithuanian Union, (which also included Belarus). Michał Kleofas Ogiński was a well-known composer in Europe, highly regarded for his polonaises, including the famous “A Farewell to the Homeland”. In addition to his musical activity, Michał Kleofas Ogiński worked for the liberation of his country, helped to reform the University of Vilnius and, towards the end of his life, attempted to introduce important social reforms on his estate (now in Belarus). This commemoration, supported by three countries of the former Polish-Lithuanian Union, is a remarkable example of close international cooperation in order to preserve a shared cultural heritage, and shows how a common history can be explored in a spirit of mutual understanding and reconciliation.

10. 200th anniversary of the birth of Iosif Goshkevich, scientist and diplomat (1814-1875) (Belarus, with the support of Japan and Russian Federation)

This proposal calls on UNESCO to be associated with the 200th anniversary of the birth of one of the first Slavorientalists. A pioneer in Oriental Studies and fluent in the languages of the Far East – Chinese, Manchu, Korean and Japanese – Iosif Goshkevich devoted his whole life to the study of different cultures and to the fauna and flora of China, Japan, Korea and the Philippines. He also wrote the first Russian-Japanese dictionary. Goshkevich focused all his energy on enabling the mutual understanding of cultures and peoples (being a translator from Chinese himself). In view of the above, the organizers of the various events to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Iosif Goshkevich in Belarus in 2015 call on UNESCO to extend its support. The project is supported by the Government of Japan.
11. 100th anniversary of the birth of Dorival Caymmi, composer and singer (1914-2008) (Brazil)

Dorival Caymmi is an exponential artist in Brazilian music and has contributed positively to projecting his region’s image and the working men and women of the north-eastern coast, through a sophisticated music style but of great popular appeal.

12. 50th anniversary of the death of Brazilian modernist artists Anita Malfatti, painter (1889-1964) and Cecília Meireles, poet (1901-1964) (Brazil)

Anita Malfatti and Cecília Meireles each played in her own way a major role in twentieth-century modernism, projecting Brazil abroad by means of visual arts and literature. They placed themselves in the forefront of artistic movements and simultaneously broke taboos in the affirmation of the role of women in this context.

13. 100th anniversary of the birth of Antônio Houaiss, writer and teacher (1915-1999) (Brazil)

One of the great characters of twentieth century Brazilian culture, Antonio Houaiss stood out as lexicographer, philologist and writer of a consolidated work, having elaborated one of the major Portuguese dictionaries of all times, the Houaiss Dictionary.

14. 100th anniversary of the birth of Grande Otelo, actor and composer (1915-1993) (Brazil)

Grande Otelo is in the gallery of the great Brazilian actors of all times, having received international acclaim for his memorable performances especially in movies. Besides this, he played an important role in the enhancement of the image of black men and women in Brazil.

15. 100th anniversary of the death of Augusto dos Anjos, poet (1884-1914) (Brazil)

Augusto dos Anjos is considered one of the greatest names in Brazilian poetry. Although he is recognized by major critics, researchers and specialists in literature, he has not yet acquired the deserved visibility, namely an articulation towards initiatives that aim to promote the poet in regional and national scales by implementing a museum and other lasting actions.

16. 100th anniversary of the birth of Boris Christoff, opera singer (1914-1993) (Bulgaria)

The request concerns the centenary of the birth of Boris Christoff, one of the greatest opera singers (bass) of the twentieth century. His exceptional voice, his subtle interpretation of opera roles and music, together with his stage presence, have made his performances the stuff of musical legend in Europe. For the younger generations, the audio and video recordings that have been preserved are testament to the significance of this great performer, who appeared on the major opera stages of the world.

17. 100th anniversary of the death of Peyo Yavorov, poet and playwright (1878-1914) (Bulgaria)

This proposal calls on UNESCO to be associated with the 100th anniversary of the death of the poet Peyo Yavorov, a major Bulgarian author. His role in the development of Bulgarian poetry is undeniable. His many poems have been translated all over the world, thus proving their universality.

18. 1200th anniversary of the birth of Saint Methodius (815-885), creator, with his brother Cyril, of the first Slavic alphabet (Bulgaria)

Co-creator of the Cyrillic alphabet, Saint Methodius is considered as one of the major figures in the history of Bulgaria and the Slavic cultures. With his brother, he translated the Bible into old Slavonic languages and helped disseminate and popularize it; their works also helped the
spread of Christianity in the region. Considering its importance nationally and regionally, and its relevance to UNESCO’s ideals and mission, UNESCO could be associated with this anniversary.

19. 100th anniversary of the birth of Professor Tzvetana Romanska, ethnographer (1914-1969) (Bulgaria)

The Bulgarian ethnologist Tzvetana Romanska (1914-1969), made her mark through her studies and teaching at the Bulgarian School of Anthropology. She enabled a better understanding and interpretation of the traditions of the Bulgarian people and, more generally, the Slavs. Indeed, her innovative research methods led her to study the traditions of other Slavic peoples.

20. 50th anniversary of Cook Islands Library and Museum Society (1964) (Cook Islands)

The Cook Islands Library and Museum Society (CILAMS) has managed to collect an impressive set of items in its 50 year history, including the "E Tuatua Akakite" (a declaration in the RarotongaMaori language, signed by Sir William Hillier Onslow, Earl of Onslow, Governor of New Zealand (1889-92) in 1891, on foolscap paper) that is proposed for inscription on the Memory of the World register as one of its most significant items.

21. 50th anniversary of the intellectual career of Professor Zadi Zaourou, politician and writer (1938-2012) (Côte d’Ivoire)

The extraordinary Bernard Zadi Zaourou was a university teacher, politician and writer. His research in the field of African literature and his many books have helped to promote African culture and tolerance between communities. His writings on the status of women in society show him to be a defender of the feminist cause. An author of poetry, plays and critical studies, he was also the theorist behind Didiga, an artistic and philosophical aesthetics.

22. 200th anniversary of the birth of Josip Juraj Strossmayer, statesman and humanist (1815-1905) (Croatia, with the support of Montenegro and Serbia)

Josip Juraj Strossmayer contributed actively to the advancement of education, science, literature and the arts at the national and sub-regional levels. He was instrumental in the founding of the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts in 1867 as well as the re-establishment of the University of Zagreb in 1874. He initiated the building of the Academy Palace (completed in 1880) and set up The Strossmayer Gallery of Old Masters (1884) in Zagreb. He aided the creation of the printing house in Cetinje. Strossmayer continuously used the money obtained from his diocese to fund the building of schools, galleries and public libraries.

23. 200th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Mažuranić, poet (1814-1890) (Croatia)

Mažuranić is one of the most important literary figures of Croatia. He developed the first modern Croatian dictionary and his reputation as a poet was well established in the region. He established the first South Slav University in Zagreb in 1874. He played a very active role in the administrative and cultural development of Croatia. In view of his contribution to the study and development of the Croatian language, and to the modernization of the education system, UNESCO could be associated with this anniversary.

24. 100th anniversary of the death of Antun Gustav Matoš, poet and writer (1873-1914) (Croatia)

One of the most important Croatian writers of the nineteenth century, Antun Gustav Matoš significantly modernized the prose, poetry and literary criticism of his country. His texts are peopled by local characters but their psychological and philosophical dimension gives them a universal dimension
25. 400th anniversary of the publishing of the book “Machinae novae” (New Machines) by the inventor Faust Vrančić (1615) (Croatia)

Machinae Novae, of Faust Vrančić, had been devised as a handbook; Vrančić described 56 different contraptions and technical solutions, methodologically arranging them so as to show the development from familiar devices and projects to his own new inventions. The ingenuity of the author mind is evident in the images of projects that only could have been carried out a century later following new physical and technical discoveries.

26. 500th anniversary of the foundation of the first towns in Central and Eastern Cuba (Cuba)

The proposed anniversary refers to the foundation of four of the first 7 townships founded by Spain in Cuba in the early years of the sixteenth century. While the four towns are national monuments, three of them are totally (Camagüey, Trinidad) or partially (the fortifications of Santiago de Cuba) World Heritage sites, and thus have Outstanding Universal Value. The celebration of the anniversary will also be the occasion to promote cultural diversity and identity today, publish pedagogical material, organize seminars, carry out conservation works, and establish the relation with other UNESCO conventions, such as the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage.

27. 100th anniversary of the death of Carlos J. Finlay, scientist (1833-1915) (Cuba)

Carlos J. Finlay is very well known scientist by his methxenic theory of biological vectors for transmissions of diseases, which was the scientific ground to eradicate yellow fever in America. His major contribution was not only identifying the transmitting agent of yellow fever, but also to determinate that certain diseases were transmitted not so much through person-to-person contagion as through a biological vector.

28. 200th anniversary of the birth of Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda, writer (1814-1873) (Cuba)

Cuban Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda is one of the most important female authors in Spanish, who did not only excel in the quality of her writings, but who advocated for the abolition of slavery, as early as in 1841, and actively criticized the discrimination of women, for which she should be considered as a pioneer in promoting gender equality.

29. 100th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Feijóo Rodríguez, writer (1914-1992) (Cuba)

Feijóo was a poet and writer interested in the diversity of Cuba’s popular culture, as opposed to other forms of art. The work of this multi-faceted artist is a fundamental source for studying Cuba’s intangible heritage, and its relation to Europe, Africa, and Latin America, though it is not, by itself, a work of intangible cultural heritage. Through his work, he promoted intercultural exchange and dialogue, and contributed to make Cuban culture known worldwide, thanks to his visit to many countries in which his work was presented.

30. 100th anniversary of the birth of Costas Montis, poet (1914-2004) (Cyprus)

Costas Montis was one of his country’s greatest poets. His work evokes the rich culture and history of Cyprus. His award-winning poetry is strong on imagery and contains universal humanitarian values. His poems have been translated into Albanian, Bulgarian, Dutch, English, French, German, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish (according to UNESCO’s Index Translationum) – thus providing evidence of his universalism.

31. 100th anniversary of the birth of Bohumil Hrabal, writer (1914-1997) (Czech Republic)

Bohumil Hrabal (1914–1997) is considered as one of the best Czech writers. He started as a poet, and was highly appreciated for an expressive, highly visual style. His most common theme was Political quandaries and their concomitant moral ambiguities. His capacity to
juxtapose beauty and cruelty, foolishness and wisdom with humour and imagination gained him recognition for his original style. Two of his best-known novels Closely Observed Trains (1965) and I Served the King of England, were made into movies in 1966 and 2006, respectively. His works have been translated into 27 languages.

32. 50th anniversary of the death of Gonzalo Zaldumbide, writer (1882-1965) (Ecuador)

The celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Gonzalo Zaldumbide, writer, lawyer and diplomat is a major event for the country. Zaldumbide is one of the most prominent Ecuadorian writers; his prolific work continues to be a reference on the national and international level. He also had an important role as a diplomat and represented Ecuador in several international forums. He is considered one of the major Ecuadorian essayists, together with Solano, Montalvo and Calle. His contribution to literacy is recognized at the national and international level.

33. 150th anniversary of the birth of Jean Sibelius, composer (1865-1957) (Finland)

Jean Sibelius (1865-1957) was a world renowned Finnish composer and is considered as one of the most popular 20th century symphonists. Sibelius exerted considerable influence on symphonic composers and musical life, at least in English-speaking and Nordic countries. In addition to his seven symphonies, Sibelius has to his credit several compositions, over 100 songs for voice and piano, operas, etc. His music played an important role in the formation of the Finnish identity. His mastery of the orchestra has been described as “prodigious.” While thematic variation played a major role in his works Sibelius sought to slowly transform thematic elements; he loved nature and used Finnish landscape as material for his works. He also used folk music and literature in his compositions.

34. 100th anniversary of the birth of Marguerite Duras, writer (1914-1996) (France)

Marguerite Duras was a French writer, playwright, screenwriter and director. Her creative significance lies in the diversity and the modernity of her work, which renewed the novel as a genre and challenged convention in theatre and cinema. Marguerite Duras is still one of the most studied authors in high schools today. Some of her work has been translated into more than 35 languages.

35. 100th anniversary of the birth of Romain Gary, writer (1914-1980) (France)

Romain Gary, whose real name was Roman Kacew, was a French novelist. Uniquely in the history of the Prix Goncourt, he won it twice, the first time under his usual pen name and the second time under the assumed identity of Emile Ajar in 1975. He was a French career diplomat. Several of his books have been adapted for the cinema. He also made two films, for which he was both director and screenwriter.

36. 100th anniversary of the death of Akaki Tsereteli, poet and writer (1840-1915) (Georgia)

This proposal requests UNESCO to be associated with the 100th anniversary of the death of Akaki Tsereteli, an iconic figure in Georgian literature who played a key role in modernizing and developing Georgian literary language. Tsereteli also helped to set up the Georgian Dramatic Society and contributed to the development of education and journalism in his country.

37. 100th anniversary of the death of Paul Ehrlich, physician (1854-1915) (Germany)

Paul Ehrlich worked in the fields of hematology, immunology, and chemotherapy. He invented the precursor technique to Gram staining bacteria, and the methods he developed for staining tissue made it possible to distinguish between different types of blood cells, which led to the capability to diagnose numerous blood diseases. His laboratory discovered...
Arsphenamine (Salvarsan), the first effective medicinal treatment for syphilis, thereby
initiating and also naming the concept of chemotherapy. Ehrlich popularized the concept of a
“magic bullet”. He also made a decisive contribution to the development of an antiserum to
combat diphtheria and conceived a methodology for standardizing therapeutic serums.

38. 150th anniversary of the birth of Max Weber, sociologist and philosopher (1864-1920)
(Germany)

Max Weber is one of the most important historical figures in the social sciences and is a
central reference for researchers in a wide range of areas.

39. 100th anniversary of the death of August Macke, painter (1887-1914) (Germany)

August Macke was a German expressionist painter. In 1907, he discovered Impressionism in
France. This discovery changed his perception of life and painting, enabling him to portray
the ephemeral nature of appearance and the precise fixation of a spontaneous impression.
While living in the countryside in 1909, the living conditions and the peacefulness of his
natural surroundings enabled Macke to produce over 200 paintings. Macke was called up in
1914 and killed on the battlefield at the age of 27.

40. 250th anniversary of the birth of Johann Gottfried Schadow, sculptor (1764-1850) (Germany)

Johann Gottfried Schadow (1764-1850) was a German sculptor. He was the most significant
representative of the German classicism and is considered as the founder of the Berliner
Bildhauerschule. Over half a century he produced upwards of two hundred works, varied in
style as in subjects. Schadow, as director of the Berlin Academy, had great influence, he
wrote on the proportions of the human figure, on national physiognomy.

41. 400th anniversary of the death of Doménikos Theotokopoulos (known as El Greco – “the
Greek”), painter, sculptor and architect (1541-1614) (Greece and Spain)

El Greco was a painter, sculptor, and architect of the Spanish Renaissance. Born in Crete,
which was at that time part of the Republic of Venice, he lived in Italy, where he mastered the
style of Mannerism, and then he moved to Spain where he spent the rest of his life. For his
elaborated figures, dramatic and expressionistic settings he is considered by many as a
precursor of twentieth century art (expressionism and cubism). He created an innovative
visual language, blending Byzantine heritage with Italian and Spanish styles. His original
style, derived from the mixing of diverse cultures, stands as an example of cultural diversity
as a path towards enrichment and evolution.

42. 200th anniversary of the birth of Miklós Ybl, architect (1814-1891) (Hungary)

Ybl was one of nineteenth century Europe’s leading architects as well as Hungary’s most
influential architect. His most well-known work is the Hungarian State Opera House in
Budapest (1875-1884). Taking into account that most of the buildings he designed, built or
reconstructed are situated within the boundaries of the World Heritage Site “Budapest,
including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrásy Avenue”, it is
important to provide support for this anniversary, which contributes to the promotion and
sharing with the international community of Hungarian rich and diverse heritage.

43. 100th anniversary of the death of Ödön Lechner, architect (1845-1914) (Hungary)

Lechner was one of the early representatives of the Hungarian Secession movement, called
szecesszió in Hungarian, and he is usually admired as the father of the Hungarian Art
Nouveau style architecture. Lechner aimed to form a national style, using motifs from old
Magyar and Turkic folk art, in the decoration of his buildings as well as incorporating
architectural elements from eastern cultures like Persia. The most famous work of the
architect is the Hungarian Museum of Applied Arts. The Museum is considered to be an experimental piece in the history of Hungarian architecture. The outer ornaments of the building with its glazed ceramic tiles and flower patterns are traces of Indian, Persian, Moor and Hungarian folklore influence. In trying to create a distinct and unique architecture, Lechner revaluated vernacular motifs bridging Eastern and Western artistic styles. “Ödön Lechner’s independent pre-modern architecture” is inscribed on the World Heritage Tentative List of Hungary (2008).

44. 150th anniversary of the death of Ignác Semmelweis, physician (1818-1865) (Hungary)

Ignaz Philipp Semmelweis was a physician who demonstrated that puerperal fever (also known as "childbed fever") was contagious and that its incidence could be drastically reduced by enforcing appropriate hand-washing behaviour by medical care-givers. He made this discovery in 1847 while working in the Maternity Department of the Vienna Lying-in Hospital. His failure to convince his fellow doctors led to a tragic conclusion. Only after his death was the germ theory of disease developed, and he is now recognized as a pioneer of antiseptic policy and prevention of nosocomial disease. He was ultimately vindicated.

45. 200th anniversary of the birth of Flóris Rómer, archaeologist and professor (1815-1889) (Hungary)

Rómer was an archaeologist, art historian, artist, professor, member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He was one of the founders and representatives of Hungarian archaeology - for this reason he was called “father of Hungarian archaeology” — and a co-founder of the Hungarian Society of History. He published extensively and many of his works are devoted to the building of national heritage and to the preservation of historical monuments. He is a brilliant example of commitment to the preservation of historical and scientific heritage to the future generations.

46. 600th anniversary of the compilation of Maqāsed al-Alhān, work in the field of musicology (c. 1414) (Islamic Republic of Iran)

The Maqāsed al-Alhān is a prominent work in musicology which is a reference book to the Iranian traditional music of its era. It covers not only the Islamic Republic of Iran but also some of the surrounding region in Central Asia.

47. 800th anniversary of the compilation of Fawā’ih al-Jamāl wa Fawatih al-Jalāl, work of philosophy and mysticism (c. 1214) (Islamic Republic of Iran)

The influence of the compilation remains recognized in contemporary scholarship as a significant component of a Sufi tradition that has cultural and historical significance. In this respect, it appears that the proposal is consistent with the ideals and missions of UNESCO and does concern a work of worldwide significance.

48. 800th anniversary of the birth of Fakr-al-Dīn Ebrāhīm Erāqī, poet and sufi (c. 1214-1289) (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Eraqi’s movements to different regions in view of seeking knowledge and also expanding Sufism (from Iran to Arabia, India and Anatolia) would be an outstanding model for what is called nowadays Intercultural Dialogue. His encounters and exchanges with different savants like Jalal al-din Rumi, resulted in the development of his great works such as his “Divan” which is known as love mysteries. Regarding his place in both Persian and Sufi literatures, his anniversary would contribute certainly to the promotion and reinforcement of Intercultural-Dialogue.

49. 1350th anniversary of the death of al-Khansa, poetess (575-664) (Jordan)
The poetess is famous in the Arab world. She is the best known female poet in Arabic literature for her elegies.

50. 100th anniversary of the birth of Ilyas Yesenberlin, writer (1915-1983) (Kazakhstan)

Mr Yesenberlin is well known as the writer in the former Soviet Union for his works on history of the vast Steppe region and the nomads. He is the first to reflect the history of the Kazakhs of X-XI cc., the time of Chingiz Khan and the Golden Horde, as well as the Kazakh State of XV-XVI cc. Involvement and participation of Public Foundation named after Ilyas Yesenberlin and other civil society institutions in celebrations is highly commendable. Considering the contribution of the writer to the history of Kazakhstan and also nomads of central Asia, it is recommended that UNESCO accept this proposition.

51. 100th anniversary of the birth of Shaken Aimanov, film-director and actor (1914-1970) (Kazakhstan)

Regarding the impact of Mr Aimanov’s works on the Kazakh cinema and important role that the film maker played in introducing the Kazakh Cinema outside Kazakhstan and throughout the world, this anniversary deserves to be co-celebrated by UNESCO.

52. 50th anniversary of the death of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jabir Al-Sabah, educational reformer (1895-1965) (Kuwait)

The request is to acknowledge the educational and cultural legacy of Sheikh Abdulla Al-Jabir Al-Sabah, during the period of his Chairmanship of the Education Council in Kuwait (1936-1965). The Sheikh was a proponent of the modern education system in Kuwait. He was a strong supporter of girls' education and endorsed the establishment of the first official girls' school run by the Kuwaiti Department of Education. During the period in question, Kuwait established schools in five Gulf emirates, improved the education curricula, as well as the treatment of teachers. The Sheikh also advocated greater awareness of the Arabic culture and sponsored “Cultural Seasons” in Kuwait, where renowned Arab intellectuals and scholars were invited to deliver public talks and lectures. Given the Sheikh’s contributions towards education reform and modernization in Kuwait, it would be highly appropriate for UNESCO to acknowledge his work and legacy.

53. 200th anniversary of the birth of Janis Cimze, composer (1814-1881) (Latvia)

The proposal calls for UNESCO to be associated with the 200th anniversary of the birth of one of the most important composers, music teachers and collectors of folk songs in Latvia. For many years Cimze conducted choirs and trained choir leaders in Latvia and Estonia. With his passion for folk songs, he saved huge swathes of the Latvian and Estonian national musical tradition. He and his students created the festivals of song and dance in Latvia and Estonia that are inscribed as “Baltic song and dance celebrations” on UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. His parallel work with Latvians, Estonians and Baltic Germans ties in perfectly with the idea of intercultural dialogue and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions.

54. 150th anniversary of the birth of writers Rainis (1865-1929) and Aspazija (1865-1943) (Latvia)

The proposal requests UNESCO to be associated with the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of the Latvian writer and politician known under the pseudonym Rainis, and with the 150th anniversary of the birth of Elza Rosenberga, known as Aspazija (wife of Janis Plieksans). Rainis was a progressive writer and translator of major English, German and Russian authors into Latvian, thereby working to bring cultures and literatures closer together. As a politician, he was very sensitive to the human condition and committed
to education for all (minorities included). It is thanks to Rainis that the first Belarusian minority schools were opened in Latvia. His work and his actions often stressed the importance of solidarity between peoples and nations. As Minister of Education, Rainis – mindful of the need to protect the intangible cultural heritage – founded the Archives of Latvian Folklore which are inscribed in the Memory of the World Register.

Aspazija’s writings played an important role in modernizing Latvian literature and her political activities helped bring social change to the highly patriarchal Latvia. She was one of the first Latvian feminists to fight for women’s rights and gender equality. Aspazija’s numerous translations brought Western progressive ideas to Latvia.

55. 200th anniversary of the foundation of the Courland (also Kurzeme) Society for Literature and Art (1815) (Latvia)

In 2015, Latvia will celebrate the bicentenary of the establishment of its first Society for Literature and Art. In 1815, a group of Courland intellectuals founded the Society in order to promote scientific research and provide all Latvians with access to education in their mother tongue.

56. 300th anniversary of the birth of Gothards Frïdrihs Stenders, writer (1714-1796) (Latvia)

The request concerns the 300th anniversary of the birth of the Latvian writer, linguist and thinker, Gothards Frïdrihs Stenders. He authored the first non-religious texts in Latvian, created the basis for Latvian linguistics, launched a debate on education in his country and wrote school textbooks. These writings helped to disseminate progressive thought in Latvia in various fields – in philosophy, the arts, science and technology. His work is an excellent example of interaction between Latvian and German culture. His activities extended beyond the borders of his homeland, as he also worked in Germany and Denmark.

57. 300th anniversary of the birth of Kristijonas Donelaitis, writer (1714-1780) (Lithuania)

The proposal requests UNESCO to be associated with the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the birth of a writer who is considered to be the father of Lithuanian literature. This Lutheran pastor, parish schools inspector and choirmaster also wrote the first Lithuanian language poem, “Metai” (The Seasons). It describes the daily lives of serfs over the four seasons of the year – their labours and their festivities. The poem has already been translated into 20 European languages, which proves its universal dimension.

58. 200th anniversary of the official creation of the National Archives of the Republic of Mauritius (1815) (Mauritius)

This institution, one of the oldest archives in the southern hemisphere and indeed the rest of the world, continues to make a significant contribution to the promotion, protection and storage of documentary heritage. Some of the most important documents held at the Archives are the Records of the French Occupation of Mauritius which were inscribed on the Memory of the World Register in 1997. By recognizing this anniversary, the Organization would reaffirm its commitment to supporting the Archives in sharing these valuable documents with the rest of the world.

59. 100th anniversary of the birth of Octavio Paz, writer (1914-1998) (Mexico)

Octavio Paz was born in Mexico City. At an early age he published his first poems and also directed various literary magazines. His wide work includes numerous books of poetry and essays. In 1981 he received the Cervantes Prize and in 1990 the Nobel Prize of Literature.

60. 100th anniversary of the birth of Tsevegmid Dondogiin, educator, writer, scientist and politician (1915-1991) (Mongolia)
The qualifications and achievements of Tsevegmid Dondogiin support the ideals of UNESCO and the Education Sector, and he appears to have contributed much to the development the national education system in Mongolia.

61. 400th anniversary of the death of Rashid Ibn Omairah, physician (?-1615) (Oman)

Rashid Ibn Omairah was a famous doctor in the old era. He was autodidact in medical studies and wrote books in the medical field.

62. 50th anniversary of the publication of the novel “Todas las Sangres” (All the Bloods) by Jose Maria Arguedas (1964) (Peru)

_Todas las sangres_ by Jose Maria Arguedas refers to a multicultural society, its struggles to positively enhance differences, safeguard different languages and its freedom for an individual cultural identity. It also concerns the transition of an economy based upon agriculture to a modern, capitalist economy of mineral extraction. Such a transition is not an instance of modernization in any simple sense; it is less interested in physical ruins than in the fragmentation and ruination of a social order. The novel is an aspiration to generate profound changes in any divided society that seeks recognition of its own diversity.

63. 100th anniversary of the birth of Andrzej Panufnik, composer (1914-1991) (Poland)

This proposal requests UNESCO patronage for the various celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the birth of one of the most important Polish and British composers of the twentieth century. As with the works of Witold Lutoslawski, Krzysztof Penderecki and Henryk Gorecki, Andrzej Panufnik's compositions played a major role in the musical landscape of the last century. After years of working in Poland and feeling stifled by the shackles imposed on art by the communist regime, Andrzej Panufnik left his country and moved to the United Kingdom, where he continued his career as a composer and was Chief Conductor of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra for a number of years. His many compositions are performed throughout Europe, in America (under the direction of Leopold Stokowski) and elsewhere. In 1950, Andrzej Panufnik was appointed Vice-President of the International Music Council at UNESCO. His music is deeply rooted in the history of the twentieth century, rich in human values (e.g. “Heroic overture” – which won a music competition in connection with the Helsinki Olympic Games, “Sinfonia di Speranza”, “Katyń Epitaph”, “Symphony of Peace”, “Universal Prayer”, “Invocation of Peace”, “A Procession for Peace”) and endeavours to convey a message of peace.

64. 100th anniversary of the birth of Tadeusz Kantor, artist (1915-1990) (Poland)

Tadeusz Kantor is one of the greatest artists and reformers of twentieth-century European theatre, on a par with Piscator, Meyerhold, Barba, Brook and Grotowski. After the 1940s, he took inspiration from different artistic movements and his own historical experience to develop an original theatrical aesthetic, which he himself called “Theatre of Death”. In his shows he returned repeatedly to his roots and the village he came from – a crossroads of Polish, Jewish, Ukrainian and German culture – which had been ravaged by death during the war years. His highly expressive shows, loaded with reminiscences of this painful past, aimed to oppose totalitarianism along with its excesses and violence. Kantor's theatre had an international dimension; actors from Poland, France, Italy and other countries were members of his theatre company. He also had two main stages, one in Poland and one in Italy.

65. 200th anniversary of the birth of Oskar Kolberg, ethno-musicologist (1814-1890) (Poland)

This project focuses on the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Oskar Kolberg – an outstanding practitioner in the fields of ethnography, ethnomusicology and folklore studies. During his lifetime Kolberg identified and categorized by region the popular and folk
culture of Poland and Western Ukraine. His work contains around 100 volumes under the common title "People: their customs, lifestyles, language, legends, proverbs and ceremonies." This landmark work makes him one of the most important European folklore specialists and a pioneer of cultural anthropology. The sheer scale of this documentation of oral creativity and popular culture was a unique phenomenon in nineteenth-century Europe. The wealth and diversity of the cultural traditions of the many regions of Poland identified by Kolberg make a significant contribution to the universal cultural heritage. The Polish Parliament has declared 2014 to be “Oskar Kolberg Year”.

66. 200th anniversary of the death of Jan Nepomucen Potocki, writer (1761-1815) (Poland)

Jan Potocki was one of the most innovative writers of his time. Today he is recognized as a pioneer of the “fantastic” aesthetic of Roger Caillois and of the “fantastic” novels of Tzvetan Todorov. “The Saragossa Manuscript” is a highly original work which has often been compared to Boccaccio’s “Decameron” and “The Arabian Nights”. It consists of 66 stories that fit together in a highly ingenious construction. Its structure encompasses a variety of modes of narration and different forms of the novel, constantly playing on multiple cultural connotations – European, Christian, Jewish, Arab-Muslim, etc. It is also worth mentioning that Potocki contributed to the birth of ethnology, established the first free press in Warsaw in 1788 and, in 1792, opened the first free reading room in the city.

67. 300th anniversary of the death of Prince Constantin Brâncoveanu, patron of culture and arts (1654-1714) (Romania)

This is a request for UNESCO to be associated with the 300th anniversary of the death of the Prince of Wallachia, Constantin Brâncoveanu. Canonized by the Romanian Orthodox Church in 1992, he was one of the most significant contributors to the culture of his country. He founded churches and monasteries (some of which are on the World Heritage List). He was also a patron of painters, sculptors and publishers. This is why, in Romanian culture, the years of his reign are known as “the Brâncoveanu era.”

68. 150th anniversary of the birth of Elena Văcărescu, writer (1864-1947) (Romania)

This request concerns the 150th anniversary of the birth of Elena Văcărescu, a Franco-Romanian writer and twice a laureate of the Académie Française for her poetry collections “Songs of Dawn” and “The Rhapsody of the Dâmbovița”. She also translated Romanian poets such as Mihai Eminescu, Lucian Blaga and Octavian Goga into French. Elena Văcărescu wrote numerous books of poetry, novels, plays and memoirs. Of particular importance is her work with the League of Nations, where she was first an alternate, later serving as a permanent delegate in 1925-1926. She was the first woman in the history of the League of Nations to hold the rank of ambassador. Her work is an excellent example of interaction between Romanian and French culture and her work extends well beyond the borders of her homeland.

69. 50th anniversary of the death of George (Gogu) Constantinescu, scientist (1881-1865) (Romania)

George (Gogu) Constantinescu was a scientist, engineer and inventor (317 patents). This commemoration refers to his whole contribution in fundamental and applied sciences: physics, mechanics and inventics, as well as many original and revolutionary engines, devices, mechanisms and instruments – CC gear, automatic gear box, sonic drilling, torque converter, sonic asynchronous motor, GC limitor etc.

70. 250th anniversary of the foundation of the State (formerly Imperial) Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg (1764) (Russian Federation)
The event is to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the State Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg through the opening of new permanent and temporary exhibitions. The anniversary is fully linked to the ideals and mission of the Organization, especially in the field of Culture.


Derbent is the oldest city in Russia. The city developed between two walls, stretching from the mountains to the sea, and therefore had a strategic location in the Caucasus. Over the years, different nations gave the city different names, but all connected to the word gate; its name in Persian is Derbend, which means “closed gates”. The ancient city of Derbent has been crucial for the control of the north-south passage on the western side of the Caspian Sea since the 1st millennium BC. It has been inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2003. UNESCO’s support of the anniversary will call attention to the preservation of this outstanding monument of history and culture.

72. 200th anniversary of the birth of Mikhail Lermontov, poet and painter (1814-1841) (Russian Federation)

The application is submitted by the Russian Federation, and concerns the celebration of the 200th anniversary of a great and famous Russian poet, writer and painter, the most important figure in the Russian literature after Alexander Pushkin, Mikhail Lermontov. M. Lermontov is an author of the world wide known novel A Hero of Our Time, the verse play The Masquerade, numerous poems (e.g. Death of the Poet, Borodino, Demon, the Sail, etc.) plays an important role not only in Russian history and literature, but in the literature of the world. The celebrating of the 200th birth anniversary of Mikhail Lermontov will contribute to the mutual enrichment of cultures in the world; will help to promote international understanding, closer relations among peoples, cultural dialogue among peoples, and progress in the fields of culture.

73. 300th anniversary of the foundation of the Komarov Botanical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (1714) (Russian Federation)

The Komarov Botanical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences is one of the oldest and most significant botanical institutions in the world. It possesses vast natural history collections (living collections of the botanical garden, herbaria, fossils, fruits and seeds, etc.) of worldwide importance and great scientific and cultural significance. The institute played a great role in study of plant diversity of Russia and other countries (especially those of Central and East Asia).

74. 100th anniversary of the birth of Sir William Arthur Lewis, economist, Nobel prize laureate (1915-1991) (Saint Lucia)

Sir Arthur Lewis is considered as the foremost social scientist in the English speaking Caribbean. He is revered all over the sub-region not only for being the only person from Latin America and the Caribbean region ever awarded with the Noble Prize in Economics but principally for his vast contribution to post-colonial institution building in the Caribbean, notably in the fields of education, social research, subregional cultural identity, and the establishment of mechanisms for international collaboration and sub-regional integration. He was also a very active promoter of South-South cooperation, particularly with Africa and Asia. A brilliant educator, prolific author and well-known humanist, Sir Arthur Lewis pioneered the field of development economics with his book, “The Theory of Economic Growth”, in 1954 that is regarded as the seminal study in the field. He was one of the first Caribbean intellectuals who occupied important responsibilities in the United Nations system.
75. 150th anniversary of the birth of Jovan Cvijić, geographer (1865-1927) (Serbia)

Jovan Cvijić is a very well-known geographer at the national, regional and international levels. He was awarded a Golden Medal by the Geographic Society of Paris, the Royal Geographic Society of London and the Geographic Society of New York, as well as a Silver Medal of the Geographic Society of Paris, and also medals of the Economic Geography Society and medals of Sorbonne in Paris and Charles University of Prague. Finally, Cvijić received a great number of national awards, and a monument was erected in his honour in the Student Square in Belgrade.

76. 100th anniversary of the death of Stevan Mokranjac, composer (1856-1914) (Serbia)

Stevan Mokranjac (1856 -1914) is considered the father of Serbian classical music. He was the first to introduce the romantic style in the Balkan region. He created a specific form of music in the region called Rukoveti by combining folk melodies from all the Balkan states into rhapsodies. He is considered as one of the most important composers of Orthodox sacred music. He founded the first music school in Serbia.

77. 200th anniversary of the birth of Josif Pančić, scientist (1814-1888) (Serbia, with the support of Croatia)

Josif Pančić has contributed to the general knowledge of the flora and fauna of the Balkan Peninsula and of Europe is inestimable. He has discovered and made description of almost 60 new species of vascular flora, and most significant among them are the Balkans endemics. He is the founder of almost all the disciplines in natural sciences in Serbia, particularly in plant and animal taxonomy and biogeography.

78. 300th anniversary of the birth of Edmund Pascha, composer (1714-1772) (Slovakia)

Edmund Pascha (Páska) (1714-1772) was a preacher, organist and composer. His most famous compositions are Christmas carols and Easter songs. He was also recognized as a writer and baroque music interpreter. One of Pascha's well-known works, Vianocná omša F-dur (Christmas mass) is part of the Slovak folk landscape. His compositions have helped preserve Slovak folk tradition with regard to Christmas and Easter.

79. 150th anniversary of the birth of Jozef Murgaš, scientist (1864-1929) (Slovakia)

Jozef Murgaš was an inventor, botanist, painter and Roman Catholic priest. His most important achievement was the wireless transmission of the spoken word in front of witnesses, for which he has been recognized as one of the inventors of radio. On 27 April 1905 he achieved the full transmission for the first time.

80. 100th anniversary of the birth of Ediriweera Sarachchandra, philosopher, writer and diplomat (1914-1996) (Sri Lanka)

Ediriweera Sarachchandra (1914-1996) is an eminent literary figure from Sri Lanka, has several plays, poetry and literary works to his credit. He helped revive several rich traditional art forms of Sri Lanka and through his theatre work introduced his compatriots to the rich cultural and spiritual aspects of Sri Lankan culture. His works are internationally acclaimed and he has received several international awards.

81. 1500th anniversary of the foundation of the Abbey of Saint-Maurice (Valais, Switzerland) (515) (Switzerland)

The Abbey of Saint Maurice (Valais, Switzerland), founded in 515, is said to be the oldest continuously inhabited monastery of Tasha. The celebration of the 1500th anniversary of the foundation of the Abbey of Saint Maurice represents well the promotion of exceptional
heritage and an occasion to foster intercultural dialogue. The cultural enrichment is illustrated by the diversity found in the styles revealed by the treasure of sacred art of the monastery. The goal of the Anniversary is also to position the monastery as a centre of interreligious values.

82. 600th anniversary of the birth of Abd ar-Rahman Jami, poet, philosopher and humanist (1414-1492) (Tajikistan)

Abd ar-Rahman Jami is major national figure, with regional scope. He is recognized as a major poet as well as a thinker within the traditions to which he contributed.

83. 150th anniversary of the birth of Her Majesty Queen Sri Bajarindra (1864-1919) (Thailand)

An important and enormously well-respected figure in Thai history, H.M. Queen Sri Bajarindra was H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej’s great aunt. She made a significant contribution to advancing education for girls and women in Thailand, and founded many leading schools for women in the country. As the consort and also Regent of Thailand’s great King Chulalongkorn (Rama V), she played an important role in intercultural dialogue through several historic visits and exchanges with Europe, Japan and other Southeast Asian countries. It should be noted that Queen Sri Bajarindra is sister to Queen Sri Savarindira, who was recognized in the UNESCO Calendar of Anniversaries of Great Personalities and Historic Events for 2012-2013, and great-grand-aunt to HRH Princess Sirindhorn who is a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador.

84. 100th anniversary of the birth of Princess Prem (Ngarmchit) Purachatra (1915-1983) (Thailand)

Princess Prem (Ngarmchit) Purachatra was a granddaughter-in-law of King Chulalongkorn (Rama V) who was the grandfather of King Bhumibol (Rama IX). Princess Prem Purachatra had a notable impact on Thailand, particularly in the communication and culture sectors, as well as contributing to overall societal wellbeing. Her work to establish a leading English-language newspaper was an important development in modern journalism in Thailand. On the regional and global stage, she was an outstanding advocate for the role of women, serving as president of the International Council of Women during 1976-1979 (the first and only Thai woman, and the second Asian ever elected to the position). Some of the institutions that she founded, such as the Asian Handicraft Promotion and Development Association, continue to be partners in delivering UNESCO’s work to this day, which demonstrates their relevance and importance. It would be advantageous for UNESCO to associate with the anniversary and to endorse a positive female role-model who has made positive contributions to her country in general, and to some extent to the region.

85. 450th anniversary of the death of Matrakçı Nasuh, scientist (1480-1564) (Turkey)

Matrakçı Nasuh is renowned in the sixteenth century as a mathematician, historian, miniaturist, geographer, cartographer, topographer, calligrapher and engineer. He wrote two books on mathematics. He was a pioneer in mathematics education and his book “Umdat-ul Hisab” is an excellent example of a successful blend of mathematical pedagogy and rigorous content of knowledge.

86. 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts (1914) (Turkey)

Possessing a rich collection of Islamic arts and founded in the Ottoman Empire era, the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts is celebrating its 100th Anniversary. Its mandates in the conservation and promotion of cultural heritage for intercultural dialogue are linked to the
Organization’s ideals and missions. The Anniversary should be celebrated in the international sphere.

87. 100th anniversary of the death of İsmail Gaspıralı, journalist and publisher (1851-1914) (Turkey with the support of Ukraine)

İsmail Gaspıralı was not only an educational reformer, a strong promoter of literacy, and proponent of mother-tongue education, but also an avid supporter of women’s education and emancipation. Gaspıralı also made contributions to journalistic work. With his daughter Sefiqa, Gaspıralı published the first journal for women which focused on domestic economy, childcare, needlework, knowledge about health and religion, **Alem-i Nisvan** (World of Women), as well as a publication for children, **Alem-i Subyan** (World of Children). He believed that progress required educational reform, teaching a modern curriculum by modern methods, encouraging social and economic cooperation, and cultural exchange. He had an intellectually moderate and practical influence at the regional level.

88. 50th anniversary of the death of Halide Edip Adıvar, teacher and social philosopher (1884-1964) (Turkey)

Halide Edip Adıvar is an important figure in the history of modern Turkey. She was involved in the Independence movement as a corporal and then sergeant. She was an educator, novelist, philosopher, journalist, member of Parliament (1950-54), women’s rights advocate and activist. She was also a member of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO and a member of the Executive Board.

89. 200th anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko, poet (1814-1861) (Ukraine)

This is a request for UNESCO to be associated with the 200th anniversary of Taras Shevchenko, a poet considered to be the most important writer in the literary pantheon of the Ukraine. His name is associated with the Ukrainian national revival of the nineteenth century and the birth of the Ukrainian literary language. His artistic activity was not confined to writing, for Shevchenko was also a talented painter who produced some 150 portraits and numerous landscapes and watercolours. His association with ideas such as freedom, patriotism, democracy and peace makes the commemoration of his anniversary fully consistent with the objectives of UNESCO.

90. 150th anniversary of the birth of Pavlo Grabovsky, poet (1864-1956) (Ukraine)

The project focuses on the 150th anniversary of the birth of Pavlo Grabovsky, a poet, journalist and – more notably – a brilliant translator. His work includes over 100 translations from some 20 languages. Thanks to him, Byron, Goethe, Heine, Hugo, Leopardi, Maeterlinck, Pushkin, Tolstoy and many other authors were made available in Ukrainian, often for the first time. His vast body of work warrants the recognition of UNESCO, which has always seen translation as the best way of promoting dialogue between peoples and cultures.

91. 150th anniversary of the birth of Mykhaylo Kotsyubynsky, writer (1864-1913) (Ukraine)

This request calls for UNESCO to be associated with the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mykhaylo Kotsyubynsky – one of the most important Ukrainian writers. His novels and short stories played a significant role in the revival of Ukrainian prose, largely thanks to their introduction of psychological realism. Kotsyubynsky was also a master of the “landscape” and Ukrainian critics nicknamed him the “impressionist of the Ukrainian novel.” His most famous novel, “Fata Morgana”, depicts the peasants’ struggle for their social rights, the “proletarianization” of the countryside and the peasants’ revolutionary movement in its various forms – strikes, demonstrations, confiscation of land from major landowners, etc.
Kotsyubynsky also played an active role in organizing the democratic press in the Ukraine. UNESCO association with this anniversary could help to focus international attention on his work, which is so steeped in democratic reform, freedom of expression and the fight for social equality.

92. 200th anniversary of the birth of Mykhailo Verbytsky, composer (1815-1870) (Ukraine)

This request calls for UNESCO to recognize the 200th anniversary of the birth of Mykhailo Verbytsky in its 2015 events calendar. A well-known Ukrainian composer, Mykhailo Verbytsky is the author of some 130 musical works including choral works, symphonies, chamber music, polonaises, waltzes and operas. He is, first and foremost, the composer of the Ukrainian national anthem, “Ukraine has not yet perished,” which was composed in 1863 and finally adopted in 2003 following some amendment of the original text. Verbytsky’s music is deeply rooted in the tradition of his country and, for centuries, expressed national and independentist sentiment. Inclusion of this anniversary in the UNESCO calendar – in a spirit of protecting and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions – would provide recognition of Verbytsky’s work internationally.

93. 250th anniversary of the birth of Nguyen Du, poet (1765-1820) (Viet Nam)

Nguyen Du is one of the major literary figures of Vietnam. He was an independent creative thinker and the first to write in Vietnamese using Chinese script. His most famous works entitled *The Tale of Kieu* has influenced the imagination of people not only in Vietnam but all over the world. He skilfully expressed the Vietnamese folk culture in his poems and writing. His influence is such that people quote texts from his works even today to describe situations and feeling. He has also written several books in Chinese.