Item 26 of the provisional agenda

PROPOSALS BY MEMBER STATES FOR THE CELEBRATION OF ANNIVERSARIES IN 2018-2019 WITH WHICH UNESCO COULD BE ASSOCIATED

SUMMARY

This document provides detailed information on proposals by Member States for the celebration of anniversaries in 2018-2019 with which UNESCO could be associated, as submitted for decision in document 201 EX/26.
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. **150th anniversary of the birth of Hovhannes Toumanian, poet, writer, translator (1869 – 1923) (Armenia with the support of Georgia and the Russian Federation)**

Hovhannes Toumanian was an Armenian author and public activist who is considered by many to be the national poet of Armenia. He was born on 19 February 1869 in the village of Dsegh, which was part of the Tiflis Governorate of the Russian Empire, and is now located in Lori Province of Armenia.

Largely self-taught, he emerged as a poet of great directness, simplicity and lyricism, with a universal appeal. Especially valuable is Toumanian’s contribution to Armenian epic poetry. Based on several versions of the Armenian epic he wrote the “David of Sassoon” epic poem, which today is still considered the best artistic adaptation of the Armenian national epic. The latter was inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2012. Toumanian also wrote stories and folk-tales.

He engaged in numerous public activities and proved to be an accomplished critic and historian of literature. He contributed important critical work on literature, art, language and Armenian culture. Toumanian considered the supreme goal of art to be the bringing together individuals, peoples and nations.

Toumanian’s work gave inspiration and rich material for the Armenian stage and musical arts. His works have been staged in various theatres and portrayed by painters. They inspired Armenian composers who wrote music of different genres based on the motives of his works – from songs to opera to ballet. (CLT)

2. **100th anniversary of the establishment of Baku State University (1919) (Azerbaijan with the support of Kazakhstan and Georgia)**

Baku State University was established in 1919 and has since contributed to the higher education in the country and region. Famous physicist Lev Landau, who won the Nobel Prize Physics in 1962, studied there. The University’s 100th anniversary is aligned with Education Strategic Objective 1 (38 C/5) – Supporting Member States to develop education systems to foster high quality and inclusive lifelong learning for all. (ED)

3. **100th anniversary of the birth of Garayev Gara, composer (1918 – 1982) (Azerbaijan with the support of Kazakhstan, Georgia and the Russian Federation)**

Gara Garayev (5 February 1918, Baku – 13 May 1982, Moscow) was a prominent Azerbaijani composer. Garayev wrote nearly 110 musical pieces, including ballets, operas, symphonic and chamber pieces, solos for piano, cantatas, songs, and marches, and rose to prominence not only in the Azerbaijan SSR but throughout the Soviet Union and worldwide.

In 1941 Garayev returned to Baku to teach at the Azerbaijan State Philharmonic Society. In 1945, he co-wrote with Jovdat Hajiyev the acclaimed *Motherland* opera. In 1948, at the age of 30, Garayev received a prestigious award for his symphonic poem *Leyli and Majnun*, based on the same-titled famous work of Nizami Ganjavi. In 1948, Garayev became the Chair of the Union of Composers of the Azerbaijan SSR and the Rector of the Azerbaijan State Conservatoire. In this latter position, Garayev retained the traditional emphasis on Azerbaijani folk music in teaching, and also promoted
contemporary genres, such as jazz in Azerbaijani music. In the same year, Garayev also became
the delegate to the First National USSR Congress of Soviet Composers. In the same year Garayev
also headed the Music Department at the Azerbaijan Architecture and Art Institute. During his
teaching career at the Azerbaijan State Conservatoire, Garayev tutored a number of prominent
Azerbaijani musicians and composers. (CLT)

4. 300th anniversary of the birth of Regina Salomea Rusiecka (1718 – 1763) (Belarus with
the support of Lithuania, Poland and the Russian Federation)
Regina Salomea Rusiecka is the first woman practicing medicine in 18th century, in different cities
of Central and Eastern Europe, mostly treating women. She is also known as a writer and an
educator. She advocated for women rights and education for women, as well as for the spread of
scientific excellence in the field of medicine.

Bearing in mind the personality and the work of Regina Salomea Rusiecka, in general, as the first
female doctor in her time and, in particular, her work on women's rights and education for women,
the association of UNESCO with the celebration of the 300th anniversary of her birth will contribute
to the promotion of UNESCO Priority Gender Equality in its objective related to promotion of the role
of women scientists and advocates for women's rights and women's empowerment through
education. (ODG/GE)

5. 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (1869)
(Bulgaria with the support of Romania, Slovakia and the former Yugoslav Republic of
Macedonia)
The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS), founded in 1869 initially as the Bulgarian Learned
Society (BLS), is a scientific and expert center with approximately 2,800 scientists working in the
fields of fundamental and applied research. Throughout the years, some of world's most prominent
scientists worked in BAS. Today BAS generates 60% of Bulgaria's internationally recognized
scientific output, such as publications in international scientific journals, projects, patents. An
independent international evaluation of BAS conducted in 2009 pointed out that most of its institutes
perform valuable research, and that some research groups are leaders on the global scene.

The 150th anniversary will promote international scientific cooperation on critical challenges to
sustainable development, and will support activities that work towards inclusive social development.
The celebration is aligned with UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy and main lines of action in
sciences, notably to strengthen science, technology and innovation (STI) systems and policies -
nationally, regionally and globally. (SC)

6. 450th anniversary of the birth of Marin Getaldić, mathematician and physicist
(1568 – 1626) (Croatia)
Marin Getaldić was known for his application of algebra in geometry and his research in the field of
geometrical optics on which he wrote 7 works including the Promotus Archimedus and the De
resolutione et compositione mathematica. He also produced a work on the solutions of
42 geometrical problems, Variorum problematum colletio and set grounds of algebraization of
geometry. Getaldić is notably known for the construction of the parabolic mirror (66 cm in diameter)
found at the National Maritime Museum of London. Besides this important invention, he was the
pioneer in making conic lenses. (SC)

7. 50th anniversary of the completion of Abu Simbel safeguarding heritage (1968) (Egypt)
Abu Simbel, site of two temples, was built by the Egyptian King Ramses II (reigned 1279–13 bce),
now located in Aswān muhāfazah (governorate), southern Egypt. In ancient times, the area was at
the southern frontier of pharaonic Egypt, facing Nubia. The four colossal statues of Ramses in front
of the main temple are spectacular examples of ancient Egyptian art. The temple itself, dedicated to
the sun gods, Amon-Re and Re-Horakhte, consists of three consecutive halls extending 56 meters into the cliff, decorated with more Osiride statues of the king and with painted scenes of his purported victory at the Battle of Kadesh. On two days of the year (about February 22 and October 22), the first rays of the morning sun penetrate the whole length of the temple and illuminate the shrine in its innermost sanctuary.

In the mid-20th century, when the reservoir that was created by the construction of the nearby Aswan High Dam threatened to submerge Abu Simbel, UNESCO and the Egyptian government sponsored a project to save the site. An informational and fund-raising campaign was initiated by UNESCO in 1959. Between 1963 and 1968, a workforce and an international team of engineers and scientists, supported by funds from more than 50 countries, dug away the top of the cliff and completely disassembled both temples, reconstructing them on high ground more than 60 meters above their previous site. In all, some 16,000 blocks were moved. In 1979, Abu Simbel, Philae, and other nearby monuments were collectively designated a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Work with relocating the Abu Simbel temples was concluded on 22 September 1968 with a large inaugural ceremony. (CLT)

8. **100th anniversary of the establishment of the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (1918) (Georgia with the support of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan)**

Established in 1918, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University is the first national university in Georgia and in the South Caucasus region. For decades, it has been shaping a diverse student body from the former Soviet Republics and championing women's equal participation in higher education. The University is a key contributor to the region's socio-economic development. Its 100th anniversary is aligned with Education's Strategic Objective 1 (38 C/5) - Supporting Member States to develop education systems to foster high quality and inclusive lifelong learning for all. (ED)

Since its establishment, the University has been promoting the ideals of equality, justice and progress and the advancement of women's equal participation in higher education, both as students and teaching staff. The celebration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Tbilisi State University will contribute to the promotion of UNESCO Priority Gender Equality related to the promotion of gender equality in and through education and in particular, higher education. (ODG/GE)

9. **150th anniversary of the birth of Marjory Scott Wardrop (1869 – 1909) (Georgia with the support of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)**

Marjory Scott Wardrop translated a number of poetic and prose pieces of Georgian literature of the late 19th century into English and published numerous ethnographic records, travelogues, and studies of various aspects of the Georgian history, in particular of women's history. Thus, she was a model for women writers and translators, sharing the values of Georgian culture, advancing the women's role in cultural creativity and society as a whole.

The association of UNESCO with the celebration of this anniversary will contribute to the promotion of UNESCO Priority Gender Equality related to the promotion of gender equality in cultural life and notably, through creative expressions. (ODG/GE)

Furthermore, this proposal is in line with the Action plan of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022), highlighting the importance of women in a culture of peace and intercultural dialogue. (SHS)

10. **250th anniversary of the birth of Alexander von Humboldt, geographer, naturalist and explorer (1769 – 1859) (Germany)**

Alexander von Humboldt was an eminent scientist who played pioneering roles in advancing geography, ecology and earth sciences as well as philosophy. His extensive work has contributed to the foundation of modern ecology and environmental sciences. His outstanding achievements and
lifelong dedication to sciences is still inspiring to many, especially to young researchers, in observing and learning from nature, and in understanding the inter-connectivity natural phenomenon and inter-dependency of humans and nature, which are today essential to human societies’ pursuit of sustainable development. (SC)

11. 200th anniversary of the birth of Clara Josephine Schumann, musician and composer (1819 – 1896) (Germany)

Clara Schumann (13 September 1819 – 20 May 1896) was a German musician and composer, considered one of the most distinguished pianists of the Romantic era. She exerted her influence over a 61-year concert career, changing the format and repertoire of the piano recital and the tastes of the listening public.

In an era when women, apart from singers, almost never performed in public or composed, Clara Schumann did both. She distinguished herself as the foremost interpreter of her husband’s work, but she was also a primary force in reintroducing eighteenth-century keyboard music to the public. Unfortunately, her own compositions remained unknown until the second half of the twentieth century. Many are still unpublished and owned by private collectors, so we still cannot appreciate the full extent of her compositional achievements.

She was one of the first pianists to perform from memory, making that the standard for concertizing. She was also instrumental in changing the kind of programs expected of concert pianists. In her early career, she played what was then customary, mainly bravura pieces designed to showcase the artist's technique. As she became a more independent artist, her repertoire contained mainly works by leading composers like Bach, Beethoven, Mozart and Brahms. (CLT)

The association of UNESCO with the celebration of this anniversary will contribute to the promotion of UNESCO Priority Gender Equality. (ODG/GE)

12. 100th anniversary of the death of Roland Eötvös (Eötvös Loránd), physicist, geophysicist and innovator of higher education (1848 – 1919) (Hungary with the support of Austria, Czechia, Germany, Italy, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia)

Based on the history of sciences of the region, Eötvös Loránd – a prominent physicist – is remembered today largely for his work on gravitation and surface tension, and the invention of the torsion pendulum. The Eötvös Loránd University, the Loránd Eötvös Mathematics Competition, and the Eötvös crater on the moon are named after him.

One of his main achievements was the Eötvös pendulum, which is a sensitive instrument for measuring the density of underlying rock strata. The device measures not only the direction of force of gravity, but the change in the force of gravity's extent in the horizontal plane. It determines the distribution of masses in the Earth's crust. The Eötvös torsion balance, an important instrument of geodesy and geophysics throughout the world, studies the Earth's physical properties. It is used for mine exploration, and also in the search for minerals, such as oil, coal and ores. The Eötvös pendulum was never patented, but after the demonstration of its accuracy and numerous visits to Hungary from abroad, several instruments were exported worldwide, and the richest oilfields in the United States were discovered by using it. The Eötvös pendulum was used to prove the equivalence of the inertial mass and the gravitational mass accurately, as a response to the offer of a prize. This equivalence was used later by Albert Einstein in setting out the theory of general relativity. (SC)

13. 100th anniversary of the death of Tivadar Csontváry Kosztka, painter (1853 – 1919) (Hungary with the support of Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czechia, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia)

Tivadar Csontváry Kosztka (5 July 1853 – 20 June 1919) is considered by many critics to be Hungary’s greatest painter. He belonged to no specific school of art, but his works included elements similar to those of the foremost painters of Post-Impressionism.
Although he died at the age of sixty, his creative period was very short. He started his art studies in 1894; he painted his major works between 1903 and 1909. His oeuvre consists of about one hundred paintings and twenty drawings. He was a pharmacist who started painting rather late, at the age of 41. He took some painting classes in Munich, Paris, and in Italy but he learned the most during his long travels. He traveled to Dalmatia, Western Europe, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria. Throughout his life, Csontváry was lonely and misunderstood. During World War I, he lost his fortune, became very ill and died alone in 1919 in Budapest.

Csontváry was among the pioneers of modern art but was not tied to any contemporary trends in painting. He had an extremely rich and unusual use of color. His surfaces are full of miraculous details and the paintings convey the pleasure of joyful creation. During his travels, he was looking for the 'great motif' while he painted almost encyclopedically the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

14. 850th anniversary of the active life of Shahab al-Din Yahya ibn Habash Suhrawardi, philosopher and mystic (1154 – 1191) (Islamic Republic of Iran with the support of Iraq and Syrian Arab Republic)

Shahab al-Din Yahya ibn Habash Suhrawardi, the founder of school of Illuminationism in philosophy, known for his works on philosophy by bringing together Eastern and Western traditions of philosophy. He set the grounds for strengthening dialogue between Iranian, Islamic and Greek philosophies. Also, his cross-cultural works played a vital role in reducing violence and extremism during a troubled period. His philosophy teaching focuses on religious tolerance and intercultural dialogue, which is directly linked to UNESCO C/4. (SHS)

15. 1750th anniversary of the foundation of the University of Gundi-Shapur (Islamic Republic of Iran with the support of India and Iraq)

The ancient University of Gundi-Shapur was a major centre of education in medicine, philosophy, theology and science in today's Iran during late antiquity. Its achievements have been widely documented by prominent scholars, including Edward Brown, George Sarton and De Lacy O Leary. The University provided an environment free of dogmatism for the various peoples that studied there, including Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, Syrians and Iranians. It brought vast progress in science and medicine, promoting respect for critical thinking. Its library held 400,000 books and manuscripts in Pahlavi, Syrian, Greek and Sanskrit in different fields of science. The University and its legacy make an important contribution to ED's Strategic Objective 2 (38 C/5) – Empowering learners to be creative and responsible global citizens. (ED)

16. 500th anniversary of the death of Leonardo da Vinci (1452 – 1519) (Italy)

Leonardo da Vinci (15 April 1452, Anchiano, near Vinci, Republic of Florence [Italy] – 2 May 1519, Cloux [now Clos-Lucé], France) was a painter, architect, inventor, and a polymath with a significant number of other areas of interest, including sculpting, science, music, mathematics, engineering, literature, anatomy, geology, astronomy, botany, writing, history, and cartography. His natural genius crossed so many disciplines that he epitomized the term "Renaissance man." Today, he remains best known for his art, including two paintings that remain among the world's most famous and admired, Mona Lisa and The Last Supper. Art, da Vinci believed, was indisputably connected with science and nature.

Largely self-educated, he filled dozens of secret notebooks with inventions, observations and theories about pursuits from aeronautics to anatomy. But the rest of the world was just beginning to share knowledge in books made with moveable type, and the concepts expressed in his notebooks were often difficult to interpret.

As a result, though he was lauded in his time as a great artist, his contemporaries often did not fully appreciate his genius - the combination of intellect and imagination that allowed him to create, at
least on paper, such inventions as the bicycle, the helicopter and an airplane based on the physiology and flying capability of a bat. (CLT)

17. **200th anniversary of the birth of Kurmangazy, composer (1818 – 1896) (Kazakhstan with the support of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Russian Federation and Turkey)**

Kurmangazy Sagyrbayuly (1818 Bukei Horde, Russian Empire - 1889, Bukei Horde, Astrakhan Province, Russian Empire) was a Kazakh folk musician, composer, dombra player and author of kyuis (music composition for dombra).

Born among common people, Kurmangazy fought all his life against iniquity and defended the common people’s rights. Keenly responding to the events happening around him, Kurmangazy created the wide panorama of Kazakh people’s life. By the time of his death, Kurmangazy had composed some 60 kyuis. After his death, composer Yevgeny Brusilovsky began collecting Kurmangazy’s work to preserve his legacy.

As a tribute to the memory of the composer, the Kazakh State Academic Folk Orchestra, the Kazakh National Conservatory, children’s musical schools, youth competitions, streets, schools and other facilities in many cities of Kazakhstan are named after Kurmangazy. (CLT)

18. **100th anniversary of the birth of Amina Umurzakova, actress (1919 – 2006) (Kazakhstan with the support of Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Russian Federation)**

Amina Umurzakova was a film and theatre actress, she also worked as an editor specialist at the “Kazakhfilm” studio, and played supporting and leading roles in many films, as well as duplicated films in Kazakh language and starred in TV shows. She was one of the first Kazakh actresses, who made a significant contribution to the development of film and theatre arts in Kazakhstan and the former Soviet Union. In particular, she contributed to the promotion of a better understanding of the role of women in the process of social transformation within Kazakh and Central Asian community in times when women were insufficiently represented in visual arts.

Amina Umurzakova greatly influenced the development of Kazakh culture, film and theatre arts and enhancement of the role of women in Kazakh and Central Asian society.

The association of UNESCO with the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Amina Umurzakova will contribute to the promotion of UNESCO Priority Gender Equality in its objectives related to promotion gender equality in cultural, cultural life and creative expressions. (CLT and ODG/GE)

19. **150th anniversary of the birth of Pēteris Šmits, linguist, ethnographer, folklorist (1869 –1938) (Latvia with the support of Estonia, Lithuania, Poland and the Russian Federation)**

Pēteris Šmits (1869 – 1938) was a linguist, ethnographer, folklorist and sinologist. He studied Slavonic languages at the University of Moscow and Eastern languages at the University of St. Petersburg. In 1898 he was a Russian language lecturer at Beijing University. From 1899 Šmits taught Chinese and Manchu language and literature at the Far East Institute in Vladivostok; from 1919 until 1920 he was the Dean of the Faculty of Philology and Philosophy. Between 1907-1912 Šmits regularly joined scientific expeditions to Mongolia. In 1920 Šmits returned to Latvia. He became a professor of the Faculty of Philology and Philosophy of the University of Latvia, and the Dean of the Faculty from 1923 to 1925.

He made a significant contribution to Latvian ethnographic and linguistic studies producing one of the first notable collections of Latvian folklore, which served as a basis for future research on Latvian narrative folklore. The volumes of Latvian folk legends and fairy tales assembled by Šmits are considered among the most significant scientific publications of its kind even today.
Šmits made a significant contribution to research on Asian languages and cultures. He was one of the first scientists who visited and studied Manchu and Tungus tribes and was the most notable European specialist in this field who created a unique material for future studies. Šmits also translated Chinese fairy tales as well as some examples of classical Chinese poetry into Latvian and published them. The knowledge produced by his scholarly activities as a whole sheds light on the emergence of a multicultural age in the minds of European scholars at the beginning of the 20th century. His extensive knowledge reached the roots of topical problems in the field of European folkloristic studies and allowed him to correlate the results of his research with insights into customs, mythology and languages of East Asia. (CLT)

20. 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Latvian National Institutions for Culture, Education and Science (1919) (Latvia with the support of Estonia, Lithuania and Poland)

The Latvian National Institutions for Culture, Education and Science form the backbone of the state’s traditions, socio-economic development and cooperation with the global community. As regards the field of education, the Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music, the National Library of Latvia and the University of Latvia are particularly relevant for the Education’s Strategic Objective 1 (38 C/5) – Supporting Member States to develop education systems to foster high quality and inclusive lifelong learning for all. (ED)

21. 200th anniversary of the birth of Józef Czechowicz, photographer (1818 – 1888) (Lithuania with the support of Belarus, Latvia, Poland and Ukraine)

Józef Czechowicz (1818 – 1888) was a prominent 19th century photographer, active between 1852 and 1887 in present-day Ukraine, Poland, Belarus and Lithuania. He made a major contribution in the development of Lithuanian and Polish photography. Czechowicz recorded the beauty of historical buildings, explored the streets of Vilnius, Lublin, Chelm and Gardin, bore witness to the transformation of the cities and ways of life. Czechowicz’s photographic legacy, which is comprised of more than 250 landscape photographs, belongs to the cultural heritage of several nations in the region. During his life, contemporaries appreciated his works for their artistic value.

Czechowicz was the first Vilnius photographic master to be recognized outside of Lithuania. His works were awarded silver medals in Moscow at exhibitions of the Russian Imperial Society of Lovers of Science, Anthropology, and Ethnography in 1872, and of Russian Industry and Art in 1882. His photographs were displayed in 1876 at the XIIIth Exhibition of the French Society of Photographers, in 1878 at the World Exhibition, and in 1992-1993 at an exhibition in Paris entitled La Lithuanie au tournant du siècle – Photographies de 1870 à 1930.

He made a major contribution to the development of Lithuanian, Belarusian and Polish photography and is considered as a precursor of the landscape photography in the region. (CLT)

22. 50th anniversary of the National School of Conservation, Restoration and Museography (ENCRYM in Spanish) (Mexico with the support of Chile and Honduras)

The Paul Coremans Cultural Goods Conservation Center was created by agreement subscribed in 1964 between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Mexico government. The center would become the National School of Conservation, Restoration and Museography (ENCRYM) in 1968, as part of the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH).

ENCryM is recognized by its academic excellence, forming divulgation and research restoration professionals, among them, qualified specialists in museum issues such as cultural goods, museum space and visitors. To present, ENCRYM imparts a Museography Specialty and a Museology Masters Degree. Mexican and foreign students from Jamaica, Chile, Colombia and Japan are currently inscribed. The Museology Masters degree is the only of its kind in Latin America. (CLT)
Juan José Arreola Zúñiga (21 September 1918 – 3 December 2001) was a Mexican writer and academic. He is considered Mexico’s premier experimental short story writer of the twentieth century. Arreola is recognized as one of the first Latin American writers to abandon realism; he used elements of fantasy to underscore existentialist and absurdist ideas in his work. Arreola has served as the literary inspiration for a legion of Mexican writers who have sought to transform their country’s realistic literary tradition by introducing elements of magical realism, satire, and allegory. Alongside Jorge Luis Borges, he is considered one of the masters of the hybrid subgenre of the essay-story. He published only one novel, La feria (The Fair; 1963).

He also developed a central work as a literary editor, he created the collection Los Presentes, specialized in editing novel authors; he worked as well in the Economic Culture Fund (FCE) and in the National University (UNAM) press. Thanks to his charisma as a trained actor, Arreola became an important cultural promoter leading numerous programmes in television, bringing the artistic issues to the big audiences. He won his country’s National Linguistics and Literature Prize in 1979, the Juan Rulfo Prize for Latin American and Caribbean Literature in 1992 and the Alfonso Reyes International Prize in 1995, he was also named an officer of arts and letters by the French government in 1977. His main works are: Varia invención (1949), Confabulario (1952) and La feria (novel, 1963). (CLT)

Krzysztof Komeda was born on 22 April 1931 in Poznań. As a child, he trained as a pianist, which allowed him to begin education at the Poznań Music Conservatory at the age of eight. Unfortunately, he was unable to complete his studies due to the outbreak of World War II. During the war, he took individual classes and subsequently learned the theory and history of piano music. After the war, as a student of secondary school at Ostrów Wielkopolski, he became interested in entertainment and dance music. His immense passion for jazz ultimately led him to abandon his career as a physician and to start cooperation with the very first jazz band in post-war Poland, known as Melomani. Driven by his love of modern jazz, Komeda set up the Komeda Sextet in 1956, a modern music band, which enjoyed a big success during the 1st Jazz Festival in Sopot. Two years later, Komeda began writing film scores.

Krzysztof Komeda began his career in film music as an author of the scores for the etude “Two Men and a Wardrobe” (1958) by Roman Polanski. With time, Krzysztof Komeda became a very popular composer of film music in Poland. The turning point in his career was his jazz group performances in Scandinavia in the early 1960s. They resulted in, among others, Komeda’s compositions for the Danish director Henning Carlsen’s films. However, the most important of Komeda’s film compositions, which made him and his music famous worldwide, were created for films directed by Roman Polanski: “Knife in the Water” (1961), “Entanglement” (1966), “The Fearless Vampire Killers” (1967) and “Rosemary’s Baby” (1968). In December 1968, in Los Angeles, Komeda had a tragic accident and suffered head injuries. After being transported home to Poland in a coma, he died on 23 April 1969. He is buried at the Powązki Cemetery in Warsaw. (CLT)

Stanisław Moniuszko was born in Ubiel, Minsk Governorate (in present-day Belarus) in 1819.

Moniuszko’s opera and music as a whole is representative of the 19th century romanticism, given the extensive use by the composer of arias, recitatives and ensembles that feature strongly in his operas. The source of Moniuszko’s melodies and rhythmic patterns often lies in Polish, Lithuanian and Belarusian musical folklore. One of the most visibly “Polish” aspects of his music is in the forms
he uses, including dances popular among upper classes, such as polonaise and mazurka, and folk tunes and dances, such as kujawiak and krakowiak.

During his life, Moniuszko was recognized as an important national composer, and after his death, he became revered. From statues, to the names of parks, music competitions, musicians, and institutions the name Stanisław Moniuszko constantly features in Polish society. (CLT)

26. 50th anniversary of the death of Cecilia Cuțescu Storck, painter (1879 – 1969) (Romania with the support of Bulgaria and Germany)

Cecilia Cuțescu Storck was a painter that had a major influence over the arts in the period between the two world wars. In 1916, she became a professor in the department of decorative arts at the Academy of Fine Arts in Bucharest, thus being the first woman professor at a university of arts in Europe, providing a positive example and setting a feminist trend in this area. She advocated for the women rights and gender equality.

She received numerous awards, such as the Gold Medal and Grand Prize at the International Exhibition in Barcelona (1929), Knight of the Civil Merit Order, Spain (1930), Knight of the Legion of Honor, France (1933) and Gold Medal at the International Exhibition in Paris (1937).

The association of UNESCO with this anniversary will contribute to the promotion of UNESCO Priority Gender Equality. (ODG/GE and CLT)

27. 150th anniversary of the birth of Emil Racoviță, scientist (1868 – 1947) (Romania with the support of Bulgaria and Poland)

Emil Racoviță was the first biologist in the world to study fauna and flora in Antarctica. His findings and large collections through the famous Belgica Expedition to Antarctica stimulated many researchers to pursue scientific research in Antarctica in the following decades. He is also considered to be, together with René Jeannel, one of the founders of biospeleology, a science discipline studying fauna in caves, and he founded the world’s first Speleological Institute in 1920. (SC)

28. 150th anniversary of the birth of Maxim Gorky, writer (1868 – 1936) (Russian Federation with the support of Belarus, Italy and Kazakhstan)

Maxim Gorky (28 March 1868 – 18 June 1936) was a prominent Russian and Soviet writer, and a five-time nominee for the Nobel Prize in literature.

His early romantic stories from the 1890s, with heroes drawn from the millions of peasants-turned-tramps then roaming the Russian countryside, marked him as an exciting new force in Russian letters that cut across class lines, blurring the distinction between high and low literature. His 1902 play The Lower Depths took his homeland and then Europe by storm. These works and his 1914 autobiographical masterpiece, Childhood, found millions of readers.

Gorky was the only Soviet writer whose work embraced the prerevolutionary and post-revolutionary period so exhaustively, and he remains one of the key literary figures of his age. (CLT)

29. 200th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Sergeyevich Turgenev, writer (1818 – 1883) (Russian Federation with the support of Belarus, France and Kazakhstan)

Ivan Sergeyevich Turgenev was born in Orel province, Russia, on 9 November 1818. He was a novelist, poet and dramatist, and now ranks as one of the towering figures of Russian literature. His major works include the short-story collection A Sportsman’s Sketches (1852) and the novels Rudin (1856), Home of the Gentry (1859), On the Eve (1860), and Fathers and Sons (1862). These works offer realistic, affectionate portrayals of the Russian peasantry and penetrating studies of the Russian intelligentsia who were attempting to move the country into a new age.
His masterpiece, *Fathers and Sons*, is considered one of the greatest novels of the nineteenth century. Turgenev was particularly concerned with the movement toward social reform. His depictions of Russian 19th century provincial life and its turbulent times of political upheaval were lauded by many fellow authors including Joseph Conrad and Henry James. Turgenev died in exile in Paris on 4 September 1883. As a last wish his remains were buried in the Volkoff Cemetery, St. Petersburg, Russia. (CLT)

30. **200th anniversary of the birth of Marius Petipa, dancer and choreographer (1818 – 1910) (Russian Federation with the support of Cuba, France and Japan)**

Marius Petipa, born Victor Marius Alphonse Petipa (11 March 1818 – 14 July 1910) was a French and Russian ballet dancer, pedagogue and choreographer. Petipa is considered to be one of the most influential ballet masters and choreographers in the ballet history.

Marius Petipa had a long and distinguished career as First Ballet Master of the St. Petersburg Imperial Theatres, making him Ballet Master and principal choreographer of the Imperial Ballet (precursor of the Kirov/Mariinsky Ballet), a position he held from 1871 until 1903. Petipa created over fifty ballets, some of which have survived in versions either faithful to, inspired by, or reconstructed from the original. Petipa revived a substantial number of works created by other choreographers. Many of these revivals would go on to become the definitive editions on which all subsequent productions would be based. Many pieces have survived in an independent form from Petipa's original works and revivals in spite of the fact that the full-length ballets that spawned them had disappeared from the Imperial Ballet's repertoire. Many of these pieces have endured in versions either based on the original or choreographed anew by others.

All of the full-length works and individual pieces which have survived in active performance are considered to be cornerstones of the ballet repertory. (CLT)

31. **100th anniversary of the birth of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, writer (1918 – 2008) (Russian Federation with the support of Germany and Switzerland)**

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn was born on 11 December 1918, in Kislovodsk, Russia. He fought in World War II, but was arrested for criticizing Joseph Stalin and spent 11 years in labour camps and exile. His books, including *The Gulag Archipelago*, recount his experiences. Solzhenitsyn was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1970 and the Russian State Prize in 2007. He died in 2008.

Solzhenitsyn's works grew out of Russia's narrative traditions and reflect Soviet society. His debut, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, and several of his later works, focus on life in the Soviet gulag camps. His books often lack an obvious main character, moving instead between different characters at the centre of the plot. This reflects a humanist view of the universality of human experience. (CLT)

32. **300th anniversary of the birth of Adam Frantisek Kollar, scholar (1718 –1783) (Slovakia with the support of Austria, Bulgaria and Hungary)**

Adam Frantisek Kollar was a Slovak Enlightenment scholar and a key author of Maria Theresa’s “Ratio educationis” reform of 1777, which standardized education in the Hungarian crownlands (Transleithania) of the Habsburg monarchy for the first time. It included standardized teaching methods, curricula and textbooks, and applied to all nations there (e.g., Austrians, Croats, Hungarians, Italians, Serbs, Slovaks, Slovenes and Romanians). Kollar also served as Chief Librarian at the Imperial Royal Library in Vienna, where he edited, published or republished numerous manuscripts and earlier volumes from the library's collections into Turkish, Persian and the classical languages. The 300th anniversary of his birth is aligned with Education's Strategic Objective 1 (38 C/5) – Supporting Member States to develop education systems to foster high quality and inclusive lifelong learning for all. (ED)
33. 500th anniversary of the first world circumnavigation by ship in history, by Fernando de Magellanes and Juan Sebastián Elcano (Spain with the support of Andorra, Italy and Portugal)

The exploration of Magellan was largely inspired by the desire to demonstrate that the Earth was round, which in turn contributed to demystify some of the then beliefs and to support a scientific and reality-based approach to knowledge generation. Magellan’s decision to approach Spain to fund its expedition was due to the belief that the intended passage for his circumnavigation (the Malacca Strait) would be under the political and administrative auspices of Spain. The proposed celebration is consistent with the ongoing proposal by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC) of an International Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development for 2021-2030. The related foreseen events constitute a good basis for further similar events to be replicated at multiple scales and in multiple regions of the world on the theme of ocean exploration. (IOC)

34. 700th anniversary of the creation of the Archive of the Crown of Aragon (ACA) (1318) (Spain with the support of Andorra and Italy)

The Archive of the Crown of Aragon is one of the oldest living institutional archives in Europe. The Archive, the only one to have been awarded the European Heritage Label by the European Commission, played an indisputable role in building the concept of the Europe of peoples through its instrumental nature in institutional cohesion and political and social transformation, as well as through its role as an irrefutable witness to the harmonious integration of relations between the different cultures and languages of the Mediterranean peoples governed by the sovereigns of the Crown of Aragon. (CI)

35. 400th anniversary of the birth of Mirabid Saida Nasafi, poet (1618 – 1707) (Tajikistan with the support of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation)

Nasafi is considered the greatest Tajik poet of the 17th century. In his own days, he was recognized as a master of the ḡazal and moḵamsas, and was immensely popular. Although the "Indian style" influenced his poetic means in significant ways, especially in the use of complex comparisons and allegories, and he owed much to Sā‘eb of Tabriz, Nasafi achieved renown as an innovator of form, content, and language. Among the poetic genres he practiced, the ḡazal, of which he wrote some 550, comprising 4,600 distichs (bayts) or over half of his Kolliyāt, predominates. Their originality lies not so much in their rhyme and meter, which follow traditional patterns, as in their subject matter. Tributes to beautiful women and descriptions of flirtations have their place, but Nasafi uses the ḡazal as a vehicle to criticize the prevailing social and political order and to lament the hard life of scholars and workers. His heroes are not the romantic lovers of the traditional ḡazal, but rather ordinary men engaged in the life of their time. (CLT)

36. 100th anniversary of the birth of Kamphol Vacharaphol, educator (1919 – 1996) (Thailand with the support of Malaysia and Republic of Korea)

Kamphol Vacharaphol devoted the last part of his life to promoting formal education for those in rural and remote areas of Thailand. He did this by building new schools, which now add up to 101 schools with 30,000 students and form part of the Thai Rath Witthaya network. He introduced civic duty studies as a new subject, along with media literacy, in an effort to promote civic values. His work contributes to ED’s goals to provide learning opportunities for all, ensure the inclusion of vulnerable groups, and further global citizenship education. (ED)
37. **950th anniversary of the writing of Yusuf Khass Hajib’s Kutadgu Bilig (Wisdom of Royal Glory 1069) (Turkey with the support of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan)**

The celebration of the 950th anniversary of this historical text, the oldest monument of Islamic Turkish literature, is very timely since it demonstrates the share of the Muslim legacy in the promotion of a culture of peace and universally shared values. Kutadgu Bilig refers to concepts such as Biliglik (being wise), Kutluluk (happiness), Könilik (rightness, justice), Erdem (virtue), Edgü (kindness, doing favor), Asıglı (helpfulness), love, loyalty, generosity, bravery, patience and modesty. (SHS)

38. **100th anniversary of the birth of Vasyl Sukhomlynsky, educator (1918 – 1970) (Ukraine with the support of University of Newcastle and of Monach University, Australia)**

Vasyl Sukhomlynsky was a Ukrainian school teacher and principal, who emphasized moral education as the core of a holistic educational philosophy. He was one of the most influential educators in the former Soviet Union, and his works have been widely translated. Sukhomlynsky's education system is based on principles such as inclusion, gender equality, mutual understanding and mutual respect in upbringing. (ED)

39. **100th anniversary of the establishment of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (1918) (Ukraine)**

The National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NASU) was founded in 1918 and is the highest scientific and research institution of Ukraine, which encompasses over 160 research institutes, scientific centers, libraries and various other supporting scientific organizations across the country. As part of the NASU, Ukrainian scientists participate in over 150 bilateral research projects with the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Polish Academy of Sciences, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Slovak Academy of Sciences, National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) of France, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Romanian Academy, Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts, Turkish International Cooperation, etc. The NASU is a member of, or represents the country at nearly 40 international organizations, in particular, the International Association of the Academies of Sciences (IAAS), also chaired by Academician Boris Paton, the International Union of Academies (IUA), the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities (ALLEA) and the International Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), and is actively involved in international scientific associations and centres, such as CERN, IAEA, etc.

The celebration of this anniversary will contribute to the promotion of international cooperation in the field of sciences. (SC)