



Арганізацыя  
Аб'яднаных Нацый  
па пытаннях адукацыі,  
навукі і культуры

Пад патранатам  
**ЮНЭСКА**



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Culmination of the anniversary celebrations!**

On September 14 – 15, 2017 the National Library of Belarus (Nezalezhnasti av. 116) will become the venue for the **International Congress “500 years of Belarusian book-printing”** and opening of the **International Exhibition “Francysk Skaryna and his Epoch”**.

The event is organized by the **Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Belarus** and the **National Library of Belarus** with the support of the **Central European Initiative (CEI)**, the **Intergovernmental Foundation for Educational, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation of the CIS**, the **Mobility Scheme for Targeted People-to-People-Contacts (MOST)**.

The **Bank BelVEB** is an official partner of the Congress.

The 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Belarusian and East Slavic book-printing is of international significance. It is marked in the UNESCO Calendar of Memorable Dates. During the year the event was widely celebrated not only in Belarus but far beyond its borders; however, the **International Congress “500 years of Belarusian book-printing”** will become the culmination of festive events. It is meant to show the importance of the heritage left behind by Francysk Skaryna, his predecessors and followers on national and worldwide scales. Fully corresponding to the values and ideas of the Organization, the Congress is held **under the patronage of UNESCO**.

The large-scale event will gather around 600 delegates from 24 countries in the Belarusian “diamond”: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, the United Kingdom, Germany, China, Poland, Ukraine, Russia, Ukraine, Montenegro and others. Among the participants there are famous public and politic figures, diplomats, directors and experts of scientific, educational and cultural institutions of Belarus and foreign countries, developers and producers of software and information products.

The first-day program of the Congress is especially varied and eventful:

**On September 14 at 10 a.m. a solemn opening of the International Congress** and plenary session will be held **in the conference hall**. The lobby of the conference hall will become the venue for the exhibition of publishing products released on the occasion of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Belarusian book-printing.

At 4.30 pm the ceremony of laying flowers in front of the Francysk Skaryna monument will take place at the square near the library building.

**At 17.00 the lobby of the main entrance will become the venue for the solemn opening of the International Exhibition Project “Francysk Skaryna and his Epoch”**. The exhibition, unique in its scale, will present original editions published by Francysk Skaryna and his followers, as well as precious early printed editions from Germany, Latvia, Poland, Russia, Rumania, Slovakia, Slovenia and other European countries.

The agenda of the Congress will include section meetings, the International Round Table “Documentary heritage in the Central European Region: preservation, research and promotion”, the 20<sup>th</sup> General meeting of the non-profit partnership “Library Assembly of Eurasia”, dedicated to the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization.

**We invite your representative to the event!**

**Please, inform us about your participation:**

**For enquiries, call: (+375 17) 293 27 56, 293 28 81.**

**E-mail: [pr@nlb.by](mailto:pr@nlb.by)**