

EMWOSE
Women from ethnic minorities in social enterprise

Interview form

Overview

Name: Svetlana Vasichkina

Company: Russian Community
“Lada” in Klaipėda

Website: <http://www.ruslada.lt/>



Shortly about yourself...

My name is Svetlana Vasichkina. I am Russian by nationality, but I was born in Lithuania. And this is my homeland, which I love very much. I am working in a gymnasium, teaching the history of theater. I supervise the youth musical theatre at this gymnasium. And I am also the chairperson of Russian community in Klaipėda city.

We are doing projects for all the city. Therefore, to somehow separate and speak for a certain number of people I can not. And our events are attended by from 500 to 2,000 people per one event. Because by education I am a director of the folk theatre and theatrical mass performance having graduated from the St. Petersburg, Leningrad at the time, Academy of Arts or Institute of Culture named after N. K. Krupskaya. And I have been implementing my skills in the field of culture for 40 years.

The team

Everyone, who thinks in Russian, everyone, who speaks in Russian language, they come to us and they are participating in our projects. But! But active, who are helping me, there are not that many of them. It is 20 - 30 people.

And each project, which is in our community, it unites around itself a certain number of people. And all of them are different. That is, if I am doing celebration for children, it means that one group of people is helping me. If it is for adults, other people are helping me. Choreographers, musicians, vocalists, educators.

Interview transcript

Keywords:

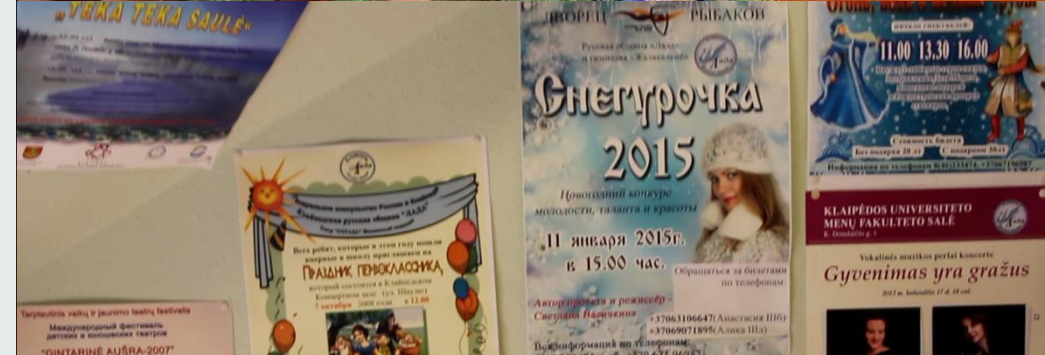
Russian Community "Lada",
Klaipėda city, Snow Maiden of the
year, theater, performances,
concerts, Children's Day,
Kaliningrad Philharmonic,
Consulate General of Russia, Female
Klaipėda citizen of the year,
handcrafts, individual exhibitions.

What are the main projects of Russian Community “Lada”?

Eight projects, which we hold every year traditionally. And agree to participate, if we get invited, in other projects. The most important project, which I once devised, and it has no analogues anywhere, and according to the scheme it is conducted, the exact same project, in Russia, Belarus, that is, they have already taken it, it is called Snow Maiden of the year. It is a very difficult competition, the participants are girls from 15 to 19 years. Besides, girls have already begun to come to us from other countries. We already have an international competition.

The following project is Children's New Year's performance for young children. Also, we take 2-3 halls, children come with their parents. We give presents, the Consulate General of Russia helps us with buying these presents. Santa Claus, everything is as it should be in the performance. Creative collectives from the city take part in it - that is dancing and vocal ones. I am writing scenarios by myself, we sew costumes by ourselves, we write music by ourselves. We do everything absolutely by ourselves. We do not invite professional theaters here, which come here only to make money. We are doing everything ourselves. Therefore, our tickets are not very expensive in order to recoup the costumes, music, lights, sound, halls and all the rest.

"Give me a chance" ("Suteik man galimybę"). We were organizing concerts for children, who have cancer, we have dedicated all these concerts. It was also attended by various creative collectives, and music schools, and choreographic studios. We raised money and helped the City Children's Hospital for these kids.



Children's Day. On June 1st, in the square, in the central square near the old market, it is Neringa square. There stands a monument. And we gather there kids too, mothers, fathers, grandmothers, little children. We organize a contest of Miss baby, Mister baby, pregnant mothers, who we give presents, we also get help from the stores for pregnant mothers. They give out some souvenirs, some gifts, some checks to a beauty salon. A lot of different organizations cooperate with us, they want to participate. And we also hold these fairs there.

Another very good project - together with Kaliningrad Philharmonic. They bring some of their concerts here, and I arrange for free, thanks to the Consulate General of Russia too, we arrange in large concert halls concerts for them. Symphony Orchestra or Brass Orchestra, they bring their program here with soloists. And people come and enjoy the music.

Each of these projects are carried out from 10 to 18 years. Since I came to this community, 18 years ago, that is how much we are doing.

Local recognition

I am pleased that last year I have participated in a competition of Female Klaipėda citizen of the year. And not only did I reach the final, I came third according to the points and practically the whole city voted for me. It was very pleasant for me, when on the stage of Drama Theater our mayor and representatives from the Lithuanian Government, when they spoke and thanked all these women and told that "You are great, you bring benefits to the city".

The handcrafts

I slowly began to somehow come to this, that at first we made some souvenirs, then started to sew some dolls, and now I have several of my individual exhibitions. In St. Petersburg I have already participated in a competition and brought the winner's diploma from there, also for my work, dolls to be exact. We do master classes also, I teach adults, children. And it brings me great satisfaction and also joy to the people.



Full video [here](#)