

Eastern Europe

November 2022 Highlights



Balkan Leaders Meet at UPF Conference in Vienna





On November 11, 2022, at the Diplomatische Akademie Wien-Vienna School of International Studies, UPF-Europe & Middle East and the Podgorica Club of former heads of state of the Balkans region held a joint conference on the theme: **"Western Balkans and European Union Relations: Challenges and Perspectives"**. 150 participants filled up the hall, including representatives from 17 Embassies, scholars and students from academic institutes, and NGO representatives.

This event followed two conferences on Peace and Security in the Western Balkans held by UPF in April and June this year, co-sponsored respectively by the Podgorica Club and the government of Kosovo. In the context of the war in Ukraine and its impact on peace and security in the Western Balkans, respected statesmen from the region, as well as Austrian politicians and diplomats, were invited to share their perspectives on the state of Western Balkans – EU relations.

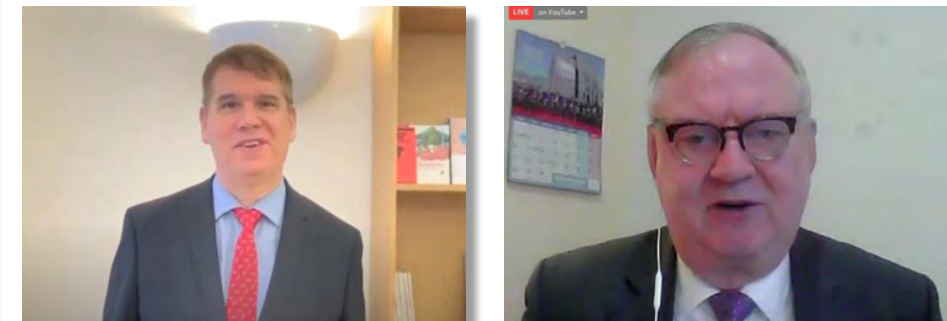


In the opening session, a few eminent figures offered welcoming remarks. Amb. Emil Brix, the director of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, emphasized the relevance of Vienna, "capital of Northern Balkans", for such a meeting. H.E. Filip Vujanovic, the former President of Montenegro, co-organizer of the conference as President of the Podgorica Club, outlined the Club's strategies for peace and development in the region. Dr. Katsumi Otsuka, the Chairman of UPF Europe & Middle East, explained UPF's vision for conflict resolution through dialogue. In a recorded message, Dr. Wolfgang Petritsch, an eminent Austrian diplomat who served as High Representative for Bosnia Herzegovina and EU's Special Envoy for Kosovo, discussed how Balkan countries could contribute in consolidating the EU. Finally, a message was read from the EU Commissioner for European Neighborhood and Enlargement, Mr. Olivier Várhegyi, who expressed his commitment to do "everything in his power to support peace, security and prosperity in the Western Balkans".

UPF of Europe and the Middle East, together with the Podgorica Club of former heads of state of the Balkan region, held a conference in Vienna, Austria, titled "Western Balkans and European Union Relations: Challenges and Perspectives." The conference, held on 11 November in the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, brought together 150 participants, including representatives from 17 embassies, scholars and students from academic institutes, and NGO representatives.

In addition to many former leaders of Balkan nations, the speakers included Dr. Michael Balcomb, the president of FFWPU for Europe and the Middle East, and Dr. Katsumi Otsuka, the co-chair of UPF for Europe and the Middle East. — *Jacques Marion, Johann Brunnbauer and Peter Haider*

Regional Sunday Service Points to Hopeful 2023



Two days before the start of the year's last 40 days, an online Sunday service titled "Looking toward 2023 with Hope" attracted an estimated 1,000 viewers across 13 time zones from all over Eastern Europe and beyond. An international team worked long hours behind the scenes to make every aspect of the Sunday service a success. Andrei and Diana Eșanu from Moldova were the emcees. Dr. Michael Balcomb warmly greeted the audience by video from Glasgow, Scotland. Eastern Europe leader Jack Corley urged members to be sincere in their faith. He encouraged them to support True Mother in completing the Cheon Won Gung, a holy building where Heavenly Parent can meet His children. The sermon was followed by a video showing in detail what the completed Cheon Won Gung will look like. The service closed with a PowerPoint showing members and activities from each Eastern Europe nation. – *Renee Corley*

International Family Conference Meets in Shin Albania



“Family, Society and Universal Values,” a one-day international conference on the family, was held at the CIG Peace Embassy in Tirana on 19 November. Approximately 100 people joined the program, which was held jointly by Professors World Peace Academy and UPF-Albania. The panel of speakers represented Japan, the United States, Turkey, Serbia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Albania. – Gani Rroshi

In Shin Albania 110 Youth Attend Five-Day DP Workshop



“On the Radar of Principle,” a five-day Divine Principle workshop, was held from 25 to 29 November at the Mullet national workshop centre near Albania’s capital, Tirana. About 110 young people from Albania and Kosovo attended – the result of witnessing efforts of members and missionaries on the front line. Thirty-four participants were hearing DP for the first time, 30 were UPA students, and the others were young members and not-yet-members. The staff’s sincere heart of love and investment created a wonderful atmosphere. Also, the workshop coincided with Albania’s Independence Day and Liberation Day, which fuelled the participants’ feelings of love for the nation. They expressed their gratitude for participating in such a workshop and for the content they received, especially appreciating the work that True Parents have done for us all. – *Manjola Vasmatics*

WFWP-Russia Holds Intercultural Children's Festival



WFWP of Russia held its fourth intercultural children's festival under the title "Children Are Angels of Peace." It was dedicated to the Russian celebration of Mother's Day and was held in the Moscow headquarters. The main theme was "Motherly Love and World Peace." Performances represented Russian, Ukrainian, Georgian, Armenian, Kalmyk, Dagestan, Jewish, and Afghan cultures. – *Olga Vakulinskaya*

Ascended Members Honoured in Russia, Belarus



St. Petersburg



Moscow



Novosibirsk



Kazan



Flower Offerings



Bereaved Testimony



Belarus

The Eastern Europe Blessed Family Department organised special memorial services in several communities of Russia and Belarus on 13 November to pay tribute to our members who have passed to the spirit world since our movement started here. Speakers and participants in distant locations connected online to the main gathering in the Moscow regional headquarters.

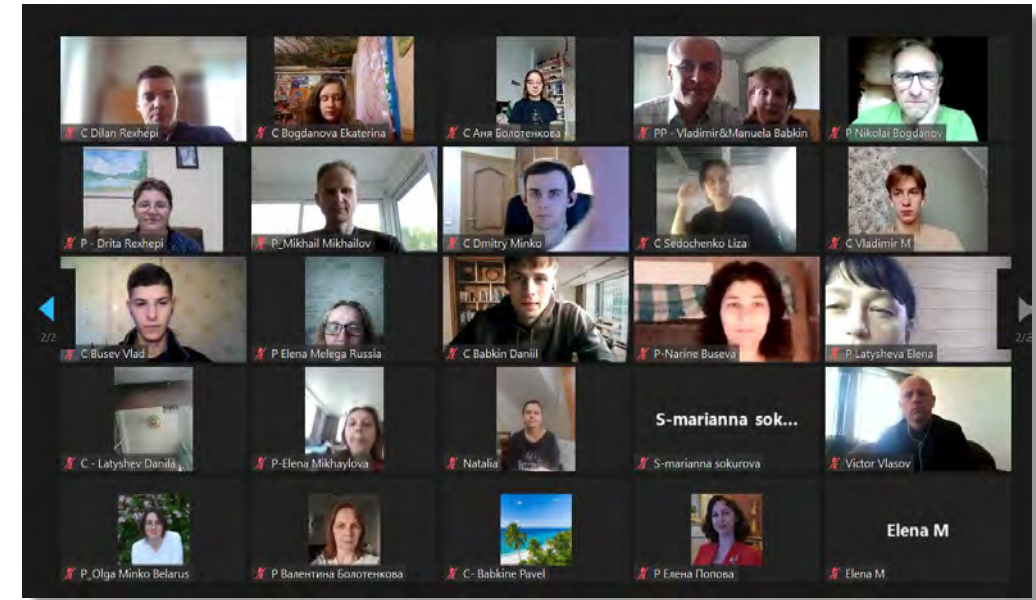
After words of welcome from Eastern Europe President Jack Corley, a beautiful video with images and names of the ascended members was shown. Rev. In-pyo Moon, the director of International BFD and the EUME Cheonbo branch president, gave the main sermon.

In every participating community, members laid flowers on an altar prepared for their ascended. Members who had lost a family member movingly offered their personal reflections. – *Galina Chernomorets*

EE Second Gens Prepare for Matching and Blessing



Participants in Moscow Headquarters



Online Participants

The Eastern Europe Second Generation Department held a Matching and Blessing preparation workshop (Part 2, Level 2). A total of 21 candidates and 17 parents gathered in the Moscow headquarters from Moscow Region, St. Petersburg, Kaliningrad as well as from Belarus. An additional 12 candidates and 15 parents participated online from the Russian cities of Novosibirsk, Perm, Yekaterinburg, Kursk and Saratov, as well as from Albania, Armenia, Belarus, and even South Korea. Having a workshop on a sub-regional level allowed the participants to look more deeply into such topics as “Meaning and Value of Changing the Blood Lineage,” “Am I Ready for the Blessing?” and “External and Internal Preparation to Start the Matching.”

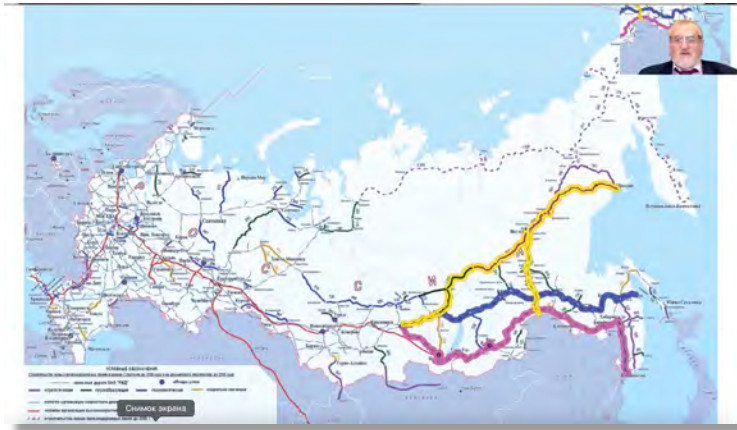
After each lecture, time was set aside for parents to discuss the topic with their child. Several questions or topics had been created for each family. These discussions became one of the many highlights of the workshop, and both online and offline audiences had very meaningful and sincere dialogues. – *Elena Kalmatskaya*

Russian Members Bless 3,765 Couples in 80 Family Festivals



In the Russian city of Ulyanovsk, four local couples received the first three steps of the Blessing at a Family Festival held during a local celebration of the Russian Mother's Day. This was the last of 80 Family Festivals held throughout Russia in 2022, in which 3,765 couples received the first three steps of the Blessing. Now FFWPU is holding programs to let these couples finish the last two steps of the Blessing. A forty-day workshop for three of these couples has just started, including a forty-day separation period. And on 15 December FFWPU will hold a conference on family issues in Russia. – Alexei Saveliev

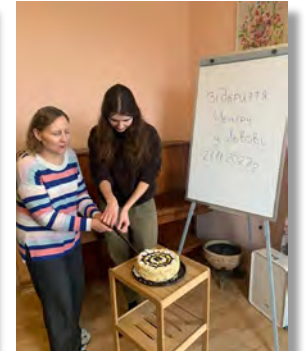
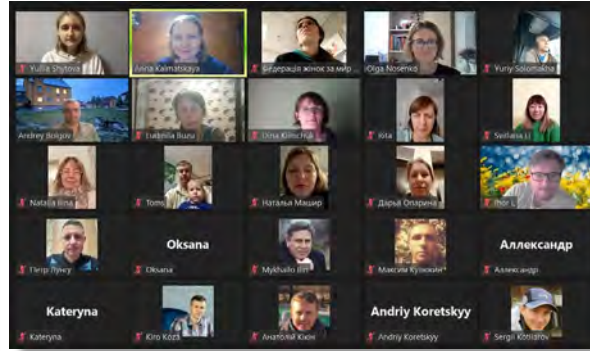
UPF-Russia Holds Bering Strait Tunnel Webinar



Topic's statistics		
23	0	1
Likes	Comments	Shared
178 813 / 178 750	177 892 / 0	85 / 25
Views / Reach	Reach, non-members / Advertisement reach	Engagement / Feedback
111 Topic openings	1 Video views	
2 Removed from News Feed	178 813 Views	
0 Reported content		

UPF-Russia inaugurated the International Association of Academicians for Peace with a webinar about the Bering Strait Tunnel Project which would connect Far Eastern Russia with the U.S. state of Alaska, as part of the International Peace Highway envisioned by True Parents. The event on 7 November attracted an estimated 178,000 online viewers and was part of the Science for Sustainable Development series of the UN World Science Day for Peace and Development. The main speaker was Dr. Viktor Razbegin, a prominent Russian scientist in the field of spatial economics, transport infrastructure and construction. – Maria Nazarova

News from Ukraine Members



A witnessing centre opened in the city of Lviv. Despite the constant blackouts, young members go witnessing and bring guests to the centre. One guest already listened to a two-day workshop. As a generator can't be put in the centre, which is an apartment, the Ukrainian community is planning to buy a power station so that the centre will have electricity. Two new guests listened to a one-day DP workshop last week, and in both Ukraine and Poland four guests attended a four-day DP workshop.

Ukrainian members staying in Warsaw, Poland, held a three-day workshop for a Ukrainian girl who was witnessed to in Poland and a Second Generation boy from Belarus. Five new guests attended a one-day DP workshop, and one guest attended a two-day DP workshop.

Parents of Second Generation teenagers met online to analyse autumn programs and discuss plans for winter programs. Eight children from Ukraine registered for the European workshop in Glanow, Poland, during the winter holidays.

WFWP-Ukraine leader Tetyana Kotseba together with volunteers visited a community in the Kyiv region that has experienced many difficulties since the war started. WFWP volunteers provided humanitarian support to the population donated by the Polish *Tratva* foundation, including diapers, hygiene and cleaning products. – Anna Kalmatskaya



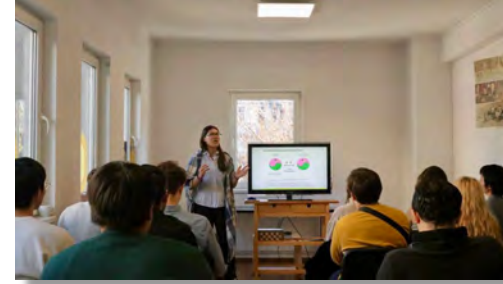
True Mother's Memoir Presented to Main Bulgarian Library



The Bulgarian translation of True Mother's memoir was presented to the main public library in the capital, Sofia. Mihaela Sergeeva, two Ambassadors for Peace, and the book's translator spoke about the book and read some excerpts aloud. Around 20 guests attended the ceremony. ... In other news, an elder sister, Rumiana, was blessed with a partner from the spirit world, participating in a CheonBo workshop with a direct connection to Cheongpyeong. – *Edina Zsolczak Dimitrova*



Activities in Romania

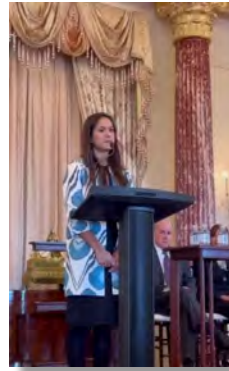


Fifteen new guests participated in a one-day Divine Principle workshop at the CARP centre in Bucharest. This time the lecturers were Cheonil Guk missionaries from the United States, who presented the lectures with clear understanding and a sincere heart. All the guests were very attentive and focused. After each lecture there was a 15-minute discussion by pairs. For the afternoon "True Love Is Action" project, CARP members organized a heart-warming game called *FajiWaji*, in which each person wrote a nice message or words of gratitude on a paper attached to another person's back. CARP members will remain in contact with the guests, inviting them to CARP activities and one-on-one DP study.

The SunMoon UPA missionaries organized a Korean cultural event with 52 guests in the Bucharest Peace Embassy. The program started with a CARP talk and a presentation about *Hyojeong* expressed through the culture of Korean holidays. This was followed by a Korean quiz competition and the enjoyment of Korean holiday food. The second part of the program was a performance of Korean singing and dancing, and the Korean game of *Yut-nori*.

The 21-day *Jeongseong* witnessing condition concluded with a two-day Divine Principle workshop, with six new guests and five CARP members as staff. The afternoon activity was "Mind-Body Unity through Tong-il Moo-do," presented by a CIG missionary and a UPA missionary. Because the guests were curious about True Father, *Hoon Dok Hwe* the next morning centred on True Father's autobiography. After the workshop, many of the participants expressed their deep feelings in their written reflections.— Miki Predescu

Activities in Moldova



Natalia Roskot, a Family Federation activist in the city of Anenii Noi, was invited to a meeting at the mayor's office about two projects initiated by Catholic Relief Services for Moldovan citizens who rent their houses to Ukrainians. The 15 people at the meeting included the mayor, vice mayor, and other local officials.

At the Sunflower Centre in Chisinau, Psychologists without Borders held a program for parents about caring for hyperactive children; the European Union Agency for Asylum held two sessions about moving to European countries; and the Republic Centre for Psycho-pedagogical Assistance held an activity for 19 children based on the Safe Space program. Three young people from the Distribution Aid NGO visited the Sunflower Centre to learn more about it and for further cooperation.

Also mothers and teachers from Sunflower joined two English lessons led by Ivan Kolupaev.

Family Federation was a partner at an event celebrating 25 years of a government body that protects children's rights. Family Federation President Andrei Eșanu received a diploma, and Family Federation was mentioned as an important partner, along with the UN. Andrei gave a congratulatory speech in which he mentioned Rev. and Mrs. Moon and the motto "Family Is the School of Love."

Meredith Wiedemer, the co-founder of the Sunflower Project, visited the United States to receive the Volunteer of the Year award from the U.S. government. In her speech she mentioned Family Federation. – Sabina Nadejdin

Belarus Celebration Recalls True Mother's 1993 Visit



Members in Belarus celebrated the anniversary of True Mother's visit to Belarus in 1993. On 22 November, they organized a pilgrimage walk, praying at the Holy Ground and near the Opera House where True Mother spoke. At night vigils on Tuesday and Thursday, members studied the speech that True Mother gave in Belarus. And on Sunday, a festive service was held in memory of this historic day. Dr. Michael Balcomb sent a video message, and national messiah Martin Field gave a sermon. Members recalled the events of 1993, talked about the heart of True Mother, practised True Mother's physical exercises, and sang songs. – *Olga Plotnikova*

Lithuania Holds HARP Seminar with a Serious Side

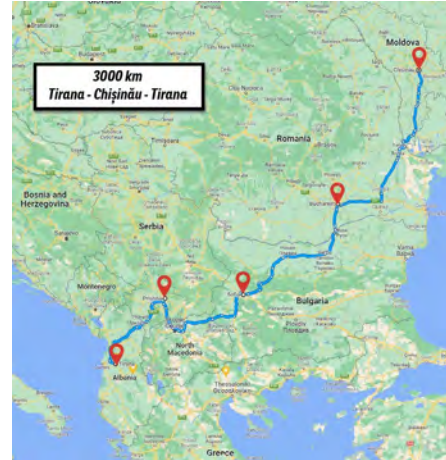


"The Grey Area" was the title of a HARP seminar held by Lithuanian blessed families. The title refers to the fact that Satan uses ideologies that at first sight seem to be well motivated. But when looked at closely, it is clear that these ideologies are rooted in evil. Despite the serious topic, the participants enjoyed being with each other and creating stronger bonds. – Roma Karagezian

EE President and VP Visit Three Balkan Nations - Bulgaria



Members of Sofia community



Route from
Tirana to Chisinau



A family dinner



Peace Embassy in Sofia



National leader couple Edina and
Martin Zsolcsak-Dmitrov

On 24 November, Eastern Europe President Jack Corley flew to Bulgaria, joining EE Vice President Gani and Marjeta Rroshi, who had driven from their home in Tirana, Albania. Over three days Mr. Corley and Mr. and Mrs. Rroshi traveled by car from Bulgaria to Romania and then to Moldova, meeting leaders and members. In Sofia, they joined Bulgarian members for a family meeting and meal. In Bucharest, Romania, they met CIG missionaries from the United States and UPF/SunMoon missionaries from Korea. In Moldova, they were joined by Renee Corley, who had arrived by plane. At the Chişinău Peace Embassy, Gani Rroshi gave an inspiring Sunday sermon about the meaning of Heavenly Parent's Holy Community. Also on Sunday, they attended the Youth Forum led by YSP. On the following day, together with Eastern Europe YSP Director Andrei Eşanu, Mr. Corley and Mr. Rroshi met two members of Parliament who are part of the Albania Friendship Committee. Then the Corleys flew back to Prague and the Rroshis drove back to Tirana, after driving a total of 3,000 kilometers. – *Jack and Renee Corley*

EE President and VP Visit Three Balkan Nations - Romania



National leader couple Miki and Andrei Predescu



In front of People's Palace



Meeting with missionaries and members in the Bucharest Peace Embassy

EE President and VP Visit Three Balkan Nations - Moldova



YSP essay competition participants



Sunday Service



EE Vice President Gani Rroshi delivers sermon.



Meeting members of parliament



Moldova Peace Embassy, Chisinau



National leader couple
Sabina and Sergey Nadejdin

Thank you!