



# Eastern Europe Highlights

October 2024

# Shin Albanian FamFest Celebrates the Family



Gabor and Manjola Vasmatics



In honor of the fifth anniversary of True Mother declaring their nation as Shin Albania, members held a FamFest – a festival promoting the family – in the city of Durres. Receiving permission from the city hall for this fourth edition of FamFest was a real battle, but after offering a lot of *jeongseong*, they received permission. It was not easy to organize the festival in such a short time, but they felt Heavenly Parent and True Parents really wanted it to happen. One leader dreamed that True Mother was praying seriously at the FamFest location. On the day of the event, whose theme was “Family as the School of Love,” about 1,500 people took part, most of whom stayed until the end. Members spoke freely about True Parents, about True Mother declaring Albania a heavenly nation, and about true family values. A local television station aired a report on the festival. – *Manjola Vasmatics*

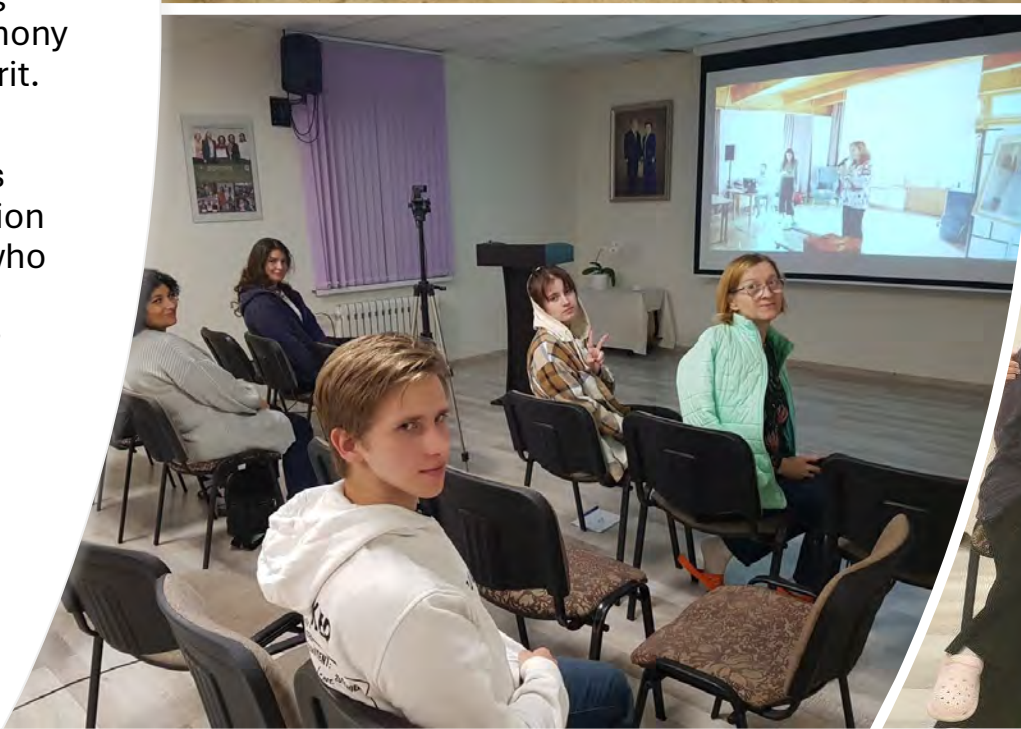


**On 1 October, a UPF delegation led by Mr. Jacques Marion met with President Bajram Begaj of Albania**

## Autumn Great Works Bring High Spirit to Belarusians

Ninety members in Belarus took part in the Autumn Great Works that were broadcast online from Korea from 18 to 20 October, including about 40 members who gathered in the church building. They joined the Chanyang sessions, Ancestor Blessing Ceremony and other programs with a high spirit.

On the same days, four Second Generation youth and their parents participated in a Blessing Preparation Workshop (including one brother who had not participated in church programs in over two years). – *Olga Plotnikova*



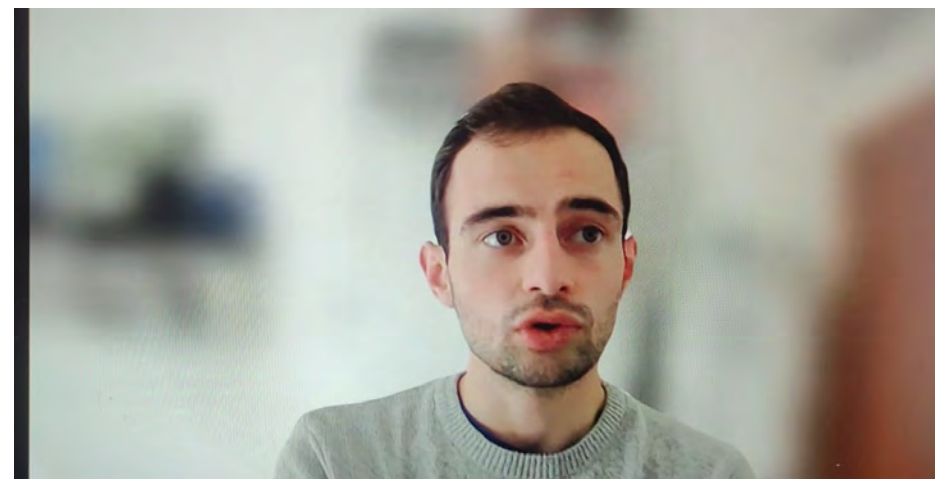
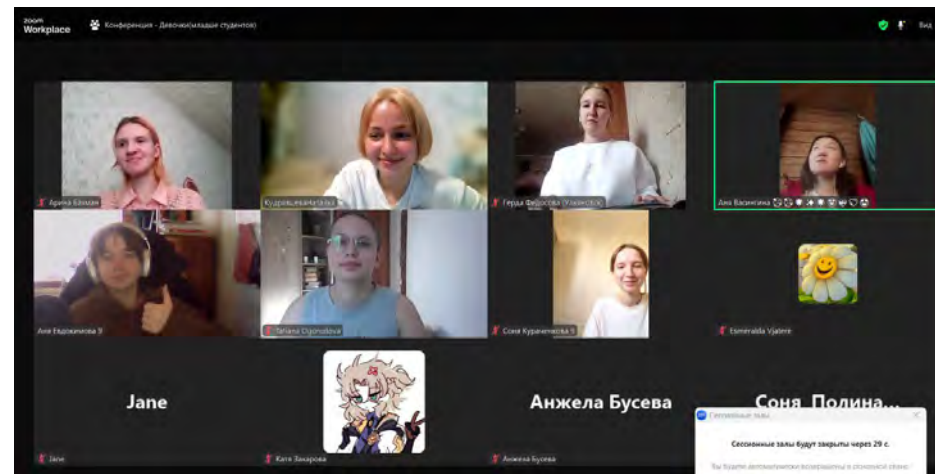
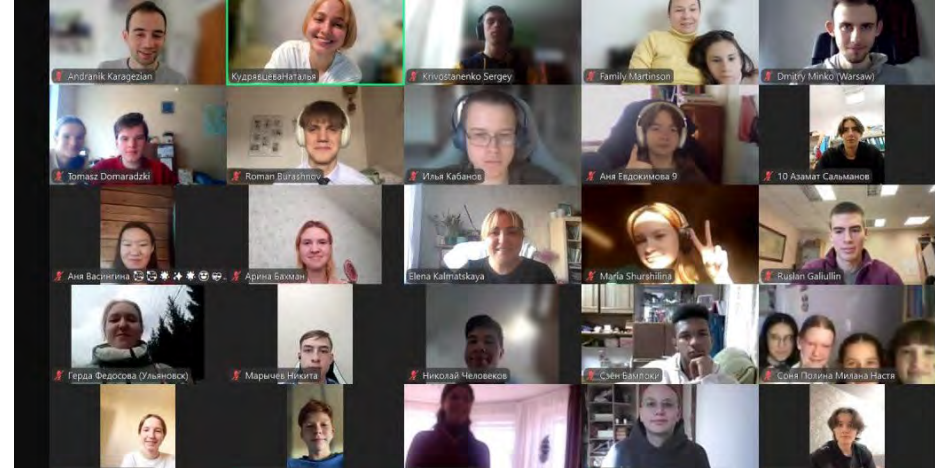


# Youth from Four Nations Attend High Noon Seminar

Forty participants from Belarus, Russia, Estonia and Lithuania – both First and Second Generations – attended a three-day High Noon seminar held at the Belarus community's Morning House training center. EUME High Noon Director Andranik Karagezian and his team prepared a very lively and interesting program, which included a lot of discussion time on topics important to the participants: purity, openness, and trust in God and parents. Sports, games, singing and an evening walk in the center of Minsk added to the atmosphere of warmth and unity. – *Olga Plotnikova*

# HARP Sunday Service Gives ‘Pure Water’ Message

The High Noon director for Europe, Andranik Karagezian from Lithuania, gave the sermon at an online Sunday service for HARP of Eastern Europe. His topic, "Culture of Pure Water," was much appreciated, as it concerns everyone. Several times he put forth important questions, which the boys and girls discussed in groups. – *Elena Kalmatskaya*



# Returning Members Gain Hope at Moscow Blessing Workshop

Thirty participants from Russia and Belarus gathered in Moscow for “Generation of Hope,” a three-day Matching and Blessing preparation workshop for First Generation. EUME First Gen Blessing Director Franz Kerschbaummayr came to Moscow to offer education to new candidates, together with Eastern Europe BFD Director Galina Chernomorets, Russian BFD Director Oleg Kuzmin, and Eastern Europe First Gen Blessing Coordinator Maria Marycheva. Eastern Europe President Jack Corley and Russian national leader Alexander Timofeyev sent messages of support.

A highlight of the workshop was the attendance of several returning members, some with their husband or wife. Participants took part in the Cheonshim Won prayer vigil and Sunday service, and they practiced key traditions like prayer, Family Pledge and HDH. Feeling the deep love of Heavenly Parent and True Parents, many were moved to tears. The workshop concluded with a graduation ceremony and a warm family celebration. – *Galina Chernomorets*



# Blessed Families Receive Answers to Their Questions



**Franz Kerchbaummayr and Galina Chernomorets**



Heavenly Parent's love and presence were felt at a three-day workshop for blessed families of the Eastern Europe sub-region. Franz Kerschbaummayr, the EUME director for First Generation Blessings, traveled to Moscow to deliver guidance to the participants: 43 who gathered in the Moscow Peace Embassy, as well as 103 online connections from throughout Eastern Europe. Franz's wife, Patrizia, joined her husband via Zoom, and together they testified from their heart and experience about living a blessed life centered on God and True Parents. They spoke about important points of good communication and unity, about practical living with God, and about the correct attitude in raising our children. Participants were deeply moved by the heart expressed through the talks, and many received answers for their questions and found good tips for practice. Although some issues led to heated discussions, the spirit of the event was high and very warm. The main message was to live as children of God, not as servants, and to take responsibility for our life and our love. – *Galina Chernomorets*



# Moldovan Team Wins YSP S!NERGY Competition



From October 23 to 27, a YSP team from Moldova traveled to Budapest to join the 2024 YSP EUME Assembly. Our team presented a program they had designed and won first place in the S!NERGY competition. They returned home full of inspiration and talked about the exchange between First and Second Generations from different countries. The UK team won second place and an online Russian team received third prize. – *Sabina Nadejdin*



# Romanian CARP Guests Ponder ‘Who Am I?’

Romanian CARP started the new school year with an Open Hoon Dok Hwe event titled “Who Am I?” Thirteen guests attended the event, which was held in the Bucharest Peace Embassy. Together with the new Japanese volunteer who by himself took responsibility to help the Romanian community, the participants talked about new beginnings and their passions. ... CARP members have begun witnessing at the University of Bucharest. ... Romanian members also participated in the Autumn Great Works together. – *Alexandra Mihai and Miki Predescu*

# Moscow HTM Victors Serve Kalmykian Republic

Since 2021, Russian HTM victors Alexei and Olga Saveliev, who are based in Moscow, have been visiting the Russian Republic of Kalmykia twice a year. Occasionally other blessed families, Second Gens, and students from Volgograd University have joined them in visiting this republic in southern Russia which is inhabited by Kalmyks, a predominantly Buddhist people who are descended from Mongolians. Through holding Family Festivals, the Savelievs build relationships with local VIPs, families and youth. This year they have been invited by local administrations and Buddhist lamas. The Savelievs have focused their efforts in Kalmykia's Malye Derbety region in hopes of developing a model region. In their most recent visit, they worked together with two schools and with Kalmykia's main public organization. One of their activities is planting trees together, creating an "Alley of Happy Families" and an "Alley of Mothers."

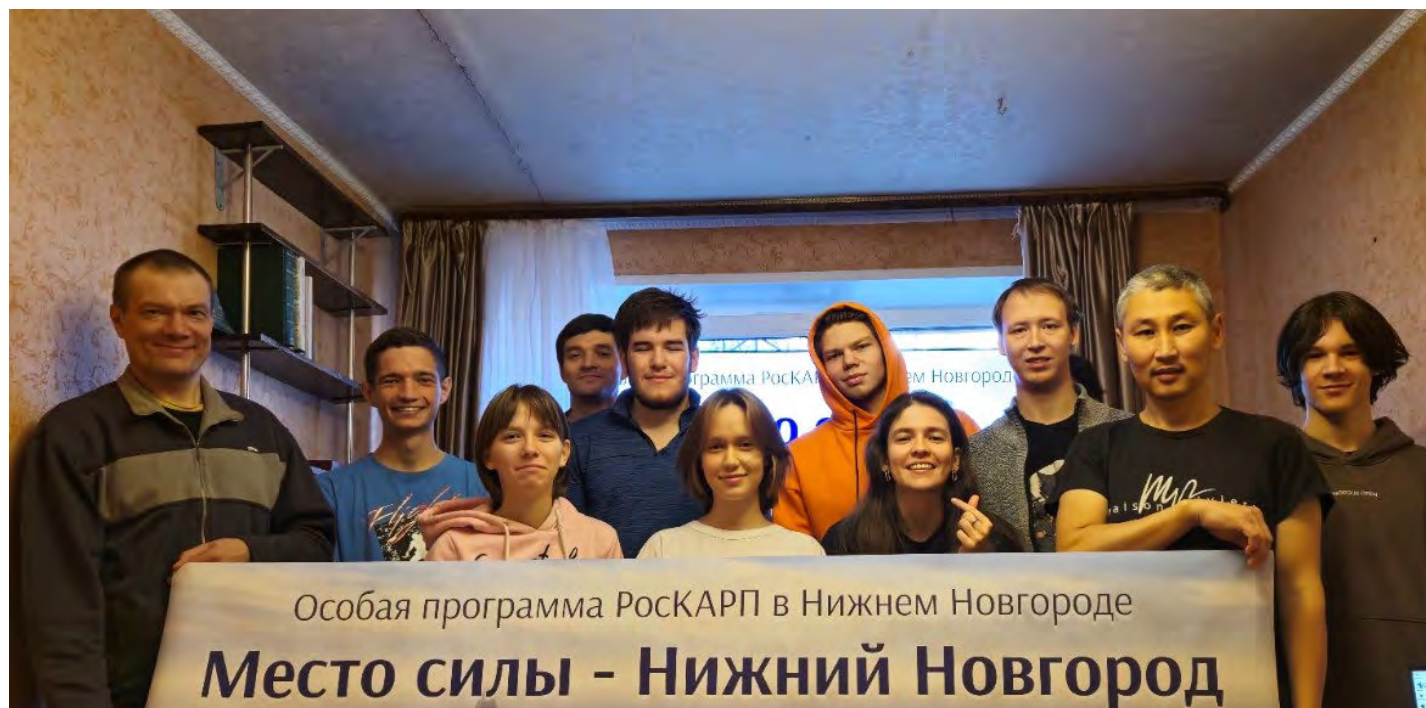
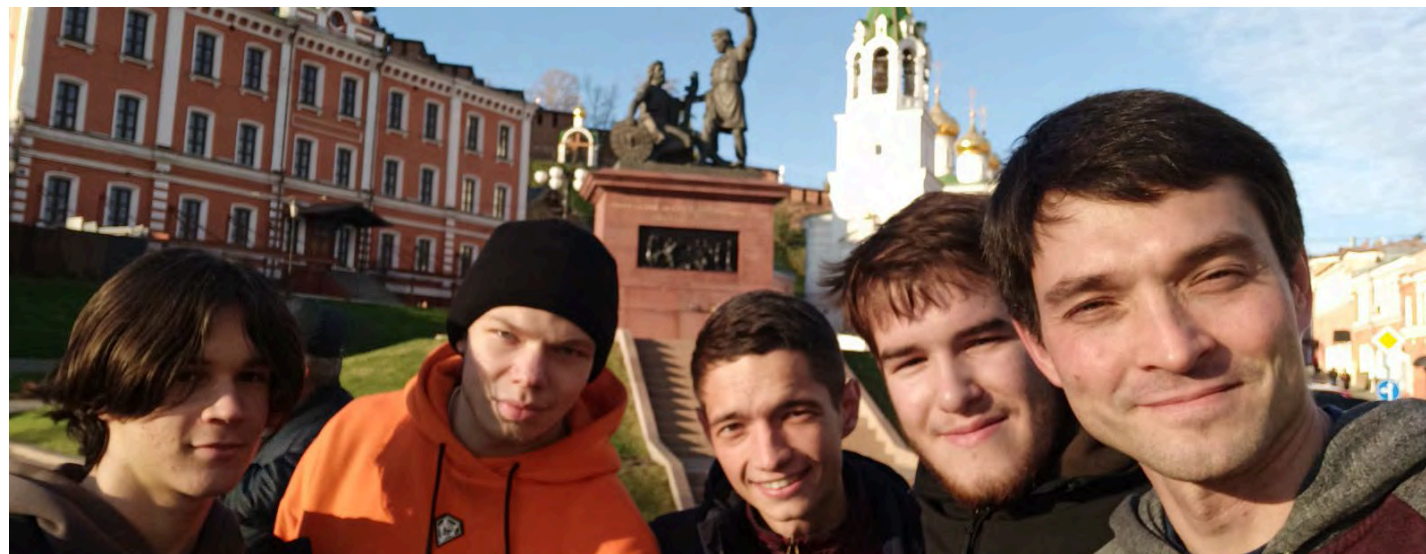


# Russian CARP 'Power' Workshop Offers DP and Witnessing

In the Russian city of Nizhny Novgorod, CARP held a three-day program titled "Place of Power." The program was divided into two parts.

The first was a one-day DP seminar. Four guests (from Moscow, Vladimir, Yekaterinburg and Ulyanovsk) and one Second Generation participant listened to in-depth lectures. To deepen their understanding, the participants then discussed the lectures.

The second part was two days of witnessing. Eight brothers and sisters took part, including two Second Gens. They brought four guests to an introductory lecture. One guest listened to three additional DP lectures and two expressed interest in hearing more. Members from Nizhny Novgorod supported the program, either by preparing meals, giving a lecture, or taking the participants on an excursion. –  
*Alexander Timofeyev*





3-Day Tongil Moodo Workshop in Latvia Peace Embassy

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# Eastern Europe Subregional President and Vice President attend EUME Leaders Meeting in the UK from 21-24 October



**Jack Corley and Gani Rroshi**



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# International Association of Arts and Culture for Peace Host Programme in Moscow Peace Embassy

26 October 2024







**Natalia Chigrina UPF and Vladimir Egorov**

## **Russian Scholar Studies True Parents’ Life and Legacy**



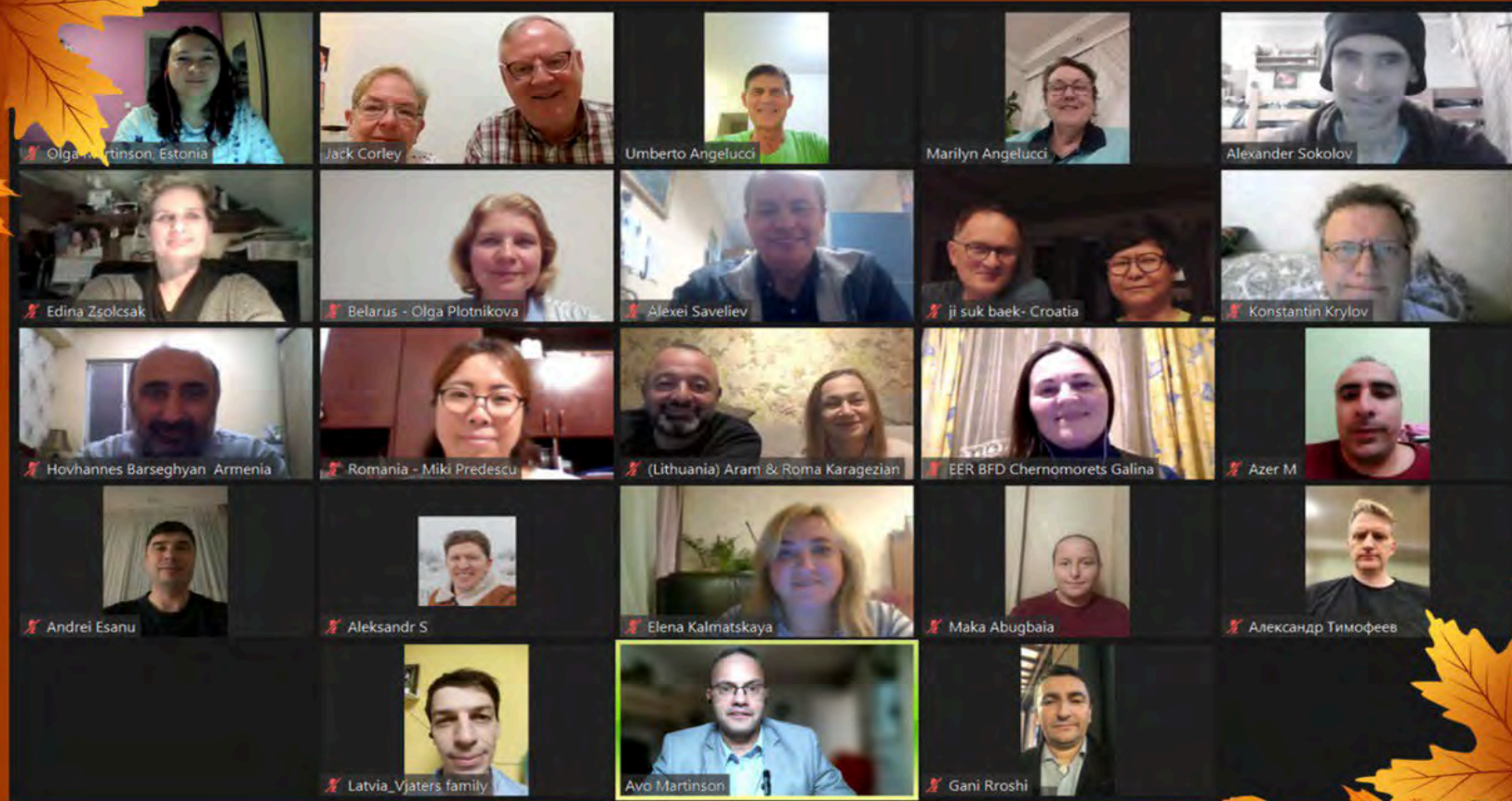
**Herzen State Pedagogical University, St. Petersburg**

True Parents and the Unification Movement were the focus of a presentation given at this year’s All-Russian Conference on Religious Studies, which was held at Herzen State Pedagogical University in St. Petersburg. Religious scholar Vladimir Egorov’s presentation was titled “The Phenomenon of the Unification Church of Sun Myung Moon: From Activism to Traditionalism.” His balanced perspective and commitment to neutrality encourage an open and respectful understanding of diverse religious practices. As part of his investigation into organizations founded by True Parents, he has attended multiple UPF and FFWPU events. The scholar discussed True Parents’ global influence, from their anti-communist stance to their broad social initiatives, which have extended well beyond religious boundaries. After True Father’s passing, Mr. Egorov observed, the movement experienced internal shifts and divisions but, under True Mother’s leadership, has emerged from this crisis and aims to revive the level of activism seen during True Father’s life. – *Natalia Chigrina*

# Eastern Europe's 'Winning Team'

(With distinguished guests from the Middle East)

## Zoom meeting 10.10.2024



*Thank You!*