

## Our Cyrillic Alphabet is Part of the EU Heritage Too

- The campaign for protection of the Macedonian Cyrillic alphabet is very important, especially in the period of European integration, as it is important for Macedonia to impose itself as a cultural identity face to the other European nations. We should show that our Cyrillic alphabet is a part of the EU cultural heritage, stated Prof. Dr. Ljudmil Spasov yesterday at the first forum in the campaign for preservation of the Macedonian alphabet “The Cyrillic alphabet – from where does it come from and where does it go”. The forum was held in the Chamber of Commerce of Macedonia. Mr. Spasov indicated that the designs of the letters are important, but that the affirmation of the fact that the Cyrillic alphabet is a modern one is important too. He added that one can not speak of an alarming situation regarding the usage of the Cyrillic alphabet.



-It is important that the placement of this design for the letters by Vasilie Popovich Cico is very well designed, and regarding the danger-we should take care off the surges from the Latin alphabet. A well-thought language policy is needed in order to use the Latin (alphabet) one only where it is necessary – said Spasov and indicated that the position of the Cyrillic alphabet should be strengthened in the education process and its popularization with the computer support would have the goal to show the public that they could write anything on the computer by using the Cyrillic.

At the forum there were many discussions from linguists, professors and academicians, among which Dimitar Pandev, professor at the Faculty of Philology. He spoke about the designs of the letters in the Macedonian alphabet, i.e. about the relation of the designs of the letters with the writing tools. The professor had told the story about the papyrus and the computers and the connection that leads to Macedonia u1080 and the Cyrillic. – In this time of computers, we are facing great challenges, as the computer itself imposes the question about the designs of the letters- said Pandev, who was also the moderator of the debate among the linguists.

The academician Petar Ilievski spoke about the creation of the Cyrillic alphabet, as a collective alphabet and the Glagolitic as an individual work. Regarding the aspects of the legal regulation of the protection and the use of the Cyrillic alphabet, Aleksandar Jordanovski from the Cultural Heritage Protection Office said that the language with the new Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage is considered as intangible cultural heritage.

-This manner of treatment of the language is a new national model for monitoring of the language and differs from the Law on the Use of the Macedonian Language. It does not annul it, but offers new possibilities for treatment of the language, said Jordanovski. He clarified that through the procedure for valorization of cultural heritage this year, 29 dialects (among which several Albanian, Turkish and Wallachian dialects) are in procedure for recognition of their value as dialects that are part of the intangible cultural heritage.

The next expert forum on the topic “The Cyrillic Alphabet and Information Technology” will be held at the beginning of June. On the 26<sup>th</sup> of May a big open space event for celebration of the Cyrillic alphabet is planned. The campaign with the motto “I preserve what belongs to me – while I write in Cyrillic – I exist!” started on 23<sup>rd</sup> of April and will last until 10<sup>th</sup> of June. It had been initiated by the advertising agency “Idea Plus Communications” and the Macedonian Information Agency – MIA, and it is supported by the scientific and the artistic public, by institutions, the business community and the media.