Winner of the ECOT Award 2019 is Moscow! On 7 June 2019, the European Arboricultural Council (EAC), an association of tree care experts across Europe, awarded the capital of Russia the title “The European City of the Trees 2019”. The award was handed over by Egbert Roozen, representing last year's winner, the Dutch city of Apeldoorn. The prestigious award ceremony was held at the beginning of this year’s Annual General Meeting at Golden Ring Hotel in Moscow. It was organized in cooperation with EAC’s Russian member Zdorovy Les (Healthy Forest).

Already in October 2018, EAC’s ECOT jury was able to get some ideas about the urban green movement in Russia. Moscow renews its road profiles and follows a strict master plan containing a substantially high proportion of trees. Trees do not only function as visual axes, but render useful services because of their green performance. Trees filter dusts, regulate the temperature in the street canyons and reduce noise pollution. For the urban planning programme "My Street", launched in 2012, more than 2,000 million euros were spent within five years. These measures aim at renovating road cross sections, in particular the extremely busy access roads into the city center of Moscow. From the beginning, large trees from Germany with stem girths of 30 cm or more were planted. The pits were made in appropriate size and became an integral part of the inner-city infrastructure.

Further details of "My Street" are available in the Russian language on the internet (www.mos.ru/city/projects/my/). Here, its progress and planning phases can be found out. Approximately 5,600 trees were meanwhile additionally planted alongside the streets in the city.

Another highlight of Moscow's landscaping is Zaryadye Park, built in 2012 on the premises of the former Hotel Rossija, once the largest hotel in Europe (www.zaryadyepark.ru/en/). This area amidst the city centre, located between Red Square and Moskva, transformed into a green space with a concert hall and an amphitheatre, was opened in September 2017. Russia’s most important vegetation zones with their typical plant communities attract thousands of visitors. More than 700 trees have found their new home here alone. Time Magazine featured Zaryadye Park in the list of “The World's Greatest Places To Visit” in 2018.

For more than five years, the ECOT Award has been sponsored by Patzer Verlag, the publisher of such well-known publications as European Tree Worker Handbook and New Landscape Journal. Its Sales Manager Lutz Beisert was also pleased about increasing reports from Russia: “The City of Moscow has presented itself at the GaLaBau Trade Fair in Nuremberg for years. It is still a pity that we know so little about the progresses in their urban greening and tree care.”
The EAC places particular importance on awarding Moscow in order to build professional bridges. The exchange of information, knowledge and experiences amongst expertise is the highlight of the EAC’s objectives. Since 2014, the EAC’s European Tree Worker certification scheme has been successfully running in Russia and 55 arborists have been certified as European Tree Workers. This trend is and will be expanding further.

ZLES President Mikhail Eremin was honored to welcome the professional arborists in his hometown: "We want to seize this opportunity to give our Russian colleagues the chance to meet tree experts from all over Europe and the USA in order to encourage further professional exchanges and collaborations," said Eremin who was grateful to EAC President Jonathan Cocking for having chosen Moscow as the 2019’s event venue.

The EAC is a forum where delegates from various arboricultural organizations throughout Europe meet with the objective of elevating the status and advancing the profession by liaising on matters ranging from research and education to successful tree establishment and improvement of working practices. At present, it comprises 26 organization members from 23 countries, including Switzerland, Norway and Russia.

For more information please contact
ECOT Chairman Jan Goevert, Email: office@eac-arboriculture.com

Photo captions:

EAC-AGM_2019_Moscow_WG (34): EAC President Jonathan Cocking congratulated Moscow Duma deputy Zoya Zotova. Also proud of the award were Sergey Palchikov, ZLES, and Lutz Beisert, Patzer Verlag Berlin (f.l.t.r.)


EAC-AGM_2019_Moscow_WG (110) and EAC-AGM_2019_MOSCOW_ ECOT Presentation (12): The world renowned Zaryadye Park with the skywalk above the Moskva River

EAC-AGM_2019_Moscow_WG (123): Moscow follows a strict master plan containing a substantially high proportion of trees.

EAC-AGM_2019_MOSCOW_ ECOT Presentation (9): Newly developed shopping street in the middle of the city