

Vladimir Krogus (ICOMOS/Russia)

CITY OF TAGANROG
AS THE RUSSIAN FARTHEST MEDITERRANEAN HARBOUR

If looking at the Black Sea (ancient Pontus Euxinus) as at the northeastern bay of Mediterranean, than the Azov Sea (ancient Maeotis Palus) – the northeastern bay of the Black Sea, belongs also to Mediterranean, and the City of Taganrog on the Azov Sea’s shore is a typically Mediterranean City-Harbour. And indeed this city by its history, cultural heritage and image presents the rather special case in the Russian urban system bringing some features and aromas of more southern and maritime areas.

There are 240 km by sea routes from Taganrog to Kerch (former Paunticapeum) at the Azov Sea entrance to the Black Sea (Bosporus Cimmer), 1080 km – to Istanbul at the exit from the Black Sea (Bosporus Thracus), 1850 km – to Piraeus just near Athens, and as much as 3380 km to Gibraltar at the western end of the whole Mediterranean world.

The City of Taganrog, which name means the Horn of Tagan since the city locates at the sharp nose coming forward into the sea space, was firstly found by Peter the Great in 1698 as the fortress in the lands had been gained from Turks together with their old fortress of Azov in the mouth of the Don River (Tanais). After some period of been lost and destroyed the city was redeveloped in the end of 18th cent. and became the important trade port. Its main profile was in export of corn, lard, leather, etc. to Mediterranean and import of fruit and groceries.

As the place in afresh annexed lands Taganrog had the multinational population, had come from different regions and countries. Thus, there was the big Greek colony in the city, and rich Greek merchants played the big role in the city’s economy, construction and culture. Up to now there is the area is named as the Greek Companies in the northwest suburbs of the city on the shore of the adjacent Miuss Estuary.