

Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg
Issued Week 49, 2003

New Presidential Representative in the Northwest Federal District	1
New Executive Board of St. Petersburg	1
General Clinical Examination of Children in St. Petersburg	2
Environmental Passport of St. Petersburg	2
New TACIS Project in Leningrad Oblast	2
The East Europe Committee Doctors Visit St. Petersburg	3
Investment St. Petersburg	3
New Tourist Branch Edition in Russia	3
Art Portal for the Baltic Sea Region	3
IX International Young Fashion Designers Contest <i>Admiralty Needle</i>	4
Theater Festivals in St. Petersburg	4

New Presidential Representative in the Northwest Federal District

On 1 November 2003 the President of the Russian Federation nominated Ilya I. Klebanov to the new Presidential Representative in the Northwest Federal district, which covers St. Petersburg and Leningrad Oblast, regions of Arkhangelsk, Murmansk, Kaliningrad, Novgorod, Pskov etc. His main duty is to represent the President in the Northwest Federal District and to ensure the exercise of the President's constitutional powers throughout the federal district. Presidential Representative is a federal civil servant and a member of the Presidential Administration.

Previously Ilya Klebanov held the position of the Minister for Industry, Science and Technology (10 October 2001 – 1 November 2003), as well the Deputy Prime Minister (17 October 2001 – 18 February 2002). In the period between December 1997 and May 1998 he was the First Deputy Governor of St. Petersburg the Chairman of Committee on Economic Development, Industrial Policy and Trade.

Source: the official site of the President of the Russian Federation www.kremlin.ru

New Executive Board of St. Petersburg

The new Executive Board of St. Petersburg appointed by the new governor Valentina Matvienko and approved by the St. Petersburg Legislative Assembly gathered for its first meeting on 18 November 2003. Unlike in the previous City Executive Board, vice-governors do not chair the City committees. Committee chairmen are responsible for the practical activities, while Vice-governors are in charge of strategic development of specific sectors and can supervise several committees.

The City Executive Board now consists of 15 members as follows:

Valentina I. Matvienko, Governor of St. Petersburg

Viktor N. Lobko, Head of the Governor's Administration

Mikhail E. Oseevsky, Vice-governor responsible for St. Petersburg's economic development; taxes and finance, industry and science policy, budget planning and implementation, city property management etc.

Ludmila A. Kostkina, Vice-governor responsible for social sector, demographic policy, healthcare, as well as environmental protection and safety.

Oleg A. Virolainen, Vice-governor responsible for housing policy, housing and communal services, the use of nature resources etc

Alexander I. Vakhmistrov, Vice-governor responsible for capital construction and restoration, road building, architecture policy and city planning

Sergey B. Tarasov, Vice-governor responsible for education and science sectors, culture, mass media, youth policy, physical training and sports

Andrey G. Chernenko, Vice-governor responsible for legislation, safety, law and order issues, as well as external relations and tourism development

Jury V. Molchanov, Vice-governor responsible for federal property management, state property accounting, investment policy and strategic projects implementation.

Mikhail N. Brodsky, Deputy Head of the Staff, the Governor's representative in the Legislative Assembly of the City of St. Petersburg

Mikhail G. Vanichkin, Head of the Internal Affairs Department in St. Petersburg and Leningrad Oblast.

Anatoly E. Serdukov, Ministry of Taxation, Head of the St. Petersburg Department

Vladimir V. Blank, Chairman of the Committee on Economic Development, Industrial Policy and Trade

Alla J. Manilova, Acting Chairman of the Committee on Press and Mass Media Contacts

Vladimir S. Antonov, Head of the Administration of the Central city district

Source: the official site of the City of St. Petersburg www.gov.spb.ru

General Clinical Examination of Children in St. Petersburg

The St. Petersburg Committee on Healthcare announced the results of the general clinical examination of children in St. Petersburg. 847 746 children constituting 99,2 % of the total number of St. Petersburg inhabitants under 18 years old were examined. They were divided into three groups depending on the state of health, with the following distribution. 26 % of examined children were considered healthy and referred to the first group. The second group encompassing children with functional deviations, carriage problems, and systolic soufflé, made up 52,2 %. The third group representing 21,8 % included children with chronic pathologies, handicapped and those incapable of self-service. The birth rate in St. Petersburg in 2002 constituted 8,1 per one thousand inhabitants, and in 2003 is expected to go up to 9,1.

Source: Newsletter of the City of St. Petersburg, № 44, 17-23 November 2003.

Environmental Passport of St. Petersburg

St. Petersburg Committee on Environmental Protection and Safety has been setting up environmental passports of the territories since May 2003. The project includes two themes: concept development for the environmental passport of St. Petersburg and concept development for the environmental passports of the St. Petersburg municipalities. The passports will be based on the electronic maps of the territories and databases with comprehensive information on the environmental status of city objects. Currently the Committee is holding a tender for the development of the engineering and geological block of the environmental passport. This block is supposed to contain information on geological, hydrological and geomorphologic characteristics of the city territories, including relief description and the quality of subsoil waters. The regularly updated digital models will be open for public and form the basis for analytical reports.

Contact person: Elena Malysheva, Press Secretary of the Committee on Environmental Protection and Safety, the City of St. Petersburg, e-mail: malysh@ecodata.spb.ru

New TACIS Project in Leningrad Oblast

A new TACIS project has recently started in Leningrad Oblast. Its main goal is to apply ESCO technologies (energy saving and recycling) in Russia. In order to find investors for the implementation of energy saving projects in Leningrad oblast one more company within ESCO

system will be established in Finland next year. One of the pilot projects to be carried out is the switching of several municipal boiler-houses to biological fuel (e.g. sawdust).

Contact person: Ekaterina Putronen, Press center of Leningrad oblast, e-mail lenobl@lenobl.ru

The East Europe Committee Doctors Visit St. Petersburg

A group of Swedish doctors, representing the East Europe Committee, visited Kolpino district in St. Petersburg on 14 November 2003. Among the delegation members were Lars Petterson, Executive Director and Nina Rehnqvist, President, Deputy Director-General of the National Board of Health and Social Welfare. The objective of the visit was to examine medical institutions and the current status of healthcare sector in the district. Kolpino district has taken part in a number of joint Russian-Swedish projects within healthcare and social care. A new project – *Pre-hospital and hospital stages of healthcare*- is starting in December. It was discussed within the visit's frames during the meeting with the Heads of the district administration. The partnership programme is planned for 2004-2005 years. The Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, construction companies and enterprises producing medical equipment will be taking part in the project from the Swedish side along with the East Europe Committee.

Source: *Newsletter of the City of St. Petersburg, № 45, 24-30 November 2003*

Investment St. Petersburg

The exhibition *Investment St. Petersburg* was arranged in St. Petersburg on 18-19 November 2003 (see previous issue). Among the organizers of the event were the St. Petersburg Committee on Economic Development, Industrial Policy and Trade; The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of St. Petersburg; the Russian Union of Industrialists and Businessmen, the Russian Association of Venture Investments and investment company Advance. The objective of the exhibition was to attract both Russian and foreign investments to the City and to present various investment projects supported by the City of St. Petersburg to potential investors. The exhibition was attended by a total of 115 visitors, most of them being top managers of various organizations. As a result of the exhibition 36 contracts for financing of the presented investment projects were signed, with nearly half of them concerning medical equipment sector.

Contact person: Dmitry Pavlov, Committee on Economic Development, Industrial Policy and Trade, the City of St. Petersburg, e-mail primeexpert_pavlov@rbcm.ru

New Tourist Branch Edition in Russia

TTG Russia, one of Russia's largest tourist branch editions in Russia has started a new project. From now on, a monthly outlet dedicated to a particular destination will be published along with the newspaper. It will contain general information about the region as well as offers from local hotels and tourist agents.

The first issue on Bavaria has already appeared in print. At present the editorial board is working on materials devoted to Malta, Thailand and Norway. *TTG Russia's* aim is to make the edition to a handbook of Russian tourist companies.

Contact person: Maria Shankina, Editor-in-chief, *TTG Russia*, e-mail shankina@ttg-russia.ru

Art Portal for the Baltic Sea Region

The Organizing Committee of the *Ars Baltica*, a forum for multilateral cultural cooperation, has presented a project idea of creating an Art Portal for the Baltic Sea Region. The aim of the Portal, targeted primarily at the young generation, is not only to provide a wide coverage of cultural events in the Baltics but also present the information in the most professional and well-balanced form. The project is conceived as a bridge between the two realities existing in the modern world: obtaining information through Internet should become an incentive to actual participation in cultural events. This is also a natural way to make the national cultures more open and transparent towards each other, and, moreover, give and international meaning to local cultural activity. *Ars Baltica* seeks partners for implementing the described project.

Contact person: Anna Mercurieva, Project Coordinator, National Center of Photography of Russian Federal Ministry of Culture, office@ncprf.org

IX International Young Fashion Designers Contest *Admiralty Needle*

The IX International Young Fashion Designers Contest *Admiralty Needle* took place in St. Petersburg on 25-28 November 2003. It was organized by St. Petersburg State University of Technology and Design and the Committee for Youth Policy of the City of St. Petersburg. This year the contest was dedicated to St. Petersburg 300th Anniversary. Each of 90 participants from all over Russia, Israel, Ukraine and Byelorussia presented a collection of 3-5 models to the jury. Young fashion designers competed in three nominations: ethnic style, corporate style and avant-garde style. The jury of the competition consisted of such well-known designers as Alena Akhmadullina, Vladimir Bukhinnik, Benois de Valicourt and Nadine Gelas.

Source: Newsletter of the City of St. Petersburg, № 45, 24-30 November 2003

Theater Festivals in St. Petersburg

Two European theater festivals took place in St. Petersburg in October. The Union of European Theaters brought to the city its best performances from Spain, France, Sweden, Hungary and Poland. The Stockholm theater *Dramaten* presented on the St. Petersburg's stage the well-known *Swedish Summer Night*, based on the play by Erland Josepshon and staged by Eva Bergman.

Dance teams from all over Europe took part in the Festival of modern dance art *Danztheater*. On stage of *Baltisky Dom Theater (Baltic Home Theater)* they presented examples of this relatively new, but already well established in European culture form of stage art called "the theater of the dance".

Contact person: Kolkhonen Alena, PR-coordinator of The Committee for Culture of Saint Petersburg Administration, e-mail: press@kkult.gov.spb.ru