

Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

Issue 12, 2004, week 24

St. Petersburg's Anniversary

Over 60 events took place in St. Petersburg on 27 May within the frames of the celebration, dedicated to the 301th anniversary of the city.



Photo: the Mariinsky Theatre

One of the highlights of the celebration was the opening of XII International *Stars of the White Nights Festival*, hosted by the Mariinsky Theatre from 27 May till 18 July.

"We were preparing this event for more than one year", said Valery Gergiev, Artistic Director of the Festival.

Over 60 performances and concerts at the Mariinsky Theatre, the Great and Small Halls of the St. Petersburg Conservatoire and the Hermitage Theatre as well as at the theaters of Kaliningrad, Vyborg, Ivangorod and Tikhvin will be held during the festival.

Source: the Mariinsky Theatre, www.mariinsky.spb.ru/en/playbill/festivals (here you can find the full version in English)



Photo: www.interpress.ru

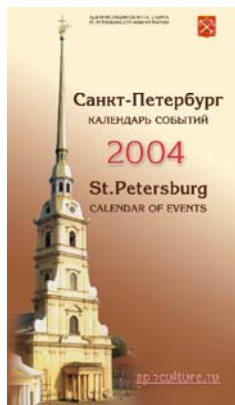
City Tourist Information Center Opening

On 25 May 2004 the official opening ceremony of the renovated St. Petersburg Tourist Information Center took place. It started at Dvortsovaya Square, near the Winter Palace, at the Information Bureau where Vladimir Gavrilov, Director of the Center, welcomed the guests and showed them how the Bureau will help tourists who seek information about St. Petersburg. Then the guests proceeded to Sadovaya, 12, where the Information Center itself was opened.

The Information Center was founded in 2000. Being a part of the St. Petersburg Committee on External Affairs and Tourism it is the official tourist information service. Alexander Prokhorenko, Chairman of the Committee on External Affairs and Tourism, congratulated the audience with the Center opening and showed assurance that the information service will be highly demanded among the guests of the city. Here one can get city maps and events calendars, buy postcards and souvenirs, ask the multilingual staff for any kind of information or use modern touch screens to find the answers.

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St. Petersburg Next Year. Calendar of Events



The annual bilingual Calendar of events has been published by St. Petersburg Committee for Culture, St. Petersburg Committee for External Affairs and Institute for Cultural Programs since 1998. It contains detailed information on the city's major events – festivals, competitions, exhibitions, conferences, sporting events, and holidays – for the next year. Institute for Cultural Programs obtains the information for Calendar directly from events organizers.

The Calendar is included in the official St. Petersburg presentation kit.

Circulation: 8,000 copies, full-color cover and 4 page advertising space, 72 one-colour pages of illustrated information.

You can find the current issue on the website of the Committee for Culture www.spbculture.ru

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Meeting of Defence Ministers of Nordic States



On 25 May Kristinn F. Arnason, Deputy of the State Defence Secretary of Iceland, Leni Björklund, Minister for Defence of Sweden, Sergey Ivanov, Minister for Defence of the Russian Federation, Kristin Krohn Devold, Minister for Defence of Norway, Søren Gade, Minister for Defence of Denmark, and Seppo Kaariainen, Minister for Defence of Finland, participated in the meeting of Defence Ministers of Nordic states in St. Petersburg.

The meeting took place at Konstantinovsky Palace, that has been restored in 2003 for high level visits and meetings.

Source: Interpress, www.interpress.ru

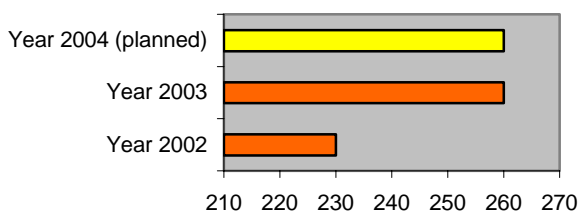
Russian - Finnish Labor Resources

St. Petersburg, Leningrad oblast and Finland are aiming to carry out a joint system of job placement for Russian and Finnish citizens. According to Dmitry Cherneyko, Head of St. Petersburg Department of Federal Employment Agency, by 2007 it is planned to have built a united vacancy system and to have introduced a simplified procedure for issuing of working permits.

Source: Metro newspaper, N31 (555)

High Technologies Week in St. Petersburg

Number of companies-participants of High Technologies Week



Technologies. Innovations. Investments.

High Technologies Week is organized by the Ministry for Education and Science of the Russian Federation, Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, the City of St. Petersburg, Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of St. Petersburg, Exhibitions-Seminars-Business Company, RESTEC Exhibition Company.

Source: RESTEC Exhibition Company, www.restec.ru

High Technologies Week is taking place in St. Petersburg on 8-11 June. Over 250 companies-participants will show their achievements at the fairs. The key event of the Week is the 9th International Exhibition-Congress *High*

Swedish-Russian Social Project: Training Course for Instructors

The training course for future instructors in social sphere was completed on 4 June 2004 in the premises of the St. Petersburg Association of Societies of Parents of Disabled Children (GAOORDI). The course was arranged within the frames of the Swedish-Russian project *Development of Social Work in St. Petersburg* that has been implemented by Department of Social Work of Stockholm University and the St. Petersburg Committee on Labour and Social Security since 1998.



Photo: by the courtesy of Ulf Hagström

14 participants of 5 pilot projects within the whole project attended a one-year educational programme led by Swedish experts Eva Redemo, Ola Ericsson and Ulf Hagström. The course consisted of nine tutorials, practical task (instructing at one's working place) and a written examination paper based on the results of the task. All the participants successfully completed their studies and received diploma from the tutors and Natalia Lemke, project leader of the Committee on Labour and Social Security. Now the newly-fledged instructors are able to train local social workers, disseminating Stockholm's know-how in social sector.

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Figures on St. Petersburg Business Activity

- Average costs for one brand entering St. Petersburg market is 50 000 USD.
- Industrial premises of St. Petersburg constitute 23% of non-residential facilities.
- Sales areas in St. Petersburg constitute 5 mln sq m.

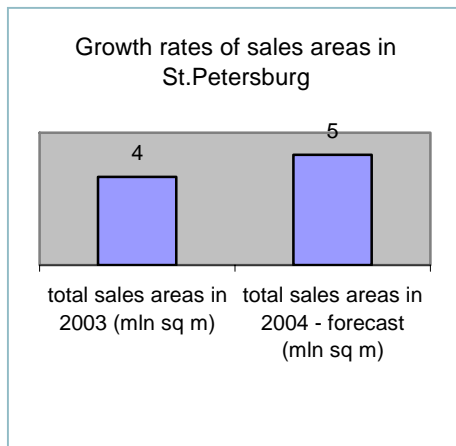


Photo: www.interpress.ru

Source: Delovoy Peterburg, N67, 15 April 2004

- 16 business centers of total 85 000 sq m are planned to be open in 2004
- 20% less office premises comparing to 2003 are planned to be put into operation in 2004
- The average level of profitability of investments in business centers decreased by 2% in the year 2004.

Information About Competitors From Tax Offices

In order to get information on competitors it is today enough to approach the tax office with an inquiry and pay the fee. The service costs now 1200 RUR (approximately 40 USD). In case the inquiry is urgent the information can be provided within 8 hours for 2400 RUR (approximately 80 USD).

Legal address and registration number of any company from the Unified State Register List of Taxpayers could be found before on the website of the Ministry of Taxation of Russian Federation or at the tax office. Now it is possible to get more information on the company, if only it is not a commercial secret. In other words, the tax office can provide the information on the copies of foundation documents, settlement account and the bank dealing with the financial operations of the company. If the company is founded by a natural person you can get his/her passport data, registration address and the sum of the authorized capital.

The Tax office can not refuse to provide the information. However, the company can always get to know who requested information on it. All the requests are saved in the tax office's files.

Source: Metro, N49, 31 May 2004

Facts on St. Petersburg Housing Property

According to the Committee on Construction, housing ready for occupation constituted 1 758 sq m in 2003 that is 45% more comparing with the figures for 2002. During the last 10 years the growth has rarely been more than 10% per year.



Photo: www.interpress.ru

From the beginning of the year 2003 the prices for the housing of the overall demand on the housing market has increased by 43-44% in USD equivalent. As a result the average offer price for 1 sq m on the market of newly constructed housing facilities of St. Petersburg has constituted 740 USD by the end of the year.

According to forecasts based on the analysis of projects under construction the volume of the housing ready for occupation will constitute no less than 1,8 mln sq m or even 2 mln sq m.

The present situation on the housing market shows that the construction industry is behind the market needs; there are no prerequisites for the elimination of this gap.

Source: Investment and construction, N2, May 2004

Russian-Swedish Cooperation Projects Developed by the Participants of the Programme Nordpraktik-New Managers for Russia

Since 1999, the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg has been coordinating the implementation of the Programme *Nordpraktik – New Managers for Russia* in St. Petersburg, Leningrad oblast, Pskov, Novgorod the Great and Kaliningrad.

Nordpraktik – New Managers for Russia is a Swedish governmental programme financed by Sida. The Programme provides Russian companies with a possibility to send their managers for four weeks' internship at a Swedish enterprise. The main goal of the programme is to facilitate the development of cooperation projects between Russian and Swedish companies. Since 1998, over 500 Russian managers have taken part in the Programme. The Programme has quite a few success stories in different branches. Some of them will be enlightened in the newsletter *Northwest Russia: Facts and Events*.

Kannon Dance



Photo: Kannon Dance

In February 2004 Vadim Kasparov, Director of St. Petersburg School of jazz-modern dance *Kannon Dance* (kannon@peterlink.ru) took part in the Programme. He visited several Swedish branch organizations: *Dansstationen* (Malmö), *Dans Byron* (Göteborg), *Extrem Dans Company*, *Top Dance Studio*, *Ballet*

Academy, *Danshögskolan*, *Modern Dance Theatre*, *Dance Net Sweden*,

Swedish National Council for Dance (Stockholm).

During the internship, various ways of cooperation were discussed and three project ideas were chosen for further development:

Firstly, student exchange between St. Petersburg State Lesgaft Academy of Physical Culture and Stockholm's *Danshögskolan* is planned. Swedish choreographers are invited to hold master-classes and perform shows together with Russian dancers. Russian-Swedish dance show will be presented in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Saransk, Kaliningrad, Stockholm, Göteborg and Malmö in 2005-2006.

Finally, popular Swedish dance shows, such as Jan Astrem, Modern Jazz Dance Ensemble, Benno, Worham, Anna-Karin Larsson, Virpi Pahkinen, were invited to participate in St. Petersburg festivals *Open Look* (July 2004) and *Kinotanets – Cinema Dance* (November 2004).

Concerning the prospects of cooperation, Vadim Kasparov emphasized strong interest towards Swedish dance culture among both specialists and amateurs in Russia.

Source: Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg, stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru

ROCAD

Ekaterina Nazarova, marketing manager of Scientific and Technological Center *ROCAD* (rocad@peterlink.ru) took part in the Programme in November 2003. She spent three weeks as a trainee at *Baltring AB* company.

Via *Baltring* Ekaterina established contacts with *Baltring's* partner, *Purator AB* company. A decision to start a cooperation project in the field of drinking water purification was taken. The project idea is to produce a mechanical device for cleaning the sand basin. Slow sand filtration is used all over the world but cleaning of the basins is an expensive and time-consuming procedure. The purification device was designed by *Purator AB*, while *ROCAD* designed a special transportation cart and chassis for the new device. *Baltring AB* will probably work with the marketing of the product. The first sample will be produced in Russia.

At present the parties have settled all technical details and consider various financial schemes for the cooperation.

The archive of the newsletters can be found at <http://www.stockholmregion.org/tpl/topic.asp?ID=457>

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