

Stockholm-Mälardalen region, Sweden in the Northwest Russia

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg
Issue 2, 2004

Digest of facts and materials from the newsletter *Stockholm-Mälardalen, Sweden Next Month* for the year 2003 and the selection of articles based on this newsletter and published in the Russian mass media in 2003.

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Public health and lifescience

Svenska forskare har blivit engagerade i kampen mot sars

Uppsalaföretaget Isconova är berett för att hjälpa kolleger i Peking att ta fram ett nytt vaccin mot sars. Företagets forskningschef Bror Morein säger att de tidigare har samarbetat med virusforskare i Kina. Enligt Bror Morein är chanserna att lyckas ganska goda. Svenska forskare kommer att starta sars-projektet så fort de får virusets gener från sina kolleger i Kina. Bror Morein räknar med att ett fungerande vaccin kan vara klart tidigast om två år.

www.dn.se

Bakteriedödande fosterfett på nyfödda bebisar

Svenska forskare visade i en ny studie att det krämiga vita fett på nyfödda bebisar är starkt bakteriedödande. Forskargruppen på Karolinska bestämde sig för att undersöka peptider som de hittat i fostervatten och i det fett som omger nyfödda bebisar. De testade peptider på bakteriekulturer som höll på att växa till sig. Det visade sig att de bakterier som hade utsatts för peptider från fosterfett, stoppades helt i sin tillväxt.

www.dn.se

26-28 November, 2003. BioTech Forum at Stockholm International Fairs (Stockholmsmässan)

The largest Scandinavian meeting place for the biotech industry BioTech Forum will be held at *Stockholm International Fairs* on November 26 within the frames of MedExpo 2003. In 2000, when the BioTech Forum was arranged for the first time, it attracted 90 exhibitors and 1000 visitors. The following year 20 000 visitors attended the event. The latest innovations in laboratory, research and diagnostic equipment as well as various biotech innovations for industry and healthcare institutions will be presented at the BioTech Forum this year. BioTech Forum Science Conference 2003, arranged by Karolinska Institutet in collaboration with the Swedish Academy of

Pharmaceutical Sciences, will also be held within the frames of the oncoming BioTech Forum event.

www.stofair.se

Sweden among the world leaders in biotech

A group of scientists from Germany, Finland, France, Netherlands, Denmark, Great Britain and Switzerland examined 34 Swedish biotech projects. According to the research results they found that the standard of a number of projects was one of the best in Europe, while some of them were world-leading. The country's advanced position in biotech is based on a variety of factors, including the use of methods spanning different scientific disciplines as well as a wide definition of biotech which extends across areas such as medicine, environmental science, nanotechnology, agriculture and industrial chemistry.

www.biosweden.org

www.isa.se

IT and innovations

Eight Swedish companies among the most promising and innovative emerging private companies in the IT and biotech sectors

Eight Swedish companies are among the 2003 Tornado 100, The European magazine Tornado-Insider's annual list featuring Europe's most promising and innovative emerging private companies in the IT and biotech sectors. Seven of the eight are from the Stockholm region. Among them are the companies working on wireless communications, software for secure access to corporate data and the produce of Bluetooth-based chips for digital pens.

www.tornado-insider.com/tornado100

www.bas.stockholm.se

6-10 Oktober 2003 årets TIME.Stockholm vecka (Telecom, IT, Media och Entertainment)

För att stärka huvudstadsregionens position som ledande TIME-region (Telecom, IT, Media och Entertainment) genomför Stockholms Stad årligen TIME.Stockholm vecka. Årets TIME.Stockholm vecka genomförs den 6-10 Oktober 2003 med seminarier, föredrag, paneldebatter, workshops mm i Stockholm och dess förstäder.

www.time.stockholm.se

Growing popularity of the online banking in Sweden

Sweden's Internet banks continue to attract customers. According to statistical data only in May at least every fourth Swede visited an Internet bank. Föreningssparbanken had more than a half of all the visitors, making it the country's biggest Internet bank and the eighth biggest in Europe.

The fastest growing one in the past six months has been SEB, which increased the number of unique visitors by 19 per cent, compared to 3 per cent for Internet banks as a whole.

It is interesting to mention that 41 per cent of the users are women. By the way, according to a survey carried out by Nielsen/Netratings women in Sweden use Internet more than in any other European country - 47 per cent as compared to 42 per cent average in Europe. Women are attracted to the Net by shopping, travel, education, finance, health and beauty.

www.bas.stockholm.se

The presentation of the award for the innovative technologies in mobile industry

The Swedish magazine *Mobil* annually awards the prize Guldmobilen (The Golden Mobile) for the innovation of the year. This year the winner is the Stockholm-based company Popcatcher.

It has developed a method for downloading music from the radio to mobile phones. First presentation of the phone with a new technology will take place in Cannes in February.

www.bas.stockholm.se

Stockholm companies win European IT Championships

Three Swedish companies, two of them from the Stockholm region, are among 20 winners of the European IST Prize 2003. This annual prize is the most distinguished award for ground-breaking products.

A total of 420 projects from 28 countries competed for this year's IST Prize. The culmination of the competition will be selection of the three European IST Grand Prize-winners from among the 20 winning companies at the IST Final Award Ceremony in Milan in October.

www.bas.stockholm.se

International IT Award Stockholm Challenge 2003-2004 now open for project submission

The participation in the Stockholm Challenge offers a unique opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience with IT experts, meet the representatives of innovative creativity projects and IT entrepreneurs from all over the world. According to Mrs Annika Billström, Mayor of Stockholm, it is very important to stimulate and encourage local initiatives in different parts of the world.

The online entry form at www.challenge.stockholm.se is open for submission until November 1, 2003. The finalists will be announced on February 2, 2004, and the final event is planned to take place in the Stockholm City Hall.

Projects compete in six categories, in areas where information technology has great influence on people's lives: e-Government, Culture, Health, Education, e-Business and Environment. The jury evaluates the projects on the basis of four basic criteria: Innovation, User Need, Transferability and Accessibility.

www.challenge.stockholm.se

Environment and transport

Stockholms nya Miljöprogram

Den 17 februari 2003 fattade Kommunfullmäktige beslut om Stockholms nya Miljöprogram. Detta miljöprogram är det femte i raden sedan det första togs fram i mitten av 1970-talet.

Om staden genomför målen blir belöningen renare luft, vatten och mark när programperioden avslutas år 2006. Målen leder också till att det blir färre och även mindre skadliga ämnen som påverkar hälsa och miljö. Miljöprogrammet omfattar sex målområden: Miljöeffektiva transporter, Säkra varor, Hållbar energianvändning, Ekologisk planering och skötsel, Miljöeffektiv avfallshantering, Sund inomhusmiljö. Miljöprogrammets övergripande syfte är att staden ska vara hållbar och attraktiv för människor att bo, arbeta och leva i. Alla delar av samhället berörs av målen i stadens miljöprogram. Alla måste medverka för att målen ska nås. Det gäller såväl stockholmarna som föreningar och näringsliv. Det yttersta ansvaret har dock stadens nämnder och de bolag där staden har inflytande.

www.tyckom.stockholm.se

Elmia Waste and Recycling 2004

The preparatory activities for the largest Scandinavian fair in the field of waste management and recycling *Elmia Waste and Recycling 2004*, firstly organized in 1973, are being carried out by the Stockholm International Fairs. The fair is planned to take place on 14-17 September, 2004. The main sections of the exhibition are as follows:

- Sorting
- Landfill
- Energy recovery
- Recycling
- Waste collection
- Composting
- Digestion

- Administration
- Transport/logistics
- Ground decontamination/clearance work
- Hazardous waste
- Computer/IT
- Information services etc

According to the fair statistics for 2002, *Elmia Waste and Recycling* attracted over 200 exhibitors from 16 countries. 78% of the visitors evaluated the fair as "good" or "excellent". Most of the visitors also intended to be at the *Elmia 2004*. When asked whether they were coming again, 79% of the visitors replied with a resounding "Yes, definitely" or "Yes, probably".

www.stofair.se

Miljöfordon i Sverige

Sverige är ett miljövänligt land där utveckling av miljötransport ständigt uppmärksammas. Det finns numera cirka 10000 miljöbilar i Sverige, varav 1500 i Stockholm. Antalet miljöbilar har nästan fördubblats på ett år och fortsätter att öka. Främsta anledningen till att det finns relativt få naturgasbilar är att det fortfarande är ont om gasmackar i Sverige. Under året ska dock tre nya gasmackar byggas för att tillfredsställa bilisternas behov och öka efterfrågan på miljöbilar.

Enligt avsiktsförklaringen mellan SL och Stockholm Vatten ska 200 bussar drivas med biogas år 2010. Biogas har flera fördelar. Motorerna går tystare än på bensin eller diesel. Bränslet bidrar inte till växthuseffekten och produceras i en ständig process vid Stockholm Vattens reningsverk, Henriksdal och Bromma.

www.dagensmiljo.idg.se

New third runway at the Arlanda Airport

A new third runway was open at the largest airport in Sweden Arlanda. It will allow increasing a number of hourly departures and arrivals from 73 to 90. Over the last years a number of changes has been introduced at the airport. Arlanda's current capacity enables it to transfer 25 million passengers annually.

www.svd.se

www.bas.stockholm.se

Intelligent vehicles will improve road safety

Sweden is undertaking a research project on Intelligent Vehicle Safety Systems, IVSS. The Swedish automotive industry, Swedish National Road Administration, SNA, Invest in Sweden Agency and Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems (Vinnova) are together investing in the project that is planned for the period of six years. A demonstration project was recently concluded involving 5000 vehicles that automatically received information on speed limits from roadside transmitters.

www.vv.se

www.vinnova.se

www.bas.stockholm.se

New programme on the improving the environmental situation in the center of Stockholm

On 2 June 2003 the Stockholm City Council decided to introduce in January 2005 congestion charges in Stockholm central districts on a trial basis. The new programme is aimed, in particular, at:

- Reducing traffic flows in the center by 10-15% in the morning and during the day;
- Reducing traffic jams on the overloaded roads;
- Decreasing the level of air pollution;
- Improving the whole environmental situation in the center of the city.

The programme is expected to run for 18 months. After that Stockholmers will be asked in a referendum to decide on a continuation.

Environmentally friendly transport, ambulance cars, public transport, school buses, transport facilities of disabled as well as taxi and motorcycles are not supposed to pay the congestion charges.

The organization that should develop and introduce the technical base of the programme will be chosen in the near future.

www.tyckom.stockholm.se

Tre storstäder – om gaturengöring i S:t Petersburg, Stockholm och Tallinn

Vintern har kommit till S:t Petersburg tillsammans med årstidsproblem. Ett av dem är gaturrengöring. Årligen blir varje snöfall eller temperaturskillnad som framkallar halka till en naturkatastrof för Petersburgborna. De lokala gatu- och fastighetstjänster klarar inte av sina arbetsuppgifter, medan befolkningen bryter ben på hala trottoarer och slår sönder sina bilar på knöliga vägar, för att inte tala om smutsiga kläder i vilka vi dagligen kommer hem som om det vore kemtvätt. För att ta reda på varför det blir så, har *Novosti Peterburga* gjort en undersökning om hur man rengör gator i städer vars klimat kan jämföras med klimatet i S:t Petersburg, nämligen Stockholm och Tallinn.

Stockholm

Stockholmsgator städas dagligen. Enligt den information som vi fått av Mats Freij, informationschef på Gatu- och fastighetskontoret, pågår städningen veckonatt från 6.30 till 15.30. Det förekommer både nattsopning och helgstädning i centrumplatser. Stockholmsgator städs av ett fast antal anställda. Huvudstaden med befolkningen runt 750 000 människor har bara 30 anställda som använder 18 maskiner (exklusive lätta lastbilar).

Sådana måttliga personalsiffror bör inte väcka förvåningen. Precis som i de flesta europeiska städer är det invånare, hus – och butikägare själva som sköter gaturrengöring utanför sitt boende. Strävan till ordning och reda där du bor har svenska folket i blodet. Gator och trottoarer i Sveriges största stad saltas på vintern. Årligen använder man cirka 2.5 tusen tonn salt. Men gatorna behandlas inte i sista stunden, enligt principen ”ju mer, desto bättre”, utan på så sätt då saltet inte samlas på beläggningen och människor inte förstör sina skor. Salt används dessutom endast på huvudleder och bussgator. Resten av trafikleder sandas. I Stockholmsbudgeten avsätts det årligen cirka 35 miljoner SEK (470 tusen US dollar) för gatustädning och gaturrengöring.

<...> Tallinnbiten har utelämnats vid översättningen.

S:t Petersburg

Natten från 23 till 24 november upplevde S:t Petersburg första riktiga snöfall för i år. Under några timmar fick staden 15 cm högt snötäcke – tvåveckors nederbördsnorm. 620 städbilar fick under nattimmarna åka ut två gånger för att rädda staden. Trots allt, var det omöjligt att ta sig fram i metropolen vid 8-10 på morgonen. Enligt S:t Petersburgs Väg- och fastighetsförvaltningen spenderades det 6 miljoner rubel för att föra ut snön. Sammanlagt avsätter staden för gaturrengöring cirka 70 miljoner rubel (2,4 miljoner US dollar).

Stockholms gatu- och fastighetsnämnd

Published at *Novosti Peterburga*

Economic growth

Stockholm bäst i världen på att göra kunskap till affärer

Enligt undersökningen i 90 världens ekonomiskt framstående regioner som genomförts av det brittiska institutet Robert Huggins Associates erkändes Stockholm som en av bästa tack vare sin förmåga att göra kunskap till affärer. I analysen granskas bland annat den ekonomiska aktiviteten, antalet chefer per 1000 invånare, antalet anställda inom IT- och bioteknikbranscherna, hur mycket pengar som satsas på forskning, hur bra produktiviteten är och hur många som jobbar med högteknologiska tjänster. På så sätt har institutet fått fram ett slags kunskapsindex som mäter

konkurrenskraften mellan regionerna. Och här placerar sig Stockholm på plats 22 på listan och kommer före Danmark, Norge och Finland, samt världsstäderna New York, London, Tokyo, Hamburg och Hongkong. Stockholmsregionens företag hamnar på sjätte plats i världen när det gäller att plöja ner pengar i forskning.

www.isa.se

www.dn.se

Record foreign interest in Swedish property

According to the Swedish business magazine *Veckans Affärer* foreign interest in buying Swedish properties has grown exponentially in the past three years. In 2002, 34 deals were done in Sweden for properties worth SEK 270 million. Foreign investors stood for about 45 per cent of that figure, compared with 21 per cent in 2001 and 14 per cent in 2000. One-fifth of Swedish commercial real estate is now owned by foreign investors. Besides, Stockholm is one of Europe's ten largest real estate markets, with 10.5 million square meters of office space.

Stockholm commercial real estate offers can be found at the portal: www.objektvision.com. Starting from December 2002 Russian businessmen can also place the information on commercial real estate in St. Petersburg at the portal www.objektvision.com, as a result of Stockholm-St. Petersburg cooperation project aiming to support St. Petersburg investment activities.

www.bas.stockholm.se

www.va.se

15-16 March, 2003. Interview with potential participants of the *Nordpraktik – New Managers for Russia* programme in the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

Based on the experience acquired over the five years of the programme implementation, *Nordpraktik – New Managers for Russia* continues to facilitate the development of business cooperation between Swedish and Russian enterprises. In the end of 2002 Swedish Government took a decision to extend the Programme until 2004 and arrange internships for 150 Russian managers. The format of the Programme stays the same: one-week educational course and three-week internship at a Swedish enterprise. All expenses associated with the participation in the Programme are covered by the Swedish Government.

www.norden.se/nordpraktik

Swedish companies are interested in finding Russian partners

The Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg invites you to take part in the Swedish governmental programme *Nordpraktik – New Managers for Russia**. The next interview in St. Petersburg will be held on 24-27 October 2003. Applications sent on October 6 at the latest will be considered for the interview.

Please, note that at Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg you can get brief presentations of the Swedish companies that have already shown their interest in hosting Russian managers for an internship.

www.norden.se

*Since 1999 The Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg coordinates the *Nordpraktik – New Managers for Russia* programme in St. Petersburg and Leningrad, Pskov, Novgorod and Kaliningrad regions.

The programme is aimed, first of all, at the development of business cooperation between Russian and Swedish companies. It is financed by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida). The programme provides a partner search of Swedish and Russian companies interested in cooperation and internship at a Swedish enterprise for Russian managers. Since 1998 over 500 managers took part in the Programme.

Tourism

Tourism development in the Baltic Sea region

- According to the World Tourism Organization (WTO) by the year 2020 the growth rate of tourism in the Baltic Sea region will be the highest in Europe.
- The area of the Baltic Sea region, Scandinavia and the West part of Russia is sometimes called *Nordikum*. 50 million people live in this area and all of them can reach Stockholm in an hour.
- According to the World Tourism Organization the number of international tourist trips in 2002 has increased by 3,1% whereas the incoming flow of foreign tourists to Sweden showed an increase of 6,9%. The total growth of the incoming tourist flow to the Scandinavian countries from 27,6% to 30% is attributed, particularly, to Sweden. The leaders in tourism growth among the country's regions are Stockholm, Götaland, Skåne and Värmland.
- Stockholm continues to hold the leading position among the other Swedish regions in incoming tourism. The total number of overnight stays in the accommodation facilities in Stockholm in 2002 constituted 7 million demonstrating 1,2% increase as compared to 2001 (according to the Swedish Tourist Authority).
- The number of Russian tourists that visited Stockholm in 2002 increased by 28,6% as compared to 2001 (according to the Stockholm Visitors Board, SVB).
- The experts of the Stockholm Visitors Board (SVB) consider Russia to be a promising market. The growth of the number of Russian tourists has recently been observed in Stockholm. They arrive mostly via Helsinki. That's why according to Anders Nordstrand, executive director of the Stockholm Visitors Board, there is an evident necessity in ferry communication between Sweden and St. Petersburg.
- Stockholm pays a special attention to the development of international cruising. According to preliminary forecasts Stockholm plans to host a record number of cruise passengers in the summer of 2003.

www.stockholmtown.com

www.etour.se

www.swetourism.se

www.tourist.se

Culture

21-24 August 2003 The Baltic Sea Festival

The Baltic Sea Festival will take place in Stockholm on 21-24 August 2003. H.M.King Carl XVI Gustav is the patron of the festival. The audience will be treated to a musical firework display with world class artists including Esa-Pekka Salonen, Valerij Gergiev, Gidon Kremer, Manfred Honek etc. The performances of the festival will be held at Berwardhallen, the Vasa Museum, the City Hall, and at the Royal Swedish Opera. The festival will be finalized with a large outdoor concert in Hagaparken. The Baltic Sea Festival is arranged in conjunction with the World Widelife Fund. The aim of the festival is to develop and strengthen the neighborly relations between the countries of the Baltic Sea region

www.stockholmtown.com

www.sr.se

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

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