

Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

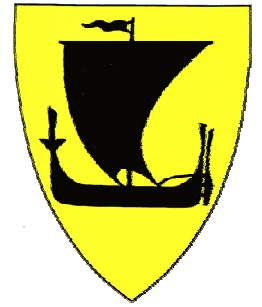
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Leningrad Region and Nordland County (Norway): 20 Years of Partnership



On 3-6 May Leningrad region and Nordland county (Norway) celebrated the 20 years anniversary of partnership relations. The delegation of Nordland county headed by Odd Eriksen, the Governor of Nordland, Jon Tørset, Chairman of The Nordland County Council, visited the region and met the governor of the Leningrad region Valery Serdukov as well as the Chairman of the Leningrad region Legislative Assembly Ivan Khabarov.



A number of events took place within the frames of the programme, in particular, 20 Years of Friendship and Nordland Today exhibitions in the Government of the Leningrad region, a joint gala-concert and a football match.

Valery Serdukov handed out thanking letters to the Russian and Norwegian specialists who contributed greatly to the development of regional cooperation.

Partnership relations between Leningrad region and Nordland county were established in 1988, when an Agreement on Cooperation was signed. The Agreement stipulated establishment of close contacts in the fields of culture, sport, education and agriculture. According to the new Agreement signed in 2003, the priorities of cooperation are entrepreneurship, industry (in particular, connected with fishery), local government, culture, education and tourism.

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Conference on Transport Infrastructure



On 25 April the *State of the Transport Infrastructure in the Northwest Federal District: Opportunities and development Prospects* Conference took place in St. Petersburg. The main topic discussed at the conference was the transport and transit policies of the region.

Among the speakers were the representatives of the Committee on Transport-Transit Policy and the Committee on Investments and Strategic Projects of St. Petersburg, R&D Institutes, the Customs Service and the business community. The conference was organized by *Kommersant* newspaper.



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Delovoy Peterburg to be Launched in Krasnodar Region

The Swedish *Bonnier* AB media holding– the owner of *Delovoy Peterburg* newspaper – launches its second Russian business issue in the Krasnodar Region (South Russia). The weekly *Delovaya Gazeta. Jug* newspaper (Business Paper. South) will be issued every Tuesday starting 22 May. The total investments in the project amounted to RUR 25 million (appr. SEK 6.6 million). The start circulation will constitute 5 million copies, and the volume of the edition – 20-24 colour pages printed on pink paper.

According to the chief editor of the newspaper, the choice of the Krasnodar Region may be explained by its high entrepreneurship activity rates and the positive investment appeal. It is also planned to publish similar business papers in all Russian cities with the population of over 1 million people.

Source: *Delovoy Peterburg* newspaper, April 2007, www.dp.ru

Finnish Investments in Russian Woodworking

The Finnish *Poyry* engineering company acquired 70% of the Russian *Giprobum-Engineering* Company's shares. *Poyry* with the personnel of 6.4 thousand people in 40 countries is a world largest engineering company, providing services in the fields of wood, and pulp and paper industries, power industry and infrastructure. The annual turnover of the company amounts to EUR 620 million.

Giprobum-Engineering Company is the largest pulp and paper design institute in Russia with the personnel of appr. 260 employees and the annual turnover of EUR 5 million. The company designed 70% of the pulp and paper operating capacities in Russia and CIS states.

Source: *Delovoy Peterburg* newspaper, April 2007, www.dp.ru

INTOURMARKET Moscow 2007

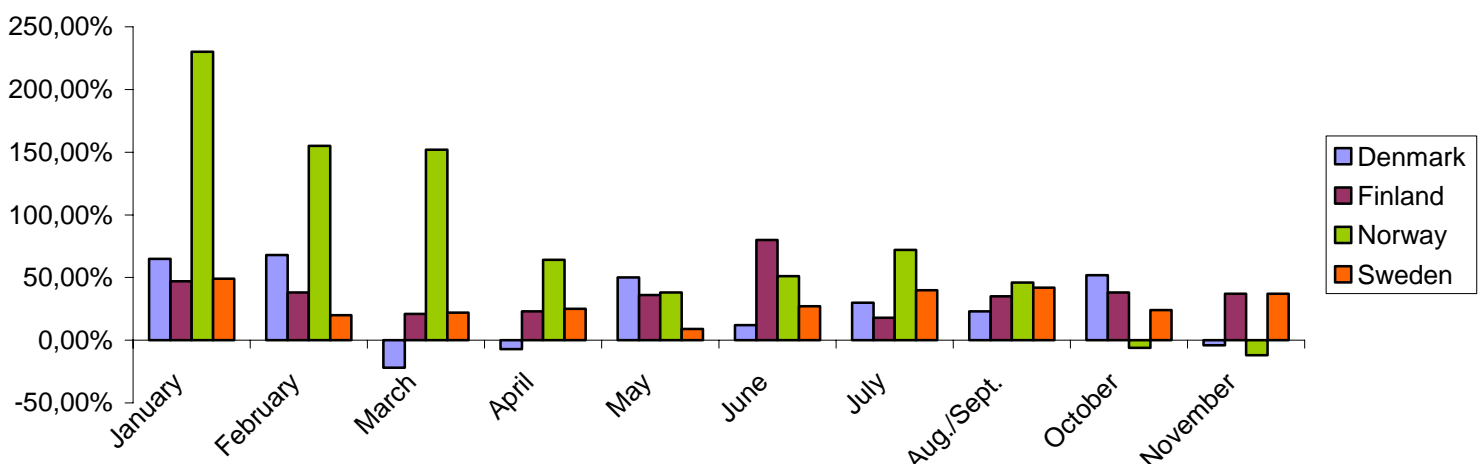
The second international trade fair ITM-2007 took place on 18 - 21 March 2007 at IEC Crocus Expo in Moscow. 800 companies from 75 Russian regions and 50 countries attended ITM Moscow 2007. The gross exhibition space constituted 23,000 square meters. One of the most important steps towards European standards in the organization of tourist exhibitions was the Professional Visitor Programme: 1000 buyers from all over Russia were invited to ITM. The Fair was initiated by the Russian Union of Travel Industry and supported by Rostourism - the Russian Tourism Ministry.

According to the report of the World Tourism Organization, which was delivered at ITM-2007, Russia is ranked 10 in the list of top 10 traveling countries. The WTO experts noted the swift growth of outbound and internal tourism in Russia. Along with China, Russia is seen as a potential leader in terms of tourism development.

Source: ITM Intourmarket, www.itmexpo.ru

Finland and Scandinavia Becoming More Popular with Russian Tourists

Overnight stays' growth 2006/2005



Source: *Tourinfo* newspaper, February 2007, www.tourinfo.ru

Lecture on Danish National Holidays at the Leningrad Region College of Culture and Arts



On 25 April the Director of the Danish Cultural Institute - Rikke Helms - and Else Weis from the Royal Danish Consulate, presented a lecture on Danish national holidays at the Leningrad Region College of Culture and Arts. The event was held within the frames of the College's Week of National Cultures.

The lecture covered different holidays – from New Year to Valdemar's Day (Day of Danish Flag), St Martin's Day, and Christmas – and holiday traditions – from food to home decorations. The highlight was the Carnival (Festelavn) with children dressing up in costumes, gathering treats and playing "hit the cat out of the barrel" to choose "king and queen of cats." The audience included the second-year students from departments of choreography, theater, and theater performances' directors.



For the lecture the Danish Cultural Institute displayed the photo exhibition "From Denmark with Love", arranged by the students of the St. Petersburg State University of Film and Television.

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III International Maritime Defense Show – IMDS-2007



The III International Maritime Defense Show IMDS-2007 will take place in St. Petersburg on 27 June – 1 July 2007. The organizer of IMDS-2007 is the Federal Industry Agency – ROSPROM. The show will be held under the auspices of the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, and the Government of St. Petersburg.

IMDS-2007 will fully cover all the steps of shipbuilding and naval arms design as well as propulsion systems, armaments, naval aviation, navigation and control systems, logistic infrastructure, new materials and technologies. A great importance is also given to associated hardware, electronic components and information technologies.

Source: International Maritime Defense Show, www.navalshow.ru

Implementation of Education National Project in the Northwest Federal District



Education national project is currently being implemented in the Northwest Federal District. An example of this implementation is the competition of innovative programmes for the Russian Universities. Out of 40 higher educational institutions there were 4 winners chosen, all of them from St. Petersburg. The winners were granted the total of RUR 2.6 billion (SEK 690 million). At the same time in 2006 within the frames of the project 1741 schools of the Northwest Federal

District were connected to the Internet. This spring it is also planned to held a competition of innovative schools in the regions of Russia. The winners will receive financial grants from the government of Russia, which may be spent on modernizing of the school equipment and on the purposes of personnel retraining.

Source: *Delovoy Peterburg* newspaper, March 2007, www.dp.ru; *Metro* newspaper, March 2007.

Photo: www.interpress.ru

The archive of the newsletters can be found at http://www.stockholmregion.org/websites/stockholm/sd_page/274/3/index.php?

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