

Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

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Lafa Conference

On 27 April a Russian-Swedish conference devoted to the 10-year partnership in the field of sexually transmitted infections' prevention, HIV/AIDS and unwanted pregnancies among young people took place in St. Petersburg.

The delegation of 12 Swedish specialists from Stockholm County Aids Prevention Programme (Lafa) and Consul of the Consulate General of Sweden in St. Petersburg Marianne Hultberg took part in the Conference together with over 200 participants, including representatives of the St. Petersburg Committees on Public Health and Education, youth clinics, schools, NGOs and mass-media.



As a result of cooperation, 13 youth clinics providing youth-friendly services were opened in 11 districts of St. Petersburg. School staff from pilot schools was presented pedagogical methods which can be used in school relationships education. An interactive website for young people devoted to sexual and reproductive health and relationships was launched by *Juventa* Youth Clinic. The support was given to youth NGOs, *Women's Health* NGO and peer education in order to increase the knowledge about the project's issues among the general public.

The 10-year partnership helped establish a functional model of cooperation between different City Departments to promote sexual and reproductive health among youth in order to stop the HIV proliferation in St. Petersburg.

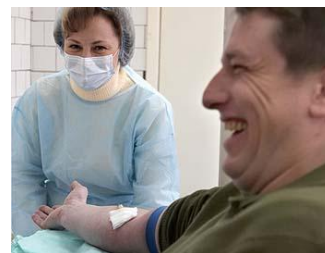
Contact person: Natalja Vorobyeva, project coordinator, e-mail: natsann@mail.ru

Prevention of the Reproductive Health Conference within a Russian-Swedish Project

On 31 May 2007 the *Conclusive Conference of the Russian-Swedish project Improvement of the Prevention and Control of STI in Leningrad Oblast 1998-2006 and St Petersburg 2000-2006* will take place in St. Petersburg. The main partners of the project are the DO Otta Institute of Obstetrics and Gynecology – St Petersburg, Russia – and Uppsala University – Uppsala, Sweden. The project dealt with organization of STIs' management, quality assurance of diagnosis and patient care optimization. During the Conference Establishing meeting on the *Interregional Network for Prevention of the Reproductive Health* will also take place. More information about the registration and Conference programme could be found at: <http://www.medsci.uu.se/klinbakt/stigup/Events/index1.htm>.

Contact persons: Marius Domeika, Uppsala University, e-mail: marius.domeika@medsci.uu.se
Alevtina Savicheva, DO Otta Institute of Obstetrics and Gynecology, e-mail: savitcheva@mail.ru

Conference on the State of Public Health Services in St. Petersburg



On 21 June 2007 the *State of the Public Health Services* in St. Petersburg 2007 Conference organised by *Kommersant* newspaper will take place in St. Petersburg. The main topics to be discussed at

the conference are: implementation of the Health national project; state and development prospects of the St. Petersburg medical market; licensing of medical institutions; leasing of medical equipment; administration of state medical institutions and introduction of new technologies; and amenability insurance of medical services. Among the speakers at the conference are representatives of the City of St. Petersburg, federal government, medical institutions and branch organisations.

Contact person: Oksana Fedulova, Development Director, *Kommersant* newspaper, e-mail: fedulova@spb.kommersant.ru

Photo: www.interpress.ru

Exhibition of Clear Advantages – CleanExpo 2007 in St. Petersburg



On 15-18 May the 9th International Trade Fair for the Cleaning Industry, *CleanExpo St. Petersburg 2007*, gathered representatives of the cleaning industry to discuss important issues and to present them recent technological and equipment developments. The event was organised by *Primexpo Ltd* and *ITE Group plc* exhibition companies.

CleanExpo is an important Russian trade fair, uniting major players in the Russian cleaning and laundry markets. This year over 100 companies from 8 countries displayed their products.

Interest in communal and general cleaning services continues to grow with industrial development and the construction of new trade areas, hotels and business centres. Cleanliness and hygiene within business and organisations as well as at the municipal level are becoming more important for St. Petersburg. Proving the significance of this issue, *CleanExpo* was included in the List of higher-priority trade fairs for St. Petersburg.

Contact person: Vera Pasyukova, PR director, *Primexpo Ltd*, e-mail: pr@primexpo.ru

Federal Financial Literacy Campaign

The Russian government is currently developing a new federal programme aimed at liquidating financial illiteracy of the population. The emphasis of the programme is to be placed on work with the elderly people and the rural population. The Ministry of Finance is planning to allocate USD 100 million for the programme within 5-9 years starting 2008. 10% of the sum is planned to be covered by the World Bank. The programme is expected to raise the credit of the population to the financial system of the country.

Source: *Metro* newspaper, May 2007.

Construction of New Congress and Exhibition Centre in the Leningrad Region

The government of the Leningrad region adopted the project on construction of a new congress and exhibition centre in Vsevolozhsky district. The Agency on Economic Development of the Leningrad Region now has to find investors for the project. The overall amount of investments is planned to constitute USD 400 million.

The new centre is expected to occupy the area of 140 hectares, and will include an expocentre comprising 4 halls with the total area of 235 thousand square metres; a hotel of 300-500 rooms; a commercial centre including business centres, a congress hall, a multiplex cinema, and an off-road range; a logistic terminal of B+ class with a customs terminal; and a helipad. The construction is planned to be started in 2008.

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

Higher School of Management and Naukograd (Science Town) in Peterhof



On 14 April the Project of the St. Petersburg State University's Higher School of Management in Peterhof was launched by the Russian prime-minister Mikhail Fradkov. In 2007-2010 the federal government is planning to allocate RUR 8 billion (appr. SEK 2.13 billion) for its construction. In 2007 the total financing of the project will constitute RUR 550 million (appr. SEK 146.66 million), in 2008 – RUR 2 billion (appr. SEK 530 million), in 2009 – RUR 3 billion (appr. SEK 800 million), and in 2010 – RUR 2.5 billion (appr. SEK 660 million). The money is planned to be invested in the construction of new buildings, reconstruction and accomplishment of the existing park, design and survey work, construction of utility networks and buildings and reconstruction of the existing buildings.

At the same time the federal government will allocate RUR 306 million (appr. SEK 82 million) for the construction of Naukograd – Science Town of the St. Petersburg State University. The total expenditure for the project is to constitute RUR 9 billion (appr. SEK 2.4 billion), most of which is planned to be covered by the budget of St. Petersburg, the municipal budget and the fund-raising activities. The emerging Science Town will primarily work in the fields of ecology, ICT, physical fields of the Earth, technology of living systems, genetics etc.

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

Photo: www.interpress.ru

Nordic Music Festival 2007



On 14-27 May the Nordic Music International Festival 2007 will take place in St. Petersburg. The Festival is an annual arrangement which takes its deserving place in the calendar of cultural events of St. Petersburg. Every spring citizens and guests get a unique opportunity to become acquainted with the classic music of Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Finland and Sweden. The aim of the Festival is not only to introduce the achievements of Scandinavian and Finnish music, but also to give a chance to the young musicians of Scandinavia, Finland and Russia to make their contribution to the classic music and to demonstrate their creative abilities. All the anniversaries of the season have their reflection in the Festival, and also

there are exhibitions and film demonstrations.

The Festival is organised by the Association for cooperation with Nordic countries NORDEN.

Contact person: Anna Krutikova, *NORDEN*, e-mail: anna@norden.spb.ru; web: www.nordicmusic.spb.ru



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STOCKHOLM REGION OFFICE in ST PETERSBURG
 Visiting address: Nevsky 1, St. Petersburg
 Postal address: BOX 1005, 190000, St. Petersburg
 tel.: +7-812-314 68 18, fax: +7-812-314 68 53
 e-mail: stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru
www.stockholmregion.org