

Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

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Agreement on collaboration between *Stockholm International Fairs* and the *Leningrad Region Business Support Center*



On 10 August 2007 the Agreement on collaboration between Stockholm International Fairs, Sweden, and the Leningrad Region Business Support Center, Russia, was signed. The Agreement was signed by Mr Björn Delin, International Marketing Manager, Stockholm International Fairs, and Mr Vladimir Matjushkin, the director of the State Institution Leningrad Region Business Support Center.

The aims of collaboration are to facilitate the establishment and development of close cooperation between the companies and organizations in the Leningrad region and the Stockholm region as well as to promote the exchange of knowledge and business between companies and organizations within the Baltic Sea Region.

The parties agreed upon Collaboration regarding the arrangements of fairs, conferences, seminars and other joint activities in the Leningrad Region and Stockholm as well as preparation and implementation of joint projects, including the arrangement of receptions, technical tours, visits etc. with the support from the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg.

It is planned to arrange a visit of the Leningrad Region's small business delegation to one or several fairs at Stockholm International Fairs this year.



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

Photo: Stockholm International Fairs, www.stockholmsmassan.se

Information:

13 November 1997 - Agreement on collaboration between Stockholm International Fairs, the St. Petersburg Fund of Industry Support and the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg.

17 October 2002 – Agreement between Stockholm International Fairs and the St. Petersburg Committee on Economic Development, Industrial Policy and Trade.

24 April 2006 – Letter of intent on partnership relations between the St. Petersburg Committee on Economic Development Industrial Policy and Trade and Stockholm International Fairs.

Fund for Crediting of Small Business



On 28 August the government of St. Petersburg adopted a resolution, which implies establishment of a Fund for Crediting of Small Business. The main object of the Fund is promotion of equal access to crediting and other financial opportunities for small enterprises, as well as development of guarantee schemes on liabilities of small companies. The guarantees from the Fund will substitute the collateral, which some companies may lack when obtaining a credit for business development. The Governor of St. Petersburg, Valentina Matvienko, commented that the establishment of the Fund will give a boost to the development of small business, which can't exist without public support.

Source: City of St. Petersburg, August 2007, www.gov.spb.ru

In this issue the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg in cooperation with the North-West Association is starting to publish profiles of 11 regions of the Northwest Russia.



The Republic of Komi

Capital: Syktyvkar

Area: 416 thousand square km

Population: appr.1 mln people ‘

Being the largest region of the Northwest Russia, at the moment the Republic of Komi is one of the most important fuel and energy supplies in Russia. It is rated first in Russia by the stocks of bauxites, titanium and barites. It also has a considerable stock of manganese and chromium ores, and is rich in wood.

The GRP as well as the industrial output, investments and population income are constantly growing. Industry brings the principal input into the GRP (43% of total GRP), transport – 12%, trade – 8%, civil construction – 8%.

Investments are a key issue in the regional economic strategy. Their volume increased 3 times over the recent years. Foreign investments increased over 4 times, which exceeds the Russian average.

Authorities of the Republic of Komi provide guarantees to all investors irrespective of their ownership in accordance with the Russian legislation: equal investing rights; public hearings on investment projects; observance of agreed terms; stability of investors' rights and protection of investments; stimulation of investments.

Foreign trade is developing quickly. The republic cooperates with over 80 countries of Europe, America and Asia. The major partners are Finland, Netherlands, Germany, Ukraine, Great Britain, Poland, Switzerland, Italy and Latvia. In 2006 the foreign trade turnover exceeded USD 1 billion, with its annual rise of 9% more than in 2005.

The Government of Komi is willing to develop mutually beneficial cooperation in various ways, being especially interested in: new projects in timber industry and mining, transport, civil construction and construction materials, tourism; investment fostering technologies; exchanges and partnerships in small and medium business, professional internships; implementation of information and telecommunication technologies; development of mortgage system and training of experts; trade and commerce.

The Republic of Komi directly cooperates with regions of North European countries within the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC).

Every year the Komi Ministry of Economic Development publishes a Small Business Catalog, which is located on the small business web-portal www.mbrk.ru

To establish business contacts you may also apply to the Komi Chamber of Trade and Industry at palata@tppkomi.ru and Komi Regional Foundation for Small and Medium Business at tfund@mail.ru

The official website of the Republic of Komi: www.rkomi.ru

Direct telephone link to the Department of Foreign Relations – +7 (8212) 285 133 (Russian, English or German).
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Business Support for Sustainable Development – Business Matryoshka



In the end of June a presentation of the international project Business support for sustainable development – Business Matryoshka within the framework of Baltic Sea Region Interreg IIIB Neighborhood Programme took place in the Government of Leningrad region. The presentation was visited by representatives of municipal administrations of the Leningrad region, business support organizations, public associations, the St. Petersburg State University and project partners.

The neighborhood programme is a collaboration initiative of the EU, launched to strengthen cooperation between the EU members and neighboring countries. The partners of the project on the Russian side are: the Leningrad region's Committee on Development of Small and Medium Sized Business and Consumer Market, the State Institution "Leningrad region business support center", and the Russian Economic Developers Association. The main project objectives are to elaborate the Leningrad region's business support strategy on the basis of the experience acquired by the partners from Latvia Riga region, also by utilizing the knowledge of partners on both sides to deliver the collaboration of both above mentioned regions in the business support sphere; to lay the foundation for the partnership between the small and medium enterprises of Leningrad and Riga regions.

According to the chairman of the Committee on Development of Small and Medium Sized Business and Consumer Market, Natalya Smirnova, the successful realization of the project in the long run will lead not only to successful collaboration and mutual understanding of both regions of Russia and Latvia, but also effect the economic cooperation and relationships developing between the two countries. The project experience will be accessible for use by other regions.

The partners are to implement the project within the upcoming 18 months. The total budget of project is EUR 260 250 – from TACIS funds, and EUR 86 750 – co-financing.

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Photo: www.hohloma.org

German group of companies Agiplan GmbH in St. Petersburg



The St. Petersburg Association of Automotive Component Manufacturers signed an agreement with the German consulting, managing and engineering group of companies Agiplan GmbH to create a project for a chain of enterprises producing car components in St. Petersburg.

According to Ekaterina Kulinenko, PR-manager of Ford Russia, the creation of an auto cluster in St. Petersburg will definitely contribute to the development of the Russian car component industry in general.

Source: Delovoy Peterburg newspaper, July 2007, www.dpgazeta.ru

Photo: www.interpress.ru

The Development of Low Rise Building Construction in Leningrad Region

On 23 July a draft concept of the development of low rise construction was approved by the Government of the Leningrad region. This year 400 000 sq. metres of low rise buildings, next year – 500 000 sq. metres, in 2009 – 600 000 sq. metres, in 2010 – 750 000 sq. metres are planned to be constructed in the region. By 2011 the share of low rise buildings in the total amount of housing construction in Leningrad Region is planned to exceed 50%.



Source: Delovoy Peterburg newspaper, July 2007, www.dpgazeta.ru

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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