

Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

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EU - Russia Interregional Cooperation. Functioning Cooperation Tools for Swedish and Russian Regions



On 19-20 September the seminars on EU - *Russia Interregional Cooperation. Functioning Cooperation Tools for Swedish and Russian Regions* jointly organised with the Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the Stockholm Region, took place in Brussels. Over 150 people participated in the event including the representatives of the European Commission, members of the Commission for External Relations and Decentralised cooperation (RELEX) of CoR, Mission of the Russian Federation to the European Union, Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office of the Plenipotentiary envoy of the President of the Russian Federation to the Northwest Federal district, the Stockholm Region, Sörmland Regional Council, the County Administrative Board of Västmanland, the County Administrative Board of Stockholm, the County Council of Örebro and the County Council of Stockholm as well as Russian regions of Leningrad, Vologda, Novgorod, Moscow Region Duma and the City of St. Petersburg.

The purpose of the activities was to discuss the cooperation prospects with the focus on future prerequisites for developing local and regional interaction between EU and Russia and functioning working tools for cooperation. The event was carried out in connection to RELEX regular meeting.

The event provided an opportunity to present and to discuss different working tools at regional and local levels for EU institutions and European regions, as well as to disseminate the experience and knowledge accumulated during the long-lasting Swedish-Russian cooperation.

Facts and figures:

There are several agreements between the Stockholm Region and Russian regions, including the county of Sörmland/Leningrad, Västmanland/Vologda, Örebro/Novgorod as well as Stockholm County Council/Moscow Region Duma, the City of Stockholm/the City of St. Petersburg and the Stockholm region's five counties/the City of St. Petersburg.

Within the framework of these agreements the Stockholm Region and the Russian regions actively support different forms of cooperation aiming at strengthening ties between EU and Russian regions as well as long-term sustainable growth. The regions cooperate in a number of areas: Health and Social Issues, Business Development and Economic Growth, Tourism, Culture, Education and Environment.

In 2006 the Committee of the Regions, the RELEX Commission, took the initiative to develop relations between the European Union and Russia at the local and regional level, by carrying out a seminar in St. Petersburg. It was decided that meetings held on a regular basis, one year in Brussels and the next year in Russia.

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

20th ENTO Conference in St. Petersburg



On 26-27 September the 20th ENTO (European Network of Training Organizations for Local and Regional Authorities) Conference "Education and Training for Local and Regional Authorities within the Bologna Process Network" took place in St. Petersburg. The event was jointly organized by ENTO and the Northwest Academy of Public Administration.

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VI Annual Forum of Strategic Planning Leaders



On 18-19 October the *VI Annual Forum of Strategic Planning Leaders* will take place in St. Petersburg. Annual Forums create unique conditions for intensive and fruitful exchange of experience between Russian cities and regions – strategic planning leaders.

The Forum is organized by the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the Ministry for Economic Development and Trade of Russia, the Ministry for Regional Development of Russia, the Committee for Spatial Development of the Baltic Sea Region (CSD/BSR), the ICSE Leontief Centre and the Russian Economic Developers Association (ASSET).

The main goal of the Forum is: to discuss best International and Russian public policies in fostering innovations and creating enabling environment; to raise awareness and integrate innovation within regional economic development strategies as a priority task; to strengthen knowledge transfer networks and help regions to develop partnerships in other parts of the world.

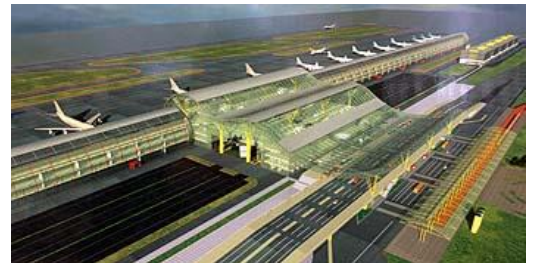
The Forum is called to strengthen cooperation networks of strategic planning practitioners - authorities, advisers, donors, and non-commercial organizations. During the Forum activities the annual meeting of ASSET - Russian Economic Developers Association – will also be held.

All Forum materials and main topics of papers will be posted on the web site 'Strategic Planning in Cities and Regions of Russia' <http://www.citystrategy.leontief.ru>

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Reconstruction of Pulkovo Airport

On 13 September the City of St. Petersburg chose a winner of the tender for reconstruction of *Pulkovo* Airport. The two reconstruction projects were presented by the *British Grimshaw & Partners Ltd* Company and the *American Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP* Company. As a result of online voting and technical evaluation, the British company was chosen the winner. According to the Governor of St. Petersburg, Valentina Matvienko, it was a hard choice, as the projects are thoroughly elaborated both in terms of architecture and logistics.



As a result of reconstruction the passenger traffic at *Pulkovo* will grow to 17.5 million passengers a year (compared to 5 million now). The gross area of the new terminal will constitute 185 thousand sq. meters. The approximate expenditure on the construction will amount to EUR 344 million.

On 25 September the President of Russia signed a decree, passing *Pulkovo* airport into the ownership of St. Petersburg. Now by the end of 2007 the City of St. Petersburg plans to put out a tender for development of the airport. The investment in the project is planned to constitute USD 1 billion.

Source: *Delovoy Peterburg* newspaper, September 2007, www.dpgazeta.ru

Photo: www.interpress.ru



International Forestry Forum 2007

On 9-12 October the *International Forestry Forum 2007* will take place in St. Petersburg. The main goal of the Forum is to form a comprehensive objective view on the current and perspective issues of the timber industry development, and work out effective and socially balanced solutions. The participants of the Forum will have an opportunity to obtain necessary information from heads of branch ministries and departments, explore the contemporary trends of timber industry, and see advanced equipment in operation.

Source: <http://www.spiff.ru/en/>

Photo: www.interpress.ru

VIKOS & MICE 2007

On 28 September the Annual Business Meeting *VIKOS & MICE 2007* for corporate clients and representatives of MICE sector took place in St. Petersburg. The Russian abbreviation 'VIKOS' stands for the high art of corporate services. Among the participants of the Meeting were representatives of associations, palaces, museums, travel agencies, hotels, restaurants, exhibition companies etc. from Russia, Baltic and Mediterranean states, Germany and the UK. The event was organized by *St. Petersburg 2003 Company* with the support from the Committee on Entrepreneurship in the Field of Tourism, Resort, Recreation and Hotel Activities of the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



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IV St. Petersburg Exhibition Financial Services for Population

The *IV St. Petersburg Exhibition Financial Services for Population* took place on 21-23 September. The aim of the Exhibition was to present new financial products and services, insurance and leasing companies, management companies, mutual investment funds, non-state pension funds to the citizens of St. Petersburg and the Northwest Russia.

Among the exhibitors were banks, management and investment companies, non-state pension funds, consulting companies and mortgage brokers. The Exhibition was organized by the North-West Association of Banks.

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Photo: www.interpress.ru

Contemporary State of the Russian Insurance Market in 2007 Conference

The *Contemporary State of the Russian Insurance Market in 2007* conference took place in St. Petersburg 18 September. Among the participants of the conference were directors of Russian insurance companies, representatives of leading foreign companies, representatives of the federal and local authorities and NGOs. The conference focused on the issues of the Russian insurance market development, the opportunities for the entrance of foreign companies to the Russian market, the development of new insurance types etc. The conference was organised by *Kommersant* publishing house.

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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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