

# Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

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## President Halonen visited St. Petersburg for opening of 1809 commemoration



On 29 March 2009 President of the Republic Tarja Halonen and Dr Pentti Arajärvi attended the opening of the "Finland 200 Years in St. Petersburg" event. The opening was also attended by St. Petersburg Governor Valentina Matviyenko. President Halonen and Governor Matviyenko had bilateral discussions before the opening, where both spoke.

The programme of the opening included a concert by the Avanti! Chamber Orchestra at the Church of St. Mary and a reception at the residence of the Finnish Consul General in St. Petersburg.

The start of Finland's period of autonomy in 1809 will be commemorated this year in Finland with numerous state and local events. The year 1809 will also be commemorated in Russia. Finland will arrange a broad series of events in St. Petersburg practically throughout the year. This will climax with the inauguration of Finland House in October and conclude with Independence Day celebrations in December.

Source: [www.gov.spb.ru](http://www.gov.spb.ru), <http://www.presidentti.fi>

Photo: [www.interpress.ru](http://www.interpress.ru)

## Stockholm County Administrative Board hosts St. Petersburg delegation exploring Swedish social system



Stockholm recently received the participants of the study trip organised by the Government of St. Petersburg, the Stockholm County Administrative Board and the Nordic Council of Ministers. The group of St. Petersburg civil servants included governmental officials and deputy heads of city districts administrations dealing with social security. The group traveled to Stockholm from 30 March till 3 April. The second group is scheduled to visit Sweden on 20 – 24 April 2009.

The aim of the study trips is to present the Swedish welfare system and cross-sector cooperation of social, medial and legal institutions enabling the Russian participants to adapt gained knowledge in their work and strengthen the public social security system in St.

Petersburg. Stockholm County Administrative Board plays the vital role of coordinating the visit.

The programme of the visits include presentations of the social projects of the Stockholm County Administrative Board, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and Children's Ombudsman, several public organisations including national shelter network for women and children and department for alcohol and drug abuse prevention. Besides, the groups learn about international cooperation projects with Russia at the Secretariat of the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-Being (NDPHS) and the Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS).

Source: Elena Golubeva, Deputy Director, Nordic Council of Ministers Information office in Saint Petersburg, e-mail: [eg@norden.ru](mailto:eg@norden.ru), <http://www.norden.ru>

Photo: Andrey Anisimov, NCM St. Petersburg

## European-Russian InnoPartnership



The Project of establishing Finnish-Russian Innovation University (FRIU) was initiated by the Russian and Finnish local authorities, namely St. Petersburg City authorities and Lappeenranta City in the framework of the "St. Petersburg Corridor" international program. A Protocol on Intent aimed at establishing FRIU was signed on October 10th, 2008 in the framework of the First St. Petersburg International Innovation Forum. On the 3rd of March, 2009 was approved the Concept of FRIU and signed a Cooperation Agreement.

Next Rector's meeting in frames of Finnish-Russian Innovation University (FRIU) is going to take place on 27th of May, 2009 in Lappeenranta, Finland. The meeting will adjust FRIU Action plan and proceed the cooperation of participating universities from both sides in establishing a non-profit organization. The further development of the project will be managed by Non-commercial partnership "European-Russian InnoPartnership".

InnoPartnership started its activity in spring 2008 with support of Lappeenranta City Administration and Committee on IT and Communications of St. Petersburg City Government. Now it is already involved in the realization of state contracts aimed at summarizing of leading universities' experiences in the field of ICT implementation for the city needs. The aims of the InnoPartnership are to study, estimate and implement best regional and global market experience in the field of business and innovations (especially in the sphere of ICT), to develop international expert network in ICT and other fields, to promote Partners on regional and international level. The success of the organization is based on high reputation of the members and the support of local authorities. InnoPartnership is open for different forms of mutually beneficial cooperation.

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## Development of small and medium sized enterprises – Stockholm & St. Petersburg cooperate



Committee for External relation of St. Petersburg Government and the Nordic Council of Ministers have recently initiated the cooperation project focusing on small and medium businesses (SME). The project included the study visit to Sweden (Stockholm) and Norway (Oslo and Stavanger) from 15 till 22 March 2009. The official delegation included members of St. Petersburg Administration dealing with external relations, information technologies and communications, economic development and trade as well as labour and employment issues.

The programme of the study trip was worked out together with Stockholm, Oslo and Stavanger Administrations within the frames of the cooperation agreements with St. Petersburg and focused on:

- SMEs priorities in the Nordic countries
- policies of state support for small and medium sized enterprises
- successful practical examples of SMEs, including innovations.

In Stockholm the delegation was hosted by the County Administrative Board of Stockholm and among many visited Kista Science City, Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, as well as Hammarby Sjöstad district, ALMI and Envac companies.

As the next step of the project, an international conference will be held in St. Petersburg on 26 May 2009 with specific emphasis on Russian and Nordic models for support of small and medium enterprises.

Source: Elena Golubeva, Deputy Director, Nordic Council of Ministers Information office in Saint Petersburg, e-mail: [eg@norden.ru](mailto:eg@norden.ru), <http://www.norden.ru>

Photo: <http://www.kvs.spb.ru>

## International conference “Preventive care programs against dental diseases among children and adults”



On 8 April 2009 the international dental conference “Preventive care programs against dental diseases among children and adults” was held in *Swedish Dental clinic* in St. Petersburg. The event was organized by Healthcare committee in Kalininskiy city district in cooperation with Swedish dentists. As the result of the conference a final declaration was signed. The document contains proposal for an extensive program including education of parents and teachers in the field of preventive care against dental diseases, organising of free public prophylactic activities etc.

Since 2006 till 2009 a pilot project was held in Kalininskiy city district with participation of specialists from Folkandvården clinic (Stockholm, Sweden). The results showed that preventive care activities organised in cooperation with government can lead to strong economic effect.

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## Interregional Economic Development

On March 10-12, 2009 II Partneriat “St. Petersburg – Regions of Russia. Trends of Interrelations and Co-operation” was held in Lenexpo Exhibition Centre, St. Petersburg. The goal of the event, arranged by St. Petersburg Government, Russian Public Organization “Business Russia”, *Restek* company and St.

Petersburg Chamber of Industry and Commerce was to stimulate interregional economic development, with special focus on heavy and chemical industry, machine building and construction.

In the framework of the event European tools and programs for business support were presented at the round-table “SME’s under new economic conditions. European experience.” arranged and moderated by *ManNet Partners*, member of the *Finnish Consulting Group*. The speakers presented the recent governmental decisions, financial and information tools for SME’s developed by Governments of Nordic countries to avoid the negative consequences of the world economic crisis. Finnish practices were presented by *ManNet Partners*; Swedish experience was presented by Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg; German, Spanish and Slovak tools – by Regional Economic Development Agency and Austrian practices – by *Esser*, Honeywell group of Companies.

Total number of participants of the Partneriat made over 1 500 representatives of 58 regions of Russia.

Source: Elena Kuznetsova, Deputy Managing Director, OOO ManNet Partners, member of the Finnish Consulting Group, e-mail: [info@mannotpartners.com](mailto:info@mannotpartners.com)

## Tourist Project of Intercultural Communication



Non-profit partnership Cultural-Educational Centre supported by The Administration of Great Novgorod and Norden Association develops a new project of cultural-educational tourism “Water EAST WAY of Europe” (WE-WE) on a route Stockholm – Great Novgorod (Baltic sea – the river Neva – the lake Ladoga – the river Volkhov). This route almost completely repeats an ancient water trading way “From the Varangian to the Greeks”, or “East Way”, connecting the North of Europe with the Byzantian empire (X-XII centuries). The project could add a touristic-recreational component to the European intercultural communications. Russian participants are looking for the partners in Sweden who could take part in the development and realization of this project.

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The archive of the newsletters can be found at <http://www.stockholmregion.org/website/1/1.0.1.0/16/3/index.php>

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