

# Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

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## Russian Innovation Week: Activities of European-Russian InnoPartnership

On 30 September – 3 October *the Russian Innovation Week* will take place in St. Petersburg in conjunction with the XIII International Forum *Russian Industrialist* (see issue 115, June 2009). It is considered the first high scale event in Russia to

address modern challenges and aiming to work out key solutions, recommendations and measures to implement the innovation scenario of the economic development. For more info: [www.forum.spbinno.ru](http://www.forum.spbinno.ru)

The St. Petersburg part of the *Innovation Week* is organized by the City of St. Petersburg and co-sponsored by the Russian Corporation of Nanotechnologies *Rosnano*, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry for Economic Development and the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs: the Second St. Petersburg Innovation Forum and the XII Russian Industrialist International Forum.

In the frames of the Innovation Week the European-Russian InnoPartnership is organizing a number of events with the support from the St. Petersburg Committee on IT and Communications: Award Ceremony for winners of the students' projects competition "Territory of Security"; Presentation of Academy of InfoCommunications Technologies (ICT Academy); Round table *European-Russian Innovation Corridor (ERIC) programme*; Official opening of R&D Innovation Centre of telecommunications; Conference *Innovations for IT-development*; Round table *Finnish-Russian Innovation University (FRIU)*. The InnoPartnership is also taking part in the Forum exhibition section.

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## MANNHEIMER SWARTLING Legal news

A number of material amendments have been introduced to the Russian antimonopoly legislation effective as of 23 August 2009. The most significant changes are as follows:

- foreign-to-foreign transactions involving a non-Russian company with Russia-related business activities may be subject to Russian antimonopoly regulation, in particular, to its merger control rules;
- most restrictions previously applicable to all agreements and coordinated actions are now removed with respect to "vertical" agreements (i.e., agreements between entities that do not compete with each other, where one entity provides and the other acquires goods, works or services). The amendments now generally allow certain exclusivity arrangements that are vital for most distribution agreements. Nevertheless, parties to "vertical" agreements may not agree on a price of re-sale of goods to customers or oblige buyers not to sell competitive goods;
- higher thresholds for merger control have been introduced aiming at facilitating economic concentration. A transaction is subject to prior approval by antimonopoly authority if: (a) (i) the aggregate book value of assets of an acquirer, a target and their groups exceeds RUB 7 billion (appr. EUR 155 million), or (ii) the worldwide turnover of the acquirer, the target and their groups for the last year exceeds RUB 10 billion (appr. EUR 223 million), and, if criterion (i) or (ii) above is met, the aggregate book value of assets of the target and its group exceeds RUB 250 million (appr. EUR 5.5 million), or (b) either the acquirer, or the target, or one of the members of their groups is included in the Register of companies having a share exceeding 35% of a certain product market. The thresholds were also changed in respect of certain transactions requiring subsequent notification of FAS.

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## Future City session at *The Russian Innovation Week*

The expert session *Future city* will take place within the frames of *The Russian innovation week* on 2 October, 2009. It is an open communication platform on which it is planned to discuss trends, calls and scenarios of development of large mega cities. The objective of the project is to draw attention to power efficiency problems and to discuss possibilities of alternative power. The event focuses on search and discussion of an actual problematic of the St. Petersburg future development and development of recommendations to the government. Among

the speakers are the leading Russian and foreign experts, including, the representative of the Danish Consulate General in St. Petersburg presenting the Danish experience on reforming of electric power industry and an effective utilization of alternative sources of energy.

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## Hospital exhibition to implement national *Health* project in the Northwest Russia



The International *Hospital* Exhibition will be held in *Lenexpo*, St. Petersburg, on 7-9 October 2009. The aim of the show is to implement the Federal Programme to Improve the Health Services of the Russian Population (the national "Health" project). Every year, the exhibition receives support from the Government of St.

Petersburg and Leningrad Region, and branch associations. This year, the exhibition is among the events being supported by the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation.

In 2008, the exhibition was attended by 10,000 specialists. Visitors were able to see the latest technologies from Germany, Italy, Canada, China, South Korea, USA, Russia, Ukraine, Sweden, Finland, Switzerland, Japan and other countries.

This year, the exhibition will include: medical equipment for the diagnosis and treatment of various diseases; electrical equipment and instruments for cardio surgery; endoscopy equipment; and auditory and massage equipment. Also on show will be the latest rehabilitative equipment and technology; equipment for manufacturing and controlling medicines; laboratory equipment and devices; and equipment for pharmacies, blood donor banks, hospitals and nursing homes.

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## Baltic MICE Tourism Training Center: Concluding Meeting and Dissemination Seminar

On 24 August the concluding seminar of the EU Tempus project "Baltic MICE Tourism Training Centre" took place in St. Petersburg. The consortium members from the St. Petersburg State University of Telecommunications and the Baltic International

Academy (Latvia), as well as partners from the Russian Union of Travel Industry, Northwest Division and the Danish consulting company *Saabye, Stendrup & Partners* took part in the seminar.

The seminar was aiming to draw conclusions and to plan further collaboration of the project partners. The results of internal project monitoring were also presented during the meeting. According to the key monitor, the project was definitely a success and the project team succeeded in fulfilling the obligations under the project application.

As a result of the seminar, the partners signed an agreement on creating an institutionalized network that will unite representatives of regional authorities, industry unions, training centers, and lead companies of the Baltic Sea region meeting industry. The coordination of all activities is going to be a task of the Baltic Centre of Meeting Industry, which was established in the frames of the project.

On 28-30 August the project trainers also held a dissemination seminar in Sochi for tourism industry professionals of Krasnodar Krai. Over 30 representatives of travel agencies, hotels and resorts, training centres and regional authorities took part in master classes. The participants point out a growing interest for developing business tourism in the South of Russia, and it is getting stronger considering Sochi Olympics 2014. The Baltic Centre of Meeting Industry and the Krasnodar Krai regional authorities are currently discussing further cooperation in training MICE professionals for the region.

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## Nordic Fashion Photography in St. Petersburg

This year the Information office of the Nordic Council of Ministers in St. Petersburg works on its annual project "NORDIC LOOK – Nordic Fashion Days in St. Petersburg" in cooperation with a new partner – the State Photography Centre Rosphoto. NORDIC LOOK is aimed to introduce to the Russian audience newest trends in fashion, design and art photography and to enrich connection and collaboration between Russian and Nordic professionals working in the sphere of creative industries and fashion.

Within the frames of collaboration on NORDIC LOOK and in accordance to the theme of 2009 – Colours of the North – two

exhibitions will be shown at Rosphoto from September 12th to October 25th: a personal exhibition of Ari Magg, one of the leading Icelandic photographers, and an exhibition dedicated to the history of Finnish fashion photography lent by the Finnish Museum of Photography in Helsinki.

More information: <http://www.norden.ru/News.aspx?id=313&lang=en>

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## The Sixth International Music Festival «NORDIC MUSIC»



The sixth international music festival «NORDIC MUSIC» welcomes all the music-lovers to its autumn concerts that will take place in Saint-Petersburg in October 2009. Festival organised by Association for Cooperation with Nordic Countries «NORDEN».

**On the 7th of October** citizens and guests of the city are invited to enjoy the performance of one of the oldest male choir of Denmark – Student Choir Society.

**On the 29th of October** the most talented young musicians, composers and conductors of the Northern Europe will be united on the stage of the Small Philharmonic hall to take part in "Nordic Shores" concert. "Nordic Shores" concert features 4 generations of the most significant Danish composers: Vagn Holmboe, whose 100th anniversary is celebrated in 2009, Poul Ruders, who is 60 years in 2009, Karsten Fundal and Nicklas Schmidt, whose pieces will be world premiered in this concert. Also a piece by the Norwegian composer Maja Ratkje will be performed.

The orchestra is the specialized St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonics, and performing with them will be the distinguished Nordic female soloists: Ellen Sejersted Bødtker (Norway), harp, Anne-Marie Lipsonen (Finland), piano, and Anne Marie Granau (Denmark), conductor.

The partners of this concert are: The St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonics, Danish Cultural Institute in St. Petersburg, leader Rikke Helms, Anne Marie Granau, conductor, Nicklas Schmidt, composer. Karsten Fundal, composer. Edition Wilhelm Hansen.

More information: <http://www.nordicmusic.spb.ru/?page=about&lang=eng>

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