

# Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

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## Survey: Openness of Russia



Most Russians believe that Russia is “generally open towards other countries”. According to the survey, done by the *Analytical Centre of Yuri Levada*, 58% of the respondents think so. The experts consider that year-over-year the number of citizens oriented to isolation goes down. The reason is believed to be that increasingly more people correspond their goals to the contacts of Russia with the rest of the world. 22% of the respondents assume that Russia is “absolutely open towards other countries”. 9% believe that Russia is “generally closed towards other countries”.

Source: *Metro* newspaper, February 2008.

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

## Population of Russia and St. Petersburg

In 2007 the population of Russia decreased by 199.9 thousand people and now constitutes 142 million people. The birth rate grew by 122.75 million people, yet the death rate is still higher. The population of St. Petersburg constitutes 4.5 million people. One in five citizens of Russia live in millionaire-cities.

### Russian Millionaire-Cities (mln. of people)

	1990	2007
Ekaterinburg	1.36	1.32
Kazan	1.09	1.11
Novosibirsk	1.45	1.39
Nizhniy Novgorod	1.44	1.28
Samara	1.16	1.16
Omsk	1.15	1.14
Chelyabinsk	1.11	1.08
Ufa	1.08	1.09
Rostov-na-Donu	1.02	1.01
Perm	1.04	1.01
Volgograd	1.01	0.99
St. Petersburg	5.00	4.57
Moscow	8.78	10.45



Source: *Delovoy Peterburg* newspaper, February 2008, [www.dpgazeta.ru](http://www.dpgazeta.ru)

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

## Strategy: Russian Railways

According to Vladimir Yakunin, President of *Russian Railways Company*, the railway transport development strategy until 2030 involves construction of 1.5 thousand km. of new lines and modernization of the existing infrastructure. The investments will amount to RUR 1 billion.

Source: *Delovoy Peterburg* newspaper, February 2008, [www.dpgazeta.ru](http://www.dpgazeta.ru).

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





## Waterland. New Cultural Project in St. Petersburg



The Information office of the Nordic Council of Ministers supports the new cultural project *Waterland* initiated by the Russian Designers' Union and Museum of Water in St. Petersburg.

In the frames of the *Waterland* project a photo exhibition is open from February 2nd to 24th, 2008, at the Museum of Water where works created by the members of the Russian Designers' Union during their trip to the Northwest Russia are presented. Besides the exhibition, the *Waterland* project includes a number of educational events aimed at informing visitors about the Northwest Russia and presenting this region as a potential goal for tourism.

In future the organizers are planning to develop *Waterland* into a long-term Russian-Nordic project. National designers' organizations in Nordic countries are invited for cooperation including arrangement of joint photo exhibitions and educational programs.

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## NCM's Information Seminar on Cooperation in the Sphere of Culture

The Nordic Council of Minister will hold an Information seminar *Cooperation with NW Russia in the Sphere of Culture* in Saint Petersburg. The main goal of the seminar is to inform cultural operators and authorities of St. Petersburg and the Leningrad region about the possibilities for funding of cultural projects by the Nordic Council of Ministers and to present potential projects and actions.

The seminar will be held on May 14th, 2008, at the *Radisson SAS* Hotel.

In spring 2008 the Nordic Council of Ministers will also arrange Information seminars in Arkhangelsk, Murmansk and Petrozavodsk.

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## Timofej Yaschik's *Beside the Empress*



On February 20, 2008, the St. Petersburg City Palace of Youth Creativity hosted the presentation of the second edition of Timofei Yaschik's book entitled "Beside the Empress: Memoirs of a Life-Guard Cossack."

The Kuban cossack Timofei Yaschik (1878-1946) served the Empress Dowager Maria Fedorovna for thirteen years and followed her to the emigration in Denmark. His memoirs first appeared in the Danish newspaper in 1941, and were published in Russian in 2004, by the St. Petersburg Institute of History of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The new edition of the memoirs is dedicated to the 160th anniversary of Maria Fedorovna.

The presentation was held at the Anichkov Palace, the tsar family's winter residence, and included book review, traditional cossack songs performed by guests from Kuban, guided tours of

the Anichkov Palce, and screening of a film devoted to the life of Maria Fedorovna.

The presentation aroused great interest and attracted about 150 people.

The presentation was organized with the support of the Consulate General of Denmark and the Danish Cultural Institute.

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## MITT 2008. Major Tourist Fair in Russia



On 19-22 March MITT 2008 (*Moscow International Travel & Tourism*) will take place at Expocentre in Moscow. MITT will occupy four of Expocentre's largest halls including the newly built Pavilion 8. This year the fair will be celebrating its 15th anniversary as the largest travel industry event in Russia. An independent audit of MITT 2007 revealed that over 81 880 visitors

attended the event – 50 130 were trade professionals - and a record number of visitors registered prior to the show.

There will also be a conference on tourism development *Tourism Industry 2008. Russian Regions — New Opportunities for Tourism Development*, held alongside the fair. Among the topics to be discussed at the conference are: main trends of tourism development — Russia and the World; best practices: from developing the strategy to attracting investment; and improving competitiveness in the tourism business.

The events are organized by ITE Group.

Source: MITT 2008, [www.mitt.ru/en/](http://www.mitt.ru/en/)

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The archive of the newsletters can be found at [http://www.stockholmregion.org/website1/sd\\_page/16/1/index.php](http://www.stockholmregion.org/website1/sd_page/16/1/index.php)

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