

## Stockholm in the Forefront

As of May 2004, two new financial mechanisms with a total budget of 1,17 billion euro exists, devoted to reduce the economical and social disparities in EEA. It is the three non-EU member states that established these mechanisms with an aim to make the 10 new EU member states to fully participate in the internal market. Stockholm Region has

been one of the first regions to emphasize these instruments and has hold seminars in Västerås, in Sweden, and in Brussels, to inform the project developers in the region about it. The reason for the involvement from the Stockholm Region side is to help the partners in the new member states to gain knowledge about these programmes.

## Stockholm in the UN

Increasing women's political participation is a strategic priority of local governments but still women are under-represented in elected positions. It is also one of the four Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) for achieving process toward gender equality. On the 28th of February the issue of gender equality was addressed during the 49th UN meeting on women issues in New York.

The conference also included several parallel seminars where one of the largest was Beijing +10 organised by the newly created United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the Huariou Commission in partnership with UN-Habitat. 10 years ago, the UN hold a gender equally conference in Beijing and this conference, the Beijing +10 is a follow up on that previous meeting. The objective with the conference is to produce an overview of the implementation of so called Beijing declaration and accompanying platform for action.

One of the speakers was Catharina Tarras-Wahlberg, the deputy mayor of City of Stockholm, who talked about how women governance in the city is influencing the work towards increasing



gender equality. Ms Tarras-Wahlberg was addressing the policy of gender equality in Stockholm as well as giving examples on improvements that have been made during the last years. The speech was highly appreciated.

## Globalisation and Learning

In March, an international expert seminar, the first of its kind, was held in Stockholm on the theme Globalisation and Learning. The aim of the seminar was to define an innovative research agenda to compose a platform for an international research centre in Stockholm. The city is in the forefront when it comes to challenges of learning in a globalised world. The seminar dealt with issues regarding economical changes, increased cross-border mobility for persons, the use of new information technique, research regarding the way the brain handle information, among other things.

For more information:  
[www.ficgl.com](http://www.ficgl.com)

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## Strategic Development and Cooperation Between Airport Regions

The County Council of Stockholm is the leading partner of a EU Interreg project called STRAIR aiming at improving innovation systems for industrial and business development in airport regions. The project also aims to develop an airport network with the intention of mutual learning. Some of the activities in the project will be SME- and Real Estate development, plans for industrial sites and new approach to land use planning.

Participating regions are Canary Islands, Barcelona, Oslo, Glasgow, Göteborg and Ostende and from Stockholm the municipalities of Knivsta, Upplands Väsby, Vallentuna and Sigtuna together with the Uppsala Regional Council part from the Stockholm County Council.

The STRAIR project will focus on that airport development, combined with a focus on airport related business development and regional development, will contribute with important knowledge for regional planners, business and real estate developers.

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## Turkey On Its Way

Stockholm Region was the first region with a Polish-speaking colleague, was also the first to open a representation in St Petersburg and now, due to the comming enlargement, the Stockholm Region is the first region to have a Turkish-speaking colleague in Brussels.

The Swedish Government has taken a political decision to open the doors towards Turkey by increasing cooperation and establish contacts at national, regional and local level. Before the government took this positive decision,



## Editorial

Few months before Swedes voted for EU membership in September 1995, the Stockholm Region opened its regional office in Brussels. Now, alongside the celebration of the 10 years anniversary of Swedish EU membership, the Stockholm Region would like to take the opportunity to highlight the specific contribution that three capitals, Helsinki, Stockholm and Vienna, have made since the entry. The Stockholm Region will together with these cities arrange an event on the April 13, inviting several prominent speakers and guests.

The enlargement process continues to be high on the Stockholm Region agenda. Public and private actors are ready to cooperate with the new Member States within the framework of the EEA Financial Mechanism. On April 1, the Stockholm Region hosted a seminar, explaining the practical details and implications of such cooperation. However, Stockholm Region looks fur-

the Stockholm Region had already started projects with Turkey.

Nacka municipality had a successful water project with the Princess Islands in Istanbul and now they are working on new projects. Botkyrka municipality has participated in a project about democracy, equality, and human rights in Ordu,

ther ahead and welcomes coming EU enlargement. In October last year, Stockholm launched together with the City of Sofia a knowledge-transfer network named WEnlargement. The network has drawn considerable attention of the regional actors. As a further prove of the Stockholm Region's interest for wider European geographical area, the official representatives of the Stockholm County Council visited Moscow last month and are expecting a reciprocal visit in coming weeks.

Finally, we would once again like to stress our readiness to cooperate with our friends in order to create a more competitive and inclusive Europe.

Best Regards,

Thomas Friis Konst

north Turkey. Västmanland County has taken a decision to start a project with Turkey as cooperation partners. And in Brussels, the Stockholm Region goes further on deepening the contacts and it has already been meetings held with the Turkish EU delegation. Turkey is on its way.

## Interregional Cooperation: Stockholm County Council and Moscow Region Duma

An agreement of interregional operation has been signed by Stockholm County Council and the Moscow Region Duma. On 15-16 February, Tommy Karlsson, Director for Interregional Cooperation at Stockholm County Council, and Lada Illarionova, Head of Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg made a work visit to Moscow Region Duma (the regional Parliament). This was the third face-to-face contact between Stockholm County Council and Moscow Region Duma since March 2004.

As agreed during the previous visits, the cooperation is being developed on a long-term planning basis. During 2005, the Agreement on Cooperation and the Cooperation Plan for the years 2005-2006 are planned to be signed. Discussion of the clauses of the future agreement was the main issue of the meeting with Vladimir Alexeev, 1st Deputy Chairman of the Duma, that took place on 15 February. Within the frames of the Agreement regular information exchange, seminars and study visits in Moscow and Stockholm, as well as joint cooperation projects are planned. The first seminar is to take place in Stockholm in summer 2005 together with the signing of the Agreement. The next one devoted to regional planning



and development is scheduled for autumn 2005. Cooperation between two regional parliaments is also intended to be carried out within healthcare and culture.

Within the frames of the visit a suggestion to extend cooperation by linking it up with Norway, Denmark and Finland was put forward and approved of by the parties. On 16 February the Stockholm Region delegation attended the work

session of the Moscow Region Duma. Valery Aksakov, Chairman of the Duma, greeted the Swedish colleagues and expressed his assurance in the fruitful cooperation.

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## 5 Seas, 1 Future – A Successful Application to the Open Days 2005.

“5 seas 1 Future” is a conglomerate in which Stockholm Region is the leading office. The conglomerate will focus on the “European Territorial Cooperation”. Two seminars will be organised demonstrating concrete cases. Regional offices supporting the conglomerate “5 seas 1 Future” represent different European regions that have been actively involved in executing Structural Funds programmes during the current funding period (2000-2006), whilst contributing to the discussions around the reformed cohesion policy post-2006. The conglomerate is made of Diputació de Barcelona, Europe Bretagne Pays de la Loire, Riga City and Region, Sofia City Region, Stockholm Region, Veneto



## European Week of Regions and Cities

Brussels 10 – 13 October 2005

Region and Welsh Local Government Association All of them are members of

well established and performing European networks or Euroregions.

Open Days is an annual event arranged by the Committee of the Regions and European Commission – DG Regio and is to be held the 11th – 13th of October 2005 in Brussels. During the press conference organized in the Berlaymont, the president of the Committee of Regions, Mr. Peter Straub, said that “OPEN DAYS is the premier event of its kind because it focuses on the daily, practical concerns of the regions and cities that are Europe’s engine of growth.” Correlatively, Commissioner Danuta Hübner has mentioned that: “OPEN DAYS 2005 will be a market place for new ideas and a platform for exchanging experiences in regional development. The EU should make better use of the unlocked potential of its regions and cities...”

# Stockholm Region Nobel Lunch 2004

One of the highlights of 2004 was the annual Stockholm Region Nobel Lunch, which took place on the 10th of December in Saint-Gilles City Hall in Brussels. Stockholm Region Nobel Lunch has become a tradition in Brussels after four successful years in Brussels.

This year's theme was "Next Enlargement-New Opportunities in a Wider Europe" and prominent speakers were invited. Mr. Thomas Friis-Konst, Director of Stockholm Region introduced the program and Ms. Catharina Tarras-Wahlberg, president of Stockholm Region and deputy mayor of the



Mr Stefan Sofianski and Mr Mats Hellström.



During the lunch

City of Stockholm held a welcome speech. Mr Marinus Puyenbroek, Representative of Ms. Hanja Maij-Weggen, Commissioner of the queen of the Netherlands-Province of Brabant held a speech about the 2004 EU enlargement. Mr. Mats Hellström, Governor of the City of Stockholm City gave Swedish reflections on the next enlargement. The last speech were held by Mr. Stefan Sofianski, Lord Mayor of Sofia, who gave a newcomers perspective of the enlargement.

The lunch was seated in the beautiful Salle de l'Europe. Mr Carlo Luyckx, Deputy Mayor of St. Gilles for Population and European Affairs welcomed the guests. During the lunch a musical performance was held by the Santa Lucia Choir from the Scandinavian School in Waterloo, and Christmas carols together with traditional Swedish songs were presented to the audience in a moving way.



The Lucia Choir from the Scandinavian School in BrusselsThe Lucia Choir from the Scandinavian School in Brussels.

## Kaliningrad Jubilee Years 2005-2006

Kaliningrad is celebrating a 750 years anniversary. The culmination will take place during the first three days of July 2005. Countries around the region will take part in the different events. The climax of the celebrations on July 3 has been called "Europe Day Kaliningrad – meeting place for Russia and Europe". The geographical position of Kaliningrad, i.e. surrounded by EU member states which would like to see Kaliningrad develop and strengthen its commercial ties with Baltic neighbours.

In 2005, a cultural and information initiative in Kaliningrad will be undertaken with support and assistance from the Swedish Institute and the Stockholm Region European Committee. The aim is to give some of the Swedish events taking place during the year an anniversary aura. Planned events include a Swedish music festival, an Astrid Lindgren exhibition, cultural events for young people, conferences on healthcare, publishing and TV programmes, and a number of other seminars, exhibitions and workshops.

The ambition is to link business promotion initiatives with the planned activities. The Stockholm Region will donate its "Creativity and Innovations" exhibition to an institution in Kaliningrad, an exhibition that proved very popular in St Petersburg during its 300-year anniversary. A conference, "Stockholm-Kaliningrad Business Contact and Development Day" will be held. The idea is that a few key people, primarily from Swedish companies/organisations with a vested interest in the development of Kaliningrad, will be able to take part in the activities. A number of official public and private representatives from the Stockholm-Mälars region will also attend. Activities will also take place between representatives from Kaliningrad's twintowns in the Sydsum region, Kalmar and Halmstad.

## Nobel in St. Petersburg



On the 10 of December, a seminar devoted to the 175th anniversary of Robert Nobel and 145th anniversary of Emmanuel Nobel, was arranged by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg to highlight the Nobel family's history in St. Petersburg. The children's choir from Mravinsky School of Arts opened the seminar by performing several Lucia songs in Swedish and the hymn written especially for Emmanuel Nobel in XIX century, when the Nobel family and, in particular, the famous Alfred Nobel, lived in St. Petersburg. During the seminar, three

reports on the history of the Nobles in St Petersburg were presented. The reports were given by Baron Georg Levenstern, Arkady Melois, Director of publishing house Publicistics, and Sofia Kudoyarova, Director of the Museum of St. Petersburg State Technological Institute. After the lectures the guests were invited to the Philharmonics to attend the concert arranged by Consulates General of Sweden and Norway in St. Petersburg.

Photo: Andrey Mashoshin



## TOWER-Towards Sustainable Excellence by Innovating Regions

This Interreg project (RFO) was approved by the European Commission on the last round of Interreg IIIC. Lead Partner is East Central Sweden, that is, the Counties of Östergötland, Sörmland, Örebro and Uppsala. The Programme aims to promote regional development by inventing and testing new methods. In the project, the participating regions will exchange experiences in working with regional development strategies. There will be a focus on knowledge-based entrepreneurship, sustainable develop-

ment in SMEs and technology infrastructure in regions and transfer to SMEs. Other participating regions are Gelderland NL, South Great Plains H, Rhône-Alpes, FR and North West England UK. Total budget is 4 million euro. Gunnar Johnson, Director of Uppsala Region, will be one of the Swedish representatives in the Steering committee.

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## Livstycket International

The Livstycket\* association located in the municipality of Spånga-Tensta in Stockholm received EU funding of 1 million euro for a project called Step by Step. Spånga-Tensta is one of Stockholms 18 district councils with a population of approximately 34 500 inhabitants and the municipality is one of the most immigrant intensive areas in Stockholm with a high unemployment rate. Ideas and efforts were gathered to do something on this and the Livstycket association set up the 'Step by Step' project together with the County Administrative Board in Stockholm as principal partner. The main objective with the project is to integrate immigrants into the Swedish labour market.

The project aims at strengthening the involved parties resources, competence, contacts and capacity for dealing with restructuring and change. The key aspects of the project are based on knowledge, experience and networks. The project is during a three-year period and the goal is to exchange strategies and good working methods based on these aspects.

As it is always interesting to learn from others, who face the same problems, the leading ladies from the Livstycket association Birgitta Notlöf and Mait Molander, visited the Stockholm Region in Brussels together the County Administrative Board in Stockholm at the end of January in order to find out if some partners in the Brussels Capital Region would be interested to join the project.

A meeting could be organised with the Chief of the Cabinet of the Deputy Mayor for Integration of the Commune of Schaerbeek, Mr Bruno Martens and during the conversation it soon became clear that there were a lot of common aspects and interesting similarities and that both could certainly learn from each other's experiences. Both parties believed in a future dynamic exchange.

For more information:  
[www.livstycket.com](http://www.livstycket.com)

\*English translation of the Swedish word "livstycke" is Bodice.



## Facts about Peterhof

Peterhof is the former summer residence of the Russian Imperial Court, situated on the coast of the Gulf of Finland. The area is a combination of several palaces and parks, occupies an area of 264 hectares and offers the visitors 17 museum objects, with 4 of them renovated in 2004, and two regular parks from the Baroque epoch - the Upper Garden and the Lower Park. During the last 2 years, the collections of Peterhof were enriched with 16 thousand exhibits that will be shown in the coming exhibitions. Last year during the celebration of the 300th anniversary of St. Petersburg, more than 40 presidents and prime ministers visited its premises. Peterhof is included into the UNESCO World Heritage List.



## Radio Russia and Radio Sweden: Joint Competition

In November 2004, Radio Russia launched a competition for its listeners for the best expert on the architectural history of Peterhof in celebration of its 300th anniversary. The area in a suburb south of St. Petersburg, is famous all over the world for its fountains, palaces and parks.

The quiz was organized by the State Peterhof Museum, Radio Russia in St. Petersburg, and travel agency Eclectica with the support of the Stockholm Region representation in St. Petersburg. In January 2005, Radio Russia extended the quiz for the listeners in Sweden in cooperation with Radio Sweden, the company Silja Line the official representative in Russia of the Baltic Tours agency. The quiz will be finished in June 2005, with 10 winners (5 from Russia and 5 from Sweden) awarded with a trip to St. Petersburg and Peterhof. They will be able to attend the celebrations of the Peterhof's 300th anniversary.

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

## Art Exhibition

Young Latvian talents embellished the offices of Stockholm Region and Riga City and Region in Brussels. Due to the close cooperation between Riga and Stockholm, as of October 2004 the two representations share office in Brussels. From January 18 – 31 Riga City and Region office to the EU hosted the exhibition by young talents from Latvia. The walls were covered with 150 colourful paintings and for one day rooms was filled with childrens laugh and songs.



ing. Other visitors were Mr. Rihards Pīks ( EP EPP) and Ms. Inese Vaidere (EP UENG), representatives from Permanent representation of Latvia to the EU, representatives of regional offices and EU institutions. The paintings also got exhibited in prominent restaurant “Pom Noisette” at Institution area for one month. This exhibition was the 1st step to evolve the cultural exchange within “Brussels family”

their lives and in the society since the time of joining the EU.

Welcoming words at the exhibition was held by Vice Mayor of Riga City Council Sergejs Dolgopolovs. “Here we can see Europe through the eyes of children. I wish our future would be as colourful as this exhibition” he said during the open-

and it found great interest by other fellow representations and partners at the Brussels arena.

Picture: Hearings in the European Parliament.

## Stockholm Region Submits Project Within eTEN

In the beginning of February 2005, the eTEN published its last call for proposals. As the leading IT-region in Europe, Stockholm Region has decided to submit a project proposal for this call, building upon a successful project owned by the Stockholm County Administrative Board. The project is called ISTAPS, where the acronym stands for “Intelligent system for traffic permit applications”.

eTEN is the European Community Programme designed to help the deployment of telecommunication networks based services with a trans-European dimension. It focuses strongly on public services, giving every citizen, enterprise and administration full opportunity to

benefit from the emerging knowledge and information society.

Objective of the project ISTAPS is to simplify the procedure of commercial traffic permit applications. Under the current EU legislation, the commercial traffic permit holders are required to periodically renew their permits and this creates a heavy administrative burden for the relevant organisations. By employing modern internet technologies, the process is made simpler, faster and far more efficient. The entire application process is processed online, involving several administrations in a logical chain, thus reducing the processing time and the costs.

The system has been developed during 2001-2003 jointly by the Stockholm County Administrative Board, the Swedish Agency for Public Management and Posten AB. During the last year, the system has been implemented and tested in the Stockholm County. In the same year, the system has been nominated for Guldlänken, a Swedish equivalent to Commission’s eGovernment Awards.

The purpose of the project that is now being submitted to the Commission is to further develop the digital system of traffic permit applications in a co-operation with the other Member States (MS). The owner of the project and the system, the Stockholm County Administrative Board, would like to share the system and distribute it across the Member States.

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## ERRIN Seminar in the Stockholm Region

The European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN) is a Brussels-based network designed to help regions participate fully and effectively in the European Research Area. ERRIN is supported by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research in the framework of the Regions of Knowledge Pilot Action Programme. Ever since ERRIN's creation in April 2004, Stockholm Region has been an active partner in the network.

On February 9, Stockholm Region and ERRIN organised a joint seminar to which they invited more than fifty representatives from regions, academia and national level. Stockholm Region invited Mr. Ulf Karlsson from the Stockholm based Royal Institute of Technology to

share his view on the research infrastructure in Europe. His counterpart from the DG Research, Mr. Jean-Loius Picqué, outlined Commission's position on the topic.

This two-hour long session was part of a seminar serie of six, organised by ERRIN in order to scrutinize and discuss the six objectives identified in the Communication on the Future of EU Research Policy published in June 2004 by the European Commission. The Stockholm Region is actively involved in the ongoing debate on the 7th framework programme priorities. During last year, the region participated in drafting the Swedish Local and Regional Authorities' position on the 7 FWP. More information on ERRIN workshop is available at [www.errin-brussels.org](http://www.errin-brussels.org)

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