

AUTUM 2005

## High level meeting with Kofi Annan

Stockholm deputy mayor Catharina Tarras-Wahlberg participated on 8th of September in a high level meeting with Mr. Kofi Annan and Mr. Jan Elisasson, in the UN as part of a delegation meeting with UCLG to discuss the role of local governments in international development. The objectives with the delegation visiting the UN were to hand over and discuss the UCLGs declaration on local and regional views on the millennium goals. As part of the UCLG Millennium Towns and Cities Campaign, some 1 000 cities, local governments and national local government associations from across the world have signed the declaration in which they commit their maximum support



port for the United Nations Millennium Development Goals whilst requesting formal recognition of the essential role played by local governments in achieving the goals.

*Read more on page 5.*

## Delegation from Stockholm to Visit Amsterdam



The directors of the municipalities of Nynäshamn and Huddinge together with deputy director of Stockholm Economic Development Agency.

The directors from all municipalities in the Stockholm County were for a study trip in the Netherlands organised by KSL, the Stockholm County Association of Local Authorities. On the agenda for the 3

day visit was the management of external relations in the city but the visit also offered an excursion to Harlem and Almere.

*Read more on page 4.*

## North Brabant Revisit

A delegation from Stockholm went to North Brabant in early September, headed by the County Council Commissioner Ms. Ingela Nylund-Watz. The aim of the visit was to deepen the relations between the regions and continue the cooperation within the area of innovation.

*Read more on page 3.*



Ms. Nylund-Watz gives here speech.

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## Västmanland Association of Local Authorities Visited St. Petersburg

The delegation of Västmanland Association of Local Authorities (VALA), headed by Åke Hillman, Chairman of the Board, visited St. Petersburg on 27-30 May. The purpose of the visit was to establish contacts with the Leningrad region administration and to develop contacts with the Stockholm Region office in St. Petersburg. Both politicians from VALA's board and civil servants participated in the visit. The programme of the visit was prepared by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg.

During the meeting with Natalia Smirnova, Chairman of the Leningrad Region Committee on the Development of Small and Medium Sized Business and the Consumer Market, and Elena Shkoda, Head of Leningrad Region Agency on Support to Small and Medium Sized Business, the possibilities of cooperation

between Västmanland and Leningrad region were discussed. "We are very happy with the outcome of the meeting that is promising for the development of future joint SME projects", says Åke Jansson, VALA's Director. At the moment, VALA's interregional cooperation involves Pärnumaa region in Estonia, Gloucestershire in England and Lower Silesia in Poland. For 2006, VALA is interested in starting a joint project together with the Leningrad region. In September 2005, partners from Västmanlands International Network (VIN) are planning to visit St. Petersburg in order to continue the cooperation process.

*Contact person: Åke Jansson,  
Västmanland Association of Local  
Authorities, Director,  
e-mail: ake.jansson@u.komforb.se*

## Green Cities

In June 2005 San Francisco USA hosted the UN World Environment Day. This was the first time that the conference took place in the United States. The city of Stockholm was represented by Ms. Mirja Särkiniemi and Ms. Åsa Hill. Because of the fact that more than half of the world population now lives in cities this year's theme was "Green Cities". The activities lasted for five days and city mayors from all over the world were invited to discuss the environmental problems that cities are facing today. Among the speakers were governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and for-

mer vice president Al Gore, who held a presentation about climate-changes. The conference focused on problems concerning: Recycling, Air pollution, Green settlement, Transportations, Renewable energy, Climate changes, Open areas and Urban forests and more. A declaration draft called "Urban Environmental Records" was the starting point for the discussions, and after five days the document was signed by approximately 50 mayors. The ambition for the signing cities is to work for a realization of the measures in their activities.



The mayor of California together with all the lady mayors at the conference.

## Editorial



Dear reader,

In this issue of the SR News you will see a short outline of upcoming events, hopefully you will find some of them of interest.

As you will see, our geo-political orientation is based on a broad platform in the Baltic Sea with Nordic values. However, other areas within and outside Europe is also of high importance and interest. Please take a look! Please, allow us only to mention the 5th anniversary of the SR Nobel Lunch in Brussels in December, which will contain several surprising elements.

Within the sphere of cooperation between regions, the need of inspiration is important and travels to other areas are of significant importance. Our very recent high level delegation to the Dutch North-Brabant region is one eminent example as well to the North-Holland region earlier this summer. Results are coming up and later this autumn both hosting regions in The Netherlands are coming to Stockholm.

In order to reach the Lisbon agenda target, perhaps more intercontinental travels is needed. In this respect, a visit to China with a more sustainable and environmental thematic orientation was done in June. This September our representative had the pleasure to meet Kofi Annan at the United Nations in New York.

The work has to be done at home but in cooperation with others, so 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

## Clean Vehicles – An Ordinary Sight in the Streets of Stockholm

In a near future, three out of five municipal vehicles are clean in Stockholm. In 1998, Stockholm established a world record with 300 clean vehicles on the city's roads. Now, seven years later, there are 5 000 clean, low emission vehicles, on the streets of Stockholm, contributing to reduced pollution. As in all cities, traffic is a big polluter and by promoting clean vehicles, the City of Stockholm wants to reduce impacts, and at the same time make a contribution to the reduction of the greenhouse effect.

Besides stimulating the use of clean vehicles, Stockholm invests in better logistics, traffic coordination, bike paths, more reliable and comfortable public transport and car pools. Congestion charges are on trial as of January 3 together with an enlargement of the public transport. Clean vehicles are allowed to pass the toll stations free of charge, and furthermore, the owners living in the city centre are offered free parking. Emission restrictions on heavy vehicles near the city centre are already in work. Favourable tax rules and fuel-prices lower than the price of petrol makes it even more interesting to buy a clean vehicle.



Stockholm is a European forerunner. "Clean Vehicles in Stockholm", a unit within the Environment and Health Administration in Stockholm, started as a small unit in 1994, and is now acting as an umbrella for large European projects, all concerned with low-emission vehicles and renewable fuels. Trendsetter ([www.trendsetter-europe.org](http://www.trendsetter-europe.org)) is a European project, aiming at improving air

quality, reducing noise and traffic congestion in cities. This project is completed in the beginning of year 2006, but the next large commitment is already in progress: BEST, Bio Ethanol for Sustainable Transport.

*Read more on  
[www.miljobilar.stockholm.se](http://www.miljobilar.stockholm.se)  
and [www.miljofordon.se](http://www.miljofordon.se).*

## Casa Asturias Among the Regional Representations in Brussels

At the moment the number of Regional EU Representations in Brussels is nearly 300 and especially many actors from the new EU Member States are opening up. Lately Stockholm Region visited our colleagues and friends at the Casa Asturias\*, with a VIP delegation from home. Several ideas of closer thematic cooperation within EU policy areas and projects are under discussion. A very impressive concept with modern technology was presented to us. Even an excellent restaurant, "Les Asturiennes" with Astorian specialities is a part of the magnificent complex of nearly 3.000 m2. You are all welcome to Casa Asturias! – says the Managing Director, Mr. Javier Valasco Mancebo.

*\*Asturia is a region in the far north west in Spain.*

## Civic Stockholm Delegation to North Brabant

After a successful visit from the North Brabant Province in The Netherlands to Stockholm last year, a delegation from Stockholm went to North Brabant in early September. The very civic delegation from Stockholm was headed by the County Council Commissioner Ms. Ingela Nylund-Watz and the formal Dutch host for the delegation was Minister Onno

Hoes who also signed the Protocol from their side by the end of the visit.

The objective of the visit was to strengthen the relationship between the two regions, which are very much alike and share common challenges for the future. One priority for both regions is innovation. The large thematic programme was divided by the main cities in Brabant, Den Bosch, Tilburg, Breda, Eindhoven and Helmond and by thematic areas: social and technical innovation and entrepreneurship.

Participating in the delegation from regional and local level was among others the County Governor of Stockholm Mr. Mats Hellström, the Lord Mayor of Stockholm City Mr. Barry Andersson, the Deputy Mayor Ms. Margaretha Olofsson as well as from the county side the President Mr. Conny Andersson and Mr. Jan Olsson from the Swedish embassy in the Hague.



Vice Mayor of City of Stockholm, Ms. Margareta Olofsson together with Minister Onno Hoes.

## KSL delegation in the Netherlands

KSL, the Stockholm County Association of Local Authorities, made a delegation trip to the Amsterdam Region this summer. The objective was first of all to see how a capital region works with external relations and secondly how the involved actors within the region cooperate together in this matter. A very impressive program was made up for 3 days with a interesting visit to the Province of North-



Mr. Lennart Dahlberg, CEO of KSL.

Holland in Haarlem in order to see how the regional level is organized and carrying out external affairs. The official Communication Manager of the Province was the hostess. The delegation was also welcomed with a superb reception in the garden of the impressive Castle of Benrey. At the city level, the KSL group got a presentation from the Amsterdam Partners which is responsible for the marketing of the capital city of The Netherlands, and its including partners. Their activities in the United States are very interesting – and very important as Mr. Charles Van Renesse said, the Director of Amsterdam Partners. How the other regional actors are involved was shown in Almere, - The Lady Mayor of the city, Mrs. Anne Marie Jorritsma, welcomed and introduced the impressive work of the city in general, and especially their cooperation with the Amsterdam activities, however Almere is in another province, namely Flevoland.



The KSL delegation in Haarlem.

KSL, one of the stakeholders of the organisation Stockholm Region, is made up by all the 26 municipalities in the county and work together on cross regional questions. The tasks of the association are usually presented in four main areas; support and develop the system of autonomous local government, defend local authorities' interest, promote co-operation between local authorities, assist and support local authorities' activities through service and expert advice.

## Sweden's 2005 Year of Design!

The 2005 Year of Design is organised by Svensk Form, The Swedish Society of Crafts and Design, on commission from the Swedish government. Svensk Form is collaborating with SVID, the Swedish Industrial Design Foundation. It is a long-term project that will continue long after the 2005 year is over. One of the principal objects of the 2005 Year of Design is to make Swedes “the best design users in the world”, as the Minister for Education, Research and Culture, Leif Pagrotsky, described it.



Design is not only glass, chairs and mobile phones; it is also playgrounds, form, roads, sewing machines, rock drills, work schedules and production lines. The Year

of Design will demonstrate the diversity of design activities taking place throughout Sweden and abroad. The 2005 Year of Design shows how design permeates our everyday lives, our jobs and our leisure time. There are thousands of exciting ideas from creative people - entrepreneurs, designers, artisans and laymen - all around the country.

*Find more information of the Year of Design: [www.designaret.se](http://www.designaret.se)*

## Capture - the knowledge network

The three year project is the real re-launch of Eurotowns, the network of medium sized cities. The network plans to stimulate the economic development of its members, with a particular focus on the knowledge economy and create local jobs. One of the leading partners is the city of Eskilstuna in Sörmland county. Launched in 2004, the Capture network consists of

21 towns and cities from 11 EU countries, including four from the new Member States and is part-funded through Interreg IIIC. Among the main objectives are to develop a Europe-wide Knowledge Economy network, research and share existing practice and to establish tools for ongoing exchange of experience and good practice. In October the network will meet

in Eskilstuna and later in 2005 the first job exchange will be carried out.

Capture website is [www.eurotowns.org/capture](http://www.eurotowns.org/capture)

*For more info: Gunilla Österblom (international coordinator) [gunilla.osterblom@eskilstuna.se](mailto:gunilla.osterblom@eskilstuna.se)*

## Making the EU Everyday Matters

A common problem for many cities in the EU, is to include the EU perspective in everyday work of the city. In Stockholm, there is a project running with a ultimate objective to ensure that the City of Stockholm takes advantage of the opportunities offered by EU membership in delivering the best possible and most cost-efficient municipal services. In order to achieve this, EU related issues must be integrated in the city's everyday activities.

The project will suggest how the City administratively can organise its work relating to the EU, and develop and test methods and tools that can raise awareness among leading decision-makers and public servants on how the EU affects the City, help identify, analyse and influence EU decisions, and ensure coordination of cross-cutting EU issues.

*For more info, please contact project coordinator Per Spolander  
per.spolander@stadshuset.stockholm.se*



## Conference: Urban Futures 2.0 – towards a European urban policy agenda

On 3-5 May 2006 the City of Stockholm and the Swedish Government, in cooperation with the European Commission, will organise a high-level European urban conference – Urban Futures 2.0. The conference will focus on urban governance and partnerships between different spheres of government.

Europe is a much urbanised continent. Cities are major partners in implementing the Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies with more than 80 percent of economic activity in Europe taking place in towns and cities. Cities are the places where the efforts to increase economic activity get significant consequences on the physical environment and where work must be done to protect and improve the quality of the environment, and to achieve the goal of sustainable development. Cities are also the places where problems associated with poverty and exclusion are most acutely experienced. There is a need to build on the strengths of the cities and accurately address their problems.

A closer involvement of cities, the level of government which is the closest to the cit-

izens, in national and European policy-making can help to overcome the perception of a “democratic deficit” and to achieve the goal of bringing Europe “closer to the citizens”. Reaching European policy objectives require communication efforts at all levels and close coordination between the EU institutions, national governments and parliaments, regions, cities and relevant stakeholders.

Urban Futures 2.0 aims to explore how the different levels of government can work closer together in partnership, and in cooperation with researchers and civil society, to meet the Union's policy challenges. It will explore ways to create a working dialogue across all areas with an urban impact between the different spheres of government and promote the exchange of knowledge and practical experience of urban policies between cities, regions, Member States and the EU institutions.

*For more information, please contact  
Eva Schultz, phone: +46 (0)8 508 29 584  
or email:  
eva.schultz@stadshuset.stockholm.se*

## High level meeting with Kofi Annan

Stockholm deputy mayor Ms. Catharina Tarras-Wahlberg participated on 8th of September in a high level meeting with the UN and secretary general Kofi Annan and incoming President of the UN General Assembly Mr. Jan Elisasson, in New York as part of a delegation meeting with UCLG to discuss the role of local governments in international development.

The objectives with the delegation visiting the UN were to hand over and discuss the UCLGs declaration on local and regional views on the millennium goals. Ms. Tarras-Wahlberg and the City of Stockholm have been successful in including and bringing an emphasis on gender equality in the declaration.

The delegation emphasized that the daily work of local government is crucial to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, requested a closer link between local government and the UN in the creation of a formal advisory role for UCLG, and asked for UN support in facilitating greater local government involvement.

## Agreement on Cooperation Signed

On 15 June an Agreement on Cooperation between the Stockholm County Council and the Moscow Region Duma was signed by Ingela Nylund Watz, President of the Stockholm County Council Executive Board, and Vladimir Alexeev, 1st Deputy Chairman of the Moscow Region Duma. The parties have agreed to develop the contacts in such fields as health care, regional development, innovations and economic development. They also agreed to set up a bilateral committee that would supervise that the biannual working plan is being fulfilled according to the schedule as well as evaluate the accomplished activities. The signing ceremony, which marked the formal start of the cooperation, took place in Stockholm during a four days' visit of the Moscow Region Duma.

The visit also included a discussion on how to promote regional economic growth by cooperation between public authorities and private actors in combination with the universities, in this case the Royal University of Technology in Stockholm. The discussion was the first step in arranging a seminar on economic development in Moscow in autumn 2005. The Moscow Region Duma is also thinking on opening a regional office in Brussels and was on 12-15 of April in Brussels on a study visit. The visit was arranged by the Stockholm Region with the objective of acquiring information about the activities of the regional representative offices in Brussels, as well as strengthening interregional links that Moscow region has in Europe.

*Contact person: Tommy Karlsson,  
Stockholm County Council,  
Interregional Cooperation,  
e-mail: [tommy.karlsson@sll.se](mailto:tommy.karlsson@sll.se)*



## Open Days 2005

Preparations have been on full scale within the Stockholm Region led Open Days consortium "5 seas 1 future" for a long time. For the two conferences held by the consortium, 95% of all places were booked before the vacation period started. The subscribed participants represent a very significant mix of geographical and thematic origin, even from overseas. The conglomerate offers two seminars, "Good practice in the field of territorial cooperation" and "New spaces for cooperation within the framework of the future European Regional Policy" with participants as the Mayor of Solna City (outside Stockholm), Mr. Anders Guståv. Both events take place at The Swedish Permanent Representation to the European Union in Brussels.

On Wednesday the 12th of October the EU Commission Directorate General for Regional Affairs is leading the conference "Structural Funds implementation and

capacity-building at regional and local level" at the Stockholm Region Representation in Brussels, and led by Mrs. Elisa Roller from the European Commission.

During the Open Days week there are a large number of delegates from the region in Brussels. First of all the entire board of the Sörmland Region with the delegation leader Regional Chairperson Mrs. Merita Bengtsson will be at the events and from the International Network in the County of Västmanland a delegation, led by the County Councilor Mrs. Elisabeth Löf, will be here. Also the City of Solna, with a large civil servant delegation led by their International Secretary Mrs. Lisbeth Guståv is visiting Brussels. The Municipality of Enköping, in Uppsala County, is also heading for Brussels with their new Mayor Mr. Anders Hansson.

*For more information please contact  
Mr. Ferdinand Blanco Alonso,  
Ass. Director at the Stockholm Region  
([ferdinad.alonso@stockholmregion.org](mailto:ferdinad.alonso@stockholmregion.org)).*



Mr. Guståv and Mr. Alonso outside the City Hall.

## Matchmaking in Poland

Several important contacts were taken between new partners and new business opportunities were found in April when the Regional Council in Uppsala and "ALMI företagspartner" arranged a matchmaking event in Krakow for companies in Uppsala County and in Malopolska Region. For many of the participants, representing different branches, this event in Krakow was the first test on how their idea is accepted on the international market. Next step in the project is to prepare and support the companies to continued prosperity in doing business.

Also cooperating in the project is the Malopolska County government that is supporting the project with staff from the unit of business development and the international student organisation AIESEC that are helping the participants to overcome cultural and language barriers.

*For more information contact  
Hans Eriksson, ALMI Uppsala:  
[hans.eriksson@almi.se](mailto:hans.eriksson@almi.se)  
or Christina Falk, Uppsala Regional  
Council, [christina.falk@region uppsala.se](mailto:christina.falk@region uppsala.se)*

## Stockholm Region Nobel Lunch 2005

In 2005 there is a lot of formal and thematic celebration both in Belgium and in Sweden. Belgium celebrates not less than three important mile stones. 175 Years of independence, 15 years of regionalism and it is also the 100 years anniversary of the birth of the Swedish princess Astrid. In relation to the 175 years celebration of the independence of the federal state of the Kingdom of Belgium, the 100 years birth year of H R Queen Astrid of Belgium (born in Sweden in the royal family) is highlighted with two exhibitions. The first took place in Stockholm at the Royal Castle and the second exhibi-

tion will open up in Palace Royal Bellevue in Brussels from 18th of November 2005 and will last until 15th of January 2006.

In Sweden we also have good reasons to celebrate. The Nobel Prize Ceremony has existed for 105 years and the so called Stockholm Region Nobel Lunch celebrates its 5 years anniversary. The event will this year, to celebrate the anniversary, Queen Astrid and welcome the KSL delegation to Brussels, take place in Palais Royal Bellevue Bruxelles. (The event is accessible by personal invitation only).

### UPCOMING EVENTS 2005-06

Open Days 2005, Brussels	11-13 Oct
Baltic Forum, Stockholm	18-20 Oct
Environmental Conference Brussels	9 Nov
North Brabant Delegation to Stockholm	11-12 Nov
WEnlargement Network, Brussels	18 Nov
KSL Delegation Brussels	5-7 Dec
Nobel Event 5 years in Brussels	6 Dec
North Holland Delegation to Stockholm	7-9 Dec
Nobel Exhibition St. Petersburg	10 Dec
Urban Futures 2.0, Stockholm 2006	3-5 May
CleanMed Europe, Stockholm 2006	29-31 May

## Turkey – Establishing the Future

Stockholm Region is closely following the future development concerning Turkey due to the high attention Sweden is paying to Turkey in 2006. Therefore Stockholm Region was present at the conference held by Forum Istanbul at Swiss Hotel 5-6th May 2005. The theme of the conference was Turkey's accession to EU and the construction of a globally competitive knowledge society. One question that the conference asked was where Turkey will be year 2023 when the republic celebrates the 100th anniversary? The speakers came from the entire world, with managers from companies as Nokia and Microsoft, commissioners, ministers, chairmen and the Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Some of the conclusions from the conference were the positive view on the future development in Turkey and that all citizens are to take part in the work for EU accession.



## UCLG Meeting in Beijing

On 8-10 June, UCLG hold its annual meeting in Beijing. UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments) is an organisation for cities, regions and local government associations, and was created on recommendation from Kofi Annan to be the voice of these stakeholders towards the UN and serve as a partner in dialogue. When the organisation was created in May 2004, Stockholm was chosen to represent one of three European cities in the board.

The annual meeting treated the role of the local and regional level in contributing to

attain the UN:s millennium goals, and how the local and regional level can contribute in a more structured matter at natural disasters. The UCLG board suggested the council that the organisation should hand over a declaration to the UN summit in September where the local and regional level identifies its role in the working process of achieving the millennium goals. During the discussions, the representative of Stockholm, Deputy Mayor Catharina Tarras-Wahlberg pointed out the importance of equality between men and women when fighting poverty. Tarras-Wahlberg

thereby enhanced the gender perspective of the declaration.

The member cities also approved a document containing a report about what measures the members have taken after the Tsunami. Among the measures is a proposal to establish a database with expert resources within different fields, which would be administrated by UCLG in cooperation with the UN.

## Contacts with Warsaw and Mazowie-region

Stockholm Region arranged three conferences in Warsaw at the Marriott Hotel on April 18-19. Each conference focused on a different theme; Matchmaking between Polish and Swedish companies, Effektnet's "EU Partnership Meeting" and Meeting with local Polish and Swedish politicians in the Stockholm, Warszawa and Mazowie regions.

**Matchmaking between Polish and Swedish companies.** In autumn 2004 and spring 2005, Stockholm Region involved Chambers of Commerce from the Stockholm-Mälars region in a "matchmaking" project. The project is a promotional initiative aimed at strengthening collaboration between the regions by encouraging Polish and Swedish companies to work together. "Corporate profiles" were produced for interested companies with the purpose of finding likeminded Polish companies. The profiles were then sent to the Confederation of Polish Employers, the Polish project partner, who looked for suitable Polish business partners. Every Swedish company taking part in the project was offered meetings with three different Polish companies. During three intensive days in April, Polish and Swedish companies met a several new future cooperation partners were found.

**EU partnership meeting.** In collaboration with Stockholm Region, Effektnet arranged an "EU Partnership Meeting in Warsaw". Effektnet is an association of

both public and private EU project managers and other stakeholders with an aim to develop, implement and collaborate in EU projects more effectively. Twelve to fourteen project ideas were presented at the conference to an audience of around 90 people. The main themes were education, research, regional development and culture. Other themes included resource centres for women, and a conference on crime prevention. The conference was a huge success thanks to the enthusiastic response from Polish participants. Effektnet also received an enquiry from PARP, the Swedish equivalent to the European Social Fund (ESF), to help build a similar association in Poland. "The workshop produced a large number of contacts for future 'proposals'," said Lars Wikman, Luleå University of Technology. Roland Bergström, Järfälla Police force, says: "We gained good insight into crime prevention work in Warsaw and made good contact with the Warsaw police service."

**Meeting with local and regional politicians.** Stockholm Region arranged a meeting with politicians from both the Stockholm-Mälars, Mazowie and Warsaw regions. The aim of the meeting was to discuss how regional collaboration could be developed, and the areas in which both regions would like to see this take place. The interest of the meeting was overwhelming with more than 30 persons participating. From Stockholm – Mälars region the chair of Stockholm Region, deputy mayor Mrs Catharina Tarras-Wahlberg, the mayor of Solna Anders Gústav and the Governor of Stockholm Mats Hellström participated.

The views and proposals presented by the Stockholm Region included the importance of a partnership at political level between the two cities, Stockholm and Warsaw. Many issues are common to both cities: social issues, employment, and crime and drug prevention work. The common standpoints that were agreed upon included the importance of developing forms for future collaboration, such as moving from words to action and identifying areas for collaboration in future EU projects.

## Get in Contact with the Stockholm Region Staff :

ferdinand.alonso@stockholmregion.org  
Assistant Director, Brussels

sergey.baranow@stockholmregion.spb.ru  
Operations Manager

rickard.blom@stockholmregion.org  
Project Assistant

bermal.budak@stockholmregion.org  
Project Assistant

louise.carle@stockholmregion.se  
Office Co-ordinator

asa.fornander@stockholmregion.org  
Office Coordinator

thomas.friis.konst@stockholmregion.org  
Managing Director

lada.illarionova@stockholmregion.spb.ru  
Assistant Director, St. Petersburg

katya.krestovskaya@stockholmregion.spb.ru  
Project Manager

irina.lepetounova@stockholmregion.spb.ru  
Project Co-ordinator

mikael.olsson@stockholmregion.org  
Senior Policy Officer

jessica.rabenius@stockholmregion.org  
European Affairs Officer

alexander.tsypkin@stockholmregion.spb.ru  
Project Manager

lena.vovobyova@stockholmregion.spb.ru  
Project Coordinator

andreas.wass@stockholmregion.org  
European Affairs Officer

lillian.westerberg@stockholmregion.se  
Assistant Director (Baltic Sea)

sergej.zholudev@stockholmregion.spb.ru  
Accountant

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Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding the topics covered in this issue or if you wish to receive further information.