

Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

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St. Petersburg Socioeconomic Development: Facts and Figures

The first half year 2006 has shown a positive trend in St. Petersburg socioeconomic development. The gross regional product (GRP) has increased by 8%. By the end 2006 GRP is considered to be 758 billion RUR (approximately 28 billion USD), which is 165 thousand RUR per capita (approximately 6 thousand USD). Industrial production index of primary activity has constituted 106.1% in comparison with the same period last year. Manufacturing sector is the leading industrial segment in the city: in comparison to the first half year 2005 turnover of manufacturing companies increased by 25%. The best trend in the turnover growth was observed on the construction market – 41,3%.

Inflation in St. Petersburg and Russia in August 2006 constituted 0,5% and 0,2% correspondingly.

Source: The City of St. Petersburg, www.gov.spb.ru, photo: www.interpress.ru

New Living Standards in St. Petersburg

The City of St. Petersburg has officially stated the living standards for the city population. There are 793 indicators in the complete list of standards, and most of them are based on the European experience.



For example, according to the new rules each kindergarten teacher should have no more than 9 children in a group (the best group is of 6,5 children). The city population should spend no more than 76 minutes (better 50 minutes) on their way to workplace. Intervals in the public transport schedule should not exceed 5,5 minutes better 5,2 minutes).

The living standards are considered to become a compiled guideline helping the city's officials to evaluate their work.

Source: *Metro* newspaper, August 2006, photo: www.interpress.ru

Real Estate Statistics

St. Petersburg real estate market is rapidly developing. The boom on the market caused prices increase by 4.2% – 4.8% each week in August 2006. The average price for residential floor area has reached \$2000/m².



Source: *Delovoy Peterburg* newspaper, August 2006, photo: www.interpress.ru

New Traffic Lights in St. Petersburg



The City of St. Petersburg plans to invest 1 million USD for the reconstruction and installation of traffic lights. The program is to be realized by the end of the year. According to the St. Petersburg Committee on Transport the tender commission will take into consideration the costs of implementation of the project and guarantee period. Automated highway system of linked lights for the public transport *Green wave* has been already put into practice in

some of the city districts.

Source: *Delovoy Peterburg* newspaper, August 2006, photo: www.interpress.ru



Waste Recycling Industry in St. Petersburg



A bill "On Production and Consumption Waste Management in St. Petersburg" has been drafted in the Northern capital. One of its developers is the

Association of Recycling (SPAR). SPAR was established in December 2005 and has more than 20 St. Petersburg companies among its active members.

The new bill concept, in contrast to the old one, aims at the establishment of new enterprises specialized in recycling of certain waste fractions. This will contribute to cost-effective use of resources and reduction of the number of garbage dumps. The recyclable waste fractions will be separated at waste sorting stations. According to SPAR, five such waste sorting stations are being designed in St. Petersburg and financed by private business, and six more waste sorting stations will be designed and financed by the Committee on Housing Policy of the City of St. Petersburg in the nearest future.

The bill developers plan to introduce the draft to St. Petersburg Legislative Assembly this autumn.

Source: Galina Tsutskareva, Chief Editor of *Waste Recycling magazine*, news@wasterecycling.ru

National Russian Furniture Summit

National Russian Furniture Summit, organized by the Association of Furniture and Woodworking Enterprises of Russia and the Furniture Industry Union of Northwest Russia took place in St. Petersburg on 8-10 June.

Dirk Uve Klaas, director of the German Furniture Industry Association (HDH), head of Guild of Entrepreneurs and Trade with Russia, Lakhti (Finland), as well as a delegation from Italian province Emilia Romagna and representatives of all the professional public unions in Russia, professional unions and associations of furniture companies from 30 regions of Russia, furniture producers from Germany, Italy, Finland, Ukraine and Kazakhstan took part in the discussion.

The "Codex of furniture-producers" was accepted on the summit. It was created for consolidation of efforts of all conscientious furniture industry companies in order to ensure high quality of professional activities. A resolution on foreign-economic activities was approved. The federal authorities' representatives supported the appeal, expressed by the furniture producers, regarding support of foreign exhibition activities, including participation in Scandinavian exhibitions. Business meetings and round tables, that took part during the summit, focused mainly on launching projects on joint production with foreign partners. The issues of the development and cooperation of branch public non-profit organizations were also touched upon.

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Seminar on International Standard Certification

International Standard Certification seminar was organized by the Leningrad Region Business Support Center within the framework of Regional Programme "Development and state support of small business in Leningrad Region 2006-2008". The Leningrad Region Government hosted the seminar.

Natalia Smirnova, Head of Leningrad Region Committee for development of small and medium sized business and consumer market, greeted the participants of the seminar. In particular she specified and encouraged to use support measures that the *Regional Business Support Programme* can offer to entrepreneurs and export-oriented SME's, such as: credit interest rate compensations, concessionary credits, compensations of certification expenses and expenses on participation in international fairs and exhibitions.

Irina Dolgich, TUV Certification Company, instructed the enterprises' representatives about certification procedures with an accent on QMS certificates and the facts about CE label and industrial safety standards.

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New Congress Hall for 3000 People

State Congress Palace, operator of the Konstantinovsky palace in Strelna plans to build a new congress hall for 3000 people. The hall is expected to be a part of the complex as well as a restaurant and sport and recreation center. Investments in the project constitute 50 million USD. At present the largest hall of the Konstantinovsky palace can allocate max 200 guests.

Source: Piter-T electronic newspaper, August 2006

Photo: www.interpress.ru

Swedish Canon Vessel Preserved under Water

We continue a series of stories presenting some of the remarkable findings made within the frames of the *Secrets of Sunken Ships* project (www.baltic-sunken-ships.ru). This non-governmental, non-commercial initiative is targeted at the search of sunken objects in the waters of the Russian Federation. The program is financed by Gazprom company. (see *Northwest Russia: Facts and Events*, weeks 25, 34)



A 19-meters long canon vessel was found at the place of the first night phase of the Viborska gatloppet, when the Swedish fleet was under the command of the King Gustav III in person. Russian scientists are studying it now.

The hull of the ship is standing at a depth of 25 meters, with a light careen to the starboard side. The canon vessel is in a good condition. Along the portside there are several cannons on their carriages, and alongside - skeletons of gunners, deceased in the battle. The deck is heaped up with arms. Analysis of the ships hull and photo-plan of the ship do not allow Russian historians to determine the type of the Swedish ship

and to find out its name. It is necessary to turn to the Swedish historians and experts. As it is not decided what to do with the lifted objects, excavations of the canon vessel have not been performed yet.

More information: www.baltic-sunken-ships.com

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