

# Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

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## Stockholm-Mälardalen Region's Participation in Swedish Brands and Senses

The Stockholm-Mälardalen region took an active part in The Swedish Brands and Senses Fair held within the frames of the Russian Year on 24-25 March 2006 at the Manege exhibition hall. Over 6 000 St. Petersburg inhabitants visited the fair during these two days. This was a part of Sweden Upgrade – a large-scale programme carried out by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Swedish Trade Council, in order to market the modern Sweden in Russia. More information on Sweden Upgrade can be found at [www.swedenupgrade.ru](http://www.swedenupgrade.ru)



Stockholm-Mälardalen region was among the exhibitors with a centrally located booth representing the region as a partner for cooperation with the organizations of St. Petersburg. The new Cooperation Agreement between the City of St. Petersburg and the five Counties of the Stockholm-Mälardalen region signed on 2 February this year laid the solid grounds for the continued mutually beneficial interaction between the regions. The Stockholm-Mälardalen region's booth demonstrated the priority sectors for cooperation, the major focus being made on environmental technologies, healthcare/social care and education. Stockholm-Mälardalen region was represented at the fair by the Stockholm County Council, Stockholms Vatten, the Council of the Mälardalen Region, Business Region Stockholm, Stockholm International Fairs, and the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg.



Stockholm was also represented at the fair as a tourist destination with a separate thematic booth arranged by the Stockholm Visitors Board with a support from the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg. Both booths were very popular with the visitors.



Source: Stockholm Region office in St. Petersburg, [stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru](mailto:stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru)

## Cities Sustainable Development: Stockholm and St. Petersburg



The seminar Cities Sustainable Development: Stockholm and St. Petersburg, initiated by Stockholm Business Region, was held within the frames of the Sweden Upgrade in St. Petersburg on 24 March at the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg. Erik Freudentahl (Stockholm Vatten) made a presentation of the Hammarbysjöstad project. It was followed by the round table discussion with participation of the representatives of the City of St. Petersburg, The Legislative Assembly of St. Petersburg and the St. Petersburg construction companies. The seminar and round table discussion were arranged in cooperation with the St. Petersburg Construction Center – a branch organisation for the construction sector of St. Petersburg.

The issues of sustainable city planning and converting old industrial zones into modern residential areas are extremely timely for St. Petersburg. The unique environmental solutions applied in Hammarbysjöstad arouse a genuine interest among St. Petersburg officials and construction professionals. The seminar also received a positive coverage in local mass media.

Source: Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg, [stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru](mailto:stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru)

## Healthcare sector in St. Petersburg:

### Facts and Figures



#### Ambulance Services

St. Petersburg population has a choice to make between state and private ambulance services. The state ambulance system

consists of the city central ambulance station operating at the medical institutions for emergency help, with approximately 200 cars, and district stations taking in emergency calls from households.

Private ambulance service in St. Petersburg is provided by 11 companies having between 1 and 12 ambulance cars in operation. Most of these companies are private medical institutions with ambulances for their own needs. For example, the Scandinavia clinic, specializing in obstetric care, has only one ambulance car. CORIS assistance being the biggest private ambulance service in the city and even in Russia, has 12 ambulance cars in its disposal, and the only private specialized traumatologic center in the city.



It is important to mention, that there is no competition between the municipal and private ambulance services. The city ambulance station services are free of charge, it reacts to every call and has considerably more sub-stations (25 car depots), often ensuring a much shorter way to the patient. The private ambulance costs about 2500-3000 rubles per hour, it renders first aid at home and transports patients from/to hospitals. The personnel of private ambulances is better equipped. Private ambulances operate mostly on the contract basis with insurance companies.

Source: Stockholm Region office in St.Petersburg, [stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru](mailto:stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru)

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



#### Private Medicine

About 20% of patients come to private clinics in St. Petersburg for a comprehensive medical examination. Diagnostics is a quite expensive procedure both for patients and clinics, and still demand for that kind of service is growing.

Ophthalmology is considered to be one of the most hightech sectors of the modern medicine. According to researches, over 40 millions people in Russia need eyesight correction. The most demanded operations at private clinics are the implantation of substitute eye lens and eximer laser correction of eyesight.

The main financing sources of state clinics include of budgetary funds, payments channeled through the obligatory medical insurance and incomes from paid services. The average share of paid services at state clinics in St. Petersburg is about 10-15%, and they intend to raise it to the level of 20-25%. The commercial departments fillability constitutes around 70-80%.

Private maternity hospitals and paid departments at the state maternity hospitals are in constantly high requisition in St. Petersburg, notwithstanding high rates on their services: childbirth – 40-65 000 rubles, hospital stay for mother with child – 4 000 rubles/night.

Consultation of a homoeopathist can be provided only at private clinics, for 25-30 USD. Private pediatric clinics offer 'comprehensive patronage programs' - regular prophylactic and medical attendance of children at home. Consultation of a pediatrician costs 500 RUR.

Source: Delovoy Peterburg

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

#### Medical Insurance

Medical Care insurance in St. Petersburg is provided by state medical institutions (obligatory medical insurance) and by private medical institutions and companies (voluntary medical insurance). There are 132 private insurance companies in the city, providing voluntary medical insurance policies. Over the last 3 years the number of their clients has increased by 70% and continues to grow. This process is partly determined by changes in the system of state obligatory medical insurance, where more and more services become payable.

Source: Delovoy Peterburg

## Dance Bridge. Stockholm - St. Petersburg

On 23 March 2006 a joint Russian-Swedish concert *Dance Bridge. Stockholm – St. Petersburg* took place in the memorial museum of F. Dostoevsky. The concert was arranged within the framework of the joint project between Kannon Dance School & Company, Stockholm Danshögskolan and St. Petersburg State Lesgafit Academy of Physical Culture.

The idea of the project targeted at the development of partnership between Swedish and Russian dancers and choreographers, appeared during the internship of Vadim Kasparov, director of Kannon Dance School, in Stockholm, within the frames of the Nordpraktik – New Managers for Russia program (see Northwest Russia: Facts and Events, Nr.12, 2004).

This project received support from the Swedish Institute through *The Visby Programme*. As the result, the exchange program under the title *Stockholm - St. Petersburg. Culture and Education in Symbioses* started in October 2005.

The project is being developed in cooperation with the St. Petersburg Committee on Culture, Institute of Cultural Programs, Consulate General of Sweden, Swedish Institute and Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg.



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

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The archive of the newsletters can be found at <http://www.stockholmregion.org/tpl/topic.asp?ID=457>

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