



Swedish-Karelian Business and Information Center

SKBIC NEWSLETTER

September
2015

Coming up:

- 8th International Barants Region Habitat Contact Forum. Petrozavodsk, September 28—October 2, 2015.
- III International Forum for Energy Efficiency, Environment and Communal Infrastructure. Petrozavodsk, October 28 -30.

Forum of municipalities: Karelia - Västerbotten

Arranging match-making forums for the twinning municipalities has become a good tradition in Karelia - Västerbotten cooperation. The previous conference took place in 2011, now after four years partners would like to gather again and meet new people, learn about latest developments and simply collect personal opinions and experiences. The forum to take place in Petrozavodsk on November 12-13. Swedish municipalities of Umeå, Malå, Vindeln, Lycksele and Robertsfors are invited to meet their counterparts from Petrozavodsk, Medvezhyegorsk, Pryazha, Olonets and Kostomuksha.

Energy Efficiency at Hospitals - the project is continued

SKBIC continues implementation of the project "Energy Efficiency at hospitals".

In January 2015 expert from Umeå Kjell Blombäck, representing the Swedish company Ramboll, met with officials of Karelian Health Care Ministry and workers of Children's Republican Hospital to discuss a set of specific technical measures aimed at reducing electricity, hot water consumption and heat losses in the hospital building.

In June 2015 Mr. Blombäck returned to present to the Ministry the technical solutions, allowing to reduce energy consumption and heat loss in the building of the Children's Republican Hospital.

The draft plan was discussed and to be finalized in autumn 2015.



Discussing the plan of upcoming activities at SKBIC office

Green Economy project finalized

Supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers “Green Economy” project was initially planned for implementation until autumn 2015. However, the decision of the Russian authorities to assign NCM office in St.Petersburg with the status of the “foreign agent” resulted in the decision to close down all the Russian offices and prematurely finalize the running projects.

With this short time at hand, the Green Economy project managed to implement a number of interesting activities.

Information day on waste separation in the village Velikaya Guba.

On February 11 experts from Petrozavodsk together with local community leaders, authorities, teachers discussed what would be the first steps in launching the system of separate waste collection in the village. The result of the day was the decision taken by the locals to hire a temporary worker who would supervise waste separation.



Waste sorting game for the local school kids

School of sustainable development successfully finalized

Preschools and schools of Petrozavodsk, Finalists of the School of sustainable development, organized by SKBIC, were awarded with mini-grants for the total amount of 200 000 rubles. Grants were spent on purchase and installation of dishwashers, cookers, replacement of conventional lamps by LED lights. The idea behind the grant contest was to introduce resource-efficiency approaches in cooperation with teachers, kids and their parents.



Winners of the Contest of Business Ideas taken on a study tour to Finland



Entrepreneurs from Karelia working with waste collection and processing were offered an intense agenda, prepared by the project partner SYKLI—Environmental School of Finland. Visiting waste processing facilities and meetings with potential business partners were perceived very positively and brought favorable feedback from the tour participants.

Petrozavodsk meets Skellefteå - a cultural youth x-change project carried out in May.

A group of young dancers and singers from the Swedish Skellefteå visited Petrozavodsk In May. Two artistic groups - dancers from Dansväxthuset and the choir Rösträtt performed on the stage of the National Theatre together with young Karelian artists.

In addition, partner meetings were organized with Karelian College of Culture, Musical College, Children's Art school, Children's Musical and Choir School.

Swedish artists beginning the performance.



The visit was supported by the county Administrative Board of Västerbotten. The agenda for the two groups has been prepared in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Karelia and Petrozavodsk City Administration.

Master-class in ballet at the Children's Art School



Youth dance group Dansväxthuset is a project of the Municipality of Skellefteå, launched in 2006. Members of the dance group are the young people who want to develop themselves in the art of dance. In addition to classes in ballet and modern dance, the young dancers are working on productions with choreographers in Sweden, Norway and Finland. Choir Rösträtt is based in Skellefteå School of Culture, which provides children with conditions for aesthetic development. Many begin to sing in the choir in the 2nd grade.

Rösträtt choir leader Rose-Marie Löfgren-Hägglund at the Choir School of Petrozavodsk



Revitalizing the twinning contacts

Representatives of Västerbotten County Administration Mikael Bergström and Susanna Lantz visited Karelia and held meetings with the cities and municipalities, having twinning relations with peers in Västerbotten. The purpose of this initiative is to discuss the prospects of twinning relations and jointly think of their promotion and development.

Currently there are five acting cooperation agreements between the cities of Karelia and Västerbotten: Petrozavodsk - Umeå, Kostomuksha - Robertsfors, Pryazha - Vindeln, Olonets - Lycksele, Medvezhyegorsk - Malå.

Swedish colleagues attended meetings in the city of Petrozavodsk, municipalities of Pryazha and Olonets, visited Ethnic cultural center in Pryazha, art school in Olonets, as well as took part in the talks with the representatives of Kostomuksha and Medvezhyegorsk.



Art School in Olonets



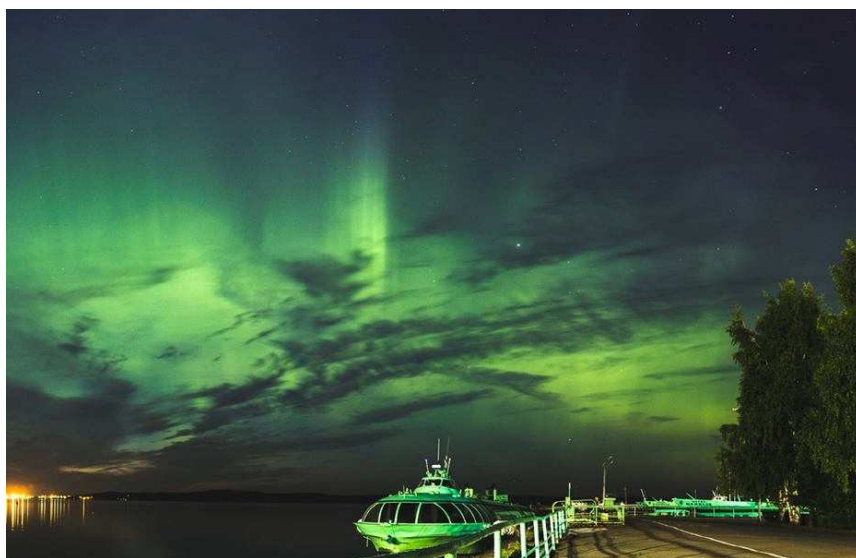
Petrozavodsk
Kirov street 5, office 113

SKBIC

Telephone / fax:
+78142 76 92 57
Email: skbic@ptz.ru

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*August 26: Aurora Borealis above the Onega lake.
Photo by Mikhail Proskalov*