

**Cross-Border Cooperation: the Russian
Federation, the European Union and Norway**
St.Petersburg, September 28-29, 2009

Igor KUPRIENKO,
Head of Lappeenranta-Imatra Representative Office

**Fostering EU-Russia SME Cooperation
in the Cross-Border Cooperation**

ERIC'



**EU-RUSSIA
INNOVATION
CORRIDOR**

**EU-Russia
Innovation
Corridor**



Excellent location

- Excellent location on the border between EU and Russia
- Economic centre of South Karelia region
- 220 km from
 - St.Petersburg
 - Helsinki



- Lappeenranta is the 11th largest city by number of inhabitants in Finland
 - Population > 72.000

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Better business environment

- Access to European market via Lappeenranta
- Compact size of the city
 - big enough to be interesting
 - small enough to be easy
- Resources and knowledge for European-Russian trade
- Experience of companies with international background
- Presence of financial mechanisms
- Good connections: road, rail, water, air



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Lappeenranta – Russia cooperation

- Long history of cooperation with Russia
- European biggest Russian business hub
- Large scale business to business co-operation
- Possibility for companies to participate in development programs like
 - St. Petersburg Corridor
 - Northern Dimension Cross Border City
 - Innovation Partnership with the city of St.Petersburg

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St.Petersburg Corridor – the Heart of Northern Dimension

- VESTRA, FISTRA, JOINSTRA – Common Strategies
- 5 Priorities are selected
- Basket of Priority Projects is formed and agreed
- Operational Mechanisms are set up

- Cooperation agreement between Administration of St.Petersburg and Regional Councils of South-East Finland is signed
- The proposal on setting up the Regional Partnership in framework of Northern Dimension Programme is on preparation

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St. Petersburg Corridor – the operational mechanism

Meetings of the Chairmen of the committees of St. Petersburg and the Leningrad Oblast and the mayors of six cities of South-East Finland

Coordination group
Preparation of issues
Representatives of all participants

Working Groups

Business cooperation and its promotion

Increased innovation and support for its utilization

Improved tourism and welfare

Improved logistics and connections networks

Improved environmental protection and technologies

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Business Cooperation

Vyborg Industrial Park

- Assisting Finnish Industrial Companies to smoothly starting operation in Russian Federation
- Location: Vyborg
- Land plot: 20 ha on initial stage and 200 totally

Lappeenranta Industrial Park

- Assisting Russian Industrial Companies to smoothly starting operation in European Union
- Location: Lappeenranta
- Building: 8000 sq.m. and 2000 sq.m. is already rented

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Full time Interest Raising

- Periodical events:
 - Morning Coffee
 - Innovation Business Breakfast
 - Lappeenranta Open Days
- Special events
 - Cross-border Innovation Competition
 - Cross-border Partenariat
 - Tourist Matching Days – TOMORROW!!!
- Running the strategic projects like:

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EU-Russia Innovation Cooperation towards 2013



Our Approach

Inspire EU-Russia
collaboration from
the bottom-up

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Experience in business start-up

We have several organisations to help you open up your business and to running it successfully:

- Lappeenranta Business Development
- Technopolis, Technopolis Venture
- Lappeenranta Innovation
- Finnish-Russian Innovation Centre in St.Petersburg



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Innovation Cooperation through the Borders

*St. Petersburg Innovation Week
September 30th to October 3rd, 2009*

*1st EU-Russia Innovation Forum
April, 2010 in Lappeenranta
(check exact date at www.finrusinno.ru)*

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