



Press release - 7th December 2009

The Best Russia — EC project in the field of Culture

The Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, European Commission and EC Delegation in Moscow organize an international seminar «Russia — EU: Signs on the Road Map of Cultural Cooperation», which will take place on 8 December 2009 in State Historical Museum in Moscow. The plenary session of the seminar entitled: The Best Russia — EC projects in the field of Culture will be open by the presentation of the project « KenArt — European Cultural Bridge» carried out in the Kenozero National Park in the Archangelsk region in Russia and implemented in co-operation with European partners – Wallachian open-air museum (the Czech Republic), NGO Machaon International (Slovakia) and NGO "Archipelaag" (Estonia).

The KenArt project, which last for two years, is a unique form of co-operation when both local traditions as well as international cultural exchange are supported so that cultural collaboration between Russia and the EU is enhanced and the imaginary cultural bridge between the two regions of the same continent built. The project includes two large open-air exhibitions and a set of events culminating by a big cultural festival to be held in Kenozero area in summer 2010.

The main goals of the seminar in Moscow are to assess the current state of cultural co-operation between the Russia and the EU and showcasing of good co-operation practices, including joint projects implemented by Russia and the EU. Furthermore, the seminar will define priorities and potential focus areas of long-term cultural co-operation representing mutual interests for Russia and the EU. The selection of the KenArt project as one of the best projects helps to foster the preservation of the extraordinary cultural heritage of the region and is a honour to all participants of the project including local residents making the Kenozero a real unique place in Europe. More information about the seminar can be found at the website: <http://cultureworkshop2009.iis.ru/>

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The project is financed by EU in the framework of EU-Russia Cooperation Programme (formerly know as Tacis) is a tool for the practical implementation of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), signed between Russia and the EU in June 1994. Under this Programme Russia and the EU Member States share their experience in a wide range of cooperation areas of importance to both parties, including, among others, small and medium sized enterprises, finance, local self-government and nuclear safety. The Programme is currently working on over 250 projects in Russia and is the largest EU Cooperation Programme in the NIS. Equal numbers of Russian and European experts participate in the Programme. Over 1700 projects, worth approximately EUR 2.6 billion, have been successfully implemented since 1991.



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