



SSE Riga News

Newsletter No 1 • 2003

New Agreement with the Swedish and the Latvian Governments

On August 1, 2002, professor Leif Lindmark, President of the Stockholm School of Economics in Stockholm, and Mr. Karlis Greiskalns, Latvian Minister of Education and Science, signed the "Agreement on the future financing of the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga between the Stockholm School of Economics and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia". This agreement will, together with the Agreement, signed in December 2001 with the Swedish government, financially guarantee the operations of SSE Riga until June 30, 2010.

In his speech after the ceremony, the President of SSE and the Chairman of the SSE Riga Board of Directors, professor Leif Lindmark said: "This Agreement provides the School with a fundamental financing for a number of years to come and gives a basis for long term fund raising, which in the end hopefully will provide the School with an independent perpetual financial basis. We will participate in this fund raising with enthusiasm and we now also have the basis to further develop the School, not only with executive training but also over time introducing masters and Ph.D. programs as well as research activities."



Changing in SSE Riga management

The President of SSE Riga, Mr. Håkan Hederstierna has left the School for the position as CEO of Mercuri International. Anders Paalzow, Rector, now heads the School. Gunnar Ljungdahl will continue as Senior Vice President Development focussing on fund raising.

Re-accreditation

On October 4, 2002, the re-accreditation documents were signed by K. Greiškals, the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia. Based on the decision of the Accreditation Committee passed on September 25, 2002, the undergraduate programme in "Economics and Business" with the right to award the Bachelor degree of social sciences in economics is re-accredited for six years, i.e. by December 31, 2008.

Alumni Forum in cooperation with Hansabanka

On November 8, 2002, the Alumni Association of SSE Riga together with Hansabanka, Latvia, organized a seminar on the subject "Where is the key to success?". Anders Sahlén, Chairman of the Council of Hansabanka and Senior Adviser of Swedbank, as keynote speaker of the Forum, together with top management representatives from Ernst & Young Baltic, SAS, PricewaterhouseCoopers and SSE Riga graduates and lecturers.



Mr. Anders Sahlén

The Forum will start a new tradition, aimed at strengthening of the bond between one of the top business schools in the Baltic States and the business community. The Forum will be an occasion when SSE Riga alumni and business leaders will share their experience and views on current topics.

At the time of graduation 2002, the number of students graduated passed 500. The "Top 10" employers when it comes to number of SSE Riga graduates are:

1. Ernst & Young Baltic
2. Hansabank Group
3. PricewaterhouseCoopers
4. Parex Group
5. SEB Group
6. KPMG
7. Lattelekom
8. Aizkraukles banka
9. Löhmus, Haavel & Viisemann
10. Trigon Capital

New Advisory Board supporting SSE Riga Progress Partner Program

Persuading present Progress Partners to continue and future partners to begin supporting SSE Riga an Advisory Board has been formed. The Board consists of four distinguished and generous contributors to SSE Riga. The members of the Board include Mr. Johan Björkman, chairman of the Board of Invik, Mr. Peter Egardt, CEO of Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Hasse Olsson, CEO of Dagens Industri, and Dr Anders Wall, financier and founder of Anders Wall Foundations.

Higher Education Support Program (HESP)

SSE Riga is a member of the Soros sponsored International Higher Education Support Program (HESP). Inter alia this means that students, faculty, administrative and library staff who are nationals of Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and Mongolia (the HESP region) can apply for HESP Mobility grants. SSE Riga students, faculty and staff as well as students, staff and faculty from the HESP region are eligible to apply. Length of visit: students - up to one semester, faculty - up to one month, staff - up to one week.

CALENDAR

Graduation	May, 24, 2003
End of Academic Year.....	June 20, 2003
Start of Fall Semester.....	August 11, 2003
9 th Anniversary Day	November 8, 2003

New study programme at the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga

In September 2002 the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga launched the Executive MBA - a professional degree programme for managers who have reached key positions in business or in public sector. The programme aims at providing individuals who have already showed their potential in the business life with knowledge, skills and tools to develop their capabilities for further success in the fast changing local and international business environment. The Nordic Investment Bank made the program possible through generous support.

The 2-year Executive MBA programme consists of the orientation week, twelve core courses, two specialisation courses, internship period and study trip. The programme is presented in English by an international faculty including professors from different European and American business schools

and well-experienced business practitioners. The programme is intensive and demanding with a combination of pre-course work, lectures, seminars, group work, project work and self-study. The class activities, where full-time participation is required, take place once a month on Wednesdays-Saturdays.

21 managers from Latvia and Lithuania representing different industries and profiles (from top executives in large corporations to owners of SMEs, from banking to chemical industry) form the first group of the Executive MBA programme. Both students and professors have been very satisfied with the programme, and now the admission process for the next academic year (starting in September 2003) is going on. More information about the programme is available at www.sseriga.edu.

Days of Opportunities 2003



Days of Opportunities is an annual event that is now being held for the eighth time at SSE Riga premises. This year the "Days of Opportunities" took place on March 21, 2003. The participating companies had the unique opportunity to identify potential employees among our students and establish future contacts. During the event companies had their chance to present themselves and to make job offers to new professionals, whose CVs were available to the participants.

Cooperation with Harvard Business School

For the second time a unique course "Microeconomics of Competitiveness" is organized at Stockholm School of Economics in Riga during spring semester 2003 in cooperation with Harvard Business School. One of the leading authorities on contemporary theories on strategy and competition professor Michael E. Porter reads lectures at Harvard Business School. Course participants at Stockholm School of Economics in Riga watch video records of the lectures and discuss case studies in the class. Last year the course was offered to the school graduates, 3rd year students and

representatives from governmental institutions. This year we have invited participants interested in looking at competitiveness and economic development from a microeconomic perspective to take part in the course. We expect course participants from different backgrounds – the private and public sector, managers and entrepreneurs, students and alumni, and representatives from three Baltic countries. We believe that the course will contribute to individual learning, building business contacts and fruitful cooperation among course participants in the future.

SSE Riga one of the Founders of Connect Latvia

On February 18, 2003, Connect Latvia started its activities. The Connect concept originated in San Diego in 1985 and was established with success in Sweden 1998 and Denmark 2000. Through voluntary effort by service providers and other experience professionals, Connect links entrepreneurs and start-ups with the financial, technical and business development resources needed to create progress high growth companies. The main activity of Connect Latvia will be to organize "Springboards", where an

expert panel helps an entrepreneur solve problems and identify opportunities, as well as providing practical advice on what action should be taken to top into these opportunities.

SSE Riga is, together with the Riga Technical University, University of Latvia and the Riga City Council, one of the Founders of Connect Latvia. Connect Latvia is part of the Connect Baltic Sea Region program financed by INTERREG.

Human Development in the EU Accession Countries – Conference in June, 2003

This conference focuses on the human development impact of EU accession, and on the measures that can be taken in order to minimize the negative effect.

The overall objective of this conference is to raise awareness to some of the issues related to human development in accession countries in the time period both before and after joining the European Union. Even more importantly, possible solutions will be suggested by these discussions that will help prepare

the public and responsible institutions for the impact of these changes. Please contact Dr. Evita Lune at SSE Riga for further information about the conference.

Coorganisers are BICEPS (Baltic International Centre for Economic Policy Studies), Soros Foundation Latvia and UNDP. The embassies of France, United Kingdom and the Netherlands support conference financially.

Anders Wall Scholarship 2003

On March 10, 2003 Helmut Bems SSE Riga Alumni (class of 2002) received the Anders Wall Scholarship for students/graduates at a ceremony in Stockholm. The scholarship was awarded for activities with SSE Riga Business lab and the Business Creativity course. This year the scholarship was awarded to 10 students/graduates from Sweden, Finland, England, and Latvia for achievements in entrepreneurship, science, agriculture innovation, music and art.



SSE Riga Choir in new CD recording



In 2001 the choir of SSE Riga participated in a beautiful CD together with the world renowned Riga born soprano Inese Galante and the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra under its chief conductor Terje Mikkelsen, called The Galante Choice. This CD contains works by Brahms, Grieg, Mozart, Wagner and Verdi. The CD was not made for commercial purposes but some copies are still available from SSE Riga at the price of LVL 10.

A new CD has just been recorded with Inese Galante and the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra, again under Terje Mikkelsen, consisting of arias from Verdi's six last operas as well as Libera me from his Requiem. SSE Riga's choir participates also in this CD. It has an important role in Libera me as well as in Le Vergine degli angeli from La Forza del Destino

and Sul fil dun soffio etesio from Falstaff. The CD that has been produced together with Inese Galante's recording agents, Champion Records, will be called "Verdi Galante". The production is sponsored by Ventspils Free Port, The Federal Bank of the Middle East, Vinge Law Firm, KPMG and Air Baltic. It will be launched to the market towards the end of May. Part of the proceeds of the sale of each CD will go to the financing of SSE Riga. The thanks of the School go to Inese Galante, LNSO, Champion Records as well as the generous sponsors for their support of the School.

Erasmus University Charter

SSE Riga has been awarded the Erasmus University Charter for 2003/2004-2006/2007 by the European Commission. The Charter will facilitate student and faculty mobility between SSE Riga and other Erasmus institutions. The first exchanges within the Erasmus program are planned to take place in 2003/2004.

Dictionary in Economics and Finance

On April 24th the official presentation of the Latvian Dictionary of Economics and Finance took place. It is a comprehensive dictionary with terms both in Latvian and English. SSE Riga faculty and staff members as well as SSE Riga graduates were among the authors and editors of the dictionary.

Debate on the Identity of Europe

On April 3, SSE Riga together with the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a panel discussion on "Variety in Europe. A European Identity and National Identities". The panelists were Sandra Kalniete, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Latvia, Noelle Lenoir, Minister of EU Affairs, France, and Denis MacShane, Minister of EU Affairs, the United Kingdom.

Investment Game 2003

The Investment Game 2003, a stock markets simulation tournament organized by SSE Riga students, finished on May 8, 2003. This year, the first prize went to Vladimir Astrahancev from St. Petersburg. Altogether more than 30 SSE Riga students have been involved in the project. This year's Investment Game had a record number of participants, more than 4.000, predominantly from the Baltics, Russia, and Scandinavia.

At the closing ceremony, Janis Ogsts, Broker of the Year 2002, representing the Investment Game's main sponsor, Hansabank Markets, gave a talk on Behavioral Finance.

Business Ethics in Latvia – a new project

Latvia is in many places perceived to be a country with a high level of corruption and lack of transparency. One of the demands in view of possible accession to the European Union is to take strong action against such malpractices. SSE Riga has therefore, together with the Latvian Chamber of Commerce, decided to launch a project called Better Business Ethics in Latvia. The aim of the Project is to achieve the acceptance of a defined code of good business behaviour in Latvia and stimulate a process, whereby leaders of companies and the business communities after the project phase will continue the implementation of good business behaviour. The Project will be performed through group

activities in groups of 10 participants each, all being entrepreneurs and other leading businessmen in Latvia. In the groups will be discussed material concerning the present situation in Latvia as well as various existing concepts and standards concerning good corporate governance and transparency. All activities will be undertaken with strong support from the Centre for Ethics and Economics at Stockholm School of Economics in Stockholm under Professor Hans De Geer. Co-Chairmen of the Project will be Voldemars Gavars, President of the Latvian Chamber of Commerce, and Gunnar Ljungdahl, Senior Vice President of SSE Riga. The Swedish government has seen this as a Project of great

importance and decided to provide vital funding for it.

Contact SSE Riga

*We are always eager to strengthen contacts with corporations and organizations
You are welcome to contact us at the following addresses:*

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