

VÄXJÖ FOSTERS COMMERCE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Växjö's population is steadily increasing (1997 = 73 500 inhabitants) and so is its business and industry. As an example, there are some 130 companies within the information technology field and the university is renowned for its international profile, particularly in the field of entrepreneurship, logistics and personnel management.

The industrial sector is very diversified. A number of very well known, international companies have plants in Växjö and more than 2 000 SMEs are located there. Växjö is actually best known for its large number of small companies producing high quality, innovative products. Creative clusters with „innovative” companies are today thriving in the city. Due to Växjö's central geographical location in southern Sweden with excellent road, flight and railway connections also the wholesale business is well represented.

Last year Växjö was nominated as the „number one environmental city” in Sweden and it receives several international groups every year to study the water cleaning activities and the city's transfer to a fossil fuel free community as well as the Agenda 21 program. The City has built up a network of trade offices around the Baltic in Rostock, Gdynia (ENA) and Kaunas (Pentacom) to help city's exporters enter new markets.

Further information:

Mr Lennart Gårdmark
International Office
Växjö Municipality
Tel. +46 470 41595
E-mail:
lennart.gardmark@kommun.vaxjo.se



Växjö Cathedral dating from the 12th century and totally renovated in 1995.

LAHTI PROMOTES BUSINESS COOPERATION

Lahti is a city of 95 000 inhabitants in Finland and part of the East-West gateway which leads to St. Petersburg. Lahti has an excellent logistical location and its area is highly industrialised being one of the growth centres of southern Finland. Lahti's basic industries are furniture, clothing and food industry, machine engineering and electronics with particular growth in environmental technology sector nowadays.

Lahti Business Link

Lahti Business Link Ltd is an organisation owned by the City of Lahti and its surrounding municipalities. It aims to improve the business environment in Lahti area to create and protect employment by

promoting key business sectors, like plastics, mechatronics, wood and metal as well as exports to Russia. Lahti Business Link markets the region for companies to relocate and supports the internationalisation of the companies in the area and it funds various projects that focus on improving the level of technology, education and know how in the Lahti region. Lahti Business Link assists new companies by advising e.g. on business support measures and helps companies to establish their businesses or invest in the area. A responsive confidential service is provided for investors from receipt of initial enquiry to aftercare.

Green Triangle Finland

Green Triangle Finland (GTF) forms a network of experts and enterprises in environmental technology and know how. With a focus on multilateral international projects and funding, it collaborates with other environmental networks and clusters in Europe. Green Triangle Finland has been very active in St. Petersburg, notably in coordinating a large EU LIFE project on Local Agenda 21 and coastal conservation in the city St. Petersburg and Leningrad Oblast. Other projects in the area deal with water and waste management, and educational exchanges. GTF is one of the main organisers in the Baltic Local Agenda 21 Forum process.

Other cross-border cooperation

The Lahti Chamber of Commerce is actively developing cooperation between other cities around the Baltic Sea. They have been working for international contacts several years to find new business opportunities for the companies in the region. The Lahti Euroinfo centre hosted by The Lahti Chamber of Commerce is an active cooperation partner with the EuroLink-project hosted by the EIC Rostock in The Rostock Chamber of Commerce since 1997 which is regionally linking German and Finnish companies together.

Further information:

Ms Outi Hongisto
Project Manager
Lahti Business Link Ltd.
Tel. + 358 3 8809326
E-mail: outi.hongisto@lsyrityskeskus.fi

Green Triangle Finland/Neopoli Oy
E-mail: paivi.saarnia@neopoli.fi

Mr Timo Puukko
Head of International Business
Lahti Chamber of Commerce
E-mail: Timo.Puukko@pp.inet.fi

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN ĖIAULIAI

Ėiauliai became an industrial city in the 18th century. At that time food, leather and metal processing enterprises were started and developed at the end of the 19th century. Today there are many enterprises of traditional industries and all of them have international business connections and export their goods all over the Europe. Some of the major companies are presented below.

Joint-stock company „Rekyva” is one of the leading producers and suppliers of peat products in the Baltic States. The prime purpose was production of peat sods for fuel industry. Nowadays, the company produces for horticulture and over 95 % of the output is exported to Europe. Other company, with strong Lithuanian-Swedish connections, produces knitted-stitched lining, cloth, non-woven needled materials also for the automobile industry, semi-wool, cotton and other yarns. Also a wide vari-

ety of leather articles made from natural leather, raw hides and skins processing services are served in Ėiauliai by the leather joint-stock company ”Ėiauliu Stumbras”.

Modern technology development

Apart from traditional industries the modern technology has developed in the region. The television company has 20 years experience of design, manufacturing and installation of broadcasting systems, construction of OB Vans. By attending international symposia, exhibitions and presentations the engineers designers stay in contacts with the equipment developers. One of the key parts of the TVT studio and OB Vans are mechanical constructions. The racks and consoles can be designed and manufactured according to the whole studio conception meeting the individual finishing and colour. The greatest evaluation was the design, manufacturing and installation of Moscow Olympic Games television complex.

Ėiauliai Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Handicrafts is a non-profit organisation open for all sectors of industry, trade and crafts in Ėiauliai Region. Ėiauliai Chamber is a member of the Baltic Chambers of Commerce Association. It seeks further development of commerce and industry in the region, promotes foreign trade and international business relations, collects information.

Further information:

Ėiauliai Chamber of Commerce
Industry and Handicrafts
Rūdės 17
5400 Ėiauliai, Lithuania
Tel. +370 1 427709
Fax +370 1 439973
E-mail: siauliai_cci@siauliai.omnitel.net



The Baltic Sea Region trade. The only way is UP!