



Saint-Petersburg Baseline Review

Prospects of social and economic development of Saint Petersburg

Saint Petersburg is a largest metropolis at the Baltic Sea with the population of over 4.5 mln. people. The area of the city is 1438 sq. m accommodating over 127 000 real estate units, 116 000 enterprises and 1.4 mln. transport facilities.

Throughout its history Saint Petersburg has performed a lot of functions effectively supplementing one another, which ensured its sustainable development. Therefore, optimal development of Saint Petersburg implies simultaneous development in several directions:

Saint Petersburg develops as a city open to the world, a largest international center of business, political and cultural cooperation integrated in the world economy. Saint Petersburg is a city hosting representative negotiations, including top-level ones, conferences, and forums. This is the city where essential political and economic decisions are made having a great impact on development of the international community.

Saint Petersburg is the Russian capital of culture, a venue of festivals, exhibitions and concerts, a lot of them being of international significance. Saint Petersburg is gaining higher tourist attractiveness, which will enable it to become a leading European center of international tourism. This requires unconditional fulfillment of all international commitments regarding objects located within the territory of Saint Petersburg and included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Saint Petersburg has traditionally developed as a major trade and transport hub of international significance, which provides for measures to stimulate export-import freight traffic through Saint Petersburg or immediately adjacent territories, simplified procedure of border crossing and eased customs formalities, construction of new customs terminals.

Saint Petersburg is a center of innovations and management. The innovative-management direction of development envisages a large-scale program of promoting innovations aimed at turning Saint Petersburg into the Russian and potentially world center of innovations. Innovations have a fundamental advantage over other economic activities as at the first stage after their introduction they allow gaining monopoly profits on the market. Innovations primarily include technological improvements and immaterial products.

There is an ongoing trend of placing head offices of the largest Russian and, in the long run, international companies in Saint Petersburg. It is from Saint Petersburg, alongside with Moscow, that the activities of Russian and international companies are managed throughout the country and abroad. Performance of this function will allow concentrating large financial flows in Saint Petersburg and bringing such service spheres, as communication, banking, insurance, consulting and property management to a qualitatively new level.

By 2025 the industrial development of Saint Petersburg will be based on new production technologies, precision mechanics, optics, electronics, transport facilities, biotechnologies, pharmaceuticals, software, development and design of household appliances, furniture, clothes, cinematography, musical and book products. After an effective marketing campaign all these goods will be distributed both on the Russian and foreign markets. Their cost will





be higher than that of similar goods made in Asia; however, this will be compensated for by their higher quality. In parallel to this the world will be building a fashion for Petersburg intellectual products. At the same time Saint Petersburg will preserve its role of a largest center of shipbuilding, power engineering industry, armament and military equipment production.

On the whole, the external and internal environment of Saint Petersburg has a considerable potential for successful sustainable development of the city.

Legal mechanisms regulating the social-economic and ecological development of Saint Petersburg and participation of the population in implementation of city projects and programs.

The basic law of the Russian Federation is the Constitution of the Russian Federation identifying creation of conditions ensuring decent life and free human development as the primary aim of the state policy.

The complex of the regulatory legal acts both of the federal level and the level of constituent entities of the Federation regulates the relations between the bodies of power of all levels and other concerned parties and concretizes the objectives and tasks of development of the society.

The Concept of social-economic development of Saint Petersburg until 2025 approved by the Enactment of the Government of Saint Petersburg N884 of July 20, 2007 includes the statement of the primary objective of social-economic development of the city, the system of ideas of strategic aims and priorities of the social-economic policy of Saint Petersburg, the most essential directions and means of achieving the aims, a forecast of the primary parameters of social-economic development of Saint Petersburg as well as target indicators of the living standards of the population in Saint Petersburg.

The Concept is included in the system of documents of state planning of the social-economic development of Saint Petersburg. Its provisions correlate with the content of the Master plan of Saint Petersburg and other planning and program documents of Saint Petersburg. The Concept meets the requirements of the Regulation on organization of activities of executive bodies of the state power of Saint Petersburg in the sphere of state planning of social-economic development of Saint Petersburg.

The Concept is the basis for development of new planning and program documents and adjustment of the existing ones identifying the priorities in various areas and spheres of development of Saint Petersburg. The main provisions of the Concept are concretized in documents of mid-term and current planning, which creates the necessary mechanism for its implementation. In addition, the Concept is used in monitoring the implementation of the Master plan of Saint Petersburg.

The aims, tasks and measures contained in the Concept are implemented, inter alia, by regulating social relations, provided the executive bodies of the state power of Saint Petersburg are vested with relevant authorities. In case of changes of the effective





legislation with regard to authorities of executive bodies of state power of Saint Petersburg, the relevant changes are introduced into the procedure and mechanisms of achieving the aims, fulfilling the tasks and implementing the measures stipulated by the Concept.

Strategic planning in Saint Petersburg is based on the principle of “from the future to the present”; therefore, the primary task of strategic planning is the proper choice of the primary aim of development of Saint Petersburg.

Besides, the primary aim of development of Saint Petersburg is to conform to Article 7 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation stating that the policy of the Russian Federation as a social state is to be aimed at creating conditions ensuring decent life and free human development.

Thus, the desirable future is the one ensuring decent quality of life (at the level of European standards) for people living in Saint Petersburg. The quality of life is made up by components of material welfare of individual families and general conditions for harmonious development of the man and the quality of his living environment (safe environment).

The Concept of social-economic development of Saint Petersburg until 2025 formulates the notion of the primary aim of development of Saint Petersburg as steady improvement of the quality of life of Saint Petersburg population aimed at ensuring the European quality of life based on development of Saint Petersburg as a multifunctional city integrated in the Russian and world economy, at strengthening its role as the major Russian contact center of the region of the Baltic Sea and Northwest of Russia. Such development implies intensified industrial development and economic development of the territory and, consequently, a growing man-made burden on the environment.

The growing welfare of the population is followed by the growing load on the environment: increased air pollution brought about by the growing number of cars in the city streets, increasing volumes of municipal wastes to be processed or removed to specialized landfills. In this connection, it is quite vital to preserve the natural systems, to maintain their integrity and life-supporting functions for sustainable development of the society, to stabilize and reduce the burden on the environment and its individual components, to ensure ecological safety and to form ecological culture of the population as the condition of the environment also characterizes the quality of life of the population, influences the health of the population and the demographic situation and, accordingly, is a precondition of achieving the primary aim of development of Saint Petersburg.

The draft Environmental policy of Saint Petersburg for 2008 – 2012 was developed by the Committee for Natural Management, Environmental Protection and Ecological Safety in execution of the Enactment of the Government of Saint Petersburg of 16.03.04 N 402 “On Organization of Activities of Executive Bodies of State Power of Saint Petersburg in the Sphere of State Planning of Saint Petersburg”.

The strategic aim of the environmental policy of Saint Petersburg is ensuring a favourable state of the environment as a precondition of better quality of life and health of the population, rational use and protection of natural resources and preservation of natural systems for sustainable development of the society, ensuring higher quality of life, improved health of the population and better demographic situation, ecological safety of the city.

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The environmental policy concerns many issues of the city's life. This is creation of an effective system of state management in the sphere of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources, air and surface water protection, preservation and development of the green space system and specially protected natural areas, improvement of the system of waste handling and ensuring ecological safety, ecological education and formation of ecological culture.

Creating an effective system of state management of environmental protection and use of natural resources. The current administrative reform provides for considerable accretion of the powers of constituent entities of the Russian Federation in issues of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources as well as transfer of certain powers of the Russian Federation to be exercised by constituent entities of the Russian Federation. At the level of the Russian Federation, after liquidation of the single body, the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia in 2004, the state management of environmental protection and use of natural resources is currently effected by 6 federal bodies of executive power, their authorities being considerably reduced due to the current administrative reform. In this connection an essential task is creation of an effective system of state management of environmental protection and use of natural resources by the Government of the Russian Federation. This is particularly important in connection with degradation of the federal system of environmental bodies and increasing load on the environment, growing welfare of the population and sustainable industrial growth in the region.

PROGRAM **of implementing the Environmental policy of Saint Petersburg**

1. Creation of a system of state management in the sphere of environmental management and protection in Saint Petersburg

The system allows ongoing control of the quality of the environment and effective influence on its deterioration, improvement of the conditions of the life of the population and higher level of ecological safety.

2. Raising of public awareness on environmental issues in Saint Petersburg.

A priority of the environmental policy in the field of ecological education and ecological culture formation is to become creation of a system of training or retraining of executives or persons responsible for decision-making. They are to understand the impact of their activities in making certain decisions. The procedure of their training is to be established by the city Government.

For employees to impact their employers, there is a need for a consistent information campaign in mass media.

3. Air protection. The citizens have been always concerned about air quality.





4. Rational use and protection of water bodies. Ensuring the citizens' rights to clean water and a favourable water environment, maintaining optimal conditions of water use, quality of surface and ground waters meeting the sanitary and ecological requirements demands:

- reduction of untreated sewage discharge into the water bodies of Saint Petersburg;
- measures to rehabilitate the water courses and water reservoirs of the city;
- year-round clearance of the water area and water conservation zones;
- cleaning rivers and canals from bottom silt;
- performance of urgent bank protection works.

5. Rational use and conservation of earth resources. The major directions of activities to form an effective system of subsurface resources management are to be:

- creation of the territorial geological fund to store and use information about geological, hydrogeological, geotechnical and geophysical structure of Saint Petersburg currently dispersed among various organizations;
- development of the system of licensing of the right to use subsoil plots to exclude development of negative geological processes related to use of the underground space, of ensuring the city residents' safety;
- development of the city system of geological environment monitoring;
- reevaluation of the groundwater resources of previously explored deposits;
- protection of ground water from surface contamination;
- geological well-grounded use of the underground space of the city.

6. Soil conservation. The policy in the soil conservation area is aimed at implementing a complex of environmental measures promoting soil conservation from erosion and pollution, including remediation of environmentally neglected territories and dust reduction.

7. Collection, utilization and neutralization of industrial and domestic wastes.

The policy of Saint Petersburg in protecting the environment from the impact of production and consumption wastes is aimed at minimized wastes generation, turning them into secondary material and energy resources, introduction of state-of-the-art technologies of industrial utilization of wastes, prevention of environmental pollution.

8. Conservation and development of the general purpose green space and natural areas of preferential protection. The policy of conserving and developing the city's green space is aimed at creating an integral structure of landscaped territories of the city based on the existing and newly created kinds of green space to provide for the needs of the population.

The territory of Saint Petersburg currently accommodates 6 natural areas of preferential protection, their total area making 1.5% of the territory of the city. The Master Plan of development of Saint Petersburg provides for a complex of measures to organize 21 new natural areas of preferential protection of the total area of about 23652 hectares (14%).

9. Organization of identification, accounting and assessment of ecologically hazardous facilities and zones, development of measures to eliminate (reduce) their adverse effect, ensuring ecological safety. Ensuring ecological safety includes a system of actions to organize identification, accounting and assessment of ecologically hazardous facilities and zones, development of measures to eliminate (reduce) their adverse effect to





prevent emergence of ecologically hazardous situations and to eliminate their effects, including long-term ones.

The system of state ecological emergency services includes:

- the emergency service of oil and oil products spill response on the Neva River and the basin of the Gulf of Finland;
- the emergency service of oil and oil products spill response on rivers and canals;
- the emergency service of oil and oil products spill response on the territory;
- the emergency service of radiation pollution eliminations;
- the emergency service of chemical pollution elimination;
- the emergency service of elimination of mercury contamination.

The policy of ensuring radiation safety is aimed at reduction to the socially acceptable level of the risk of the radiation effect of man-made and natural sources of ionizing irradiation upon the man and the environment.

Prevention and elimination of accidental oil and oil products spills is a complex of measures aimed at preventing contamination of the environment with oil products. The worst danger for the water ecosystem of the Neva basin is currently posed by oil and oil products getting into the Neva water by various ways, first and foremost resulting from emergency situations with tankers and various vessels, removal of fuel and oil-contaminated water from tanks during working and servicing of vessels at berths and port facilities.

The city policy of preventing and eliminating accidental oil and oil products spills is aimed at preventing environmental offences in transportation of oil and oil products.

10. Concept of noise pollution control on the territory of Saint Petersburg is aimed at preventing the adverse noise effect on the territory and population of Saint Petersburg, including preventing deterioration of the living conditions on the territory of Saint Petersburg in terms of acoustic impact, conservation and development of acoustically favourable territories for residence and recreation of the city residents.

The environmental policy of Saint Petersburg is implemented by bodies of state power of Saint Petersburg by taking account of ecological priorities in issuing legislative and regulatory acts of Saint Petersburg as well as by developing and implementing environmental programs. The priorities identified in the Environmental policy of Saint Petersburg for 2008 – 2012 are to be taken into account in budgeting at all levels.

At the same time, it is quite obvious that the measures stipulated by the Environmental policy of the city cannot be implemented by the state power bodies of Saint Petersburg acting alone. Therefore, since the very beginning of preparation of the document it was created together with representatives of all the groups of the city's population concerned.

