



Newsletter № 8 January–March 2007

Announcements

April 12, 2007 in Saint Petersburg an official **ceremony of rewarding of laureates 2006 with premiums in name of professor Boris Ovsievich** will be held. Information about the competition is available at http://emi.nw.ru/konkurs/premia_Ovs.htm and www.alferov-fond.ru.

April 19, 2007 in Saint Petersburg the **Forth International Forum for SME Support in the North-West Federal District** will be held. Forum Organizers: Office of the Plenipotentiary Representative of the President in the North-West Federal District, EU project Electronic Skills for Russian SMEs –phase II, North-West SME Support Centre and ICSE Leontief Centre. Main Task of the Forum is the discussion of priority tendencies and basis skills for State and International support of competitive capacity rising of North-West Russian SME on the international and interregional markets in the context of joining WTO. More information about the Forum is available at [North-West portal of SME support](#).

The International Input–Output Association is pleased to announce new competition for Leontief Memorial Prize for the best conference paper of young authors, which will be awarded during the **Sixth International Input–Output Conference** on July 2nd-6th, 2007. [Details](#)

The **7th Leontief Readings Conference** will take place in the beginning of October 2007.

October 18th-19th, 2007 in Saint-Petersburg the **6th All-Russia Forum of Strategic Planning Leaders: Integrating the World Experience of Innovations** will be held. Forum Organizers: Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, RF Ministry for Economic Development and Trade, RF Ministry for Regional Development, ICSE “Leontief Centre”, Russian Economic Developers Association (ASSET). Detailed information about the Forum and participation will be available at <http://www.citystrategy.leontief.ru>

Wassily Leontief's Centenary

March 31st on the Economics Faculty of the Chuvashia State University named after I.N. Uljanov in the framework of intellectual club a **lecture** was held, dedicated to the work and life of Nobel Prize winner W. W. Leontief and his work “Structure of the World Economy: attempt to analyze the Input-output methodology”. By the request of the organizers, Leontief Centre assisted in the lecture's preparation. Intellectual club "Speech club" is organized by the faculty students with support of Chuvashia State University administration. The activity and scientific work of the Nobel Prize winners is discussed in the club. Students of the University present speeches

and make presentations on every meeting of the club. The discussion of the presentations follows and the jury members are the University professors.

Lawrence Klein, Professor Emeritus of Economics of Benjamin Franklin University of Pennsylvania, Nobel Prize winner, recipient 2006 of International Leontief Medal "For contribution to economic reforms" presented **the lecture of 2006 Medal winner** "Some Significant Uses of Input-Output Accounts" in the end of 2006. Lecture full text will be presented in the ["Medals"](#) section of Wassily Leontief Internet-portal.

Projects

Trainings for Regional and Municipal Financial Officers in the framework of Municipal Reform Implementation and Separation of Responsibilities. The Project is a part of the Program “Technical Aid for Budget Reform at the Regional Level” implemented by RF Ministry of Finance in cooperation with the World Bank. The project is implemented by the consortium of consultants, which includes the International Centre for Social and Economic Research “Leontief Centre” and “RBC–Centre” Ltd.

In 2007 so far 2 learning courses for officers of public and municipal financial bodies were held:

- February 12 – 22, 2007 in Volga Federal District on the base of Bashkir Academy of State Service and Government under the President of Republic of Bashkortostan. 92 representatives of financial bodies and municipalities from Volga Federal District participated in the learning course and 88 of them had successfully finished the course and were awarded with diploma of state standard.
- March 12 – 23, 2007 in Ural Federal District on the base of Ural Academy of State Service (Ekaterinburg). 78 representatives of financial bodies and municipalities from Ural Federal

District participated in the learning course. All the participants had successfully finished the course and were awarded with diploma of state standard.

The next learning programme will be held in May 2007 in Khabarovsk for the financial bodies of the Far East Federal District.

Urban and City Management – joint distant learning Program of the World Bank Institute and Leontief Centre. From January 15 to March 11, 2007 the education under the Course 1 “Urban Governance” of the distance learning program took place. 24 participants – representatives of public and local authority bodies, consultants, researches and teachers of leading high schools, representatives of non-for-profit organizations from Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan – successfully passed full course and will be awarded with certificates.

21 participants expressed their strong interest to continue education on Course 2 “Financial Management”. Education under this course will last from March 12 to April 22, 2007.

More detailed information about Urban and City Management Distant Learning Program and its modules is available under the following link: www.distant.leontief.net

Management of Sub-National Public Finance, Russian Federation Europe – The project is aimed to perfection of statutory and regulating acts and implementation of best practices on the different levels of budget system in Tver Oblast. The project’s employer is European Commission (Tacis Programme), beneficiaries – RF Ministry of Finance and Tver Oblast Administration, the project is carried out by DAI (UK) – the lead partner, ICSEER “Leontief Centre” (Russia), Arcadis BMB (Netherlands), Research Budgetary Center (Russia) and Local Government Denmark (Denmark).

During the reported period the draft of standard agreement about the separation of powers between municipal regions and municipal settlements was discussed with representatives of regional administration. The plan of program’s seminar was worked out and creation of presentations on the certain themes started.

Development of Materials for Orsk City Social and Economic Planning (Orenburg Oblast). The project embodies development of three basic documents: City’s Development Concept to 2030, Orsk Development Strategy to 2015, Programme of Complex Social and Economic Development for 2008–2010. The project is implemented jointly with Russian Economic Developers Association (ASSET).

The first stage of work, dedicated to project time planning and organization, was finalized in March. The forming of organizational structure for strategic planning and the composition of three thematic commissions were set. The expert team of five experts was working in Orsk in the period from February 25th to March 2nd, 2007. During this period, 31 interviews with the city’s stakeholders were held, the starting program seminar took place, dissemination of questionnaire on the topic “Goals and Priorities of Orsk Development” started; a series

of scientific meetings and a press-conference took place.

“Developing EXcellence-DEX. Excellence Centres’ Network for Sustainable Development in the Baltic Sea Region” Neighbourhood programme – Tacis project. January, 2007 a working Seminar of DEX project “International Cooperation: Action Plan for Excellence Centres” took place in Jyväskylä (Finland). On behalf of North-West of Russia in the training program participated:

- State officers, responsible for spatial planning, regional economic development and SME support,
- Representatives of infrastructure organizations, supporting strategic planning and SMEs

The main topic was discussion of the future action plan for excellence centres. The programme participants met with staff members and clients of Association for Education and Employment and got acquainted with TEKEVÄ Company for work with entrepreneurs and socially depressed groups.

Implementation of Management Elements by the Regional Results. The World Bank of Reconstruction and Development Project. Leontief Centre staff members participated in this project as the World Bank experts. The work is aimed at the effectiveness rising of Irkutsk Oblast Department for Education (chosen as a pilot region) on the base of implementation of task program principles of budget funds management. The experts assisted Irkutsk Oblast administration in elaboration of the task programs and the report about the main directions and results of Department for Education activities. These documents were evaluated by a multi-departmental commission and recommended for implementation in other executive bodies of state authorities in the region.

Republic of Chuvashia: Investment Program Elaboration, the customer of this project is the World Bank of Reconstruction and Development. The work under this project includes preparation of guidelines for elaboration of regional program of capital investment, evaluation and selection of project methodology, consulting and expert support of programme for 2007–2009 creation process and coordination of the programme with the middle-term financial plan.

The final report is presented, including evaluation of needs in development of physical infrastructure in Republic of Chuvashia, methodology of middle-term investment program and ranging of investment projects, program project for 2007–2009, connected to the financial plan, offers for foundation and ranging of projects, financed from the road funds (with attraction of loans). After the consideration and evaluation of the report by the World Bank of Reconstruction and Development and Republic of Chuvashia Ministry for Economic Development and Trade, a seminar will be organized for dissemination of the results.

Conferences and Seminars

In the framework of **Interdisciplinary seminars** [“The Actual Problems of Social Sphere](#)

[Transformation”](#) hosted jointly by Leontief Center and Sociological Institute of Russian Academy of

Sciences, four seminars were held in the reported period:

January, 18 – **“Possibility of national projects implementation estimation and it’s monitoring necessity”**. Speaker: V. Peresada (Institute of Economy and Conversion)

February, 8 – **“Whether democracy is efficient or not?”** Speaker: A. Slutsky, the Dean of Economic Faculty, Higher School of Economics (Saint-Petersburg).

February, 13 – **Federal and Regional Industrial Policy: Plant Managers Estimation** (on the base of the survey of plant managers held in 2005–2006; joint projects of the State University – Higher School of Economics, World Bank and Hitotsubashi University (Tokyo, Japan)) Speaker: A. A. Yakovlev, Vice-Principal of the State University – Higher School of Economics (HSE); Director of the Institute for Enterprise and Market Studies (HSE)

March, 13 – Topic of the seminar-dispute between Dmitry Travin (“Delo” Weekly, Deputy Chief Editor) and Kirill Borisov (European University at St. Petersburg, Economic Department, Deputy Dean), titled **“Liberalism: Pro and Contra”**.

January, 26 Andrey Zaostrovtssev, Lead Researcher of the Leontief Centre, made a report “Constitutional Economy, Social Contract and Russian Reality” at the Symposium **“Directions of Russia’s Development - 2007: Continuity and Discontinuity of Russia’s Social Development”** organized by Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences (Academy of National Economy under Government of Russian Federation – www.msses.ru).

February, 22 Irina Karelina, Leontief Centre Director-General, and Igor Uljanov, Director for Administration and Financing, participated in the meeting of **Coordinating Committee of the EU Project E-skills for Russian SMEs**. More detailed information is available at following link www.e-skills.spb.ru

February, 26 Nina Oding, Head of Research Department (ICSER “Leontief Centre”) participated in the round table **“Traditions of Russian Parliamentarism. Local Authority Bodies: Their Role in State Construction Process”** (Veliky Novgorod) organized in the framework of the Project “Historical Portrait of Russian Nationality” (by Centre of National Glory of Russia). N. Oding made a report “Intergovernmental Relations Reform and Local Self-Government Development in Russia”.

February, 27 [the seminar ‘Clusters: International Experience of Territorial Economic Development and Prospects of Clusters Development in the North-West of Russia](#) was held in St. Petersburg (A.S. Popov Telecommunications Museum). Seminar organizers: North-West Centre for SME Support, EU Project E-skills for Russian SMEs – Phase II, EU Project Support to Export-Oriented Innovative SMEs, World Bank Institute, and ICSEER Leontief Centre.

During the seminar discussion of international experience of cluster support and development at regional level was held, main problems of cluster development in the North-West of Russia were defined, and ideas/ recommendations to enhance

effectiveness of this economic development instrument were elaborated.

In the work of the seminar representatives of regional and local administrations; leaders of the SME support unions and associations, organizations of economic infrastructure (SME support funds, business-incubators, technoparks, CCIs, etc); consultants specialized in problems of economic development, representatives of high schools and research organizations in NW; lead international experts, Tacis projects team leaders and consultants and international donor organizations took part. Total number of participants was 50 persons.

February, 28 Nina Oding, Head of Research Department (ICSER Leontief Centre) made a report “Trends for St. Petersburg Social and Economic Development” at the seminar organized in the framework of celebration of **Finland Councilors Group’s 10-years activities in St. Petersburg**

March, 1 in Smolny, Irina Karelina, Leontief Centre Director-General, Leonid Limonov, Director-Coordinator for Research Programmes, Igor Uljanov, Director for Administration and Financing, Nina Oding, Head of Research Department participated in the meeting, dedicated to celebration of **Finland Councilors Group’s 10-years activities in St. Petersburg**.

Finland Councilors Group at Saint Petersburg Government was created in the beginning of 1997 with an aim to provide assistance for Finnish investments and trade with St.Petersburg, by active cooperation with city’s administration. Leontief Centre was one of the initiators of Finland Councilors Group at Saint Petersburg Government creation yet in the beginning of the 90’s. This group of Councilors at Saint Petersburg Government is the first and unique cooperation instrument of business and city administration. Finnish companies participate in the development of infrastructure, logistics, municipal economy and industry of St.Petersburg; they contribute to improvement of ecology of the Gulf of Finland and the Baltic Sea. Nowadays Committee for External Relations of St.Petersburg Administration coordinates the work of the group.
www.kvs.spb.ru

March, 23 in the Baltic information agency a round table **“Russian Roads as a National Project: How to Unfold the Stabilization Fund for the Construction of Roads without Boosting Inflation”** was held. By invitation of Nevskoe Vremia newspaper the work of the round table was contributed by: President of All-Russia Association of Privatizing and Private Companies, president of Foundation for Support of legislative initiatives G. Tomchin, president of Respublica Foundation S. Tsiplyaev, Professor of International Banking Institute V. Kunin, political analyst and director of St.Petersburg Centre of Regional Development A. Musakov. Leontief Centre was represented by Zh. Ivaniva. The materials of discussion are published in Nevskoe Vremia newspaper.

Partners and Networks

January, 2007 2 meetings of **Joint Programming Committee of BSR Programme 2007–2013** took place in Copenhagen (Denmark) on January, 15–16 and in Vilnius (Republic of Lithuania) on January 25–26. Irina Karelina (Responsible Secretary of RNSC, Leontief Centre) took part in the meetings. Issues of the new BSR Programme 2007–2013 elaboration were discussed at the meetings.

January, 26 **Infoseminar on implementation of BSR INTERREG III B NP projects** for Russian partners took place in Saint-Petersburg. The seminar was organized by BSR INTERREG III B NP Joint Secretariat (Riga, Latvia), JS Info-point in Saint-Petersburg, created on the base of Leontief Centre, jointly with EC Delegation in Russia and Committee for External Relations of Saint-Petersburg. 60 persons took part in the seminar. Tacis rules (grant contracts, costs, reporting procedures and forms), reporting procedure for Programme Secretariat in Riga and informational and printing requirements at projects implementation were reviewed in the framework of the event. Projects approved in the 8 (III B) and 3, 4 (IIIA) Calls for Proposals of BSR INTERREG III B NP also were presented. Participants of the seminar had an opportunity to receive individual consultations from the Secretariat members, EC Delegation in Russia and Info-points staff members.

February, 5 Irina Karelina, Director-General of the Leontief Centre, participated in the meeting of Board of Directors of the **Russian Economic Think Tanks Association**. Details are available at www.aret.ru

February, 15 meeting of the **Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany** Bernd Braun with Leontief Centre's Director-General Irina Karelina, Director-Coordinator for Research Programmes Leonid Limonov, and Head of Research Department Nina Oding, took place in the Leontief Centre.

March, 8–9 Irina Karelina, Leontief Centre's Director-General, participated in the **42nd meeting of VASAB 2010 (Vision and Strategies around the Baltic 2010) Committee for Spatial Development of the Baltic Sea Region (CSD/BSR)**. Details are available at following link www.vasab.org

March, 22 Irina Karelina, Leontief Centre's Director-General, participated in the **Council meeting of the Fund "Centre for Strategic Research – Region"** held in Moscow. Leontief Centre is one of co-founders of "CSR-Region" Fund. Report of Fund activities for 2006 as well as further action plan was discussed during the meeting.

Publications



[Strategic Planning in Cities and Regions of Russia: Localization of National projects – reports of participants of the Fifth All-Russia Forum of Strategic Planning Leaders, October, 19-20, 2006.](#) Editor: B. S. Zhikharevich. – St. Petersburg: ICSE "Leontief Centre", 2007. – 144 p.

The publication reviews conditions of territorial strategic planning in Russia represented in the reports of participants of the Fifth All-Russia Forum of Strategic Planning Leaders. All materials are divided into 5 groups. First chapter covers Russian and international trends and factors of strategic choice in cities and regions. Second and third chapters consist of reports devoted to the experience of development and implementation of strategic plans at regional and municipal levels accordingly. In fourth chapter you can find reports from the round table Strategic Planning in the Coastal and Crossborder Regions. The last chapter is devoted to introduction of some donor projects and organizations. Moreover the collection includes the Forum program, list of participants and recommendations. The book is recommended to practitioners of strategic planning, students and lecturers. All additional information is available under following link: www.citystrategy.leontief.net



["Problems of Economic Theory and Policy"](#)/ Ed.: A. Zaostrovtshev – St. Petersburg: International Centre for Social and Economic Research "Leontief Centre", 2006. – 484 p.,

The collection of materials is prepared on the base of reports of the VI Annual Conference Leontief Readings "Problems of Economic Theory and Policy", which took place in St. Petersburg on 29th–30th of September 2006. The conference was devoted to the Centenary of the outstanding scientist, Nobel prize Winner in economy Wassily Leontief. During the Conference prominent Russian and foreign scientists discussed relevant problems of economic theory and contemporary Russian transformation, including questions of economic policy, demography, modern mathematical economics methodology and its implementation in economic analysis, evolution of political and socio-economic institutions in Russia.

This book might be interesting for researchers, teachers of socio-economic disciplines, students and postgraduates dealing with social sciences, journalists, and other readers interested in the modern state of Russian economy.

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The Socio-Economic Situation in St. Petersburg. № 85 (January-February 2007).

An information bulletin in Russian and English. St. Petersburg: Leontief Centre (International Centre for Social and Economic Research), 1992–2006.

This bulletin has been published by the Leontief Centre bi-monthly since 1992. Available by subscription, the Overview features statistics and analyses (including results of Leontief Centre's experts findings) covering St. Petersburg industry, infrastructure, budget, city's privatization process, its real estate market, living standards and employment.

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