

SPCC e-magazine

No. 04/2016



phot. Aarno Kurkela

Dear Readers,

I am pleased to present you the last issue of the SPCC e-magazine this year. The past twelve months have been very intensive – the Chamber has organized a record breaking number of 85 events and we hosted around 6000 guests at our conferences, seminars and business mixers.

We would like to thank you for the time which you have spent with SPCC, for the cooperation, motivation and inspiration. We hope that the Year 2017 will be full of new business opportunities.

On behalf of the SPCC Board and the staff I wish you all a peaceful and magical Christmas time and all the best for the New Year 2017!



Carsten Nilsen, SPCC Chairman

SPCC activities

SPCC community

News from Scandinavia

SPCC Patrons



The Scandinavian-Polish Chamber of Commerce is an association created by and for business people and entrepreneurs associated with Scandinavia. Currently, SPCC brings together close to 400 Members and is one of the largest bilateral chambers in Poland. Membership in the Chamber gives plenty of networking opportunities with an elite group of high-performing managers of Nordic companies and is also a good way of finding inspiration for everyone who would like to expand their business.

EVENTS

We are looking forward to see you at:

- Cross culture seminar, Wrocław, **18th of January**
- SPCC Kick-off Business Mixer, Warsaw, **20th of January**
- SPCC PR Forum: Content Marketing, Warsaw, **26th of January**

more events soon in the SPCC Calendar.

EVENTS HELD

In 2016 we organized **85 events** and we hosted around **6000 guests** a tour events! Thank you for your cooperation and attendance!



PROGRAM MEMBER GETS MEMBER

PROGRAM
„MEMBER GETS MEMBER“

Do you know a company, which could be interested in joining SPCC? Or maybe you have recently recommended the Chamber to other company, for which membership in the SPCC is a great opportunity to develop their business?

We know that our Members are the best SPCC ambassadors. Therefore we would like to invite you to participate in the “Member gets Member” program. Every SPCC Member who invites a new company to corporate membership in the Chamber will be given a 15% discount off the annual membership fee. If you would like to find out what other companies associated in the Chamber say about SPCC, please click [HERE](#).

More information about the programme can be obtained from **Sandra Tetzlaff**, Business Development Manager, stetzlaff@spcc.pl, tel. 22 849 74 14.

MEMBER COMPANIES

58 companies have joined the Chambers since the beginning of 2016. The biggest number of companies joined the Swedish Section - 24 companies and the Danish section – 13 companies.

SPCC bring together **393 Members**, **368** corporate, **23** honorary and **2** individual Members.



146 companies



67 companies



97 companies



63 companies

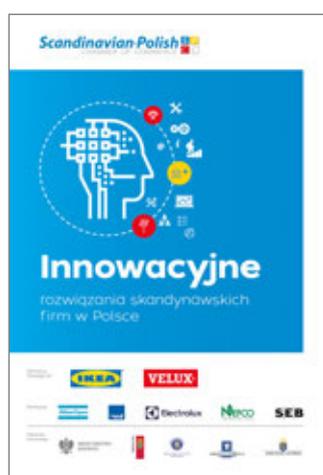
The Chamber represents **8** countries:

- **5** Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden
- **3** Baltic countries: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS OF THE SCANDINAVIAN COMPANIES IN POLAND

Scandinavian countries have been leaders in global innovation rankings for years. Poland should follow their footsteps. At the conference, which was held on the 27th of October in Warsaw and in the report, prepared for this occasion by SPCC, we presented a lot of valuable knowledge about developing business and social innovation which can be inspiring to Polish entrepreneurs. The project was created in cooperation with IKEA, VELUX, Atlas Copco, Cybercom, Electrolux, NEFCO, SEB and Skanska and under Honorary Patronage of the Ministry of Development and the Nordic Embassies in Poland.

The aim of the project, carried out in 2016 by SPCC in cooperation with Member companies was to present the innovative potential of Scandinavian business in Poland and possibilities for exchanging knowledge and experiences between Scandinavian and Polish companies. In the report, apart from presenting the Scandinavian



innovativeness phenomena we are also showing over a dozen examples of innovative projects carried out by Scandinavian companies present on the Polish market. Ideas resulting from those projects are often introduced in cooperation with Polish companies and they create new quality, which positively influences whole economy and contributes to its competitiveness.

The report can be downloaded [HERE](#).

At the conference, which took place on the 27th of October in the Centre for Managing Innovations and Technology Transfer (CZLiTT) of the Warsaw University of Technology we talked about Scandinavian models, experiences and directions in developing innovation. The official opening of the conference was made by Jadwiga Emilewicz, Undesecretary of State at the Ministry of



Development. On behalf of the Scandinavian investors in Poland, Carsten Nilsen, SPCC Chairman handed to Ms Emilewicz a letter of intent expressing willingness for further cooperation in developing innovation in Poland. Hans Henrik Lomholt, representing the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science and the Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation was one of the special guests of the conference. Among the experts and participants of the panel discussions were representatives of the Embassy of Finland, Embassy of Sweden and Scandinavian companies – partners of the project.

„Companies with Scandinavian origin have fully integrated into the bloodstream of Polish economy, constituting its integral and crucial element. Thanks to Scandinavian companies operating in Poland we are experiencing a transfer of modern solutions in the areas such as business, technology and processes” – says Agnieszka Kowalcze, SPCC Director. – „What is even more interesting, is the fact that many of the innovative solutions are being created in cooperation with Polish partners and are later introduced as model solutions which certainly has influence on increasing the innovative potential in different areas of the Polish economy” – adds Agnieszka Kowalcze.

Actions undertaken by Scandinavian partners have concrete dimensions such as investments in new technologies, creation of R&D centers and cooperation with Polish universities. Sustainable development and energy friendly and environmental solutions are also important elements of innovation for Scandinavians. The process of implementing Scandinavian good innovation practices on the Polish ground as well as the transfer of good practices and incorporating innovation into all management levels are accompanied by a constant care for the everyday development of the company.

See the video coverage from the conference by clicking below:



VELUX FOUNDATIONS WILL FINANCE AN INTEGRATED DAY CARE CENTRE IN NAMYSŁÓW




Visualization of a new integrated day care centre in Namysłów, fot. Fundacja Elementarz

Owing to tri-partite cooperation, Namysłów will benefit from an innovative day care centre, which will also pursue activities aimed at supporting parents. The project was initiated by Fundacja Ekologiczna Wychowanie i Sztuka "ELEMENTARZ" [The "PRIMER" Education and Arts Ecological Foundation]. Namysłów Commune contributed an attractive plot of land for the venture, and the project will be financed by THE VELUX FOUNDATIONS, which donated over PLN five million for this purpose.



A special cake to celebrate the creation of the new day care centre in Namysłów

The project assumes creating a modern integrated day care centre to serve both children and parents, as well as the Namysłów inhabitants. The institution will be located at Braterska street, in the vicinity of Północny Park. The plot of land of the area of 1.2 ha was contributed by the Namysłów Commune.

Creating a day care centre is a response to the community needs in the Namysłów Commune and an opportunity for many children and families. Currently, Namysłów has only one day care centre for children under 3 years. However, the figures show that the demand for such institution increases year by year, and this tendency seems to be maintained. It results, for instance, from the fact that in the four production facilities located in the town, half of the staff are women. The town is developing constantly, it counts on further investments and wants to create competitive living conditions for its inhabitants, including, young people, as well as to foster the growth of business. For many women, the new day care centre will be an opportunity to faster return to the labour market and the place creating very favourable conditions for the development of the youngest children.

"I am glad that in collaboration with THE VELUX FOUNDATIONS we will implement the project to serve all inhabitants. The erection of an integrated day care centre is awaited by the inhabitants, in particular

those working in the biggest production plants in the town. This initiative is an element of our utmost care for the youngest dwellers of Namysłów — the future of our commune. Up till now, our priority was providing places in the existing day care centre to all applicants. Year by year it was more difficult to achieve this purpose. Therefore it was with much hope that we have awaited the decision of THE VELUX FOUNDATIONS on financing the erection of a new day care centre. I am convinced that the new day care centre will be a modern, ecological and innovative facility at a scale of entire country", said Julian Kruszyński, the Mayor of Namysłów.

"THE VELUX FOUNDATIONS have supported various social projects in Poland focused mainly on prevention of social exclusion of children and the youth, for years. This project seems really outstanding and helpful for children and the Namysłów citizens" – said Jens-Jørgen Pedersen from THE VELUX FOUNDATIONS.

Project assumptions

The exceptional character of the venture is proven by the planned architectural solutions as well as a wide range of activities and services offered. The design of the day care envisages a full range of unique solutions which positively influence the environment through the using of natural and renewable energy sources. And the conditions inside the buildings are to be home-like and the rooms warm, comfortable and cosy. The day care centre will have modern rooms for eurhythmic classes as well as sensory/calm down, rehabilitation and experiment rooms, which will definitely make this place outstanding in comparison with other institutions of this type. The classes which will be conducted in those rooms will be aimed at stimulation of motor, cognitive, intellectual, social and emotional development of a child. The classes in the day care centre are going to be expanded by adding innovative curricula such as "Learning by Moving" and "Adventures of Young Explorers". They are original programs which will be realized by the researchers from the Music Academy in Katowice and the Technical University in Wrocław.

"An integrated day care centre is the most effective means of establishing solidarity between children with special educational needs and their peers. Therefore, the facility is aimed at equalization of opportunities for all children based on kindness, tolerance and openness to other people", said Andrzej Jabłoński, President of Fundacja Ekologiczna Wychowanie i Sztuka "Elementarz".

The centre will also pursue pro-social activities and services which will allow the parents interested to benefit from psychological or speech therapy and language counselling, rehabilitation exercises and even antenatal classes which are going to be expanded by an individual lactation consultancy and wrap advisory service.

"Our priority is to create an open and innovative environment whose attitude in the first place aims for integration of the whole local society including families with the most difficult financial situation thus improving the reality around us. By creating the day care centre with passion we want to be the source of knowledge and inspiration for others and be close to the people and for everyone", Andrzej Jabłoński added.

Currently the project is in its preparatory phase — a public procurement procedure is underway to select the architectural design and the contractor. The commencement of the construction works depends on the closing of this phase. The day care centre, which will offer places for about 100 children, is planned to be put into use in 2018.

VOLVO V40 FOR BUSINESSWOMEN UNDER SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE LEASES



Women are increasingly taking over the reins in business. As a result, they are looking for services to help them grow their companies. Office space, suppliers, business partners – everything is a business factor and must be well thought out. For enterprising women, selection of a company car is also an important decision. Searching for a car both for business and private use, they often opt for one which matches their aesthetic taste but which also answers their daily needs, such as taking children to school or pre-school, or carrying sizable purchases in the trunk. According to the studies conducted by the ARC Rynek i Opinia Research Institute, more than half of the women underlined that a car is a place where they spend their time, for up to 32 percent of the women surveyed a company car must look nice and be well equipped, for 29 percent the make and prestige are important.

Businesswomen also do not want to be bothered with matters which are not essential to their business. Running a company, they have no time to worry about them. They prefer to focus on what matters most to them, i.e. growing their business. For that reason, they increasingly choose long-term leases. They entrust car administration and maintenance to a professional leasing company instead of worrying about inspections, tire replacement, insurance negotiation or claims adjustment. By using door-to-door services, they also do not have to deal with damage repairs. Also, women entrepreneurs can do math and a long-term lease payment is lower than a loan installment or a traditional banking lease payment.

Those needs are being answered by professional fleet companies, which have noted that women need comfort: a car and someone to take care of it. Such services are also being offered by ComfortPlan, a novelty from LeasePlan Fleet Management, a company renting and leasing vehicles to businesses.

To meet the preferences and needs of women drivers and business owners, LeasePlan has designed an offer which was previously available to large corporations. Under ComfortPlan for small businesses, a female business owner can select, for example, a perfectly compact city hatchback, Volvo V40, for a monthly price of PLN 1,318 with a zero deposit. The car is taken care of by LeasePlan and the business owner can focus on running her business.

Leasing Comfort Plan

- 0% deposit
- Service packet
- Civil liability (OC), physical damage (AC) and injury (NNW) insurance
- Car purchase option at the end of lease term
- Socially responsible lease



What else?

With ComfortPlan leases, women entrepreneurs can engage socially and take care of the environment in which they raise their children. The package includes GreenPlan under which LeasePlan will plant trees to compensate for the carbon dioxide emitted by their car.

7 trees to be planted on average,
to offset the annual CO₂ emissions of **1 car**

CHANGES IN THE TAX SYSTEM FROM 2017

With the New Year approaching, the Polish lawmakers has traditionally prepared a significant number of changes to tax law. A great majority of the new regulations, both with respect to CIT and VAT, will enter into force on 1 January 2017.

Among the significant changes concerning CIT, which are to make Poland more attractive for investors, a lowered 15% CIT rate will be introduced for enterprises with an annual turnover below EUR 1,200,000, while the provisions of the so-called small act on innovation will make the Polish taxation system more supportive for R&D activity. A detailed description of the new regulations concerning support for R&D activities has been featured in an article on Possibilities for financing innovation published by SPCC as part of the report on "Innovative Solutions of the Scandinavian Companies in Poland".

As of 1 January 2017, also new regulations concerning transfer pricing documentation will be introduced. They will significantly alter current regulations with respect to identifying the transactions for which documentation should be prepared, and with respect to the content of such documentation. Another novelty, as regards transfer pricing, is the introduction of a new requirement of the management board of the companies to submit each year a confirmation that the transfer pricing documentation for a given tax year has been prepared. Such a statement will be filed together with the annual CIT return.

An important change, especially from the perspective of the real property sector, is introducing of taxation of the income from participation in the partnerships derived by the closed investment funds what, in practice, will apply to one of the most common investment structures in the Polish real property sector.



As regards VAT, the lawmakers introduced a number of changes aimed mostly at increasing the efficiency of collecting taxes and limit VAT-related tax fraud. In particular, the lawmakers introduced: a partial joint and several liability for the VAT debts of the taxpayer and the attorney who registered such taxpayer for VAT purposes and a right of the tax authority to reject an application for the registration of taxpayer in case of difficulties in verification of the data specified in the VAT registration form.

Moreover, the lawmakers decided to reintroduce so called tax sanction for incorrectly reported VAT. Consequently, apart from determining the appropriate amount of due taxes, the taxpayer

risks an additional levy at the level of 30% of the difference between the correct amount and the amount reported by the taxpayer. Participating in carousel fraud, including issuing so called "empty invoices" among other things, will create a risk of a tax sanction at the level of 100%.

Tomasz Rysiak
Radca prawny/partner, Magnusson

Kamil Stelmach
Adwokat/associate, Magnusson

THE BRAIN EMBASSY – NEW QUALITY OF WORKING SPACE ON THE OFFICIAL MAP OF WARSAW



The Brain Embassy is a first co-creating space, where representatives of different worlds - such as corporations, small and medium businesses, start-ups and freelancers - meet in one place and share their ideas and experience. This diverse community has over 1700 m2 at its disposal - the space that is designed and equipped in accordance with the latest global trends.

Global trends

The Brain Embassy is the first example of innovative office of the future on the Polish market similar to those that just arise in the world's largest agglomerations. It was designed on the basis of latest trends in office space design, supporting the creation of communities, creative work of all of the members of the community and development of innovative ideas. The variety of working spaces available motivates movement and creativity, while smooth overlapping of dedicated spaces helps create an informal atmosphere for meeting and exchange. It helps fulfill the needs of the people working there and create great conditions for highly efficient work.

Creative community

The Brain Embassy is a unique place on the Polish market where the first community is being formed - consisting of representatives of different worlds, who will inspire each other and work together effectively. This space is perfect for creative work and is designed to attract for enterprising and courageous people aware of their advantages and opportunities as well as open minds looking for inspiration and new experiences. In addition, the members of The Brain Embassy community receive a wide range of support - tools that allow professionals from different fields to work together.

The variety of workplaces and unlimited possibilities

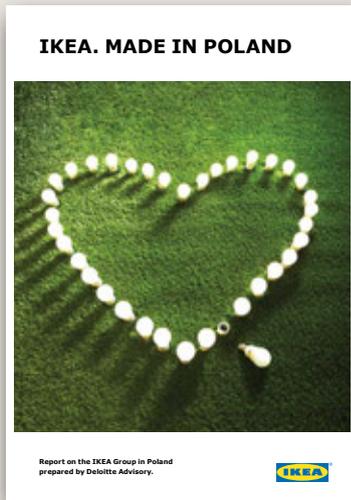
The Brain Embassy is 1643 m2 of innovative space with 250 workspaces available - 142 in open space and 108 in separate rooms. Members of The Brain Embassy community will have at their disposal an open space with dining room and kitchen, creative conference rooms and many informal meeting spaces (among others: Floating Ideas Room, Knowledge Room and Fast Meeting Room). In addition, they have access to the facilities, located in Adgar Park West, including the Training Centre with 20 meeting rooms.

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HOW DOES IKEA CHANGE POLAND?



Learn more about IKEA's philosophy, IWAY code, direct and indirect ways in which IKEA influences Polish economy and why products made from water hyacinth are beneficial for rivers in south-east Asia.

[Download the report in PDF](#)

PLN 3bn
- IKEA sales value in 2015 financial year in Poland

PLN15
minimum gross hourly wage at IKEA stores

65%
of wood used by IKEA and its suppliers in Poland comes from more sustainable sources

3810 people employed by IKEA Retail in Poland

100%
RES - all energy we use in stores and for own production comes from renewable sources



IKEA's impact on reality is utterly real, but to present the report's findings we used virtual reality, i.e. 360 movies.

[Click here](#)



A WEEKEND TRIP TO SKÅNE IS ALWAYS A GREAT GIFT



Oresund Bridge, skane.com@sydpol.com/ Copyright © 2016 Mynewsdesk

Skåne (Skåne) is the southernmost part of Sweden, and, at the same time, the closest region of Scandinavia to Poland. Our neighbour is worth visiting not only because of the convenient ferry and plane connection. Skåne is a land of castles, which fascinates with historical buildings and Viking culture. Thanks to both of these elements, Polish tourists are really willing to visit this, undoubtedly, attractive part of Sweden. Skåne and Malmö in the south of Sweden have become a holiday hit among tourists from Poland.

Since 2008, the Swedish Statistical Office (SCB) has been recording a continuous increase in arrivals. From January to August 2016, as many as 77% more of our compatriots appreciated the charms of Sweden than in the corresponding period six years ago.

However, Skåne became the star of the previous, i.e. 2016, season, attracting 21% tourists more from Poland than in the corresponding period (January - August) of the previous year, which translated into over 26 thousand nights spent by guests at hotels.

The great nature, perfectly preserved history and fantastic cuisine are the biggest assets of Skåne – the Scandinavian gate to continental Europe. Skåne captures the visitor with the varied landscape, which is made up from 400 km of the shore and over 300 km of great, sandy beaches, bays, yacht ports and natural landscape parks. Skåne is also called the land of castles and palaces – there are over 200 of them there. The numerous bike and pedestrian routes encourage visitors to spend active holidays, whereas Skåne's rivers and lakes offer plenty of pike, salmon and trout to anglers. Skåne is known as the Sweden's granary for a reason – locally manufactured organic produce is one of the causes of the international success of the restaurants from this region.

Direct, round-the-year ferry connections during the day and night are offered by:

Polska Żegluga Bałtycka (Polferries):

Świnoujście – Ystad www.polferries.com.pl

Unity Line:

Świnoujście – Ystad or Trelleborg www.unityline.pl

Stena Line: Gdynia – Karlskrona www.steneline.pl

TT Line: Świnoujście-Trelleborg www.ttline.pl

City attractions

For lovers of big-city entertainment, shopping and culture the south of Sweden offers vibrant ports of Malmö, Ystad, Karlskrona and Trelleborg. At the same time, they are cities famous for historical buildings and modern architecture, but it is the Gothic and university city of Lund that stands out in this respect. The spirit of the Middle Ages and Viking period can be felt in a majestic fortress of Helsingborg, or „Swedish Stonehenge” – the complex of stone blocks at Ales Stenar.

What is undoubtedly Skåne's hit is Malmö, the third biggest city in Sweden. Recently, it has recorded a bigger increase in arrivals in percentage terms than Stockholm and Gothenburg. The group which has significantly contributed to that is tourists from Poland, who appreciate the vibrant Malmö, a city of great shopping and entertainment, modern architecture and charming, old-town streets. By the end of August 2016, Malmö, which is located just 20 minutes from Copenhagen, had been visited by as many as 14.7% Poles more than in the previous year.

Ystad is a beautiful city full of medieval, pastel, half-timbered houses, constructed along cobblestone streets and squares bathed in the sunlight. Tourists should visit galleries, charming shops and cosy cafes. The city, which used to be one of the most important fishing centres in the region, is now called Swedish Hollywood. At the Cineteket centre, visitors can get to know secrets of film making, come to the film set, and see a collection of stage props from the series about inspector Wallander and an exhibition of photos for „The Bridge” series. Time for a weekend in Skåne!

Southern Sweden is fantastically communicated with Poland – we can take an everyday, direct flights from Warsaw, Gdańsk, Katowice, Poznań to Malmö (Wizzair, with ticket prices starting from 39 PLN), or from Warsaw, Gdańsk, Kraków, Poznań and Wrocław to Copenhagen (SAS), from where through the bridge and tunnel across Oresund we reach the centre of Malmö in about 20 minutes.



Malmö, Miriam Preis/imagebank.sweden.se

Around Öresund (Öresund rundt card)

The card allows the holder to travel on trains and ferries in the cities located along Öresund in Denmark and Sweden, in any direction, as well as offers discounts for museum tickets. It can be purchased at IT centres in Malmö, Lund, Ystad and Helsingborg.

About Skåne

Malmö, Lund, Ystad, Trelleborg, Helsingborg, Kristianstad.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS IN SCANDINAVIA



Miriam Preis/imagebanksweden.se

Christmas in the Scandinavian countries in many aspects resembles Polish Christmas. It's a family holiday full of carol singing and good food.

Nowadays, Christmas celebrated in Scandinavia has several characteristic elements. One of them is the period of Advent, i.e. waiting for Christmas, the beginning of which is symbolised by the Advent wreath. **The traditional Advent** wreath is made of spruce twigs, which are often decorated with red berries, spruce cones, white candles and red ribbons. On each Advent Sunday, another candle is lit, which means that all four candles are alight on the fourth Sunday. The wreath is hung on the entrance door and in the place where meals are served.

What is also part of the Scandinavian Advent tradition is **lighting the calendar candle**. Such a candle has a scale divided into 24 lines usually decorated with motifs of fir and dwarfs dancing in red hats and yellow clogs. In majority of homes such candles are lit on 1 December, usually during breakfast. It's usually the children's duty to blow the candle off at the right moment, before the line symbolising the next day starts to melt.

All children also get Advent calendars or Christmas calendars, as they are called in Denmark. In addition, each year two TV channels prepare dedicated 24-episode series of programmes for children. Some children also receive 24 small gifts, packaged separately by their parents. The oldest Christmas symbol in Sweden and in Finland is a **goat** – these days a very popular Christmas decoration usually made of straw. In the 18th century, it was the goat that knocked on the door, left gifts on the Christmas Eve evening, and disappeared in darkness. After some time it was replaced by Jultomten, that is a Christmas dwarf whose name derives from Scandinavian folk beliefs.

Christmas in **Sweden**, as is the case in Poland, is the period of calm and family meetings combined both with religious and lay elements. In shop windows and streets you can see various decorations, whereas at homes Advent candles, angels, goats or gingerbread houses.

What is probably the most festive Christmas tradition in Scandinavia is **illuminating the Christmas tree with lights**.

The spruce is decorated with a silver or golden star, ribbons in the colours of the Norwegian national flag, cornets filled with fruit and heart-shaped paper baskets which should be full of nuts and sweets. The Christmas tree is often covered with lametta or strips of silver film which beautifully reflect the candle light, and create a fairytale atmosphere. During the Christmas Eve supper, various delicacies

are served on tables, and whereas for example in Norway the characteristic dish is lutefisk, in the remaining part of Scandinavia the compulsory dish on the table is pork – in particular Christmas ribs (juleribbe) and porridge. Another tradition which is very much alive is savouring the taste of a certain type of pudding in which an almond is hidden. The person who finds it may expect prosperity next year. On the occasion of Christmas, people brew beer and, naturally, bake cookies – at some homes a rule is followed according to which there should be at least seven types of them. What has also survived is the custom in which children leave porridge for nisse – the gnome who takes care of the farm or home.

In **Finland**, Christmas (in Finnish „Joulu“) is treated in a really special way. As everybody knows Finland is the homeland of Santa Clause, who is called Joulupukki, and his seat is located near Rovaniemi. Traditionally, on the Christmas Eve (Jouluaatto) itself, as early as before the noon, Finns visit a sauna, whereas in the evening enjoy time among friends.

In Turku, at noon on Christmas Day, the Christmas Declaration of Peace is announced, which constitutes one of the oldest traditions of the Finnish Joulu. In the presence of a few thousand residents and tourists a public reading takes place of a 1827 text reminding everybody of the upcoming remembrance of the Saviour's birth and encouraging people to welcome it with dignity or give up any feuds.

Advent and Christmas (Jul) have a special setting also in **Norway**. The time until Christmas Eve is measured by Advent calendars, whereas throughout Norway, as is the case with the other Nordic countries, the tradition of open-air Christmas fairs is very much alive (julemarked), during which all visitors enjoy traditional Scandinavian glogg – spicy drink made of mulled wine with herbs, raisins and almonds – to warm up.



Miriam Preis/imagebanksweden.se

Winter Scandinavia: live music, mulled wine and Christmas markets

Scandinavians love light and have great Christmas traditions connected with it. This is why a trip to Sweden, and in particular its **southern part - Skåne**, is a journey to the land of light. December in Skania is a period of Christmas markets, and the ones organised in Malmö and Lund deserve particular attention, as their streets sparkle with a feat of bright garlands, decorations as well as huge and shiny Christmas trees. Coffee houses tempt passers-by with the smell of fresh coffee and cinnamon cookies, restaurants invite them for Christmas delicacies, and numerous exhibitions and concerts take place in cities.

The period before the Christmas is full of various fairs and events also in the **neighbouring Denmark**, where the attractions offered by Copenhagen (including the magic atmosphere of Tivoli park and Nyhavn waterfront) as well as by Aarhus in northern Jutland) are the most spectacular. One of the most popular Christmas markets in Norway is the fair near the Town Hall and national culture museum Norsk Folkemuseum in Oslo, or the one at Frederiksten fortress in Halden. An interesting tradition can be seen in Bergen, where during Advent the biggest town in the world is built from... gingerbread.



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Scandinavians are among the best non-native English speakers

Scandinavian countries received the highest rankings in the EF English Proficiency Index. The report identifies global and regional English language learning trends and analyzes the relationship between countries' English proficiency and their economic competitiveness. First seven positions in the ranking have been granted to the countries of very high proficiency and those are the following: Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Singapore and Luxembourg. Poland was ranked on the 10th position and assigned as "high proficiency". The report states that the knowledge of English in Europe is much higher comparing to the other parts of the world. Singapore, ranked on the 6th position received the highest rank among the countries beyond Europe's borders.

Finland is the most attractive EU country for FDI

Finland top the ranking of the most attractive EU countries for foreign direct investment. Among EU member states, Finland earns praise for its highly skilled work force, ranking first in knowledge and innovation capacity reveals a recently published study commissioned by the European Commission. This affirms Finland's position as one of the world's most innovative economies. The outcome illustrates efficient and strong collaboration among Finnish industries, research institutes, university centers of innovation and government delivering disruptive technologies and innovative design.



Fot. Aarno Kurkela

Ericsson: President of Poland visits the Ericsson Studio in Kista – The Swedish Silicon Valley

On November 30th Ericsson was honored to host the Polish President Mr. Andrzej Duda in the Ericsson headquarters and Ericsson Studio in Kista. The President was briefed by Carl Mellander (CFO, Ericsson) about Ericsson's presence worldwide, and by Martin Mellor (Country Manager, Ericsson Poland) who presented Ericsson's history in Poland, our 112 years of innovation, our R&D investment supported by 2000 Polish engineer in Cracow and Lodz, our social responsibility and the recent 5G LOI with the Warsaw University of Technology. During the visit in the Ericsson Studio President Duda was accompanied by a group of Polish Start-Up companies. The President had the opportunity to check Ericsson's latest innovations associated with 5G and IOT that will be crucial in the development of The Networked Society.



Mr. President had a chance to add his signature to the wall with other industry and world leaders.

REKLAMA



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear SPCC Members!

We would like to present our special offer and suggest and recommend the purchase of a book for your friends' children, employees but not only. The author of this fairytale is Princess Märtha Louise of Norway, who wrote it on the basis of stories of her grandfather, King Olav. The title of the book is ***“Why Kings and Queens Don't Wear Crowns”*** and enclosed with the book are two types of crayons and colouring books, to make this a special edition.

Elżbieta Palmblad, Lars-Erik Berglund



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Taking responsibility for Sweden – The 2017 Budget

In the Budget Bill for 2017, the Government proposes reforms totaling SEK 24 billion in the areas such as: strengthening welfare, initiatives promotion of reading and improving the conditions for highly challenged schools. The Government will be also continuing its work to achieve the lowest unemployment rate in the EU by 2020. Additionally, Sweden will be one of the world's first fossil-free welfare nations. More information on the proposed changes is available [HERE](#).



The Swedish parliament, fot. Melker Dahlstrand, imagebanksweden.se

Foreign direct investments in Denmark on the rise

A new report by the National Bank of Denmark on in- and outgoing investment flows shows that foreign direct investment inflows into Denmark in 2015 grew by 29 billion DKK. The value of foreign direct investments in Denmark amounts to 684 billion DKK by year end of 2015, which corresponds to roughly 92 billion EUR. Denmark offers a low corporate tax rate, competitive business costs, a flexible labour market conditions and simple procedures for establishing a business. Furthermore, Denmark provides an ideal hub to Scandinavia, Europe and the Baltics.



Fot. Monika Ostrowska

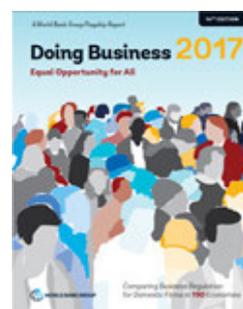
Increased business production in September in Sweden

Production in the business sector increased by 2.4 percent in seasonally adjusted figures in September compared with August. Compared with the corresponding month of the previous year, production in the business sector increased by 2.9 percent in calendar adjusted figures. Production for all sub-indices increased in September compared with the previous month. Industrial production showed the strongest development, with an increase of 7.6 percent in seasonally adjusted figures compared with August. Service production had the weakest development, with an increase of 0.5 percent.



Fot. Ewa Rzepa

Scandinavian countries ranked high in „Doing Business 2017” index



Denmark is still the top country in Europe to do business in, according to the new World Bank publication "Doing Business 2017: Equal Opportunity for All". The index ranked Denmark third overall in the world, as was also the case last year, behind top nation New Zealand and Singapore, and just ahead of Hong Kong and South Korea. The Nordic countries performed well in general – Norway came in sixth in the world, followed by Sweden (9), Finland (13) and Iceland (20). A new insolvency law, amendments to construction law and a speedier electricity connection process allowed Poland to advance to 24th place, one place higher than last year.

SPCC e-magazine: Scandinavian-Polish business community online!

The SPCC e-magazine is distributed to a wide group of readers interested in information about Scandinavian-Polish market: more than 370 companies being SPCC Members, other Scandinavian companies operating in Poland, business institutions and media. Therefore the magazine offers an unique opportunity for companies wishing to promote their business among the key stakeholders representing Scandinavian-Polish business community.

The next issue of SPCC e-magazine will be published in March 2017, the deadline for submitting the materials is 24th of February 2017.

We offer a possibility to publish articles, interviews and advertisements.

If you are interested in cooperation please contact Sylwia Wojtaszczyk-Ciąćka:

swojtaszczyk@spcc.pl, tel. 22 849 74 14.

Price list for SPCC Members