

# **Report on the internship in Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics**

## ***1. Description of the research***

My research was devoted to the topic of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and partnerships between non-profit organization and business. I worked on it in February-May 2014, studied the motivation of Swedish companies to be socially responsible, as well as the conditions under which cooperation with non-profit organization can be mutually beneficial. Sweden is an interesting country because its social problems traditionally are solved by the state. Citizens and companies pay enough high taxes; the state redistributes taxes in line with emerging needs. However, taxes are not the only way to participate in the solving of social problems. Almost half of Swedes does volunteer work in its spare time, citizens respect ethical and environmental standards, individuals and companies donate to charity, the volumes of which are growing from year to year. In general this is a very interesting experience to study. Despite the fact that the subject of my study was Sweden, first of all I am interested in the situation in Russia, so I was looking for Swedish approaches and practices in the field of CSR and business ethics, which may be used in my country.

## ***2. Methods of the research***

During my work I studied books, articles, analytical materials and documents of the Swedish companies opened to the public. In addition to the library researches I was able to talk with representatives of science, business, non-profit organizations and policy. The opportunity to receive information first from them is the advantage of staying physically in Stockholm. Some communications with experts were informal; the others were formal interviews with the representatives of organizations such as Skanska, Ericsson, Red Cross, Alfalaval, Timbro, Swedfund, Skandia, Volontärbyrå, Svensk Insamlingskontroll, Swedish Fundraising Council, Stockholm School of Economics. During my trip to Oslo I was be able to talk with Norwegian experts from KLP and the Norwegian Business School.

### **3. Results of the research**

During the research I was focused on acquiring such knowledge and skills in Sweden that will be relevant in my country. At that moment, I summarize the collected materials, decode and translate into Russian expert interviews. There is a plan to issue a separate publication.

If to denote the nodal points, the important discovery was acquaintance with the association of Swedish Fundraising Control. It oversees fundraising activities of non-profit organizations and enjoys the confidence of the Swedish society. Those non-profit organizations that attract donations honestly and openly, can join the association and thereby to improve their reputation, and therefore to make their fundraising work more successful.

The distrust towards non-profit organizations is still sufficiently strong in Russia, so similar mechanisms of enhancing the reputation (it is especially important for newly created and unknown organizations) could help non-profit organizations to gain public trust and support.



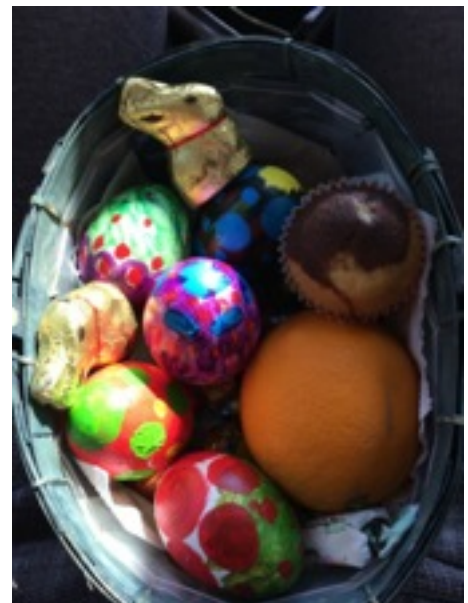
A street and an embankment of Stockholm

Many discoveries were made regarding approaches of Swedish companies to CSR (corporate social responsibility) and business ethics. In this brief report, I would to summarize these discoveries in a single phrase that I heard from one expert: "Social responsibility in our understanding is not what you do with your earnings in order to escape from society. Responsibility is how you earn them».

#### ***4. Familiarity with the Swedish culture***

Thanks to Disa Håstad from The Sverker Åström Foundation I managed to survive the whole Swedish life with new friends, touching family Easter celebration, trip to Sigtuna with visiting the ancient churches with paintings, familiarity with the number of Swedish diplomats and public figures, trips to museums and theatres and, of course, awesome home cooking Swedish cuisine. And it was for a relatively short stay in Stockholm.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Foundation for the hospitable welcome. The opportunity to work in Sweden has helped me to understand the social issues that I was interested in.



The celebration of Easter and the trip to Sigtuna