

Dr. Veronica Shenshin presents her recent report

The Russian population in Finland

A cultural and historical overview of the Russian population in Finland from the autonomous period of Finland as part of the Russian Empire from 1808 to 1917 and from the independence of Finland 1917 to 2008

Time: Monday, October 20 at 16.00

Venue: CEREN, Centre for Research on Ethnic Relations and Nationalism,
Pohjoinen Hesperiankatu 15 A, 00260 Helsinki (Buzzer: SSKH Forskningsinstitutet, 6th floor)

Welcome!

Abstract:

The size of the Russian-speaking population has increased remarkably during the last ten years and now there are, according to Statistics Finland in 2007, 45 244, Russians and Russian-speakers residing in Finland. Half are repatriated Finns from the former Soviet Union and the new Russia. Most of them, 17 000, live in the Southern parts of Finland and Helsinki City Area as well as in the cities close to the border with Russia.

The history of the Russian population in Finland goes back to 1741 in Lappeenranta. Russians in Finland, who were the builders of the fortresses in that area, as well as merchants, officers and government officials along with their families, lived there after 1808. During these years the Swedish Law in Finland was preserved by Tsar Alexander I and the status of Russians as Foreigners in Finland was thus also preserved.

Because of the historically difficult events and the geopolitical position as a border country, the Russians and the Russian speaking-population in Finland is in a special position. However, the Russians have managed to maintain their life in Finland and also show their dedication to the Finnish culture and society. Mainly by trade beginning with the Kiseleff family (the founder of the Finnish Sugar Company) and the Sinebrychoff brothers (founders of the beer company), but also in Art, Music and Culture the Russians have gained appreciation from the Finns. The Sinebrychoff and the Kiseleff families quickly assimilated with the Swedish-speaking population.

Nowadays the Russian population assimilates and integrates in the Finnish society as any other group or nationality of immigrants. The historical roots of the Russian population in Finland go back several generations and present a very interesting multicultural picture of Finnish society.

More information (in Finnish):

<http://www.formin.fi/public/?contentid=132501&contentlan=1&culture=fi-FI>