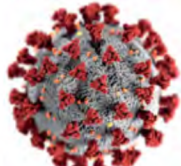


1/2020

The Coronavirus



Emergency

STARTUP
DAY

The Birth Certificate

Newsflashes

fOCUS



The 2020
Business Season
Kicked Off

On the photo:

Toomas Kabin, Ambassador Mikael Eriksson, Hans Lepp, and SCCE's Chairman Karolina Ullman

SCCE's General Assembly 2020

For the first time ever, SCCE's General Assembly was conducted via e-mail this year. The electronic proceedings were conducted on 17 March and all our members who had registered for voting got the necessary reports and proposals to be decided upon via e-mail.



SCCE could look back at a very active and intense past year with a wide range of business seminars and social events being arranged. Before the coronavirus reached its current pandemic magnitude, 2020 has begun in an equally active way.

The reports on SCCE's activities, finances and audit for 2019, as well as the budget proposal for 2020 were all approved via the General Assembly's e-mail voting procedure.

Furthermore, the General Assembly elected SCCE's Council for 2020 to include **Ainar Ahusalu** – Business Sweden, **Evelin Allas** – SEB, **Kadri Land** – Tallink, **Per Lindberg** – Stoneridge Electronics, **Tendo Lindvest** – Hilton Tallinn Park Hotel, **Linda Nilsson** – Embassy of Sweden, **Mart Nömper** – Grant Thornton Baltic, **Lars Ottoson** – Ericsson, **Janar Sutt** – BRIOX, and **Karolina Ullman** – NJORD Law Firm.

Following the proceedings, **Ivar Miller** – Auxner was elected as SCCE's Auditor.

I would like to thank all of our members who participated in this year's electronic General Assembly despite the current challenging times. My thanks also go to Karolina Ullman who took the initiative to the set up and prepared the documents for our General Assembly, and to Ainar Ahusalu who shared his experiences from the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Lithuania, who held their annual proceedings in a similar way. Last but not least, I would also like to thank Jan Nurminen for his contributions to SCCE's Council during 2019, and Liili Rätsep for her work as SCCE's Auditor last year.

Kristiina Brodén
SCCE Ombudsman



Karolina Ullman
SCCE Chairman

This business year has, however, started a bit shaky for many companies. Cancelled expos and conferences, quarantine recommendations and a growing concern in society due to the new pandemic virus Covid-19. It is good that media informs about the risks and measures to take but the main risk right now seems more to be to avoid mass hysteria and stay calm.



Many companies struggle with lack of deliveries due to many production facilities in China and elsewhere are closed, making it difficult or impossible to produce and deliver goods in their turn. The financial markets are nervous and the stock exchange indices are falling each day. Some companies may need to terminate employment agreements or reduce salaries due to low production levels.

Please make sure to create a written track record of all business correspondence related to delays, missing deliveries, postponements of execution of agreements etc. In case decisions or requests of additional time to deliver are made over the phone, make it a routine to follow-up by e-mail. You will thank yourself in case you will end up in disputes in the future as you will always have to provide proof of all that was agreed or not agreed upon if problems lead to legal disputes.

Foreign Investors Council of Estonia (the umbrella organisation for many foreign chambers of commerce in Estonia) is working hard on getting together their important survey among the different chambers members. I hope you have had the time to participate as the survey is an important tool in our constant dialogue with Estonian politicians and institutions. It is important to know what foreign owned companies' think about the business environment we are active in.

Dear Reader,

Last year was a good year for the Chamber, we delivered according to our mission from our dear members and although the number of members is a bit lower than previous year, we value quality over quantity and the events made during last year is confirming our direction.



2016 in Haapsalu: The 3rd Song- and Dance Festival

You may not believe it if you look out of your window, but summer will arrive also this year! Please mark Saturday 27 June (it is a week after Swedish Midsummer) in your calendar and come to Haapsalu and enjoy the 4th Swedish-Estonian Song- and Dance Festival. Folk dancers and choirs from both sides of the Baltic Sea will sing and dance for you. There is an after party in the evening following the official programme where you as our member are invited to. The details will be sent out by our Ombudsman closer to the event.

Karolina Ullman
Chairman of the Swedish Chamber
of Commerce in Estonia

Royal Members:



Publisher

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SCCE welcomes editorial content and articles for **focus** promoting Swedish – Estonian commerce, trade and investments. The author of editorial texts and articles published is responsible for the content. SCCE reserves the right to reject publishing of content not being in line with SCCE's Statutes.

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SCCE's Ombudsman Kristiina Brodén will be happy to provide information on sizes, prices and technical requirements for advertising in **focus** and at our website www.swedishchamber.ee. Welcome to contact Kristiina at: kristiina@swedishchamber.ee or by phone: (+372) 501 9813. SCCE reserves the right to reject publishing of advertisements not being in line with SCCE's Statutes.

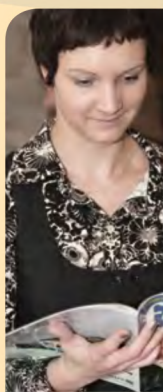
Subscriptions and additional copies

focus magazine is distributed free of charge to the members of the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Estonia as well as Swedish Chambers of Commerce in Sweden, Latvia, Lithuania and several other countries around the world.

SCCE also provides additional copies of **focus** for SCCE's members own distribution of the magazine to customers and business contacts to a net print run cost.

Please contact SCCE's Ombudsman Kristiina Brodén for further information: kristiina@swedishchamber.ee

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The Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Estonia

The Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Estonia, SCCE, is a non-profit association registered in Estonia. Since its start, the SCCE has grown considerably and today the Chamber unite more than 130 member companies and organizations headquartered in Estonia, Sweden, as well as other countries.

SCCE is in many ways a mirror of the intensity in Swedish-Estonian commerce, trade and investments. Sweden is the biggest foreign direct investor in Estonia, and Sweden is also a major export market for Estonia.

A main task of SCCE is to create an environment for networking and exchange of information. The Chamber acts as a meeting place by arranging seminars, business lunches, company visits, meeting business delegations, as well as arranging social events for the members.

Following a SCCE initiative, FICE – Foreign Investors' Council in Estonia was founded in August 2008. FICE is a lobby group acting through contacts with the Estonian Government and Estonia's Governmental bodies. Together, the nine countries represented in FICE account for an impressive 80% share of the foreign direct investments in Estonia.

Special and unique SCCE member benefits include opportunities to further market their businesses in the *News from Members* section of the Chamber's website, as well as taking advantage of a steady flow of *Member Bonuses*.

The fee for Basic Membership in the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Estonia is 449€ consisting of: a) Basic fee 200€, b) Service fee 249€ + VAT. The fee for Royal Membership is 1.349 € consisting of: a) Basic fee 200€, b) Royal Members' extended service package: 1.149€ + VAT. Membership is only granted to legal entities.

For more information about SCCE, please visit www.swedishchamber.ee. You are also welcome to take a direct contact with SCCE's Ombudsman Kristiina Brodén: kristiina@swedishchamber.ee, tel: (+372) 501 9813.

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As Time Goes By: The 2020 Business Season Kicked Off

Last year, 30 years had passed since Sweden established diplomatic relations with Estonia, at that time still under Soviet rule. 30 years had also passed since the first Swedish business delegation came to Estonia and the first Estonian business delegation came to Sweden. Furthermore, 2019 marked that 25 years had passed since the Embassy of Sweden could move into the beautiful von Rosen baroque palace in the heart of Tallinn's Old Town.

With these anniversaries as a theme, and headlined As Time Goes By, Team Sweden – the Embassy of Sweden, Business Sweden and the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Estonia, gathered in the Ambassador's Residence to Kick Off the 2020 Business Season.



- Sweden became a pioneer in diplomatic relations with Estonia. Already at the end of 1989, a branch office of the Swedish Consulate General in Leningrad was opened in Tallinn, said Hans Lepp, Culture Attaché at the Embassy 1991-1994.

- And, just a few days after Estonia's restored Independence in August 1991, Sweden became the first foreign country to open an Embassy in Estonia.

- The first three years the Embassy was located at Endla 4 in Tallinn. A large part of the work consisted in issuing visas to Estonians who wanted to travel to Sweden. The queues in front of the office were sometimes almost endless. Another major task of the Embassy was to channel Swedish assistance to the Estonian reform processes, as well as arranging cultural exchange programs between our two countries.



Toomas Käbin, Ambassador Mikael Eriksson and Hans Lepp

- This end of January evening, our two Kick Off speakers, Hans Lepp and Toomas Käbin, will take us back to the times of the Singing Revolution and Estonia's restored Independence. A period that also formed the basis for the ongoing successful Swedish-Estonian cooperation, said Ambassador Mikael Eriksson in his welcome and opening remarks.



►►► - To put it mildly, the Endla 4 localities were not exactly representative. But, in 1994 the Embassy could move into the beautiful von Rosen baroque palace in the heart of Tallinn's Old Town. The palace was built during the 1670's by the Swedish nobleman Axel von Rosen.



Photo: Mari Arnover

The Embassy of Sweden in Tallinn

- During the Soviet occupation, the State school for engine-drivers was situated in the palace. Considering the condition the building was in when the Swedish State leased it, no particular respect had been paid to its historical value. However, in 1992-1994 thorough

renovations took place under the supervision of building conservationists from Estonia and Sweden. The rooms were refurbished in different styles, Gustavian, Baroque and Empire, reflecting the long history of the palace.

- Since it nowadays is accommodating the Embassy of Sweden, you can say that its Swedish past is united with the present, concluded Hans Lepp.

- 1989 was one of several intensive years in the rapidly growing business contacts between Sweden and Estonia. The first Swedish business delegation arrived in Estonia, and the first Estonian business delegation came to Stockholm. Furthermore, official visits by Swedish ministers took place, said Toomas Käbin, one of the pioneering founders of the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Estonia.



- Step by step, things started to improve during these days. In terms of air traffic, the first SAS flight from Stockholm landed at Tallinn Airport on 25 November, 1989. Specially invited guests on this inaugural flight could enjoy Tallinn's Old Town, a reception in the City Hall hosted by the Mayor of Tallinn, and a dinner at Palace Hotel hosted by SAS' then CEO Jan Carlzon. And in June 1990, a cruise ferry connection between Tallinn and Stockholm came into regular operation.

- In 1990, the Swedish Trade Council, nowadays Business Sweden, opened their first office in Tallinn. I was head of their operations and worked as Trade

Counsellor and First Secretary Commercial at the Swedish Embassy, continued Toomas Käbin.

- During these years around the end of the 1980's and the very beginning of the 1990's, it was mainly small and medium sized Swedish companies that established businesses in Estonia. However, very soon big Swedish enterprises followed.



- Things really started to take off in 1991 as Estonia restored its independence. Swedish companies, active in a wide range of business activities, showed a solid interest for Estonia, and executive management officials and entrepreneurs started to come here.

- Very soon there was a Swedish business community established here and they started to meet in Tallinn. The meetings were very informal but became an excellent forum for exchanging information and updates on the rapid development of the Estonian State and its business climate and culture.

- Over the following next years, not only Swedish - Estonian commerce, trade and investments developed and reached new heights. So did also the informal meetings of the constantly growing Swedish business community in Estonia and on 28 May 1997, MTÜ Rootsi Kaubanduskoda Eestis, the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Estonia, was formally registered and I became SCCE's first chairman.



- Sweden came to play a very vital role in Estonia's commerce, trade and foreign investments, a role that Sweden still plays, concluded Toomas Käbin.

focus

on legalities

Smart devices as lifesavers



By Siiri Vello, Assistant Attorney, Associate at NJORD Law Firm



In the midst of the development of smart devices, more and more attention is being paid to the most valuable asset to a human – our life and health.

For the last two years, cars in Europe are required to have an eCall function which would call for help in case of an accident. Several smartwatch manufacturers are also developing functions for the watches, which would notify the user of a health problem or even call for help if needed. However, there are several aspects to these developments.



On the one hand, we should be grateful that technology is being developed to be used for our health and wellbeing. For example, understanding that the user has fallen, and calling for help in this case, is a very useful function,

especially when it comes to the elderly. The longer an elderly person is lying on the ground, the more serious the impact on their health may be. Further, there have been stories in foreign media about how smartwatches have notified the user of an unusually high or low pulse, thereby saving the life of the user. At the same time, the question arises as to how valid and accurate the findings of a smartwatch are and whether the watches cause false emergency calls.



As with autonomous cars, according to the Estonian Emergency Response Centre, it is common that the users just want to test the functions of the car. Smartwatches have different solutions

for calling for help – whether a direct call to the local emergency response centre or to a number determined by the user. Therefore, there is a risk that the smartwatch may call directly to the emergency services. In 2019, there were 7 calls in Estonia made by smartwatches. In none of these cases was help actually needed. When calling the emergency response centre, it is important to note that the call must be justified. Considering the limited resources of rescue workers, it may happen that the personnel is preoccupied with a false emergency call and, at the same time, another person who is in a real emergency will not receive help. According to Estonian >>>



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- ▶▶▶ law, knowingly making a false emergency call is punishable.

In addition, there is the question of who is liable for the damage that can happen – is it the owner or the user of the smartwatch, or the manufacturer or the seller of the smartwatch who has not provided enough information to the owner/user about the functions of the smartwatch?

In Estonia, the seller is liable for the product's compliance with the requirements of the sale agreement and law, and the product must include the instruction manual. If the seller does not conform to the requirements, it might lead to false emergency calls from unknowingness by the user and a breach of the seller. If the seller has not fulfilled the obligations, it must be assessed whether the breach by the seller was in causation with the false emergency call. In some cases, the manufacturer of the watch might be liable. The manufacturer's liability may occur in situations where the product harms its owner's life and health – for example if the watch explodes and causes bodily harm.

Depending on the situation, it might happen that the user of the watch will be considered the liable person, as they have the possibility to decide on the settings more and they might be the only ones who have the possibility to disable the emergency call function. From published practice, it seems that usually the reason for false calls made by a smartwatch is unawareness and more often than not, the watch makes the calls automatically: for example, something touches the call-making button during training.

Smartwatches can be extremely useful for life and health, but at the same time, it must be considered that they might misuse the emergency services. In Estonia, the smartwatch emergency call function has not yet become a huge problem, but as time passes, more problems may occur. In such situations, it is the manufacturer's and the seller's obligation to explain and guide, even as merely due to moral reasons, so that the users would be aware of the functions of their watches and no false emergency calls would be made.



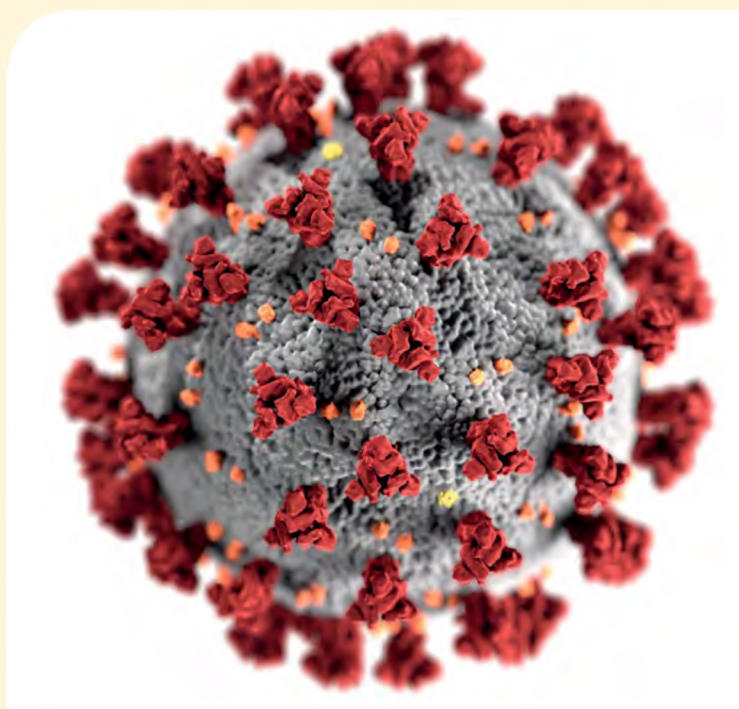
Siiri Vello

Assistant Attorney,
Associate NJORD Law Firm

focus on the **ECONOMY**

The Coronavirus: Emergency Situation declared in Estonia

Aiming to combat the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Estonia declared an emergency situation on 12 March, being in effect until 1 May unless the Government decides otherwise.



Main restrictions and actions in effect under the emergency situation affect travel, border crossing, schools and public gatherings:

Travel and border crossing

- As per 17 March, only citizens of Estonia and holders of Estonian residency permit or right of residence, among them the so-called grey passport holders, can enter

Estonia, as well as foreign citizens whose family member lives in Estonia. A two-week quarantine for everyone entering Estonia is required. The temporary restriction of border crossing will be in force until decided otherwise and the necessity will be reviewed every two weeks. There are no restrictions for exiting Estonia.

- Tallink's sea traffic on the Tallinn-Stockholm route is temporarily suspended until further notice. Tallink's MS *Regal Star*, which operates on the Paldiski-





▶▶▶ Kapellskär route, will remain in service between Estonia and Sweden to ensure transport of goods. The Regal Star will operate under a non-fixed schedule.

- Only permanent residents of Hiiumaa, Saaremaa, Muhu, Vormsi, Kihnu and Ruhnu will be permitted to

travel to the islands. The restriction will remain in effect for at least two weeks initially.

Schools and education

- All schools closed and extracurriculars were canceled on Monday 16 March. Regular studies are substituted by e-learning.

- Research and development activities will continue at universities and research institutions.

- The necessity of the measures affecting schools and education will be assessed on a biweekly basis.

Public gatherings

- All public gatherings are banned; museums and cinemas are closed, all sporting events, performances, concerts and conferences are banned.

- Social welfare institutions, hospitals, and detention facilities are subject to a visiting ban.

- As per 14 March, closing of public swimming pools, saunas, gyms and sports centers came into effect.

The outbreak of the coronavirus originated in the city of Wuhan, China, on 31 December, 2019 and has since then spread rapidly all over the world.

The first case of coronavirus in Estonia was confirmed in Tallinn on 27 February. The first cases involved people having been in risk areas, but a couple of weeks later the virus started to spread from person to person. As an example, 21 confirmed cases were reported in the morning of 13 March. In the evening the very same day, this figure had increased to 79 people being confirmed



with the coronavirus in Estonia, a figure that will significantly increase further.

The coronavirus pandemic will indeed have an impact on the economy, both on a global and national level.



The final outcome remains to be seen, but right now it is known that the travel and hospitality trades are among the first facing the economic challenges resulting from less passengers and guests, as well as cancelled flights and trips due to closed borders.

Industries, big as well as smaller, with part of, or their full manufacturing being done in China, are also facing problems due to downscaled or even close down of their Chinese sources of supplies.

The world economy in general was not in its best shape before the coronavirus outbreak.

- The world economy is fragile and is in a precarious state and risks are record-high. Growth is slowed by

focus on the **ECONOMY**



lingering uncertainty and supply-side constraints. Central bank signals of low key rates for a long period will provide support, but also raise questions about long-term risks of debt build-up and spiraling asset prices, said the winter issue of SEB's Nordic Outlook, written and published before the coronavirus reached its current pandemic magnitude.

- As for Estonia, 2019 was once again a success for the Estonian economy, ending a golden decade which saw nominal GDP almost double, continues the Nordic Outlook.

- The main contributor to the growth was the relatively small, but increasingly important, information and communication technology sector. While its share of total employment is a mere 4,5%, it provided almost 30% of the overall Estonian value added growth.

- However, Estonia, as well as Latvia and Lithuania, are affected by the slowdown in global demand. Lower industrial production and weaker demand are among the reasons behind the deceleration in the Baltics, said the winter issue of the Nordic Outlook.

- Despite signs of stabilisation, indicators point to weak or even falling Swedish GDP, said the Nordic Outlook.

- Swedish public finances remain strong in a historical and international perspective, with a central government budget surplus in 2019 for the fourth year in a row. This pushed down general government debt to about 35% of the GDP.

- However, fiscal pressure on municipal and regional authorities is considerable, still being driven by such factors as demographics and continued high immigration. Weak economic growth and slower job growth will squeeze central and local government budgets, said the Nordic Outlook (and again, it should be emphasized that this winter issue of the Nordic Outlook was written and published before the coronavirus reached its current pandemic magnitude).



ABB. On the pulse of digital revolution



Recent Tax Changes in the Baltics

By Kristjan Järve, Partner in charge of tax services, Grant Thornton Baltic and
 Urzula Vālb, Leading tax adviser, Grant Thornton Baltic

Recent tax changes in the Baltics are mostly derived from the policy of moving from tax competition to tax avoidance elimination. Initiated by the OECD and G20 by collaborating over 135 countries to put an end to tax avoidance strategies that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules, the European Union (EU) has redacted several directives in recent years for introducing base erosion and profit shifting elimination (i.e. BEPS) tools to Member Countries' tax legislation.



Kristjan Järve at SCCE's February Tax Seminar at Grant Thornton Baltic

The EU Anti-Tax Avoidance Directives (ATAD I & II) containing measures against aggressive tax planning have been adopted by the Member Countries (including the Baltics) as of 2019 when general anti-abuse rule, interest deduction rules and controlled foreign company rules were introduced to local laws.

General anti-abuse rule applies when any other rule on countering aggressive tax planning cannot be applied. Interest limitation rules aim to discourage artificial debt arrangements to minimize taxes. Controlled foreign company rules should deter profit shifting to a low or no tax country.

In addition, the rules on hybrid mismatches and exit taxation became effective as of 2020. Hybrid mismatches exploit differences between tax systems to achieve double non-taxation of income, for example deducting the payment from taxable income as an interest expense but treating it as a tax-exempt dividend in the country where the recipient is located. Exit taxation rules aim to prevent companies from avoiding tax when re-locating assets from one country to another.

Another major change implemented with the tax intermediaries' directive (DAC6) is the obligation to report

all cross-border arrangements which impact taxation to the tax authorities as of August 2020 (reporting retrospectively last two-year tax schemes). The purpose of the DAC6 directive is to disclose potentially aggressive tax planning schemes and exchange information on such schemes between the tax authorities. The reporting obligation lies either on tax advisers or tax payers.

Other changes in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania concerning personal taxation, value added tax and other taxes are country specific. For example, Estonia changed the personal income tax return submission due date from 31 March to 30 April, so in 2020 taxpayers have more time to gather their income and deduction information.

Lithuania introduced some major changes in personal taxation by introducing the ceiling to the contributions to state social insurance (SODRA) and a relief for stock option plans, but on the other hand increasing progressive personal income tax rate from 27% to 32%. In addition, and a new motor vehicle tax will enter into force in Lithuania as of 1 July 2020.



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 Partner in charge of tax services,
 Grant Thornton



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 Leading tax adviser,
 Grant Thornton Baltic



First personal medicine-based babies born in Estonia

In January, three babies were born to mothers who were the first to use personalised medicine-based infertility treatment plans developed in Estonia to help them conceive. Two of the babies were born with the help of the East Tallinn Central Hospital Centre for Infertility Treatment.

The results are even more positive considering that the happy families had undergone lengthy and ineffective infertility treatments before using the personalised medicine test.

The personalised medicine programme was first implemented in the infertility treatment clinics of East Tallinn Central Hospital (ITK) and West Tallinn Central Hospital (LTKH) at the start of 2019. Couples who had previously >>>

►►► failed to conceive after many attempts and whose cause of infertility remained unclear to doctors were selected as patients. Over the course of the year, a total of 50 infertility patients took part in the programme and 17 of them managed to get pregnant. Today, three babies have been born thanks to personalised medicine.

The embryo implantation test, i.e. the beREADY test used in personalised medicine, is a solution developed by the Competence Centre on Health Technologies (CCHT) which uses the patient's gene information to determine the perfect day to transfer the *in vitro* embryo(s) back to the uterus. The test analyses whether the endometrium of the uterus is ready for embryo implantation on the day the doctor has chosen for the transfer process, which is preceded by precise medication doses. The results reveal that 1 out of 3 patients require a different embryo transfer time than that determined in the treatment plan.

Dr Tiina Loog, Head of the ITK Centre of Infertility Treatment believes that using the personalised medicine test is an important step towards more accurate medicine that takes less of a toll on patients.

"We have been using endometrial receptivity testing in the Centre of Infertility Treatment since 2016," said Dr Loog. "We ordered the first test from an IVI laboratory in Spain, but have been using the tests developed by the Competence Centre on Health Technologies since April 2019 – the latter are just as efficient and significantly more affordable for patients compared with the IVI tests."

This service is not listed in the price list of the Estonian Health Insurance Fund, meaning that patients must bear the cost themselves. The test can only be used before the transfer of frozen embryos. This diagnostics method cannot be used in the event of *in vitro* fertilisation treatments. A total of 26 patients

were examined at East Tallinn Central Hospital and there were nine pregnancies. At the start of the year, the first two babies were born in ITK with the help of personalised medicine.

"Naturally, the test gives no guarantees on pregnancy," explains the Head of the Centre of Infertility Treatment, "but it certainly helps select the best possible day when the endometrium of the uterus is ready to accept the embryo. This is especially important in cases where repeated embryo transfers have been unsuccessful."

The application of personalised medicine also had a positive start at the LTKH Centre for Reproductive Medicine.

"We recommend endometrial receptivity testing for women who have had numerous unsuccessful transfers," said Dr Katrin Kask,



Head of the Centre, “and there have been several cases where the test has prompted changes in the transfer schedule. Since the test is readily available and the results come quickly, patients who have not yet had several transfers but wish to be certain that their scheduled transfer time is optimal also take the test.” According to Dr Kask, a total of 34 patients have currently had the test in the LTKH Centre for Reproductive Medicine, eight of which are now pregnant and one has given birth. Most patients are yet to undergo the transfer process.

Supporting infertility treatment is a national priority and free for patients up to 40 years of age. According to the State Agency of Medicines, 3011 infertility treatment cycles were performed in Estonia in 2018 with the Estonian Health Insurance Fund compensating for 2600 of those cycles, leaving 411 cycles

performed for a fee, i.e. on patients over 40. The average cost of one infertility treatment cycle amounts to 2000 euros for the Estonian Health Insurance Fund, totalling an annual treatment budget of 5.2 million.

Based on a report prepared in the University of Tartu in 2013, the cost incurred by the Estonian Health Insurance Fund is lowest – 3450 euros – when the woman has a baby after the first treatment cycle. The cost increases to 5620 euros after the second cycle and 18,570 euros after the third. As infertility treatment is a long and time-consuming process, the age of the woman increases with additional cycles and natural fertility inevitably diminishes. For example, if 34% of cycles ended with a birth among women under 30, then only 19% of cycles ended with a birth among women aged 36 and above.

Kaarel Krjutškov, head of the precision medicine laboratory at CCHT, whose team developed the beREADY implementation test and contributed to the implementation of personalised medicine, noted that it is paramount to focus on the start of the infertility treatment and use existing personalised and precision medicine methods to achieve better results.

“The embryo implantation test,” explains Krjutškov, “functions like an insurance policy before infertility treatment cycles to make sure that the valuable embryos are transferred at the most suitable time, not too soon, not too early. The cost of one infertility treatment cycle is 2000 euros or more, but the beREADY implantation test is about 10% of that cost. For this reason, the test shouldn’t be the last resort for patients, but rather a prerequisite for continuing infertility treatment if the first cycle or two fail to result in pregnancy.”



Text and photos: East-Tallinn Central Hospital

Baltics' biggest business festival, sTARTUp Day, brought 4.400 entrepreneurial people together

The Baltics' biggest business festival, sTARTUp Day, took place for the 4th time on 29-31 January in UT Sports Hall in Tartu, Estonia with 4.400 visitors, 158 speakers, and 4 stages. Although the Head Organizer Marili Vihmann said the aim was to keep the same number of attendees as last year – around 4.000 guests, the festival still grew by 400 visitors. The festival had visitors from 60 different countries.

Photo: Kiur Kaasik



Because the festival had 4 stages and almost 50 seminars the number of speakers was also high. The festival had 158 speakers who shared their knowledge on a variety of topics – from space technology to startup founder's psychology.



Photo: Kiur Kaasik

One of the key-note speakers was Milda Mitkutė, the Founder and CEO of Vinted – a global second-hand clothes online market. They became a Unicorn status startup (*meaning a company that is valued at over \$1*

billion) in December 2019. "The breaking point was when we discussed if we should close the Vinted platform or take it to the next level. We decided to take it to the next level and hired our first customer support specialist. Now we have 25+ million users and 350 workers," shared Mitkutė her success story. She talked about the journey of ups and downs and learnings: "I stopped pretending that I know absolutely everything and hired more qualified people than I am. Being a leader and being an expert are two different things."

One of the aims of the business festival was to connect investors and startups. 700 startup representatives got to matchmake with around 200 ▶▶▶



Photo: Rasaa Etten



sTARTUp Day is the biggest business festival in the Baltics, bringing together startups, traditional entrepreneurs, investors, innovators, and students.

The aim of the event is to connect startup-minded people and celebrate entrepreneurship in the smart city of Tartu.

Altogether it took a team of 200 people to organize sTARTUp Day 2020, the 4th of its kind. The festival is organized by the University of Tartu, Tartu city, Contriber, Tartu Science Park, Tartu Centre of Creative Industries, Tartu Biotechnology Park, Tartu Business Advisory Services, Ole Rohkem, and Swedbank. The business festival is sponsored by the European Regional Development Fund, Enterprise Estonia (EAS), Visit Estonia and Startup Estonia.

The 5th sTARTUp Day will take place 27–29 January 2021 in Tartu. Tickets are already available at the website startupday.ee.

►►► investors and 300 executives using the Brella networking app. During the festival days, 2.491 meetings were booked through the application.

116 business ideas were presented through the two festival days on the Pitching Stage. There were many different competitions and one of them was the festival's own sTARTUp Pitching Competition. 33 teams were selected to pitch out of 277 and the winner was Jeff App. In the absence of traditional credit data, Jeff taps into the power of what people do have: device metadata, geolocation, contact information, behavioral patterns, 3rd party data and more, building alternative credit scores to help the underbanked population.

They won the EstBAN (Estonian Business Angels Network)-lead syndicate investment of 170.000 €. They also won Swedbank Estonia's award of 10.000 € equity-free money. "On the one hand, the Jeff App is a very high risk, but investors see great potential to one day be a unicorn, mainly because they have a great team," commented Anu Oks, Managing Director of EstBAN.

One of the speakers was Sten-Kristian Saluveer, a member of Startup Estonia 2.0 Strategy Team, who talked about the future of startup ecosystems. "There can be many interesting forms that ecosystems can take. For example, Silicon Valley is about the mission 'Anybody could make it'. There are great founders, a lot of capital, a lot of resources, but they also have almost 40 years of tradition, which we can't replicate in Estonia. And in Israel, they have a saying that, 'You can rest when you're dead', and most founders there are following that. France' ecosystem is promoting only the TOP 40. New Zealand's startup ecosystem revolves around talent. So, what do ecosystems really do? They enable innovation, they help to hatch the new founders through

educational and support programs, and they help to mediate the relationships between VC's, government, media and everybody else in the ecosystem."

Saluveer also told that the future of great ecosystems will not be only about financial success. It's moving from cash to collaboration, it's about the long-term impact, not only for the founders but for the whole society. It's about the dialog between community and organizations. We should be proud, happy, and based on that, ready to innovate and conquer the world. So, the bright future is all about our joint effort.



Hermione Way

Hermione Way, CMO at Sportside.com and the previous Tinder Head of Communications in Europe, shared her knowledge about marketing startups: "I think the most important thing is the story. If your company doesn't have a story from the beginning, you're not going to survive. I see the future of brand marketing, it's going political, social, environmental. If your brand doesn't rely on those, take a stance, your company will not survive. We have global problems, think about the bigger value your product or service is going to make."

Report: Riin Lisett Rei, sTARTUp Day PR Manager

Estonia's Birth Certificate

The Head Signatories

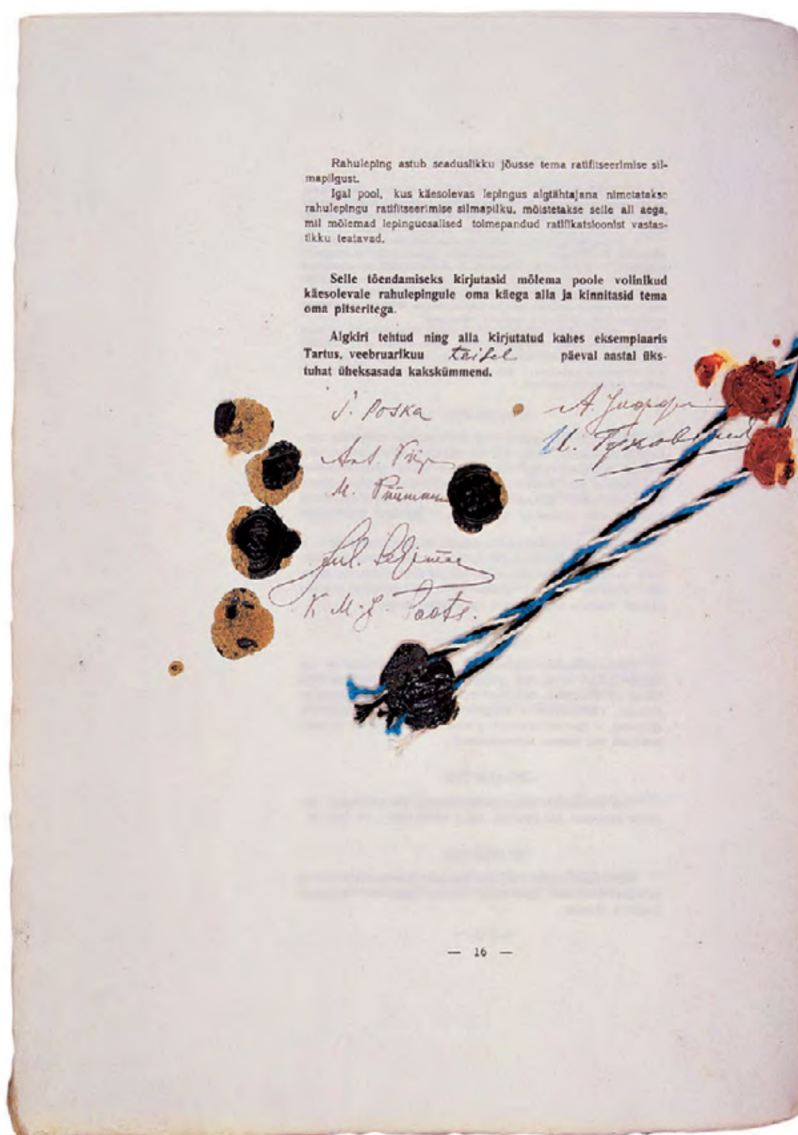


Jaan Poska (1866-1920) had special merits for being the head of the Estonian peace delegation and achieving the Peace Treaty. He was an Estonian barrister, politician, and the mayor of Tallinn from 1913 to 1917. On 24th February 1918, he was appointed as Estonia's Minister of Foreign Affairs and worked in Western Europe for gaining diplomatic recognition to Estonia. He died in Tallinn on 7th March 1920, just a bit more than a month after signing the Tartu Peace Treaty.



Adolph Joffe (1883-1927), signed the Tartu Peace Treaty on behalf of Soviet Russia. He was a communist revolutionary, a Bolshevik politician and a Soviet diplomat. Following several important negotiation missions abroad on behalf of Soviet Russia, he became gravely ill and was confined to his bed in late 1927. After a refusal by the Stalinist leadership of the Communist Party to send him abroad for treatment, he committed suicide in Moscow on 16th November 1927.

- The Tartu Peace Treaty was, is and will always remain the birth certificate of the Estonian State, said President Kersti Kaljulaid as she took part in the 2nd February celebrations in Tartu dedicated to the centennial anniversary of the Tartu Peace Treaty.



The signatory page of the Tartu Peace Treaty





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►►► 100 years earlier, on 2nd February 1920, the signing of the treaty between the Republic of Estonia and Soviet Russia finally ended Estonia's 431 days long War of Independence.

Following close to 150 years of Swedish ruling, Estonia had been a province of Imperial Russia since 1710, confirmed de jure by the Treaty of Nystad in 1721. With the outbreak of World War I in July 1914, the Russian Empire fell into revolution and civil war, and on 24th February 1918 Estonia declared independence.

Estonia had to fight against several attackers for its independence. Imperial German troops took control of Tallinn on 25th February 1918, the very day after Estonia's Declaration of Independence. As World War I ended on 11th November the same year, the Germans left but only two weeks later, Soviet Russian troops invaded Estonia, an aggression considered to mark the ignition of the Estonian War of Independence.

In addition to fighting the Soviet Russian attacker, Estonia also had to counter aggression from Baltische Landeswehr (the Baltic Territorial Army), mainly consisting of unified armed forces from the Couronian and Livonian nobility.

The War of Independence resulted in a victory for Estonia. After two months of negotiations between the Republic of Estonia and Soviet Russia, the Peace Treaty was signed in a Tartu school building, nowadays named Jaan Poska Gümnaasium after the head of the Estonian peace delegation.



Jaan Poska Gümnaasium in Tartu, the building where the Peace Treaty was signed

THE FIRST 102 YEARS

- The Tartu Peace Treaty not only formalized the victory both legally and diplomatically, but it also laid the foundations for the wider recognition of Estonia as an independent and sovereign state. Our country became a subject of international relations instead of an object, said President Kersti Kaljulaid at the centennial celebration in Tartu.



President Kersti Kaljulaid

Among several other issues, the Tartu Peace Treaty established the border between Estonia and Russia, affirmed the right of Estonian people to return to Estonia and Russian people to return to Russia, and required that Estonian movable property, evacuated to Russia in World War I, to be returned to Estonia.

A quote from Article II in the Tartu Peace Treaty says:
"...Russia unreservedly recognizes the independence and sovereignty of the State of Estonia..."

This core substance of an independent and sovereign Estonia lasted until September 1939, when Soviet Russia demanded Estonian territory for establishing



The Estonian and Soviet Russian peace treaty delegations

military bases. This was followed by war, occupation and oppression; first by Soviet Russia, then Nazi-Germany, and then by the Soviet Union until 20th August 1991, when Estonia restored its independence.

- Key [Estonian] government ministers, Foreign Minister Urmas Reinsalu and Interior Minister Martin Helme, have publicly made territorial claims to our country, by referring to the inoperative 1920 Tartu Peace Treaty, said Sergey Belyaev, Director of the Second European Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, in a mid-November last year interview with RIA Novosti.

In his speech at the 2nd February centennial celebrations in Tartu, Estonia's Foreign Minister Urmas Reinsalu commented on the validity of the Tartu Peace Treaty and said:

- The Tartu Peace Treaty is not merely a peace treaty signed a hundred years ago; it is the starting point of our statehood.

- The position of the Republic of Estonia has been and remains clear; the Tartu Peace Treaty is valid, and it remains unchanged from the perspective of our statehood by the fact that it was violated by the legal predecessor of the Russian Federation, the Soviet Union with its illegal annexation of the Republic of Estonia in 1940.



Foreign Minister Urmas Reinsalu

- Secondly, the Republic of Estonia that restored its independence in 1991 is legally identical to the Republic of Estonia that was founded by our people according to their right to self-determination in 1918.

The occupation of Estonia by the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany as a consequence of the secret protocol of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact resulted in the loss of a fifth of our population. The Republic of Estonia adheres to the principle of legal continuity in its international-legal actions and rejects any reading that contradicts it, concluded Urmas Reinsalu.

Wines that are Perfect for Spring



Kristi Kruger

You change your diet, your clothing and your activities with the season, so why shouldn't you change your wines? Spring is a fine season for some of the best wines that should have a crisp level of acidity, they are generally light in alcohol and body, bright, refreshing, elegant and nicely flavourful, says Kristi Kruger, CEO at the family-owned company Veinipood – WineShop.

Chablis and other unoaked or lightly oaked Chardonnays

- If you prefer dry wine and love Chardonnay grape, it is time to change the register from oaked or at least subtly oaked. The variety itself (although often said to be relatively flavour - neutral) in most cases will include apples and citrus or tropical fruit (banana, melon, pineapple and guava) to stone fruits (peach, nectarine and apricot).

- The French beauty Chablis provides an intense minerality and salty taste which is absolutely delicious on a warm spring day. The best food pairings are oysters and other seafood, poached chicken, creamy sauces, fish, vegetable terrines, sushi.

Cool-Climate Pinot Noir – the Classic Springy Red Choice

- Why is the Pinot Noir perfect choice for spring? It is



elegant and flavourful and not too dry or too sweet. Pinot Noir is a thin-skinned variety that makes light – to medium bodied wines of finesse, perfume and freshness with red fruit flavours. Pinot Noir is beloved for the elegant styles made in Burgundy.

- The best food pairings for Pinot Noir complement the wine's nice fruit flavours, bright acidity and elegant style. Pinot Noir is one of the most versatile red wines to match with food and a great option in a restaurant when one of you is eating meat and the other fish.

- There are ingredients that will pair with practically any Pinot Noir such as duck, salmon or tuna. Pinot Noir is also a perfect partner to lamb or white meat like turkey, chicken and pork. Earthy vegetables and herbs like mushrooms and thyme match well with the wine's savoury flavours, especially in risottos and pastas.

Welcome Spring with a great Crémant d'Alsace, a Delicious Alternative to Champagne

- Champagne may still be king, but France produces plenty of great sparkling wine beyond Champagne region. Crémant is made using the same methods as Champagne, including the secondary fermentation in the bottle, resulting in a dryer wine with tighter structure and finer mousse compared to sweet Prosecco.



- Crémants are required to be hand harvested with a minimum of one year aging including nine months on their lees that ensures richer, creamier texture with more complexity. In comparison to champagne, Crémant d'Alsace is usually at a lower price level.

- Grape varieties used in Crémant d'Alsace are Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris, Pinot Noir, Riesling, Auxerrois and Chardonnay. The grapes are harvested earlier and exhibit fresh, crisp flavours with green fruit; apples and pears for the white grape varieties and red fruit: strawberries, cherries and red currant for the Pinot Noir.

- The wines are often a blend of the grape varieties, but can also be single varietals. For Rosé, only Pinot Noir is allowed.

- Crémant d'Alsace fits in almost anywhere. It is delicious on its own and popular choice with a variety of appetizers, for example snack plates with Serrano ham, Cremont cheese, crackers and dried figs.

Sauvignon Blanc is the Perfect Spring White Wine

- A national favourite Sauvignon Blanc is a must have in your white wine collection in spring. It is a common wine for everyday drinking. It is light and refreshing.



- The most common tasting notes are crisp citrus and grassy flavours, as well as interesting herb and spice aromas, like basil. The impressive balance between fruit and acidity makes a Sauvignon Blanc incredibly smooth.

- Sauvignon Blanc wines that are coming from Loire Valley, from Sancerre and Pouilly-Fumé appellations are richly textured with ripe gooseberry aromas, bracing acidity and flinty- smoke flavours.

- The best food pairings include goat cheese, asparagus, grilled fish, seafood, and dishes flavoured with coriander and dill.

Text and photos: Kristi Kruger, Veinipood - WineShop

Conductor Laureates Appointed



Tõnu Kaljuste

The Estonian Conductor Tõnu Kaljuste, together with the Dutch Conductor Peter Dijkstra, have each been appointed Conductor Laureate of the Swedish Radio Choir.

Both of them have been Chief Conductors of the Choir, a world famous ensemble and institution in Swedish music life, formed in the 1920's at the same time as its parent organization, the public service Sveriges Radio.

- Several of my dream recordings have become reality thanks to this Choir's 'sound' and great professionalism. I remember our tours around the world with great joy, that was when we really got to know each other. The Swedish Radio Choir has a very special status in the world and it is a great honor for me to be given the title Conductor Laureate, says Tõnu Kaljuste, who was the Choir's Chief Conductor from 1995 to 2001.

- When Tõnu Kaljuste came to the Swedish Radio Choir, it was with something completely new. Tõnu gave the Choir more and deeper dimensions; another sound world, another expression, says Johan Pejler, President of the Swedish Radio Choir.

Passenger Numbers Up

Last year, the number of passengers at Tallinn Airport grew 9% and ended up at 3,26 million. According to



newsflashes

Tallinn Airport's CEO Riivo Tuvike, the growth was equal in both the business and tourist market segments.

A total of 36 scheduled flight destinations were served from Tallinn in 2019, with 28 of them being year-round destinations. Additionally, charter flights operated to more than 40 destinations from Tallinn.

Passenger numbers also increased at Estonia's regional airports last year. Among them, Tartu Airport passenger numbers increased with 8,5%, Kuressaare Airport +6,3%, and Kärdla Airport +17,5%.

Record Figures for Tourism in Estonia

The income from tourism services in Estonia is expected to reach a year-on-year record totaling € 2,06 billion in the very beginning of this year according to Enterprise Estonia.



The figure is supported by Statistics Estonia who says that the number of foreign tourists' overnight stays in Estonia reached a record high for the fourth consecutive year in 2019, while those by domestic tourists set a new record for the seventh year in a row.

- The income from foreign tourists in Estonia placed us at the forefront among Nordic and Baltic States along with Sweden, and exceeds the level of many European states, including France and Italy, comments Margus Sameli, Director of the Tourist Board at Enterprise Estonia.

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Seasonal Flights between Stockholm and Kuressaare

BRA – Braathens Regional Airlines will start flying between Stockholm-Bromma airport and Kuressaare during the summer season. The twice weekly flights, Mondays and Fridays, are planned to start on 15th May and operate up until 18th September.



Street Festival in Kuressaare

Kuressaare is BRA's second Estonian destination as the airline already operates between Stockholm-Bromma and Tallinn. The Kuressaare flights are the result of a three-year agreement between Saaremaa

Municipality Government and BRA, and will be operated with ATR 72-600 aircraft with a seating capacity for 72 passengers. The flying time will be 55 minutes.

- This international route opens up new opportunities for islanders and now it is possible to travel directly from Kuressaare to the center of Stockholm in less than an hour. Saaremaa is now open to millions of Swedes who have so far not visited our island and have chosen other destinations due to the lack of easy transport connections, comments Madis Kallas, the Mayor of Saaremaa.

Stockholm-Bromma airport, located just 7,4 km from downtown Stockholm, is currently having its passenger facilities modernized and upgraded. The make-over of the departure hall is already finished and further works include the car parking, as well as taxi and bus stands. During this year, a new tram line next to the airport will also be inaugurated.



The upgraded departure hall at Stockholm-Bromma airport



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Intensive Program

The Speaker of the Swedish Parliament - Riksdagens Talman, Andreas Norlén together with five members of the Riksdag, had an intensive two-day program as they made a mid-February visit to Tallinn and Noarootsi.



Andreas Norlén visited Riigikogu and also...

A panel discussion in Riigikogu, the Estonian Parliament, on digital democracy and Estonia's e-Voting system, as well as a meeting with Estonia's Foreign Minister Urmas Reinsalu were two of the program items during the first day.



... the museum of the Coastal Swedes

- The Swedish democracy got a stress test a year and a half ago. Following the September 2018 elections, my statutory obligation to conduct government talks dragged on to a four-month marathon that made people around the world question whether Sweden's political order was drowning. In Western democracies, serious thought should be given on how to build trust in political parties, said Andreas Norlén in an interview to the Estonian newspaper Postimees.

The second day was spent in the old Swedish speaking settlements in Noarootsi and included a visit to Rannarootsi Muuseum, the museum of the Coastal Swedes, in Haapsalu.



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Sailing again

By taking full operational and financial responsibility for the next two years, Greencarrier is enabling the Swedish ship Götheborg to sail again.



Götheborg is a sailing replica of the Swedish East Indiaman Götheborg I, which sank on 12 September 1745, while approaching Gothenburg on her return from a third trade voyage to the Far East.

In 2008, Götheborg completed her first Baltic Sea Tour and visited Tallinn in June that year.

- We are yet to define the time plan for 2020, but the great classic shows of large sailing vessels are of course on the list of planned activities. The Nordic and Baltic capitals will also be visited by the East India sailor as well as additional ports, says a press release from Greencarrier. ▶▶▶



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Stars

Stars fell over Swedish Restaurants in mid-February, as Guide Michelin announced their list over Northern Europe's best restaurants.

Restaurant Frantzén in Stockholm keeps its three stars, which it was first awarded in 2018.

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Two stars were awarded to Vollmers in Malmö; Daniel Berlin in Skåne Tranås; and the Stockholm restaurants Gastrologik, Oaxen Krog, and Aloë.

One star went to the Gothenburg restaurants Bhoga, Koka, SK Mat & Människor, Thörnströms Kök, and 28+;

Sav in Malmö; Agrikultur, Ekstedt, Operakällaren, Sushi Sho, and Etoile, all five in Stockholm; and to PM & Vänner in Växjö.

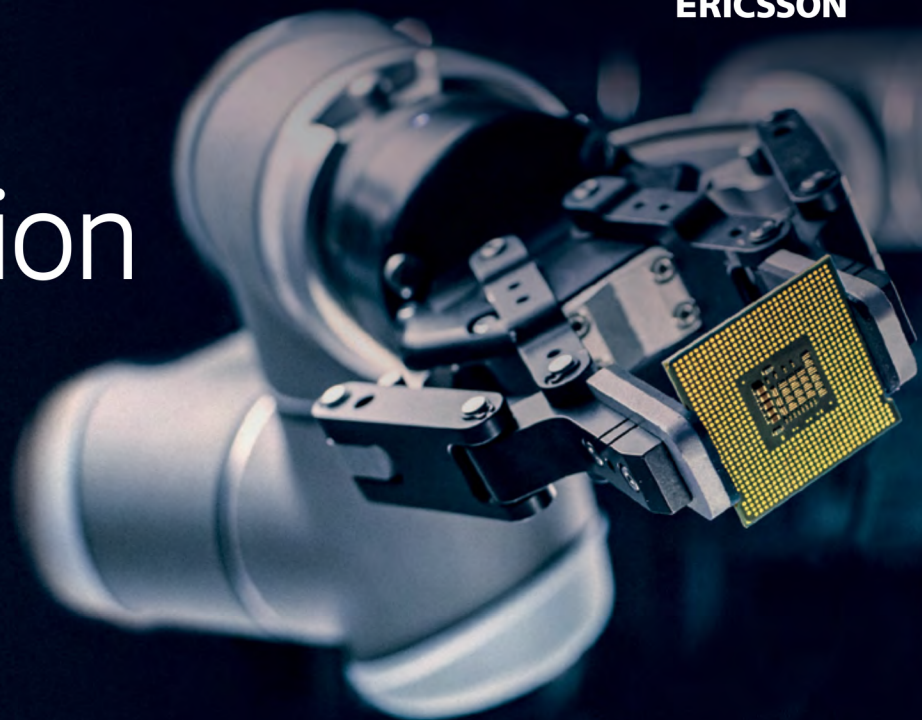
The history of Guide Michelin began in 1900 as the brothers André and Édouard Michelin released a guide to motorists in France. The brochure, which was originally distributed free of charge, contained a list of restaurants, hotels and workshops along the French roads.



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Increasing

The Estonian average monthly gross wage increased with 7,4% last year and ended up at € 1.407, reports Statistics Estonia.

The highest average monthly gross salaries are found in the information and communication sector (€ 2.342) and in the financial and insurance sector (€ 2.321), while the lowest are in service activities, such as accommodation and food service activities (€ 905).

By Estonian counties, the average monthly gross salaries continued to be highest in Harju (€ 1.531) and Tartu (€ 1.426), and the lowest in Hiiu (€ 992) and Valga (€ 1.058).



Nordic Countries On Top



Four Nordic countries, Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland, are ranked first to fourth in the European Chamber's research Best European Countries for Business 2020.

The EuCham score is based on the average of the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business Index' and Transparency International's 'Corruption Perception Index'.

The EoDB score by the World Bank measures the gap between the country's own economic policies and regulations, and the CPI from Transparency International is used to determine how corrupt each country's public sector is perceived to be.

Iceland is found on ninth place in EuCham's research, with Estonia ending up at eleventh place, Lithuania sixteenth and Latvia at twenty-first place. The research is available at www.eucham.eu/research.

More aircraft base maintenance to Tallinn



SAS has extended an agreement on Airbus A320neo maintenance with Magnetic MRO in Tallinn.

This means that at least 56 of the Airbus A320neo

aircraft included in SAS's growing A320 fleet will undergo maintenance and service in Tallinn. Today, the service agreement covers 25 aircraft, so the extended cooperation is more than a doubling.

Air Maintenance Estonia, nowadays Magnetic MRO, was owned by SAS from 2003 to 2010, and the cooperation between the Scandinavian airline and the Estonian maintenance and repair organization has continued ever since.

e-Commerce growing



The online purchase market in Estonia has grown more than 50% since 2017 and has now an 11% market share according to a recent SEB study.

Much of the growth comes from relatively recent types of e-commerce, such as ride-sharing and food delivery services, and from large international e-stores.

- e-Commerce is developing rapidly and its market share of online purchases has grown from 6% in 2017, to 11% as of the end of 2019. This has undoubtedly been facilitated by the launch of new amenity services, which are generally paid for online, comments SEB's Management Board Member Ainar Leppanen.

ps.

The current emergency situation, declared by the Estonian Government on 12 March, has for obvious reasons an impact on SCCE's upcoming activities up until 1 May, or as long as the emergency situation is in force.



A hot start of 2020

Consequently, SCCE events already announced will be postponed and no SCCE events will take place during the time of the emergency situation.

However, SCCE had a couple of intense months before the coronavirus reached its current pandemic magnitude. We got a hot start this year as we gathered to explore the Thai cuisine and cook a Thai dish ourselves during a couple of After Business Hours at the end of January.

Welcomed by Restaurant NOK NOK's Head Chef Khampan Pukdangpan, commonly just called Pan, we entered the kitchen to cook our Thai main course this evening; Kang Phed Ped Yang - roasted duck breast with red curry paste in coconut milk with pineapple, grapes, cherry tomatoes and basil. None of us had done this before, but the outcome would have made any Thai gourmet happy – it was simply just as hot and spicy as it was delicious!



Team Sweden Kicked Off the 2020 Business Season together with Toomas Kabin, Ambassador Mikael Eriksson and Hans Lepp

Just a few days after the Thai cooking session, Team Sweden (Embassy of Sweden, Business Sweden and SCCE) gathered at Ambassador Mikael Eriksson's Residence to Kick Off the 2020 Business Season.

Headlined 'As Time Goes By', we went back to the times of the Singing Revolution and Estonia's restored

Independence, a period that also formed the basis for the ongoing successful Swedish-Estonian cooperation. A report from the Kick Off is included in this issue of **focus**.

In cooperation with Telia and the University of Tartu, SCCE arranged a February afternoon seminar on AI - Artificial Intelligence. The conclusion we came to is that there seem to be few, if any, limits in terms of practical applications where AI can play a vital role.



The eCall function in newer cars and Smartwatches are two examples on AI related applications. In this **focus** issue's Legalities section, and headlined 'Smart devices as lifesavers', NJORD Law Firm discuss the subject of false alarms from these two applications; "In addition, there is the question of who is liable for the damage that can happen [from false alarms] – is it the owner or the user of the smartwatch, or the manufacturer or the seller of the smartwatch who has not provided enough information to the owner/user about the functions of the smartwatch?"

Since many years by now, there has been, and still is, what is best described as a very positive cooperation between SCCE and the Swedish St Michael's Church in Tallinn.



A delicious home cooked lunch at the Swedish St Michael's Church in Tallinn

Up until the time when Team Sweden (Embassy of Sweden, Business Sweden and SCCE) was formed three years ago, the Church's Rütli 9 address in Tallinn's Old Town was also SCCE's postal address.

And from SCCE's and our members' side, we are supporting several of the Church's activities, among them the annual Christmas Bazaar. Patrik Göransson, Priest in the Swedish St Michael's Congregation, hosted a beginning of February lunch, with a delicious home cooked borscht soup and equally delicious home baked cakes, to tell us about the positive outcome of the 2019 Bazaar. The net surplus, more than € 3.300, is now used for the Church's work among people in need, ranging from children and youngsters to adults and old.

- The Church is much more than Sunday noon services, and our work with people in need has a central role among all our activities, said Janar Sutt, a long time member of the Church's Parish Council and also a long time member of SCCE's Council.

As I write these lines, SCCE's activities are rescheduled and when we can get back to more normal times, our event calendar will be nicely filled up. As usual with a mix of business seminars and social events.

Despite the challenging times, I hope you enjoy reading this spring issue of **focus** and, also as usual, latest news from SCCE are always found at www.swedishchamber.ee.



Sincerely,

Kristiina Brodén
SCCE Ombudsman



Contributions to **focus** from the members of SCCE, both in terms of editorial content and advertising, are welcomed.

If you haven't already done it, please do put us on the mailing list for press releases, articles, as well as your point-of-view on issues of general interest for the commerce, trade and investments between Estonia and Sweden.

As for advertising opportunities in **focus** and on our website www.swedishchamber.ee, I will be happy to provide information on sizes, prices and technical requirements. Welcome to contact me at: kristiina@swedishchamber.ee or by phone: (+372) 501 9813.

Latest news on SCCE events to come and fresh reports on events passed are always found at www.swedishchamber.ee, and you can reach me for further information on email: kristiina@swedishchamber.ee or by phone: (+372) 501 9813.



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