

Soviet-Finnish scholarly exchanges in the field of communication research

Roundtable in international conference

“East-West Cultural Exchanges and the Cold War”

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Milestones in overall Finnish-Soviet relations

- 1944 Finnish-Soviet Friendship Society founded
- 1947 Institute for Russia and Eastern Europe founded
- 1948 Treaty for Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance signed
- 1955 Committee for Scientific-Technical Cooperation (FSCSTC) founded, working group for sociology 1977
- 1960 Agreement on Cultural Cooperation signed
- 1962 World Youth Festival held in Helsinki
- 1972-75 Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), Final Act signed in Helsinki

Chronology of contacts in communication field

1966 Nordenstreng meets Zassoursky at IAMCR

1969 Nordenstreng meets Firsov in Leningrad

1972 Nordenstreng visits Moscow

1972 Varis visits Tartu

1974 Firsov visits Tampere

1975 Zassoursky visits Tampere

1977 Lauristin visits Tampere

1979 Tampere researchers visit Moscow & Leningrad

1981-87 Seminars in Tampere, Leningrad & Moscow

1984 Tampere researchers visit Tartu

1989- Regular exchange of teachers and students

Seminars by University of Tampere with the USSR Academy of Sciences

1979 First seminar in Leningrad at the Institute for Socio-Economic Problems (ISEP/ Boris Firsov)

1981 Second seminar in Tampere under Finnish-Soviet Scientific-Technical Cooperation Commission (FSCSTC):
9 Finnish and 11 Soviet authors

1983 Third seminar in Leningrad/ISEP under FSCSTC:
9 Finnish and 16 Soviet authors

1985 Fourth seminar in Tampere under FSCSTC:
4 Finnish and 5 Soviet authors

1987 Fifth seminar in Moscow/ISI under FSCSTC:
6 Finnish and 11 Soviet authors + comparative study

Lessons from cooperation with Soviet scholars

- Personal contacts were crucial for the beginning
- Institutional support was crucial for continuation
- Networking of colleagues was promoted in Finland more broadly than what happens normally
- Reflection on state of the art in own research field was promoted in Finland more than normally
- Finnish scholars learned little basically new from Soviet colleagues
- The FSCSTC cooperation led to Gallup Finland-international to enter the Soviet market

Broader lessons from cooperation with Estonian scholars

1. You made it – we just assisted.
2. Science is ideas, people just carry them.
3. Science is universal, nations just frame it.