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**CONTROL ID:** 1187081**TITLE:** Problems of Recreational Industry in European Russia: Changes in Infrastructure, Environment, and Climate**PRESENTATION TYPE:** Assigned by Committee (Oral or Poster)**CURRENT SECTION/FOCUS GROUP:** Global Environmental Change (GC)**CURRENT SESSION:** GC16. Regional Climate Impacts 7. Environmental, Socio-economic and Climatic Changes in Northern Eurasia and their Feedbacks to the Global Earth System: The Role of Remote Sensing and Integrative Studies**AUTHORS (FIRST NAME, LAST NAME):** Maya Yakovleva<sup>1</sup>, Sergey I.. Lyaskovskiy<sup>1</sup>**INSTITUTIONS (ALL):** 1. hotel Marshal, Education and Science Center "Smolny", St.Petersburg, Russian Federation.**SPONSOR NAME:** Pavel Groisman

**ABSTRACT BODY:** Forest and forest-steppe zones of European Russia have a great potential for recreation, including its active form, tourism. Soft peaceful landscapes and moderate summer climate provide pleasant conditions for family vacations. Numerous lakes and rivers provide places for swimming, boating, and fishing. These pleasant environmental conditions are complemented with abundant recreational choices such as historical places, old cities, towns, and monasteries filled with museums that deliver detailed information about the millennium-long Russian history. There are the vibrant cities, Moscow and St. Petersburg; cities along the Volga River; and the oldest cities in northwestern Russia, Novgorod and Pskov provide numerous options for cultural and entertaining programs for the most demanding travelers. The country has a broad range of private tour operators that cater to national and international travelers.

Still there are problems which should be taken into account by travelers who chose to spend their precious vacation time in Russia. Infrastructure problems include a deficit of three-star hotels that are the mainstream of contemporary tourist business. Their number is growing exponentially in the past decade and at present remains insufficient, but the capacity building is progressing favorably.

Climatic and environmental changes became a new and unexpected factor affecting the tourist industry in European Russia. Stable and strongly sustainable climate has been interrupted by extreme events that may cause additional discomfort for some people. Tour operators and hotel hosts both need to invest more to confront incremental weather (first of all investments in air conditioning are needed) and/or have substitute travel variants that are of equivalent quality. One of the unresolved issues remains the air quality problem in Moscow due to intense traffic and the possibility of peat fires in the neighboring Shatura region southeast of the city. This increases risks that must be ameliorated by other choices including a possible change of venue.

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**INDEX TERMS:** [0850] EDUCATION / Geoscience education research, [0815] EDUCATION / Informal education, [1637] GLOBAL CHANGE / Regional climate change.