

Patron of the event Athenis Finlandiae 2012

The theme chosen for the fifth annual Athenis Finlandiae – event is Russia. With this choice of country and theme the culture week offers its visitors a unique possibility to explore the rich cultural heritage of the Byzantium Empire and the icon art in Russia. The modern culture and the Russian language are also an important part of the schedule.

There is a lot of direct cooperation by Finnish cultural actors with Russia. Jyväskylä, as an active university and culture city has brought

its important share to this work. Four years ago the city hosted a successful ninth Finnish-Russian culture forum event. Over a hundred cooperative projects were negotiated in the busy event. There are also active societies for Russian language in the city.

Finland's aim is to strengthen the dense and wide dyadic relationship with Russia. With cooperation we can learn from each other and further our mutual causes.

I wish success for the event and a week filled with inspiration and experiences to all the visitors!

Helsinki, 31st of August, 2012

Paavo Arhinmäki

