

PROGRAM – Six more years with Putin?

Seminar about the presidential elections in Russia March 14 - 17 in St Petersburg.

March 14

Arrival. Joint dinner at the Hotel Moscow.

Introduction. Malcolm Dixelius

March 15

09:00 - 10:30 The Presidential election seen from a Nordic perspective.

Lecturer: **Anders Mård**, correspondent Yle, Finland

coffee break

11:00 - 12:30 The Presidential election seen from a Russian perspective.

Aleksandr Gorshkov, political reporter at fontanka.ru (news website based in St Petersburg)

David Frenkel (freelance photographer, works for Kommersant group and independent media)

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

14:00 The presidential campaign

Visit at the campaign headquarters of the leading candidates:

Vladimir Putin (United Russia),

Gennadiy Zuyganov (Communist Party)

Kseniya Sobchak (Independent)

Aleksei Navalny (Opposition candidate, who appeals for a boycott of the elections because he is not allowed to run)

March 16

09:00 - 10:30 What is at stake in Russia in the next presidential period?

Discussion between two political scientists with different views.

Andrei Pivovarov, (Open Russia, a democratic think tank supported by Mikhail Khodorkovsky)

Oleg Vedotov (Pro-Putin political analyst)

coffee break

11:00 - 12:30 What will happen to Russia in the next six years? What do the Russian people want – and what do they get?

Valentin Bianki, independent political analyst

Lunch

14:00 The World Cup in Football. Russia's most important event in 2018. What does it mean to Russia's image in the world?

Visit to the newly built stadium, which will host one of the WC groups and discussion about football, sports and politics.

March 17

09:00 How do Russian media cover the election?

Lecture and Visits to the Echo Moscow Radio Station, fontanka.ru website and other media.

12:00 Joint lunch

13:30 – 14:30 Questions and answers. **Malcolm Dixelius**

Return flights or free time for those staying for the elections.