The project is to support the rehabilitation and improvement of cultural heritage sites and institutions, conservation, safekeeping and promotion of cultural heritage assets in four of the country's oblasts (regions), including Leningrad, Pskov, Novgorod, and Tver oblasts. The Project will also help the participating oblasts to strengthen their internal capacity for cultural heritage management so that it could foster socio-economic development arising from the opportunities of cultural tourism. The Project builds on know-how and operations experience of the St. Petersburg Economic Development Project and its predecessor, the St. Petersburg City Center Rehabilitation Project.

The Project is in line with the key objectives of the Concept for the Long-Term Social and Economic Development of the Russian Federation until 2020, which refers to culture as one of the strategic sources for economic development, and to Russian regions’ cultural potential. Leningrad, Pskov, Novgorod and Tver oblasts - being located between St. Petersburg and Moscow - are rich in history and in national historic landmarks that are of universal significance. The Project aims to assist the Russian Government in its efforts to improve protection of Russia’s moveable cultural property by upgrading collection management, conservation and storage facilities, and museum security practices.

### Project Development Objectives

The Project Development Objectives are the following: (1) to support the conservation, safekeeping and promotion of cultural heritage assets in Leningrad, Pskov, Novgorod and Tver oblasts of the Russian Federation and (2) to strengthen regional capacity for cultural heritage management so it supports the socio-economic development of the participating oblasts.

### Components

The Project includes 3 components. The first component Integrated Heritage Site Development consists of two sub-components: (a) rehabilitation and improvement of cultural heritage sites and institutions (b) capacity building for integrated site development. The second component Protection of Museum Assets, is designed to protect and promote Russia's moveable heritage assets and also consists of two sub-components: (a) improvement of collection management, conservation and storage; and (b) development and testing of museum security practices. Component 3: Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation.

### Key Partners

A project management team within the St. Petersburg Foundation for Investment Projects (FISP) will carry out the day-to-day management of the project. The FISP has gained extensive experience managing several World Bank supported projects in Russia that address cultural heritage, including the St. Petersburg City Center Rehabilitation project and the SPEDP. The FISP will be responsible for financial management and procurement functions. The Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) is the most important governance instance for the Project. The IMC is composed of senior representatives of the MoC, Ministry of Finance (MoF) and Ministry of Economic Development (MoED). The IMC is responsible for strategic issues and decisions during project preparation and implementation. Each oblast will establish an Oblast Working Group (OWG) composed of various officials and experts from relevant departments—such as finance, economy, tourism, business development, culture and others—will be created for the preparation of sub-project proposals under the Integrated Heritage Site Development window of Component 1. The Ministry of Culture (MoC) shall ensure that when required by the Resettlement Policy Framework: a) a specific Resettlement Action Plan, including the relevant social assessment, will be prepared in a form and substance satisfactory to the Bank prior to execution of a respective work contract; and (b) no works will be started under any Sub-project unless all affected people are fully compensated in accordance with the provisions of a respective Resettlement Action Plan. The MoC shall ensure that when required by the Environmental Management Framework, a site specific Environmental Management Plan will be prepared in a form and substance satisfactory to the Bank prior to commencement of any works under a respective Sub-project. FISP and Participating Oblasts shall ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Anti-Corruption Guidelines.