**Speakers :**

Marie-Georges PAGEL-BROUSSE, vice-présidente de l’Union REMPART, France

(Fabrice DUFFAUD, chargé des relations internationales, Union REMPART, France)

**Title :**

*Empowering cultural heritage and citizens through voluntary work: a French contribution to Russian heritage preservation with REMPART*

**Abstract :**

REMPART is a French NGO dealing with heritage preservation and voluntary work for 40 years. Gathering 170 French associations which organise voluntary workcamps throughout France in the field of the heritage conservation, every year REMPART welcomes volunteers coming from France and from all around the world, skilled or not. Taking part in a voluntary workcamp, volunteers get personally involved in the heritage preservation, get familiar with traditional restoration techniques, and live a unique experience. As we believe that heritage is common to all human beings, we wish to share our more than 40 year experience with partners in foreign countries to promote the involvement of the civil society for heritage preservation. This idea has been at the core of our cooperation with the NFRRCE these last two years. We do hope that the project we conducted together in Voronino during summer 2008 and 2009 proves that the civil society, and especially the young people, can and must be active for the heritage preservation in Russia. Working together has been incredibly empowering for both side, and a deep source of intercultural dialogue between Europeans and Russians volunteers.