

Clean Baltic Sea project Fund Report 1/2016 (4 May 2016)

Status as of 31 December 2015	€
Donations	MEUR 12.2
Expenditure	MEUR 9.5
Ongoing projects	MEUR 2.1

Objectives of the Clean Baltic Sea projects

The John Nurminen Foundation Clean Baltic Sea projects prevent eutrophication and reduce phosphorus discharges in the Baltic Sea. **The objective is to implement such cost-efficient measures that can measurably improve the status of the Baltic Sea by the year 2025.**

All in all, the projects and their support activities employ ten people, four of them part-time.

Project progress

The NutriTrade project – partly financed by the EU Central Baltic programme and led by the Foundation – is building a voluntary nutrient trading system for the Baltic Sea area: the system will enable us to identify and implement cost-efficient nutrient reduction methods. At the same time, the project pilots various promising methods which in addition to reducing the nutrient load of the Baltic sea also take care of nutrients already in the sea, utilising, for example, gypsum treatment of fields in the Archipelago Sea area, blue mussel farming, and fish stock management in the marine area. The project began in September 2015. The nutrient trading system is now being planned in cooperation with other stakeholders, and all pilot projects are already underway. The project has also launched an extensive survey on the national and international utilisation of nutrient trading in the protection of the Baltic Sea. The project is one of the flagship projects of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

The Local Fishing project, launched by the Foundation in March 2015, seeks to move nutrients from the Archipelago Sea to land through fish stock management of cyprinid fish, which are then used for human consumption. The catch is used to prepare fish patties and other fish products. In order to ensure the sustainability of the project, fishing is done in strict adherence to specific rules about releasing other species; the Foundation monitors that the rules are in fact implemented. In 2016, the project's set goal for the volume of the catch was doubled, and 10 fishermen, who started working with fish stock management in April, were recruited. Fish patties will be available in 2016 in institutional kitchens of the Turku area, Espoo, and Helsinki.

In a project financed by the Foundation and the Baltic Sea Action Plan Trust Fund, a filter system that treats nutrient-rich runoff waters from manure pools and field ditches is acquired for the massive Udarnik poultry farm, located close to Vyborg: as a consequence, nutrient discharges to nearby waterways and the Gulf of Finland will be reduced. The treatment system for runoff waters from fields was installed in the autumn of 2015. The filter system for runoff waters from manure pools will be installed during 2016.

The equipment used for chemical phosphorus removal at wastewater treatment plants, delivered by the Foundation to Gatchina, the second largest city after St. Petersburg in the Leningrad region in northeaster Russia, was deployed in October 2015. A similar project in Vyborg is still waiting for the customs exemption ruling of the Russian authorities that would allow the phosphorus removal equipment to be delivered to the treatment plant in 2016.

From 2012 onwards, the Foundation has been involved in assessing the effectiveness of the treatment system in Kingisepp, built for treating phosphorus runoff originating in the gypsum pile of the Phosphorit fertilizer factory. Commissioned by the Foundation and EuroChem, i.e. the owner of the factory, the British consultancy company Atkins surveyed the situation, and in October 2015 published a report stating that the treatment

system for the factory's surface waters is now operating reliably, and any major discharges have now been brought under control.

In addition to reducing eutrophication, the Foundation has coordinated the Tanker Safety project, which has developed and piloted the ENSI navigation service that reduces the risk of oil accidents in the Gulf of Finland.

New projects

The BEST project (Better Efficiency for Sewage Management) is currently being prepared: its goal is to reduce the load of nutrients and other harmful substances originating in industrial wastewaters and entering the Baltic Sea via municipal treatment plants. The Foundation's main partner in this project is the City of Helsinki. The project has been nominated a flagship project of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

Agreements on improving the efficiency of nutrient removal from wastewaters by boosting chemical phosphorus removal have been concluded with the water utilities of Vitebsk in Belarus and Sosnovy Bor in Russia. According to plans, improving the efficiency of phosphorus removal at both sites will begin this year.

In 2016, the Foundation has also launched an extensive survey on assessing the risks of nutrient discharges from biogas production in the Baltic Sea area.

Fundraising and realised objectives

Funds raised for the Clean Baltic Sea projects in 2005 - 2015 amounted to a total of approximately €12.2 million, of which roughly €9.5 million has been used in project implementation. €2.1 million has been reserved for projects that are currently ongoing or being planned.

Fundraising results in 2015 were at the same level as in previous years. Income from fundraising totalled at €1,164,607, of which corporate donations accounted for 67%, private individuals for 11%, and public financing for 9%. The remaining 13% consists of income from investment and other income.

Many corporate donors continued to support the Clean Baltic Sea projects, and also new supporters joined the effort. Early in the year, the 'Save a piece of the Baltic Sea' donation platform was launched in connection with the Foundation's website: this platform managed to raise donations in the amount of €14,230 during the year.

In terms of fundraising involving private individuals, the most important event of the year was the closing of the Horizon campaign in December. As a result of the campaign, the Horizon work of art, comprising 4,225 metal plates bearing the names of their donors, has been built in the Jätkäsaari pier in Helsinki. Last year, the campaign raised €41,220, while the grand total of the entire campaign was approximately €220,000, of which €120,000, after expenses, was directed to the Clean Baltic Sea projects. The proceeds of the campaign were used to acquire e.g. a chemicals container, priced at approx. €100,000 and used in chemical phosphorus removal, for the wastewater treatment plant of the city of Gatchina.

So far, projects have been implemented in a total of 17 targets, of which 14 have been completed. As a result of the projects, phosphorus discharges entering the Baltic Sea will be reduced by a total of 2,070 tonnes. Moreover, the John Nurminen Foundation has provided technical expertise to two project sites, namely the Kingisepp fertilizer factory and the Warsaw wastewater treatment plant, thereby also contributing to the reduction of phosphorus discharges.