

Clean Baltic Sea project Fund Report 2/2015 (21 September 2015)

Status as of 31 December 2014	€
Donations	MEUR 11.3
Expenditure	MEUR 9
Ongoing projects	MEUR 2

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 six people, three of them part-time.

Project progress

The NutriTrade project, led by the Foundation, is building a voluntary nutrient trade system for the Baltic Sea area, enabling efficient reductions in discharges and 'phosphorus neutrality' for participating stakeholders (such as municipalities). At the same time, several new, promising measures to cut the nutrient load of the Baltic Sea, including the gypsum treatment of fields, will be piloted. In August 2015, the project received a positive funding decision from the Central Baltic programme, leading to project launch in September 2015. Other partners of the project include the Natural Resource Institute Finland, the University of Helsinki, the Sustainable Seas Initiative, and the Swedish University of Agricultural Studies SLU.

The Local Fishing project, launched by the Foundation in March 2015, seeks to remove nutrients from the Archipelago Sea through fish stock management of cyprinid fish. The catch will be used to make fish patties. In this way we can both produce ethically sound protein, and promote the well-being of the Archipelago Sea. During the first phase of the project, patties will be sold to institutional kitchens in the Turku area. Later, plans are to sell the products also to the consumer market. Municipalities have been eager to get involved, and the project has been well received amongst both professional and recreational fishermen.

In a project financed by the Foundation and the Baltic Sea Action Plan Trust Fund, a filter system that can treat runoff waters from manure pools and field ditches, thus reducing nutrient discharges to the nearby waterways, can be acquired for the massive Udarnik poultry farm, located close to Vyborg. During the summer of 2015, a filter system for treating phosphorus-containing runoff waters from fields was delivered, and in 2016, a system for filtering runoff waters from manure pools will be built.

The first equipment deliveries to the city wastewater treatment plant in Gatchina, northwestern Russia, i.e. equipment for chemical phosphorus removal, were delivered to the water utility in March 2015 and will be deployed during the autumn. Required equipment importation registration from Russian authorities has been acquired for a similar project in Vyborg. Before the equipment will be imported, we need to check whether the pools of the treatment plant need structural reinforcement. The Foundation is responsible for equipment procurement in Vyborg and Gatchina, while the water utilities take care of installation and all construction costs.

From 2012 onwards, the Foundation has been involved in assessing phosphorus runoff from the Fosforit fertilizer factory gypsum mountain in Kingisepp, as well as the effectiveness of the treatment system built there. Commissioned by the Foundation and the factory's owner, EuroChem, the assessment is performed by the consultancy firm Atkins, which will publish its report in 2015.

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 major oil accidents in the Gulf of Finland.

New projects

The load of nutrients and other harmful substances entering the Baltic Sea from the municipal wastewaters of Poland and the Baltic countries, in particular, will be reduced by the BEST project (Better Efficiency for Sewage Management), which is currently in the planning phase. The Foundation's main partner in this project is the City of Helsinki. In July 2015, the project applied for funding from the EU Baltic Sea Region Programme, and the financing decision will be made in November 2015.

Fundraising and realised objectives

By 31 December 2015, funds raised for the Clean Baltic Sea projects amounted to a total of approximately €11.3 million, of which roughly €9 million has been used in project implementation. €2 million has been reserved for projects that are currently ongoing or being planned. Fundraising results for the first half of the year were somewhat above those of last year.

Work in the Clean Baltic Sea projects continues with funds being raised for project implementation and the search for new project targets. The goal is to raise a total of €20 million in 2015-2025, enabling us to implement cost-efficient projects that improve the status of the Baltic Sea.

Project target	Tonnes of phosphorus
Wastewater treatment plants of St. Petersburg	1,000
PURE project (6 targets)	500
PRESTO project (7 targets)	500
Gatchina wastewater treatment plant (ongoing)	30
Vyborg wastewater treatment plant (ongoing)	20
Udarnik poultry farm (ongoing)	20
Total	2,070

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.