



Fund Report

2/2013 (19 September 2013)

Status as of 31 July 2013	€
Donations	9.1 MILLION EUROS
Expenditure	6.9 MILLION EUROS
Commitments	2.2 MILLION EUROS

Objectives of the Clean Baltic Sea projects

The Clean Baltic Sea projects of the John Nurminen Foundation focus on two areas of operation: projects that aim at reducing phosphorus discharges and preventing eutrophication, and the Tanker Safety project, which promotes the safety of oil traffic in the Gulf of Finland. The Projects on Eutrophication are managed by Marjukka Porvari, and the Tanker Safety project by Pekka Laaksonen. All in all, the projects and their support activities employ nine people, two of them part-time.

The target of the Projects on Eutrophication is to reduce the annual phosphorus load to the Baltic Sea by a total of 2,500 tonnes by 2015. Projects on Eutrophication are currently ongoing at 11 project targets, and at six sites the projects have already been completed. Moreover, the John Nurminen Foundation has provided technical expertise to two project sites, thereby contributing to the reduction of phosphorus discharges. The wastewater treatment plants of project cities seek to improve the efficiency of phosphorus removal so that the amount of phosphorus in wastewaters that leave treatment plants does not exceed 0.5 mg/litre; this also corresponds to the wastewater treatment levels recommended by the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission HELCOM.

The Tanker Safety project reduces the risk of major oil tanker accidents in the Gulf of Finland significantly through the development and deployment of the ENSI navigation service. The service improves information exchange between the vessel's bridge and marine traffic operators, and improves the preconditions of forecasting traffic control. Marine traffic control receives information on the vessels' precise route plans, and the tankers receive valuable route-specific navigation information via the ENSI portal. The target is to have the service deployed by the majority of tankers sailing the Gulf of Finland during 2014. The Finnish Transport Agency is the project's main partner.

Projects on Eutrophication

Investment plans and investment contracts concluded between the Foundation and water utilities for the construction of phosphorus removal systems at the wastewater treatment plants of Gatchina and Vyborg in North-Western Russia have now been completed. The Gatchina project is currently applying for official registration from Russian authorities, as this would enable customs and tax free equipment deliveries. The Vyborg project is slightly delayed due to personnel and organisational

changes at the Vyborg water utility. Equipment procurement in Gatchina will commence in autumn 2013, and in Vyborg most probably in early 2014. The Foundation is responsible for equipment procurement while the plants take care of installation and construction costs. With the implementation of these projects, the annual phosphorus load entering the Gulf of Finland from Gatchina is reduced by 40 tonnes, and that from Vyborg by 20 tonnes.

The two Clean Baltic Sea projects, PURE and PRESTO, through which the Foundation carries out investments that improve the efficiency of nutrient removal, are partially financed by the EU's Baltic Sea Region Programme.

The PURE project (Project on Urban Reduction of Eutrophication) improved the efficiency of phosphorus removal in the wastewater treatment plants of Belarus, Poland, Latvia and Estonia. With the exception of the city of Brest in Belarus, where implemented investments have been granted a schedule extension until September 2013 from the EU Baltic Sea Region Programme, the project is now completed. In September, the Brest treatment plant will finalise equipment installations, and test and deploy a chemical phosphorus removal system. The PURE project will result in the annual load being reduced by 300–500 tonnes of phosphorus.

The PRESTO project (Project on Reduction of Eutrophication of the Sea Today) invests in improving the efficiency of nutrient removal in the three Belarusian cities of Grodno, Vitebsk and Molodechno. In the summer of 2013, the water utilities of the cities signed equipment delivery agreements. Construction and equipment installation at the treatment plants will begin in the autumn of 2013, and be completed during 2014. Preliminary evaluations indicate that the investments will reduce the phosphorus load entering the waterways from these wastewater treatment plants by as much as 500 tonnes.

The total budget of the PRESTO project is €4.55 million, of which investment to wastewater treatment plants accounts for €2 million. EU's Baltic Sea Region Programme finances the majority of the project, bearing 75-90% of the project partners' project costs (depending on the country where the partner operates). Moreover, the Finnish Ministry of the Environment supports Finnish project partners with a sum that covers the majority of their own costs.

In May 2012, the Baltic Sea Action Plan Trust Fund granted financing for the Foundation's project with the Udarnik poultry farm, where the goal is to reduce the nutrient loads discharged to the Baltic Sea from the leaking manure pools in the farm's area. An investigation into improving manure treatment at Udarnik, located in the Vyborg region, was completed in the summer of 2012. Udarnik built a new manure pool in the summer of 2012, and has initiated the planning of two new manure pools. The Foundation and the owners of the Udarnik poultry farm have now joined forces in investigating the options of minimising the risk of leakages to the environment from the old and new manure pools.

The estimated annual phosphorus discharges of approximately 700 – 2,000 tonnes, originating in the Fosforit fertilizer factory in Kingisepp by the River Luga, were brought under control after experts built a runoff water treatment system in the area in March 2012. In June 2012, the Foundation and the factory's owner, EuroChem, signed an agreement on commissioning an independent expert body for the purpose of assessing the effectiveness of the treatment system and monitoring phosphorus discharge trends in the River Luga. In the summer of 2013, the international consultancy firm Atkins was selected for the task; their work will begin in September 2013. The Foundation monitors the work performed by Atkins by participating in meetings where

the practical implementation of the work is planned and results reported.

In the spring of 2013, alarmed by the Kingisepp phosphorus leak, the Foundation commissioned a report on the risks associated with the fertilizer industry of the Baltic Sea region; this report was presented as background material in the HELCOM meeting of June 2013, which dealt with discharges to the Baltic Sea from the fertilizer industry.

Tanker Safety project

The final owner of the ENSI (Enhanced Navigation Support Information) navigation service, developed by the project, is the Finnish Transport Agency, which is also responsible for the implementation and further development of the service. John Nurminen Foundation's role in the project is to lead ENSI specification work, and to bring together various stakeholders in order to accelerate service creation and deployment.

In the spring of 2013, piloting of the ENSI service has continued, involving all Neste Shipping tankers. Moreover, contacts to shipping companies and other stakeholders have been created, coding of the route converter has continued, and materials and guidelines have been prepared for wider deployment. Deployment will continue in 2014.

Fundraising

The Clean Baltic Sea projects are funded with private donations and public financing.

Kuusakoski, one of the Foundation's Main partners, has continued its support to the Clean Baltic Sea projects. Our cooperation with Onninen will also continue for a further two-year period. Pro Sail Magazine, Steam Communications, and Edrington Sweden are our new Key Supporters.

By 31 July 2013, funds raised amounted to a total of approximately €9.1 million, of which roughly €6.9 million has been used as project funding. Commitments, i.e. the sum reserved for ongoing and planned projects, amount to €2.2 million. The sum reserved for commitments depends on project schedules. According to a decision by the Board of Directors, commitments must not exceed the amount of funds raised.

The Board of Directors of the John Nurminen Foundation has decided to continue this work beyond 2015. At the moment, funds are being raised for the purpose of identifying new project targets, and in order to reach the target of the Projects on Eutrophication – i.e. a 2,500-tonne reduction in phosphorus load – of which 400 tonnes are still missing. The estimated need for funding is approximately €3 million, but the amounts will be more exact after project targets have been identified. Funds are also being raised to cover the deployment costs of the Tanker Safety project's ENSI service, which will amount to approximately €200,000.

Erik Båsk
Secretary General
John Nurminen Foundation