

Clean Sea Fund Report 1/2018 (16 April 2018)

Status as of 31 July 2017	€
Funds in the Clean Sea Fund	MEUR 14.6
Project expenditure	MEUR 12.0
Funds reserved for ongoing projects	MEUR 2.6

The objective of the John Nurminen Foundation's Clean Baltic Sea projects is to improve the status of the Baltic Sea with concrete measures that reduce the nutrient load and environmental risks faced by the sea.

All of the Foundation's Clean Baltic Sea projects and their support activities employ nine people, two of them part-time.

Project progress

The NutriTrade project, launched in 2015, creates a voluntary nutrient trading system for the Baltic area, enabling the implementation of cost-efficient load reduction measures and the neutralization of nutrient discharges. At the same time, the project pilots various promising methods which reduce the nutrient load of the Baltic Sea, such as treating fields in the Archipelago Sea area with gypsum, and also methods for removing nutrients already in the sea, such as blue mussel farming, and fish stock management. All pilot projects have moved ahead according to plans, as has the implementation of the Nutribute crowdfunding platform, directed at projects that reduce the nutrient load. The water utilities of already four Finnish cities have offset their annual phosphorus discharges through the Nutribute platform, and the platform now features three stakeholders who reduce nutrient discharges to the Baltic Sea with their projects. Moreover, the project has looked into the possibilities of utilizing flexible and cost-efficient methods, such as voluntary nutrient trading, on a wider scale in Baltic Sea protection.

The Local Fishing project, launched by the Foundation in 2015, removes nutrients from the 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 2017, roughly twenty fishermen were recruited, and fish stock management began in May. The fish catch was approximately 160,000 kg. Fish patties were served at least in the institutional kitchens of the Turku area, in Espoo, and the Palmia cafeterias in Helsinki. In April 2017, the Foundation and Kesko launched a nationwide consumer product made of fish management catch, i.e. the Pirkka archipelago fish patty, which was such a success that Kesko and the Foundation launched a second product in April 2018. The final goal of the project is to commercialize the entire production chain so that fish management in the marine area will, as a result, operate fully on the terms of the market.

The phosphorus removal systems provided by the Foundation to the wastewater treatment plants of Vyborg and Gatchina, the second largest city of the Leningrad region after St. Petersburg, were deployed in 2015-2016. These measures reduce the nutrient load of the Gulf of Finland by approximately 50 tonnes per year, equalling twice the volume of discharges from the Helsinki Viikinmäki treatment plant. The next step in the wastewater projects in northwestern Russia is improving the efficiency of phosphorus removal from the wastewaters of the city of Kingisepp, which will be completed in early 2018. This project will reduce the phosphorus load discharged to the sea by 13 tonnes annually.

An agreement has been concluded with the water utility of the Belarusian city of Vitebsk, defining that nutrient loads leaving the treatment plant are treated more efficiently than is required nationally, and that phosphorus load leaving the plant are cut by approximately 50 tonnes. More efficient phosphorus removal at the city's wastewater treatment plant began in November 2016. In 2017, treatment equipment

had to be renewed, which meant that phosphorus coagulation had to be interrupted for a few months. Coagulation was relaunched in the autumn of 2017, and it will continue throughout 2018, until the treatment goals agreed in the project have been reached.

The project carried out in the enormous Udarnik poultry farm, in the vicinity of Vyborg, was concluded in 2017. The project, conducted by the Foundation and the BSAP Trust Fund, provided the poultry farm with a filtering system for nutrient-rich runoff waters. The treatment system for runoff waters from fields was installed in the autumn of 2015, and a filtering system for manure pools was deployed in June 2017.

In May 2016, the Board of the Foundation approved a new project which seeks to manage the phosphorus discharges from the biogas plant currently under construction in Lviv, Ukraine. The project can prevent a load of more than 100 tonnes of phosphorus from entering the Baltic Sea via the Poltva River. At the moment it seems likely that the project will not be implemented before 2019, when the biogas plant will be completed.

Fundraising and realised objectives

Funds raised for the Clean Baltic Sea projects in 2005 - 2016 amounted to a total of approximately €14.6 million, of which roughly €12 million has been used in project implementation. The remaining monies in the Fund, i.e. €2.6 million, have been reserved for projects that are currently ongoing.

By 2016, projects had been launched in a total of 25 targets, of which 18 have been completed. As a result of the projects, annual phosphorus discharges entering the Baltic Sea have been reduced by a total of 2,100 tonnes. Moreover, the John Nurminen Foundation has provided technical expertise at the Kingisepp fertilizer factory and the Warsaw wastewater treatment plant, thereby also contributing to the reduction of several tonnes of phosphorus discharges. The projects that are underway now will reduce the annual phosphorus load of the Baltic Sea by many hundreds of tonnes; moreover, the Foundation is involved in creating new and efficient ways of reducing nutrient loads that are also applicable in Finland.

Future reporting

This report has monitored the implementation of projects launched up until the year 2016. Our work for the Baltic Sea continues as before, and in the future you can find information on all our projects at <https://www.johnnurmisenasaatio.fi/puhdas-itameri/> and from our newsletter at <https://www.johnnurmisenasaatio.fi/puhdas-itameri/uutiskirjearkisto-puhdas-itameri/>.

We will also regularly report on our activities to our supporters and partners. The Foundation's financial statement is available in the Annual Report at <https://www.johnnurmisenasaatio.fi/tietoa-meista/vuosikertomukset/>.

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