



PUHDAS ITÄMERI JOHN NURMISEN SÄÄTIÖ

Fund Report

1/2012 (27 March 2012)

Status as of 31 December 2011	€
Donations	7.7 MEUR
Expenditure	5.1 MEUR
Commitments	2.6 MEUR

Objectives of the Clean Baltic Sea projects

The Clean Baltic Sea projects focus on two areas of operation: projects preventing the eutrophication of the Baltic Sea, and the project promoting the safety of oil tanker traffic in the Gulf of Finland. The Clean Baltic Sea projects are led 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 objective of the Clean Sea projects is to reduce the annual phosphorus load discharged to the Baltic Sea by a total of 2,500 tonnes by 2015. The efficiency of phosphorus removal in wastewater treatment plants is improved at project targets so that wastewater leaving the treatment plants will have a maximum phosphorus content of 0.5 mg per litre.

The Tanker Safety project aims at reducing the risk of major oil tanker accidents in the Gulf of Finland through the introduction of the ENSI navigation service. The service will improve communications between vessels and vessel traffic control, enabling forecasting vessel traffic management. Tankers, on the other hand, will be able to obtain navigation information through the ENSI portal. The target is to have the service deployed by the majority of tankers sailing the Gulf of Finland by the end of 2013. The Finnish Transport Agency is the project's main partner.

Clean Baltic Sea projects

The Foundation's project at St. Petersburg wastewater treatment plants was finalised in June 2011. The improved phosphorus removal of community wastewaters in St. Petersburg reduces the phosphorus load of the Gulf of Finland by more than 1,000 tonnes annually. Clean Baltic Sea projects are currently underway in five countries and 16 cities. Their combined effort with St. Petersburg will reduce the annual phosphorus load entering the Baltic Sea by approximately 2,000 tonnes.

Technical planning of the phosphorus removal system and tendering documentation for the projects in Gatchina and Vyborg in Northwestern Russia were completed in 2011. The target is to complete all installation and construction work in 2012-2013. 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 John Nurminen Foundation participates in two projects that are partially funded by the EU Baltic Sea Region Programme, and coordinated by the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC).

The PURE project (Project on Urban Reduction of Eutrophication) improves the efficiency of phosphorus removal in Belarus, Poland, Latvia and Estonia. The Foundation is in charge of the project's technical surveys and phosphorus removal investment. The projects will result in a total reduction of 300–500 tonnes of phosphorus. Equipment that increase the efficiency of phosphorus removal and sludge management will be acquired and installed to the Riga and Jurmala wastewater treatment plants in 2011-2012. Equipment acquisition and construction planning for the plant in Brest continued in 2011, and the acquisitions and works will be implemented in 2012. In addition to the PURE project, more efficient phosphorus removal in Riga will be promoted with direct support from the John Nurminen Foundation.

The PRESTO project (Project on Reduction of Eutrophication of the Sea Today) invests in improving the efficiency of nutrient removal in the four Belarusian cities of Grodno, Vitebsk, Molodechno and Baranovichi. The Foundation is responsible for commissioning the project's technical surveys and managing its wastewater treatment plant investments. Technical surveys for the water utilities were initiated in early 2012. The project also includes an extensive training programme on wastewater nutrient removal. Training programme participants will include Belarusian water utilities of the Baltic Sea catchment area, universities that train engineers, and various planning institutions. Preliminary evaluations indicate that the project will reduce the phosphorus load entering the waterways from these wastewater treatment plants by approximately 500 tonnes.

The total budget of the PURE project is €3.2 million, of which one million euros will be accounted for by direct investment to nutrient removal at the wastewater treatment plants. The total budget of the PRESTO project is €4.55 million, of which investment to wastewater treatment plants accounts for €2 million. The EU Baltic Sea Region Programme is the main financier of the projects, 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 the Finnish partners of both projects with a sum that covers the majority of their own costs.

The Foundation has conducted research on the load entering the Baltic Sea from animal farms in the St. Petersburg region. Joint project negotiations are ongoing with the Udarnik poultry farm. The target is to finalise project funding in the spring and initiate the project during 2012.

The Foundation has contacted EuroChem, the owner of the Fosforit factory in Kingisepp, with the goal of reducing the phosphorus production emissions that enter the Gulf of Finland via the River Luga. According to the estimate of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission, the factory may be responsible for a discharge of as much as 1,000 tonnes of phosphorus annually. The objective is to introduce leading Finnish expertise to EuroChem so that it can be utilised in managing emissions from phosphorus production.

Tanker Safety project

The final owner of the ENSI (Enhanced Navigation Support Information) navigation service is the Finnish Transport Agency, which is also responsible for ordering the delivery of the service. The

ENSI portal, which will be used by tankers, is being implemented according to the plans of the Finnish Transport Agency, and its test use should commence in the summer of 2012.

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. At the request of the steering group, the Foundation began the planning of the next phases of the ENSI service in the winter of 2011-2012.

Fundraising

The Clean Baltic Sea projects are funded with private donations and public financing. In 2011, a total of €921,853 was raised in donations to the Clean Baltic Sea projects, roughly equalling the amount of 2010. Approximately 45% of the funds were donated by companies, 38% by private individuals, 14% by the public sector, and return on investment accounted for the remaining 3%.

By the end of 2011, raised funds amount to a total of approximately €7.7 million, of which €5.1 million has been allocated to projects. Commitments, i.e. funds reserved for ongoing and planned projects, amount to EUR 2,6 million; this sum may still grow if project schedules are moved back.

Currently, funds are being raised for the annual reduction of a further 500 tonnes of phosphorus that is still missing from the Clean Sea projects' 2,500 tonne target, and which will cost approximately €3 million. The need for funding is very uncertain, as project targets have not yet been identified. Funds are also raised for the deployment costs of the ENSI service, which will amount to approximately €200,000.

A Christmas campaign, published in the Clean Baltic Sea website and Helsingin Sanomat, raffled out an Alpo Tuurnala aquarelle and thanked all the supporters of the projects. More than 30 companies made a Christmas donation, and their combined sum amounted to slightly above €125,000.

Erik Båsk
Secretary General
John Nurminen Foundation