



BASRAN  
Baltic Sea Action Network

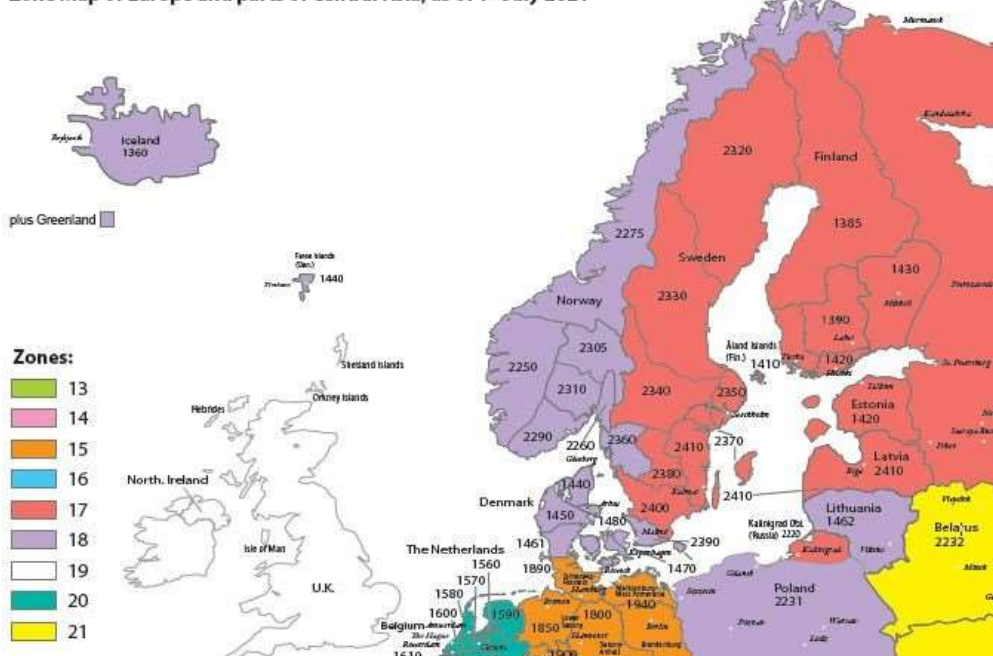
## New area of focus - supporting the environment - the Baltic Sea!

From July 1<sup>st</sup> on the new area of focus – Supporting the Environment will offer us a new channel to increase our impact in environmental actions. In our context environment also means the state of the Baltic Sea and cross border cooperation for Saving the Baltic Sea. We continue with our efforts to expand the network, share experiences, and best practices through newsletters, workshops, member meetings and co-operation with relevant partners. Sometimes the actions may seem overlapping but BASRAN's focus remains - **the Baltic Sea!**

## Name and logo

The name and logo of BASRAN have officially been accepted as above. Since the vast area of the Baltic Sea Countries extends to three different Zones of Rotary, we included **Zones 15, 17 and 18** to our brand logo naming the network Regional, also.

Zone Map of Europe and parts of Central Asia, as of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021



## Goings-on

Since our last Newsletter 2/2020, several things worth mentioning have happened. We had a successful Webinar and Member meeting in February 23rd with opening address by RIP Holger

Knaack and several important keynote speeches and reports from around the Baltic Sea. Close to 200 attendees from nine Baltic Sea countries listened to the presentations of the state of the Baltic Sea. *Link to the Webinar:* <https://sites.google.com/rotaryfinland.org/basran>

RIP Knaack emphasized the responsibility of Rotarians; we have the knowledge, contacts, and power. Working together with the best regional authorities there is greatest potential to make lasting change. He also stressed that to be serious in our efforts we will have to start from ourselves.

As anticipated Rotary's top leaders endorsed environmental actions in speeches throughout the International 2021 Convention. In RI President Knaack's words: "Taking care of our environment is a way we show respect for future generations."

Due to the covid-19 delay in handling of our GG-application "Save the Baltic Sea" caused the removal of our application. We will have better opportunities for future project plans in environmental issues from now on.

## Strategic partners for relevant actions

BASRAN is focusing on actions involving the Baltic Sea. The best way to reach our basic goal is to seek for the best **strategic partners in each country**, authorities in research institutes and universities to identify country specific problems and find the best solutions to tackle them through the partnerships.

With this kind of measures, we have best possible means to influence the decision makers on different levels of the society.

To make our Rotary network functioning we need a person or committee responsible for Baltic Sea (or environment or sustainability) issues on Club and District level. The starting of a new Rotary year is a perfect time to make this happen! The ideal situation would, of course, be that also the District Environment Committee representatives keep close contact and coordinate actions on country level, when needed. In Finland, an Environment Working Group, represented by each of the five Districts was founded for this purpose in January 2021.

## ESRAG

As anticipated and planned, a close collaboration with ESRAG (Environmental Sustainability Rotarian Action Group, [www.esrag.org](http://www.esrag.org)) is well under way with the possibility to join BASRAN to it.

ESRAG has made enormous progress in its 5 years of existence having established 12 Regional Chapters to support its work within Rotary on environmental sustainability issues, associated with a particular geographic area. ESRAG Europe represents one of them and Baltic Sea issues would perfectly fit into the format through BASRAN. <https://www.facebook.com/ESRAGEurope/>

BASRAN would ideally be working as a regional task force on Baltic Sea issues under ESRAG Europe. In turn BASRAN could bring potential individual member candidates to ESRAG. <https://esragdev.com/membership/>

The collaboration has been seen as a positive initiative from each side and decisions will be made after a motion of BASRAN Steering Group in the October 2 Member meeting. (See more about the October 2 Member meeting below)

## From ideas into action

### What can I do?

- “Start from myself” - Activate myself to learn and find good ideas
- Activate my own club to nominate a Baltic Sea (or an environmental) ambassador
- Join BASRAN by sending your contact information to the secretaries (see below)
- Join ESRAAG

### What can my club do??

- Nominate a Baltic Sea ambassador (or an environmental) for the club
- Contact environment specialists, researchers, authorities in the area to give good advice
- Raise money and donate to research
- Do small “hands on projects” to activate the members, for example clean beaches, bring info to schools etc.
- Activate the neighbouring clubs in cooperation
- Activate and motivate the district leaders to establish a Baltic Sea Committee or an Environmental Committee
- Join BASRAN by sending the contact information to the secretaries (see below)

### What can my District do?

- Establish a Baltic Sea Committee or Environmental Committee/ Sustainability Committee
- Build a network between clubs
- Build a network between other districts
- Activate clubs to join to and form a Global Grant to achieve bigger goals
- Join BASRAN by sending the contact information to the secretaries (see below)

## Baltic Sea activities in Poland

M The Baltic Sea is very important for us all. In Poland alone live 38 million people who are highly dependent on this beautiful but environmentally overstressed waterway.



To reduce the impact of human intrusion we are building water treatment plants and removing as much pollution as possible from both the sea itself as well as the surrounding areas. We have already built 824 water treatment plants all over Poland and our Rotary clubs will now be partnering with local authorities to build greater public awareness about environmental sustainability, which is this year Rotary's new Area of Focus nr.7.

Our pilot project will first focus on the Koszalin and Kolobrzeg area but will soon be extended to educating school children and adults in other regions, about environmental challenges relating to protection and sustainability of our precious water resources. Thru lectures, exhibitions, tours and cleaning up activities we will raise public awareness and improve the level of personal responsibility in protecting the fragile and overstressed Baltic coastal areas.

Four Polish clubs are already involved and others including Rotaractors are waiting for the next stage which will be announced during the Water Day integration events on August 28th this year.

**Mark Krawczynski**

*ARPIC for Zone 18 (2018 -21), Environmental Architect, Founding Director of Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group ESRAG (2016-17), Member of Steering Committee for the Baltic Sea Rotary Action Network BASRAN, TRF Major Donor*

**Great actions in District 1940, Germany**

On the 7th of July, the Rotary Club Stralsund started its new project **"Langer Atem" (long breath)**. On its first edition, 28 children with chronic medical or psychiatric diseases were given the possibility to pass a day on a historic sailship on the Baltic Sea accompanied by medical personnel and educationists from the German Oceanographic Museum responsible for an educational program.

The opening ceremony on the 6th of July.



The project is planned to be repeated on a regular basis at least once per year. Please find attached two newspaper articles covering the project "long breath".

The second project is a digital district meeting presented by D1940 DG Martin Klein and IPDG Edgar Friedrich. On July 31st at 10:30 AM, the **End Plastic Soup** action group will present their activities to all interested Rotarians via Zoom.

*With best regards from Greifswald*

**Martin Weigel**

*Rotary Club of Greifswald, District 1940*

## **Baltic Sea weekend in Helsinki, October 2021**

### *Cross border cooperation for Saving the Baltic Sea*

BASRAN Seminar and Member Meeting in Helsinki October 2, 2021

You are most welcome to BASRAN Seminar and Member Meeting in Helsinki Saturday October 2, 2021. Baltic Sea weekend in Helsinki continues next day, Sunday October 3 with Rowing for the Baltic Herring event. We wish you to participate in both events!

Seminar will be a hybrid meeting and video participation will also be possible, but we wish to see you in Helsinki to discuss on how we can do more to save the Baltic Sea. Seminar starts at 12 am. Keynote speakers include Professor Alf Norkko, who is professor both in Helsinki University and a visiting professor in Stockholm University, Baltic Sea Centre and leader of Ecosystems and Environment Research Program. Beside keynote speeches several Show Case projects will be presented from various Baltic Sea countries.

After the Seminar there will be a BASRAN Member Meeting at 14.30. In the meeting we will discuss of present situation and future plans in BASRAN.

Detailed program will be announced later in August. Participation fee to cover meals and venue costs will be announced later.

*More information:*

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[www.facebook.com/balticseaactionnetwork](https://www.facebook.com/balticseaactionnetwork)



## **Row to Clean the Baltic Sea 3.10.2021**

The Rotarians invite you to save the Baltic Sea and refresh yourself!

Rowing for the Baltic Herring is a traditional Rotarian event for the benefit of clean local waters and the Baltic Sea. It will be rowed by church boats in Helsinki on the opening day of the Helsinki Herring Market, Sunday 3 October 2021. The rowing route is from Töölönlahti from Finlandia Hall to the Market Place. Herring lunch will be served after rowing, at M/S Silja Symphony, Olympic Terminal, South Harbour, Helsinki.



## REFRESH AND DO GOOD

All people, companies and communities are being challenged. Herring rowing is a relaxed and physical recreational event. It is a great opportunity to strengthen the team spirit as well as contribute to a better tomorrow for the surrounding society and environment. Herring rowing raises funds for research and monitoring of the state of the Baltic Sea at the marine research vessel Aranda.

More information: [silakkasoutu@gmail.com](mailto:silakkasoutu@gmail.com), [www.silakkasoutu.fi](http://www.silakkasoutu.fi)



Yours in Rotary

BASRAN secretaries

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