
Från: hannele.kauranne@gmail.com
Datum: 2020-04-28 - 15:32 (UTC)
Ämne: **Baltic Sea Rotary Action Network Newsletter 1/2020**

Dear Rotarian friend of the Baltic Sea,

A new calendar year 2020 is already ongoing with full speed. The autumn of 2019 was hectic but quite successful for our action group of Save the Baltic Sea-project. We have been able to make a good start for the work. It is time to tell about the achievements so far.

Since the RI Hamburg Convention last June, the Action Group, based on the great interest shown by many Rotarians in Hamburg, we decided to start to work in a more coordinated way. To be able to do so, we need some kind of voluntary organisation and financing - plus first of all a clear picture of our goal.



Our goal is clear: to encourage all the Rotarians around the Baltic Sea to join the work to help the Sea to recover! It's also important to keep a record of what is going on and what has been done to tell to the world and also other Rotarians what has been achieved for the benefit of the Baltic Sea.

The best way to reach the goal is to **involve as many clubs as possible!** It's also a good idea to choose and train *Baltic Sea Ambassadors in clubs* to keep members informed about the situation in the Baltic Sea. The **District officers** could contact local environmental authorities, researchers and other actors to learn what would be **the best way to proceed locally in each country.**

The voluntary, unofficial, open organisation, **BASRAN (Baltic Sea Rotary Action Network)**, started some months ago. This is the very first *Newsletter* of the Network. This will be sent to all contacts given in Hamburg and several others addresses after that.

The Network is dealing so far with contacts to Rotary clubs and districts directly or through governors. Districts 1420 and 1410 have made an official decision to join the Network. We also have worked to make a Global Grant project to ensure financing and support from TRF.

In Rotary Institute Gdansk last September, our representative had discussions with Sweden's district leaders. Also Latvian, Polish and Russian representatives showed a lot of interest. There was also a possibility to talk with RI's responsible officer, *Marty Daiga*, who showed very positive attitude to our Global Grant application.

We had a pleasant and successful meeting in Sweden in November. Stockholm Söder Rotary Club invited all the clubs from district D2370 and D2350 to join. There was a lot of good discussion about the Baltic Sea and of the future plans of the Action Network. District 2370 in Sweden also decided to join the Action Network! Welcome!

In Sweden several actions have already taken place including two meetings where a lot of Rotary clubs were invited. One joint meeting took place in February. Unfortunately, pandemic resulted cancelling meetings scheduled to March.

This is the way how we could work everywhere around the Baltic Sea! Our own clubs could invite other clubs to **change ideas for joint projects** for saving nearby local waterways and the Baltic Sea.

And to join the Baltic Sea Rotary Action Network, BASRAN. Let's build it further!

To help the future *communication*, an idea to form a Rotarian Action Group under ESRAG has been discussed (see: www.esrag.org). We welcome the idea, as well as all good ideas to help us to work more efficiently.

But before that you can **join the Baltic Sea Rotary Action Network (BASRAN)** simply by sending your email, club name, district etc. to hannele.kauranne@gmail.com

A joint high level seminar for all Baltic Sea active Rotarians is also planned to be held next autumn in connection with the Rowing for Herring (see: www.silakkasoutu.fi), but only if the pandemic situation allows.

We will keep you posted.

Looking forward to hearing from you in form of all questions, invitations and ideas!

Yours in Rotary

Hannele Kauranne

Secretary of the Baltic Sea Rotary Action Network, BASRAN
Helsinki Finlandia Hall rotary club
hannele.kauranne@gmail.com

Taru Karikoski

Intercountry Committee Chair D1420
Helsinki Finlandia Hall rotary club
tarumia@icloud.com

Facebook: @rotarybalticsea
Hashtag you can use: #rotarybalticsea