



BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY MONTH



“Changing lives through education is one of the boldest and most inspiring goals we set as Rotarians.”

— Shekhar Mehta, Rotary International President 2021/2022

In the Rotary calendar, **September** is dedicated to **Basic Education and Literacy** – values that we build a better future upon. This month reminds us that access to **knowledge** is not a privilege – it is a right. **Literacy** is not just the ability to read and write; it **is the key to independence, development, and active participation in society**.

Around the world, we carry out initiatives that **transform lives** – from **building schools and libraries** to **supporting teachers and providing scholarships**. The Rotary clubs in Bulgaria have proven that even the smallest steps, taken with dedication, lead to meaningful and lasting results.

In today's world, literacy takes on a new dimension – **digital literacy**. It is **essential** for the full **integration and success** of new generations. Still, the basics remain the same: **a good school, an inspired teacher, and a supportive community**.

Over the years, we have implemented **impactful educational projects**, such as:

- **donating books** and **establishing school libraries**;
- equipping schools with **modern tools and technologies**;
- organizing **competitions and workshops** that foster creative thinking;
- **supporting talented** young people with potential.

September, Rotary's Month of **Basic Education and Literacy**, is a time **to celebrate what we've achieved** and **to look ahead toward new and meaningful initiatives**..

- How can we **inspire** more children to read?
- How can we **encourage** and uplift teachers in their vital mission?
- And how can we **reach** those at risk of being left behind in the educational process?

The answers to these questions will shape the direction of our future projects.

Investing in education is one of the most meaningful things we can do — it connects us to the future and reminds us that knowledge builds bridges between people and communities. We don't just help — **we inspire, support, and give hope**.

And when we walk this path together — with heart, hard work, and dedication — we leave a lasting legacy.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE - SEPTEMBER



FRANCESCO AREZZO
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT
RY 2025-2026

When I stepped into the role of Rotary International president, the moment came swiftly and unexpectedly. It got me thinking how the world can change in an instant, and how Rotary has the power to be a steady force for good in that change. This month, Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy Month, we have a clear call to action: to strengthen the foundation of learning in every community we serve.

Millions of people worldwide remain unable to read. Millions of children lack access to basic education. And yet, we know the solution: sustainable, inclusive, and equitable education, especially for girls and marginalized youths. Literacy is more than the ability to read and write. It is the key to human dignity, economic mobility, and peace. Every book opened, every classroom supported, and every teacher trained becomes a building block of peace.

This year, our message is Unite for Good. "Unite" speaks to the strength we find in each other. When we unite our talents and resources — not only among our clubs but across partners, organizations, and communities — we expand our reach. And when we do so consistently over time, we create lasting change. Rotary service cannot be measured only in annual goals. Our work in education must extend beyond a single year. Literacy projects take time to take root, grow, and bear fruit.

Now is the time to think boldly and creatively. New types of clubs can help us engage educators, students, and advocates in new ways. Let us use this month to welcome new members with a passion for education and empower existing ones to lead service projects that reflect local needs. Whether you're building libraries, distributing textbooks, or mentoring students, your actions matter.

Education is also peacebuilding. Every scholarship we provide, every early childhood program we support, every adult literacy class we fund is an act of peace. And Rotary has been building peace in this way for more than a century.

Let us not forget that the fight for literacy is not only about access, it's about equity. It is about ensuring every learner, regardless of background, has the opportunity to reach their potential. And it is about standing together — across borders, languages, and generations — to say that education is a right, not a privilege.

Let's Unite for Good by committing to literacy that lasts. Let's dream of a world where every child learns to read. And then, as people of action, let's work together to make that dream a reality.

Together, we can change lives, starting with the power of education. Together, we Unite for Good.



N. ALTAN ARSLAN

PP 2005-2006 RC ANKARA KIZILAY

PDG 2018-2019 D2430

RPIC 2023-2026 ZONE 21B

Child's Health, A World's Future

As we all know, this month is a special time for Rotary to focus on economic and community development. It is a period to think about new and inclusive ideas that can improve the well-being and prosperity of nations.

One of the most important foundations of a country's development is the health of its people—especially its young population and children. A strong health system and healthy new generations are the best guarantee for the future of any nation.

At this point, we must remember Rotary's great achievement: the fight against Polio. Started almost 40 years ago, and later joined by UNICEF, the World Health Organization, and the Gates Foundation, this program has become one of the greatest success stories in the history of civil society.

Every year on October 24th, World Polio Day, the Rotary family comes together to raise awareness of this global struggle. From Interactors to Rotaractors, from Rotarians to our partner clubs, I believe it is our duty to join hands and tell the world once again about the power of this achievement.

It should not be forgotten that this effort is something that not even many governments could achieve on their own. It may sound bold to say "only Rotary could make this possible," but it is true that Rotary—organized in more than 200 countries and regions, with millions of volunteers and strong financial contributions—has played a decisive role in bringing this disease to the edge of eradication.

That is why the fight against Polio holds such an important place in building a healthy society, which is the cornerstone of economic and community development.

Our duty is clear: as every year, this October 24th we must raise our voices again and remind the world of the importance of Rotary's historic fight. Because every single child who grows up without the fear of paralysis is a victory for all humanity.

"Together, a world without Polio is possible."

Let's be together next month.

Rtn. N.Altan Arslan

PP 05-06 Ankara Kızılay RC

PDG 18-19 D.2430

RPIC 23-26 Region 25



**NIKOLA BOŽIĆ,
EPNC PDG D2483
ZONE 21**

If Aliens Asked About Rotary and Polio

Sometimes the best way to understand the significance of what we do is to step outside our daily reality. Imagine, for a moment, that we could sit down with an extraterrestrial civilization and they asked us a simple question: What is Rotary doing about polio? Why? What has been achieved? What drives you? How would we answer?

Our answer would be both proud and humble. We would begin by saying that Rotary, a global organization founded in 1905, is committed to serving humanity through peace, health, education, and sustainable development. But above all, in this moment of history, Rotary has one defining mission: to eradicate polio from the face of the Earth.

Why?

Because polio, once a devastating disease in more than 120 countries, now lingers in only two Pakistan and Afghanistan. Decades of relentless effort have reduced global cases by over 99.9%. The infrastructure created labs, surveillance, vaccination networks, and hundreds of thousands of health workers, forms one of humanity's most remarkable collective achievements.

For over three decades, Rotary has been at the forefront of one of humanity's greatest public health efforts. Once present in so many countries, paralyzing hundreds of thousands of children each year, the disease is now confined to just two nations. This transformation is the result of relentless vaccination campaigns, the dedication of 400,000+ frontline workers, and the steadfast partnerships Rotary has built with WHO, UNICEF, the Gates Foundation, and countless governments.

What has been achieved?

Thanks to Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative millions of children walk today. Countries that once faced regular outbreaks now enjoy decades of freedom from polio. And yet, vigilance is essential. Cases still appear. Vaccine hesitancy spreads. Conflict zones challenge access. Which is why Rotary's commitment must remain visible not only in October, the Month of Polio, but throughout the year. This is why we launched Polio Talks, a platform for continuous global dialogue and awareness, ensuring that this cause does not fade from memory in polio-free regions. While polio is anywhere it remains a threat everywhere.

If Aliens Asked About Rotary and Polio

What motivates us?

Beyond the numbers lies motivation. It is not only about a disease. It is about Rotary's promise to the children of the world. It is about proving that humanity, when united across borders and beliefs, can defeat an enemy once thought invincible. It is about ensuring that no parent ever again must fear this crippling illness.

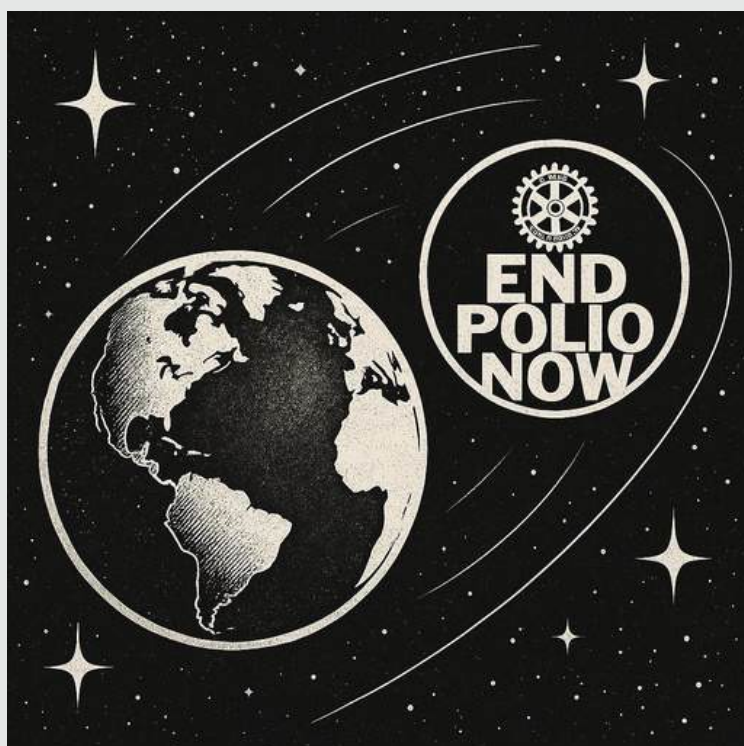
A deep belief in Service Above Self. Whether through donations, awareness campaigns, volunteering, or simply carrying the "End Polio Now" logo into the world, Rotarians embody a shared responsibility for the future.

Each Rotarian is driven by the same simple promise: that no child, anywhere, should ever again suffer from polio. The fight is not only about eradicating a virus; it is about justice, equality, and the shared belief that together we can make the world safer and healthier.

If we had to sum it up for our extraterrestrial visitors, we would say: Rotary's work against polio is humanity's declaration of hope. It is not a question of if we will end polio, but when. And when that day comes, it will stand as one of the greatest legacies we leave to future generations on this planet and, perhaps, as an example to others beyond it.

Call to Action

As we celebrate Rotary's 120 years of service, let us renew our personal and collective promise. Contribute to the PolioPlus Fund. Share the message in your communities. Use your voice, your time, and your resources. Because polio anywhere is a threat everywhere and together, we can write the final chapter of this story.



ICC & Public Image Summit Athens 2025

Dear Rotarian Friends,

The International ICC & Public Image Summit, to be held in Athens from November 13–16, 2025, is not just an event—it marks a major moment for Rotary International in Greece.

Prominent Rotary leaders from around the world will be with us.

It will be a gathering of leaders, ideas, and shared missions.

A gathering with a clear purpose: to demonstrate what Rotary means in action—unity, service, impact, and peace for the benefit of peoples.

This year, Greece—with its radiant light and rich culture—becomes the symbol of this revival.

And we are all called to welcome our fellow Rotarians and host them as true Rotarians should: with pride, dignity, enthusiasm, and unity.

Let us all come together—
Not just to attend, but to take the lead.
To show that Rotary is active, strong, and visible.

The Organizing Committee warmly awaits you in Athens for a constructive, high-quality conference, filled with friendship—and the spirit of Greece.

A promotional poster for the ICC & Public Image Summit. The background is a photograph of the Parthenon in Athens, Greece, under a clear blue sky. A white dove with an olive branch is flying in the upper right. The text is overlaid on the image.

ICC & PUBLIC IMAGE
PEACE & FRIENDSHIP
SUMMIT

ATHENS - GREECE
13-16
NOVEMBER
2025
ROYAL OLYMPIC HOTEL

Rotary 
District 2475

UNITE FOR GOOD

TAKE ACTION. GIVE LIFE.
UNITED FOR WORLD PEACE

www.royalolympic.com

THE SIXTH EDITION OF THE ZONAL VIDEO COMPETITION

“THE POWER OF GOODNESS”

Dear friends,

It is a pleasure to share that this Rotary year we will once again celebrate the zonal video contest “The Power of Goodness”, now in its sixth edition, jointly organized by Zones 21 and 22 of Rotary International.

What began as a simple initiative to highlight Rotary’s impact in local communities has become a meaningful tradition and one of the most anticipated events in our zones. Each year, the contest brings together inspiring stories that showcase commitment, empathy, and service above self from Rotarians across Europe and beyond.

At its heart, this contest reminds us that kindness is a transformative force. It connects people, changes lives, and brings light where it is most needed. Even the smallest gesture can spark a ripple of hope and inspiration far greater than we imagine.

✨ New this year — a SPECIAL category will honor projects that distinguish themselves through innovation, long-term impact, and unique contribution to the community. This is a chance to shine a spotlight on exceptional initiatives that go beyond expectations.

Details on deadlines and participation will be shared soon, with the contest set to launch in the autumn. As always, entries will be evaluated for creativity, impact, clarity of message, and alignment with Rotary values.

Rotary clubs from Zone 21 have a proud record of participation, presenting initiatives in education, public health, environmental protection, and more. Let us once again demonstrate that the spirit of service continues to thrive in our communities and inspire others to join us on this journey.

Now is the time to begin preparing your entries — concise, compelling videos that capture the essence of your projects and the difference they make. This contest is not only an opportunity to share your achievements but also to amplify the stories that unite and motivate us all.

Together, let us celebrate goodness — for the sixth year in a row, with renewed energy, creativity, and passion.

– **Arkan Apturahman, ARPIC D2482 Bulgaria**



Last Submission Date: 16 March 2026
<https://thepowerofgoodness.com>



NEW CATEGORY



NEW CATEGORY



Last Submission Date: 16 March 2026
<https://thepowerofgoodness.com>

GUIDELINES FOR FILMING A VIDEO FOR COMPETITION

“THE POWER OF GOODNESS”

1. **Plan the filming in advance.**

As you prepare your project or event, decide who will be responsible for filming, what equipment will be used, and which shots will be needed. Assign a dedicated person or team for this task.

2. **Use a drone when possible.**

For outdoor activities, aerial shots provide dynamics and add a professional look to the video.

3. **Include interviews.**

Record short interviews with participants, volunteers, organizers, or beneficiaries. Ask what the project means to them, how it made them feel, or what inspired them.

4. **Tell a story, not just document.**

Focus on emotions, action, and outcomes. Show people, not only activities.

5. **Capture the preparation phase.**

Behind-the-scenes footage of volunteers packing, organizing, or coordinating creates authenticity and highlights the effort behind the cause.

6. **Gather short statements.**

Even one or two sincere sentences from someone whose life has been touched can be very powerful. Seek authenticity rather than long monologues.

7. **Ensure good lighting.**

Whether indoors or outdoors, light is essential. Avoid dark rooms or shooting directly against the sun.

8. **Use stable equipment.**

Unsteady shots are distracting. If you don't have a professional camera, use a tripod or stabilizer for your phone.

9. **Film in horizontal format.**

For higher quality and compatibility with platforms such as YouTube, always shoot horizontally.

10. **Include close-up shots.**

Faces, smiles, and hands in action bring warmth and humanity to the story.

11. **Ensure clear sound.**

Use an external microphone if possible. In noisy environments, consider recording separately or adding narration afterwards.

GUIDELINES FOR FILMING A VIDEO FOR COMPETITION

“THE POWER OF GOODNESS”

12. Show the final result.

Present the completed project, the happy participants, and the overall impact achieved.

13. Build a timeline through your shots.

Show “before, during, and after” the event. This structure helps tell a complete story.

14. Capture audience reactions.

Smiles, applause, and emotions are living proof of the project’s impact.

15. Include children and youth (with consent).

If children are part of the initiative, ensure parental consent for filming. Their smiles often speak louder than words.

16. Add supporting images or archives.

If your project has history, use “before and after” comparisons, documents, or older photos to show progress.

17. Use music to enhance emotion.

Neutral, uplifting music reinforces the message. Make sure to use licensed tracks or free-to-use libraries.

18. Add English subtitles, especially when people are speaking.

Even short statements should be subtitled to ensure clarity and accessibility.

19. Display names and roles.

When showing someone speaking, add their name and role for context.

20. Start and finish with identity elements.

Open with a short title/intro and close with your club’s logo.

21. Include a message or a quote.

A powerful line or inspiring quote at the end can leave a lasting emotional impression.

22. Prepare a clear script before editing.

Decide what story you want to tell, in what sequence, and with which footage.

23. Show the impact achieved.

Highlight how lives were improved or what was accomplished. This is the heart of the contest — the lasting mark of kindness.

24. Respect Rotary branding.

Use the official Rotary logo, fonts, and colors. Guidelines are available at brandcenter.rotary.org.

You are not alone in this process! Contact us if you have questions!

– Arkan Apturahman, ARPIC D2482 Bulgaria

Rotary Intercountry Committees Meeting in Brussels – 25 September 2025

The Rotary Intercountry Committees (ICCs) gathered in Brussels on 25 September 2025 for a high-level meeting featuring leaders from across Rotary International, showcasing ICCs' growing role as bridges of peace and cross-cultural cooperation.

Opening by PDG Nathalie Huyghebaert, ICC Executive Council Chair

Nathalie welcomed participants, stressing that ICCs thrive through “friendship across borders,” modern communications, and the energy of global members. She noted the increasing involvement of Rotaractors and highlighted ICCs' rapid responses to crises—from earthquakes in Turkey and Morocco to wildfires in Spain and the humanitarian emergency in Ukraine. Current actions include a collaborative initiative to provide food for 1,000 children in Gaza, supported by the Rotary Action Group for Peace and international partners. She also outlined upcoming ICC events in Athens, the UAE, UNESCO, and the 2026 Rotary International Convention in Taiwan, as well as the ICC Assembly in Lecco, Italy, in May 2026, where elections and the new ICC Peace Award will take place.

Remarks by Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo

President Arezzo affirmed ICCs as vital to his priorities of eradicating polio, growing membership, and fostering peace. He emphasized the role of personal interaction in overcoming fear and building peace, drawing on his experience hosting an international RYLA in Sicily.

Rotary Programs and Peacebuilding: Director Ellina Kushnir

Ellina Kushnir highlighted Rotary's seven structured programs, from Interact and Youth Exchange to Fellowships and Action Groups, linking them to leadership, intercultural understanding, and community impact. She urged ICCs to set measurable goals and ensure that activities deliver concrete results—stronger relationships, better understanding, and healthier communities.

European Perspective: Andreas Strub

Andreas reflected on peace as the universal desire of ordinary people for safety, dignity, and opportunity. Drawing on Europe's post-war reconciliation, he emphasized Rotary's power to rebuild trust through intercultural initiatives. He urged ICCs to engage youth and link peacebuilding to themes such as the environment and climate change, reminding participants: “Argue as much as you want, but don't let the day end without making peace.”



“Evaluation of the GELS, and GNLS Meetings: Towards a Strong Future from Brussels”

The Rotary Zone Institute, branded as “Fusion”, aimed to bring together 10 Rotary Zones and approximately 150 Districts from across Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. The summit gathered 1600 participants, making it one of the most comprehensive regional gatherings in Rotary’s recent history. The program spanned several segments: September 23–25 for GELS (Governor-Elect Learning Seminar) / GNLS (Governor-Nominee Learning Seminar) / PLS (Partners Learning Seminar) seminars, followed by September 25–28 for the plenary and thematic sessions. The Fusion 2025 Summit, held in Brussels under the Rotary EMEA (Europe–Middle East–Africa) framework, emerged as an inspiring milestone strengthening Rotary’s collective vision and leadership unity. Within this framework, the GELS and GNLS sessions further enhanced the program by offering participants valuable content that cultivated practical skills and created dynamic platforms for vision sharing.

GELS and GNLS sessions created a dynamic platform for incoming governors to share their experiences, build networks, and develop actionable strategies. These seminars fostered cross-cultural dialogue and practical leadership insights. Participants gained tools to navigate local challenges while contributing to the broader Rotary vision. Through their interactive and participatory approach, the meetings fostered a dynamic discussion platform where diverse ideas could be openly debated, and multiple perspectives shared. This created an exceptionally productive and valuable environment, enabling participants to learn from one another while thoughtfully evaluating both commonalities and differences.

While the initial sessions of the Zone Institute—GELS, GNLS, and PLS—offered valuable learning opportunities, there were limited chances for the approximately 150 participating district Rotarians to fully connect and interact. Optimizing the spatial layout and enhancing the linkage between seminar rooms and common areas, as well as allowing more informal networking time within the program, could further strengthen the sense of unity and collaboration among Rotarians from different zones.

The Governor-Elect and Governor-Nominee Learning Seminars were thoughtfully designed to equip future Rotary leaders with practical expertise in strategic planning, communication, vision development, and team management. The seamless collaboration among facilitators embodied the true spirit of ‘Fusion,’ uniting diverse knowledge through shared learning and mutual respect. Moreover, the seminars empowered participants with confidence, strategic insight, and networks essential for effective leadership in their upcoming terms. One of the most valued aspects of these sessions was the open, inclusive environment that fostered cross-cultural dialogue, enabling leaders from varied linguistic and cultural backgrounds to cultivate a shared understanding of leadership within the Rotary context.

Orhan Uludağ
DGE
D2430, Türkiye

GELS AND GNLS MEETINGS



Italian ICC Model: PDG Alessandro Pastorini

Alessandro presented the revitalization of ICCs in Italy, San Marino, and Malta, now numbering 57. Through strong coordination and digital transformation, the network has expanded and hosted major conferences on migration and Mediterranean peace. The upcoming ICC Assembly in Lecco will focus on “ICC and World Peace.”

Panel: ICCs as Bridges of Peace

Moderated by PDG Ashot Karapetyan, the panel featured PRID Katerina Kotsali-Papadimitriou, PDG Güneş Ertaş, PDG Ovidio Cos, and Yaseen Jaffer. They defined ICCs as Rotary’s “people-to-people diplomacy,” citing practical projects such as aid for Ukraine, youth camps, and interfaith initiatives. Key messages included Rotary’s neutrality as a unique advantage, the need for measurable local impact, and youth as indispensable peacebuilders.

Rotary in Afghanistan: Rameen Javid

Rameen reported on Rotary’s resilience in Afghanistan, where three active clubs continue projects in education, health, and economic development despite immense challenges. The chartering of the first ICC in Afghanistan marks a milestone in connecting the country to Rotary’s global peace network.



Africa and the Future of ICCs

A panel moderated by Pierangelo Panozzo brought insights from Marie-Irène Richmond, Thomas Huyghebaert, and PRID Patrick Chisanga. They emphasized community-centered peacebuilding, the catalytic role of women and youth, and linking grassroots ICC projects to AU–EU platforms. Consensus emerged that every local project—from equipping health clinics to supporting micro-enterprises—represents a tangible step toward lasting peace.

India–USA Peace Path

Rahul Wadhwa introduced the “Peace Path,” a Gandhian initiative retracing the Salt March with thousands of Rotarians and citizens. Activities included Peace Pole installations, peace pledges, and rallies. Future plans involve “Peace Groves” and a second Peace Path in 2026, with global participation invited.

Rotary and Rotaract Together for Peace

A youth-led panel, moderated by Maria Vittoria Gargiulo, stressed genuine integration of Rotaractors in Rotary decision-making. They highlighted projects emerging from the Rotaract Days at the United Nations, cross-cultural district initiatives, and strategies for joint Rotary–Rotaract leadership. Their message: peace accelerates when Rotary and Rotaract work as one team.

Upcoming ICC Events and Charter Ceremonies

Future events were promoted, including the ICC and Public Image Forum in Athens (13–16 November 2025) and UNESCO Day. The meeting concluded with charter ceremonies for new ICCs between Belux–Spain, Belux–Romania and Moldova, Afghanistan, and France–Mali. The Brussels ICC Meeting affirmed Rotary’s ICCs as vital engines of peace, dialogue, and humanitarian response—connecting cultures, addressing urgent needs, and empowering future generations to build trust across borders.



Rotary Fusion Summit Concludes in Brussels with 1,600 Participants

One of Rotary's largest gatherings in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, the Rotary Fusion Summit, was held this year in Belgium's capital with 1,600 participants. Under the theme "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges," the summit aimed to strengthen international collaboration, showcase innovative projects, and bring together diverse cultures within the Rotary community. Prior to the main summit, from September 23–25, the GELS, GNLS, and PLS programs were completed for future Rotary leaders. These sessions provided incoming district governors with leadership and governance training.

Over four days, key topics such as global health, peace, digital transformation, human rights, and international relations dominated the discussions. The "Polio Plus Talks" sessions highlighted the partnership between Rotary and the World Health Organization, while the "Rotary and International Organisations" panel focused on collaboration strategies with global institutions.

The summit featured distinguished speakers from around the world. Baroness Dr. Françoise Meunier addressed Rotary values and civil society impact, while Enabel CEO Jean Van Wetter shared insights on international development. Nicolas Crochet and Roger H. Hartmann presented examples on microfinance and sustainability, and Dr. Theopista Ntale Sekitto discussed the role of women in financial inclusion.

In health and vaccination sessions, Prof. Dr. Pierre Van Damme, Prof. Peter Piot, Dr. Tunji Funsho, Jamila Louahed, and EMA Director Emer Cooke presented the latest developments on Polio+ and immunization. Dr. Jamal Ahmed from WHO examined expertise, technology, and trust in the "Polio Plus Talks" session, while Prof. Heidi J. Larson analyzed public trust in vaccines from a social science perspective.



Rotary Fusion Summit Concludes in Brussels with 1,600 Participants

Peace and international collaboration were also central themes. Dr. Andreas Strub from the European Union emphasized the importance of trust and dialogue in peacebuilding. Rotary International General Secretary John Hewko and Greenpeace CTO Priscilla Chomba-Kinywa discussed Rotary's cooperation with international organizations. Belgian Interior Minister Bernard Quintin and Tibu Africa founder Mohamed Amine Zariat shared strong messages on youth engagement and peace initiatives.

The cultural and social program added vibrancy to the summit. Under the "Fusion Off" banner, Vlad Popovici, Alexandre Helson, and Jeremy Le Van delivered presentations on business and social entrepreneurship. A gala dinner at Belgium's National Automobile Museum Autoworld on September 27 and a special concert at Flagey provided memorable experiences for attendees.

The Intercountry Committees (ICCs) played an active role throughout the summit. The ICC Summit on September 25 and the ICC dinner on September 26 helped strengthen international friendships. ICCs also showcased their projects and partnership opportunities at the "House of Friendship."

Civil society organizations had a prominent presence, particularly ShelterBox and the WASH Action Group, highlighting their disaster relief and humanitarian initiatives. Two consecutive luncheons were held for Major Donors, recognizing new contributors with pins and plaques, and offering photo opportunities with RI President Francesco Arezzo.



Rotary Fusion Summit Concludes in Brussels with 1,600 Participants

On September 27, 2025, the awards ceremony for the Power of Goodness Video Contest took place, attended by RI President-elect Yinka Babalola and Zone 21 Director Daniel Tanase. Prizes were awarded to the top three videos, and a special award was presented posthumously to Zone 21B Corporate Communications Assistant Coordinator Vesna Baur.

Zone 21 had a strong representation at the Fusion Summit. Rotary members from all over the Zone left the summit with new friendships, renewed connections, and valuable insights for their clubs and communities.



FUSSION SUMMIT IN BRUSSELS



5TH POWER OF GOODNESS VIDEO COMPETITION AWARD CEREMONY COMPLETED AT FUSION

The Power of Goodness Video Competition began with an initiative by PDG Nijad Al Attassi to showcase the impact of Rotary projects through the power of storytelling and visual media.

In the 2021-2022 Rotary year, the competition was first introduced by Region 25 as an innovative way to highlight inspiring projects and engage Rotary clubs in a creative format. Due to its success, the competition quickly expanded. In the following year, Region 24 joined, making it a Zone 21-wide competition.

As its influence grew, the competition continued to attract more participation. In 2025, Regions 26, 27, and 28 from Zone 22 also became part of this initiative, expanding its reach across a vast Rotary geography.

Until the 2024-2025 Rotary year, participating clubs were recognized based on four key criteria. However, in 2025, the competition gained a new dimension with the introduction of a special award in memory of ARPIC Vesna Baur, honoring her contributions and dedication to Rotary.

This year the 5th Power of Goodness Video Competition Awards Ceremony was held in Brussels - Square Convention Centre during the Rotary Fusion Summit with great enthusiasm. Awards were presented by RID Daniel Tanase and RIPE Olayinka Hakeem Babalola.

Vesna Baur Special Award was presented to DGN Vladimir Lalošević , D 2483 Serbia, RC Beograd Cukarica

3rd Place Award was presented to DGE Erden Gökmen, D 2420 Türkiye, RC İstanbul Fındıklı

2nd Place Award was presented to Jack Andrews Dotsey, D 9104 Ghana, RC Accra Spintex

1st Place Award was presented to PDG Olexsandr Khardin, D 2232 Ukraine, RC Kharkiv-City

In his speech, RIPE Olayinka Hakeem Babalola, stated how thankful he was with the implementation of Power of Goodness Video Competition that gives us the opportunity to tell our own stories. He also expressed his appreciation that, this year the Power of Goodness Video Competition was expanded to include Zone22 as well. He stated that until we tell our own stories, the narratives will not be ours, thus we should write our own stories and Rotarians should start preparing now by carrying their cameras when they visit their projects to record their own stories. He wrapped up his speech by encouraging Rotarians to have more entries in the upcoming 6th Power of Goodness Video Competition. We thank RIPE Olayinka Hakeem Babalola for his encouraging and valuable words.

5TH POWER OF GOODNESS VIDEO COMPETITION AWARD CEREMONY COMPLETED AT FUSION

It was a great honor to have RID Daniel Tanasse with us in presenting the awards to the winners who congratulated and praised each winner. We extend our gratitude to RID Daniel Tanasse for his continuous support who is always by us.

Sertaç Gümüş

ARPIC Zone 21B Region 25

Club Executive Secretary & Public Image Chair 2025-26

Past President 2014-16

Rotary Club of Kyrenia St. Hilarion

District 2452



5TH POWER OF GOODNESS VIDEO COMPETITION AWARD CEREMONY COMPLETED AT FUSION

Thanks all participants



Thanks all participants



Thanks all participants



Thanks all participants



Thanks all participants



MOMMY, DADDY AND CHILDREN CAMP

The Kayseri Rotary Club recently organized a very special Mommy, Daddy, and Children Camp in the enchanting setting of the Kapuzbaşı Waterfalls. Surrounded by nature, families enjoyed a weekend filled with joy, learning, and togetherness. Evenings by the campfire, enriched with conversations, laughter, and games, created memories that will long be cherished.

In line with Rotary's commitment to sustainability and the environment, participants and their children planted saplings, symbolizing one of the most valuable legacies we can leave to future generations. This activity not only strengthened family bonds but also instilled in children the importance of protecting nature.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all friends who traveled from different cities to take part in this meaningful event. The Kayseri Rotary Club remains committed to working hand in hand with our children to build a brighter future.



ROTARY CLUBS ORGANIZE JOYFUL FAMILY CAMP

The Toros, Mersin Kızkalesi, and Silifke Rotary Clubs jointly organized a Parent-Child Camp, which concluded with delightful memories. Throughout the camp, children experienced teamwork through fun group activities, while parents and families shared in their joy.

A backgammon tournament held for fathers created a lively atmosphere, and in the evening, participants enjoyed a nostalgic moment under the stars with a screening of the classic film “Hababam Sınıfı.”

The second day began with breakfast followed by a nature walk, after which attendees bid farewell with unforgettable memories.

The organizers expressed gratitude to the Mersin, Akdeniz, and Olba Rotary Clubs, as well as to Assistant Governor for Area 16 Nihal Yücesoy, Akdeniz Rotary President Hülya Tepe Güner, Olba Rotary President İsa Değirmenci, and Mersin Rotary President Reşit Can. Special thanks were also extended to Maya Picnic for hosting the camp, along with Ertu Uysal and Seray from Toros Rotary Club for their contributions.

The camp was highlighted as a beautiful example of Rotary’s spirit of friendship, solidarity, and strengthening family bonds.

Umut Delil & Derya

Toros Rotary Club President

Filiz Derkuş Kaplancık & Aydın

Mersin Kızkalesi Rotary Club President.

Aytaç Yıldırım & Fulya.

Silifke Rotary Clup President



UNITE FOR GOOD: A MEANINGFUL TOUCH FROM 4 ROTARY CLUBS TO YEŞİLYURT VILLAGE

On September 19, 2025, Kayseri Rotary Club, Konya Meram Rotary Club, Adana Taşköprü Rotary Club and Osmaniye Rotary Club came together in Yeşilyurt Village, Düziçi, Osmaniye with the theme of “Unite for Good.”

At the first stop of the day, Yeşilyurt Primary School, stationery, bags and books were provided to support the children’s educational journey; the school’s cleaning and stationery supplies were completed. Dental health screening and training were carried out for the children. Our Dental Health Main Committee Chair Dt. Ülkü Aktaş, and our members Dt. Yunus Emre Kocacık and Dt. Anıl Çetin examined the children and contributed to their awareness on oral and dental health. Afterwards, each child was given a toothbrush and toothpaste.

In order for children to gain awareness of safe living, traffic awareness training was organized and “Traffic Rules” books prepared by Türkiye İş Bankası were distributed. In this way, the training was made permanent.

For the parents, a Mental Health Awareness Training was conducted by Psychologist Buğra Erkmen. This interactive, Q&A-based session became much more efficient and valuable thanks to the families’ interest.

Since the village has limited access to health services, a comprehensive renovation was carried out at Yeşilyurt Health Center. With painting, plastering and renewals, the health center became more hygienic and functional. In addition, Dr. Emir Kaan İzci provided basic health information and offered important support.

Finally, in order to add hope and imagination to the children’s world, the Mobile Library Project was launched. After book reading activities, story and coloring books were gifted to the children, taking the first step for them to create their own libraries.

At the end of the day, hosted by Osmaniye Rotary Club, a “Summer Garden Party – End Polio” event was held at Büyük Osmaniye Hotel. This special night, full of music and entertainment, was organized to draw attention to polio and raise awareness. Appreciation was extended to Assistant Governor Bekir Turgut, responsible for Group 1 Clubs, and to Kayseri Rotary Club, Konya Meram Rotary Club, Adana Taşköprü Rotary Club, Çukurova Rotary Club, and Gaziantep Rotary Club for their support.

In this meaningful project, four clubs touched real needs from education to health, from traffic to psychological awareness. With the theme of “Unite for Good,” this work became one of the strongest examples of the lasting good created by Rotary through unity and solidarity.

UNITE FOR GOOD: A MEANINGFUL TOUCH FROM 4 ROTARY CLUBS TO YEŞILYURT VILLAGE



This large-scale event is co-organized by Kafka Art Academy, Eurasia Rotary Club, and Gaziantep Rotary Club, and will be part of the world's largest science hackathon organized simultaneously by NASA in 168 countries.

This hackathon calls on youth to develop creative solutions to real-world challenges defined by NASA's scientists.

What Will Happen at the Event?

Project areas include: Space technology, artificial intelligence, sustainability, climate data, and data science

Being able to co-organize such a meaningful global initiative with the Rotary family reflects our shared commitment to global solidarity and innovation. From Gaziantep to the world: think together, build together!



**“OPEN SCIENCE, OPEN FUTURE!” NASA’S GLOBAL
SCIENCE HACKATHON TAKES PLACE IN 168
COUNTRIES – GAZIANTEP JOINS THE MOVEMENT**



September 27, 2025 — The Kayseri Rotary Club marked an exciting milestone this week as seven new members joined its ranks, continuing its dynamic growth under the Rotary year's theme, "Unite for Good." With these additions, the club has now welcomed a total of nine new members since the start of the current Rotary year.

Club President Orhan Apaydın emphasized the value of this expansion, stating, "Every new member is a source of inspiration, love, and hope for our club. As our Rotary family grows, we gain greater strength to make a meaningful difference in our community."

Apaydın also noted that the growing membership brings more than just numbers—it introduces new perspectives, diverse experiences, and renewed enthusiasm, all of which strengthen the club's mission and impact.

With its expanding membership and revitalized energy, the Kayseri Rotary Club looks forward to launching more impactful projects and creating greater opportunities to serve society.



When the Global Polio Eradication Initiative began in 1988, polio was paralyzing more than 350,000 children every year across 125 countries. Thanks to the tireless work of health workers, governments, and partners like Rotary, polio is now on the verge of becoming only the second disease in human history to be eradicated. Today, wild poliovirus remains endemic in just two countries—Pakistan and Afghanistan.

In 2014, a young Rotaractor from Romania was reading about the polio eradication efforts and dreaming of working one day for this great cause, today, that young Rotaractor is a young Rotarian working in Pakistan with UNICEF, for the polio eradication initiative.

In Pakistan, the eradication journey has been long and challenging, but the progress is real and inspiring. Last year, the country recorded 74 cases while this year, that number fell to 29. And most are limited to one region, South Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a region with unique dynamics including issues of access or security for the polio workers and population movements.

On the other side, large areas of the country that once struggled, such as Karachi, Quetta Block, and Peshawar-Khyber, have not reported a single case in 2025. Punjab, home to more than half the country's children, has remained polio-free for seven months.

But do you know how all this progress happens on ground? It's by knocking every single door in Pakistan and vaccinating over 45 million children during the national vaccination campaigns. Every year, more than 3 national campaigns are being implemented, with more than 3 sub-national where around 29 million children are being vaccinated.

When written like this, it might not sound so amazing, but during my year here I joined 4 campaigns, walking along the polio workers from house to house, in extreme heat in some cases, and I must say that the efforts of these people to deliver vaccines and protect children against polio are beyond any written story.

Behind every drop of polio vaccine, behind every vaccinated child are the women and men that often walk for hours under the scorching sun, cross rivers in small boats, or climb steep mountain paths to make sure no child is left unprotected. At times, they even risk their lives in challenging security situations, yet they show up for every campaign with courage and determination.

For me even more touching are the women vaccinators whose role is remarkable, not only are they protecting children from polio, but they are also challenging deep-rooted social norms. By going door-to-door, engaging with families, and earning the trust of mothers, they are becoming agents of change, showing that women can lead, work, and shape healthier futures for their communities. Their efforts are not only bringing us closer to a polio-free world but also paving the way for greater women's empowerment in Pakistan.

And all these efforts, challenges, and progress are to protect the children that rely on us. They don't know all of us behind this initiative, but they are joyful, they are full of hopes and dreams and whenever I am in the field, their curious eyes when they see a foreigner in their community motivates me to not give up and continue giving my best so no child will ever suffer from this preventable disease again
From Islamabad, with hopes and dreams for a polio free world.

Diana Maria Pirga
Evrensel Rotary Club, District 2430
Digital Communication Specialist, Polio, UNICEF Pakistan

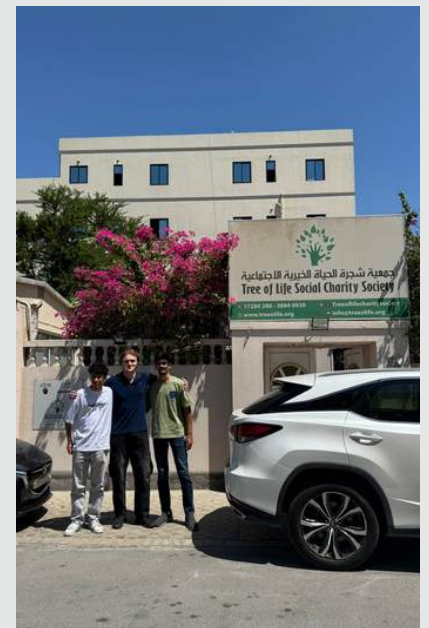




ARPIC SERTAÇ GÜMÜŞ
DISTRICT 2452

ROTARY CLUB OF MANAMA DISTRIBUTE LUNCH BOXES - D2452 BAHRAIN

As part of our campaign to promote environmental awareness and healthy habits, the Rotary Club of Manama, together with the Interact Club of Manama, distributed reusable lunch boxes and water bottles to three charity centers in Bahrain — to be donated to Bahraini orphans. The charity societies partnered up with this project were: Al Sanabel Orphan Care Society, Tree of Life Charity Society and Riffa Women's Cultural Society.”



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RC SEEF BAHRAIN CHAMPIONS EDUCATION THROUGH INSIGHTFUL TWO-DAY FORUM - BAHRAIN D2452

Manama, Bahrain – In alignment with Rotary International's September theme of Basic Education and Literacy, the Rotary Club of Seef Bahrain hosted an impactful two-day educational forum, bringing together members and guests to reflect on Bahrain's educational legacy and explore the future of learning in a fast-evolving global landscape.

The forum's first day featured a compelling presentation by club member Rotarian Esam Alkhayat titled "The History of Education in Bahrain." Mr. Alkhayat took the audience on a journey through time — from the early Islamic era to the modern day — highlighting major milestones, historical challenges, and the resilience that has shaped Bahrain's robust educational system. His talk offered a rare and rich perspective on how education has evolved as a pillar of national development.

The second day shifted focus toward the future with an engaging talk by fellow Rotarian Dr. Tariq Al-Sindi, "Aligning Education with the Labor Market:

Curricula of the Future and Skills of Tomorrow." Dr. Al-Sindi emphasized the urgent need for educational institutions to adapt curricula to meet the dynamic needs of today's workforce. He outlined global trends in higher education, stressed the importance of skills-based learning, and called for deeper collaboration between academia and industry.

Dr. Al-Sindi also underscored the role of innovation and quality standards in building agile education systems. He advocated for cultivating graduates who are not only knowledgeable but employable — equipped to contribute meaningfully to Bahrain's sustainable economic progress.

Together, the two-day forum reflected the Rotary Club of Seef Bahrain's strong commitment to fostering education and literacy. The event provided a platform for meaningful dialogue, intergenerational learning, and forward-thinking ideas —reinforcing the club's role in shaping conversations that matter for Bahrain's future.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES - CONCERT BY SOPRANO DEMETRA G. MUSTAFAOGLU IN AID OF YEŞILYURT SPECIAL SCHOOL - RC KYRENIA LIMAN - CYPRUS D2452

The concert organized by Hulya Gokoglu president of the Rotary Club of Kyrenia Liman at Bellapais Abbey on September 10th, in aid of Yeşilyurt Special Education and Vocational School, was a great success. The world-renowned soprano Demetra George Mustafaoğlu performed voluntarily, and the concert was truly magnificent. Her stage performance was outstanding and received great admiration from the audience. We extend our heartfelt thanks to dear Demetra George Mustafaoğlu for giving us such a wonderful evening and for all her support.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

FUNDRAISING BY RC NICOSIA LEDRA PRESIDENT'S DINNER – A NIGHT TO REMEMBER - CYPRUS D2452

Our first event of the year, the President's Dinner, was a wonderful success!

Seventy guests enjoyed a magical evening by the pool under the starry night sky. A delicious dinner, paired with the sounds of our live music band, made the atmosphere truly special.

The evening's goals were proudly achieved:

The pinning of two new members, Stella Troullide and Stathis Stasis

A fundraising total of €2,500, offered in support of the Association of Parents and Friends of Heart Diseased Children

A heartfelt thank you goes to our gracious hosts, Maria and Joseph Merhi, whose generosity covered nearly all event costs, making this evening possible.

Together, we celebrated fellowship, welcomed new members, and made a meaningful contribution to a worthy cause.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RC KYRENIA COSMOPOLITAN HAD A GUEST SPEAKER AYŞE TURAL - CYPRUS D2452

On Thursday, 25th September, Rotary Club of Kyrenia Cosmopolitan had the honour of welcoming esteemed author, poet, and Academician Ayşe Tural as our guest speaker.

Her inspiring presentation on Emotional Literacy reminded us that emotional intelligence is a vital factor in every individual's growth. To nurture it, we must first strengthen our emotional literacy—learning to truly understand what we read and observe so that we may reach healthier, more balanced conclusions.

Rotary's theme for September is Basic Education and Literacy, and Ayşe Tural's message was perfectly aligned with this focus. She showed us that literacy is not only about reading and writing, but also about developing the ability to understand and express our emotions clearly. At the same time, her message reached beyond the monthly theme, echoing the universal message of Rotary itself: love and compassion for all.

She concluded beautifully, reminding us that at our very core, we are all Love—journeying together toward self-expression—and that along the way, we must treat one another with compassion. Her words carried clarity, warmth, and the true spirit of Rotary.

We were also delighted to be joined by overseas Rotarians:

- Rtn. Michael Huges (RC Ludwigsburgh)
- Rtn. Daniel Lindsey (RC of West Raleigh, NC) with his partner Kathleen More
- Rtn. Trond Slovang from Norway

It was a truly inspiring evening, where Ayşe Tural's zest for life and love was not only evident but contagious—leaving a lasting impression on all who attended.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY MONTH PRESENTATION AT RC KYRENIA LIMAN - D2452 CYPRUS

RC KYRENIA LIMAN's regular meeting was held on Wednesday, September 17 at 19:00 at the Dome Hotel in Kyrenia in a pleasant atmosphere.

Information was shared about the concert “A Night at the Movies”, which was held on September 10 at Bellapais Abbey, where soprano Demetra George Mustafaoğlu performed as the soloist. She expressed her gratitude to club members Ayşe Aslım, Betül Bedel, Serdar Özdemir, and Gultaç Özsan for their support. It was announced that all proceeds from the concert will be allocated to the improvement of the classrooms at Yeşilyurt Special Education and Vocational Training School.

Updates were given about the upcoming RYLA training to be carried out on November 8 together with our twin club, İstanbul Barbaros Metropolitan.

For Basic Education and Literacy Month, an engaging interactive presentation was delivered by academician PP Derviş Yaşar Baha in a delightful atmosphere.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RC OF KYRENIA “NO CHILD WITHOUT SCHOOL SUPPLIES” CAMPAIGN - D2452 CYPRUS

With great joy, the Rotary Club of Kyrenia completed the delivery of school bags and stationery to the 4th Primary School of Lakatamia, supporting dozens of underprivileged students.

In just a few days, the RC of Kyrenia managed to cover the needs of over 130 families (more than 240 students) in Aglantzia and Lakatamia for the entire school year.

This marks the successful conclusion the campaign “No Child Without School Supplies”, which brought countless smiles to children and their families.

A heartfelt thank you to all RC of Kyrenia members, friends, and supporters for their generous contributions.

Together, we continue to serve with love and dedication.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

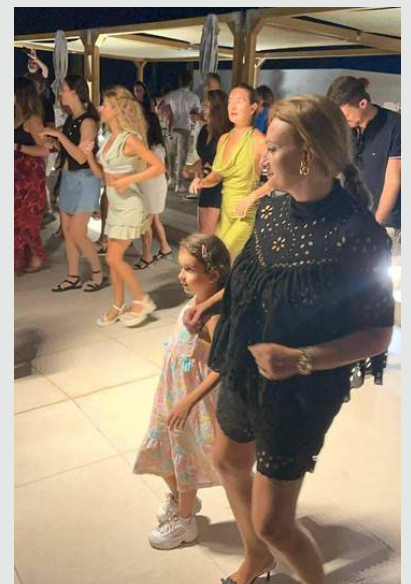
FUNDRAISING SUNSET LATIN PARTY BY RC OF NICOSIA-SALAMIS IN AID OF 'NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ' PROJECT- D2452 CYPRUS

On September 13, DG Peter and his family supported another Rotary fundraising effort by attending the Sunset Latin Party — a festive farewell to summer in the beautiful resort of Ayia Napa. The event was a joint initiative of the Rotary Club of Nicosia-Salamis and the Rotary Club of Famagusta-Cavo Greco, bringing together fellowship, music, and dance for a meaningful cause.

With lively beats from DJ Javier and performances from top Latin dance schools, Rotarians, families, and friends enjoyed an unforgettable evening of fun and solidarity.

The beneficiary of the fundraiser was the “No Child Left Behind – Early Intervention Program,” supporting efforts to fight rare genetic diseases.

Congratulations to the organizing clubs for blending joy with purpose — truly an example of Rotary in action.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

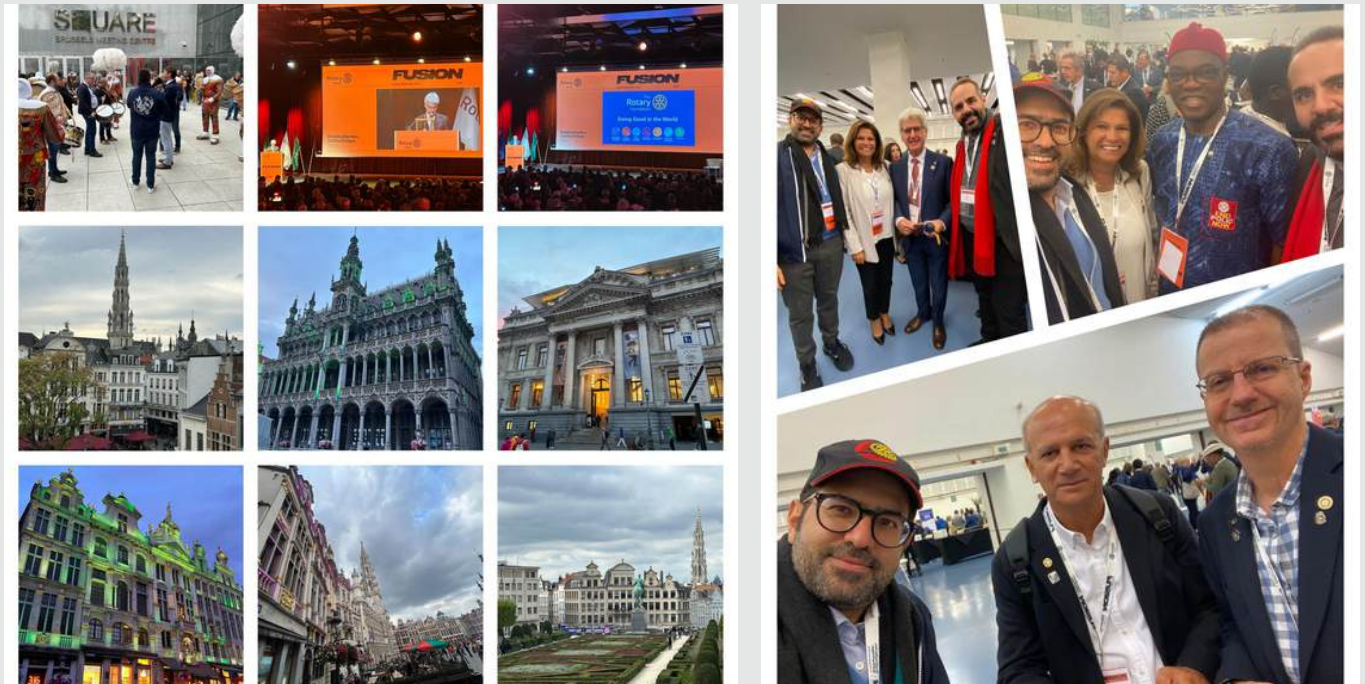
ROTARY FUSION 2025 BRUSSELS

During September 23–28, 2025, Brussels became the hub for Rotary Fusion Summit with Rotary's vision across zones in Europe, Middle East & Africa under the theme "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges". For the first time, The Fusion Summit combined the Rotary Institutes for Europe, Middle East and Africa in one grand meeting. The venue was The Square, Brussels Meeting Centre located in the heart of Brussels. The purpose of the institutes have traditionally been to start the learning process for the incoming and nominee District Governors, however, some time ago the institutes were opened to all Rotarians and are now a platform for disseminating ideas and providing networking opportunities. Designed to foster collaboration across generations, borders, and sectors, the summit brought together around 1300 Rotarians, civil society leaders, and global changemakers to explore solutions to today's most urgent challenges.

From D2452 there were around twenty Rotarians and spouses attending the summit. The plenary sessions were interesting and very engaging. We spoke about Rotary values such as diversity, peace, ending polio, and improving global health. The first session was titled Rotary Values and Civil Society. Over the four day summit, Rotarians were able to make new friendships and catch up with old friends.

The Gala Dinner was held on Saturday 27th September at the Autoworld. Autoworld is an interesting museum dedicated to the history of the automobile, housing many rare cars right from the early 20th century to modern times.

It was good to unite in Brussels and FUSION 2025 truly lived up to the presidential message - Unite for Good.



ARPIC SERTAÇ GÜMÜŞ ON.....

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY FUSION 2025 BRUSSELS





**ARPIC MARIA MASTORA
DISTRICT 2475**

RID 2475

DG'S MONTHLY LETTER (SEPTEMBER 2025)

**MESSAGE OF RID 2475 DG
STEFANOS ANASTASOPOULOS**

Dear members of our Rotary family,

After a summer that gave us the joy of rest and renewal, we continue our Rotary year with dynamism and optimism. From the very first days, we activated all our programs and activities, sending the message that our District is present, active, and determined to leave a strong mark on local communities. This momentum is not accidental; it is the result of our shared belief in Rotary's values, but also of the inexhaustible energy that every new beginning brings.

September is dedicated by Rotary International to Education and the Fight Against Illiteracy. It is the right time to reflect on a truth that we often take for granted: that access to knowledge is not a privilege, but a fundamental right of every human being, wherever they live, no matter how difficult their living conditions may be. Education is the key to equality, social cohesion, and peace. It is the foundation on which progressive and evolving societies are built. Without education, no society can effectively address the challenges of our time – from poverty and inequality to environmental protection and technological progress.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

DG'S MONTHLY LETTER - SEPTEMBER 2025

MESSAGE OF DG 2025-26

STEFANOS ANASTASOPOULOS

Rotary, both globally and locally, has a long tradition of supporting educational programs. From scholarships and exchange programs to large-scale international initiatives that open doors for children and adults, Rotary demonstrates that education is the most powerful form of service. It is our duty to continue to create learning opportunities, because education is the light that dispels the darkness of poverty and exclusion, the bridge that connects generations and cultures, the seed that gives birth to tomorrow. It is "the breath of the past and the breath of the future." But education is not just for those outside our organization; it is also for us. In Rotary, continuous education is essential. The more we know about Rotary's tools, processes, and values, the more useful and creative we become.

The better we understand the opportunities it offers us, the more we feel that Rotary is our home, a place that inspires us, unites us, and gives us the strength to effectively serve the common good. In this spirit, we have already planned a series of training seminars in all geographical areas of our District.

Our goal is not only to offer knowledge, but also to create a new generation of trainers. We give capable and inspired Rotarians the opportunity to actively participate as trainers, share experiences and become multipliers of knowledge and inspiration themselves.

In this way, training is not confined to classrooms; it becomes a living cell, a chain of transmission of ideas and values that will continue to nourish our Rotary for many years to come.

My official visits to the District's Clubs continue at a steady pace and we are already halfway through.

My impressions are deeply encouraging. I encounter enthusiasm, a willingness to take action, a thirst for learning and a desire to collaborate.

The Clubs want to connect more closely with the District, share best practices, enrich their ideas, and contribute to joint projects.

It is our responsibility to offer them vision, encouragement, and the right tools to grow.

Our District is not just an administrative mechanism; it is a source of inspiration and a catalyst for cooperation.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

DG'S MONTHLY LETTER - SEPTEMBER 2025

MESSAGE OF DG 2025-26

STEFANOS ANASTASOPOULOS

We also have a special moment ahead of us: the major event dedicated to PolioPlus, Rotary's global campaign to eradicating polio.

Polio remains the flagship of our projects: we are very close to the final goal, but also very far away if we do not continue the fight tirelessly.

This event will also send a deeper message: that we must respect scientific knowledge, recognize the power

of prevention and defend vaccination as a shield for the health and future of children around the world.

Our presence there will be a resounding "yes" to science, solidarity, and hope.

Dear friends,

our year is guided by the message of the President of Rotary International: "Unite for Good."

And this is not just a slogan. It is a way of life, a commitment to join forces, hearts, and minds to make our world a little better every day. Let us move forward together, with faith, vision, and the certainty that by uniting for good, we can change lives—and in doing so, change ourselves.

With appreciation and rotarian love,

Stefanos Anastasopoulos

RID 2475 - Governor 2025-2026



Stefanos Anastasopoulos
District Governor 2025-26
RID 2475 / GREECE

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - CLUB EXCELLENCE AWARD

My dear Rotary Family,

It is with great pleasure and satisfaction that I announce the Club Excellence Awards which were presented to 28 clubs in our district for their work during the past Rotary year. I congratulate them wholeheartedly!

Warm congratulations are also due to the Club Central committee, with Rotarians George Stavropoulos, Marina Arvaniti-Georgantzi, and Antonis Chrysogelos, who, together with the Assistant Governors, contributed significantly to this great success.

I hope that the new Rotary year will bring even more distinctions and that we will see many more clubs in our region being honored for their work and actions.

With warm rotarian regards

Nikow Margaropoulos

RID 2475 / PDG 2024-25

The award-winning clubs are: Agia Paraskevi, Alexandroupoli, Amarousion, Athens, Chrysoupoli-Nestos River, Kerkyra-Kapodistrias, Ermoupoli-Syros, Halandri, Kerkyra, Kifissia - Politeia, Kifissia, Kifissia - Kastri, Komotini - Rodopi, Korinthos, Koropi, Marathon - Nea Makri, Panorama, Parnitha, Patras - Kostis Palamas, Penteli, Piraeus - Anatoli, Rhodes - Kolossos, Santorini - Oia, Thessaloniki - Alexander the Great, Eastern Thessaloniki, Volos - Argo, Zakynthos, e- Club of Greece.



ΤΕΥΧΟΣ 2 - ΑΥΓΟΥΣΤΟΣ 2025 - ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΗ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΤΗ 2025-26

CLUB EXCELLENCE AWARDS

ΑΠΟ ΤΟ ΔΙΕΘΝΕΣ ROTARY ΚΑΙ ΤΟ ROTARIANO ΙΔΡΥΜΑ



Αγαπημένη μου Ροταριανή Οικογένεια,

Με μεγάλη χαρά και ικανοποίηση σας κοινοποιώ τις διακρίσεις **Club Excellence Award** που απονεμήθηκαν σε 28 Ομίλους της Περιφέρειάς μας για το έργο που επιτέλεσαν την περασμένη Ροταριανή χρονιά, για το οποίο και τους συγχαίρω από καρδιάς!

Θερμά συγχαρητήρια αξίζουν επίσης στην επιτροπή **Club Central**, με τους Ροταριανούς Γιώργο Σταυρόπουλο, Μαρίνα Αρβανίτη-Γεωργαντζή και Αντώνη Χρυσόγελο, οι οποίοι, μαζί με τους Βοηθούς Διοικητές, συνέβαλαν καθοριστικά στη μεγάλη αυτή επιτυχία.

Εύχομαι η νέα Ροταριανή χρονιά να φέρει ακόμη περισσότερες διακρίσεις και να δούμε πολλούς περισσότερους Ομίλους της Περιφέρειάς μας να τιμώνται για το έργο και τη δράση τους.

Με θερμούς Ροταριανούς χαιρετισμούς
Νίκος Μαργαρόπουλος
Προδιοικητής (2024-2025) 2475 Περιφέρεια Διεθνούς Ρόταρυ

Οι Όμιλοι που βραβεύθηκαν είναι: Αγία Παρασκευή, Αλεξανδρούπολη, Αμαρούσιον, Αθήνα, Χρυσόπολη - Νέστος Ποταμός, Κέρκυρα - Καποδιστρία, Ερμούπολη - Σύρος, Χαλάνδρι, Κέρκυρα, Κηφισιά - Πολιτεία, Κηφισιά, Κηφισιά - Καστρί, Κομοτηνή - Ροδόπη, Κόρινθος, Κορωπί, Μαραθώνας - Νέα Μάκρη, Πανόραμα, Πάρνηθα, Πάτρα - Κωστής Παλαμάς, Πεντέλη, Πειραιάς - Ανατολή, Ρόδος - Κολοσσός, Σαντορίνη - Οία, Θεσσαλονίκη - Μέγας Αλέξανδρος, Ανατολική Θεσσαλονίκη, Βόλος - Αργώ, Ζάκυνθος, Ηλεκτρονικός Όμιλος Ελλάδος.

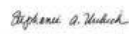


Rotary 

2024-25

CLUB EXCELLENCE AWARD

FOR FOSTERING A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE FOR ITS MEMBERS
AND REFLECTING THE VALUES OF ROTARY


STEPHANIE A. URCHICK
President, Rotary International


MARK DANIEL MALONEY
Chair, The Rotary Foundation

38

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 RACE FOR THE CURE

For another consecutive year, the RID 2475 had a strong presence at Race for the Cure, the largest road race dedicated to raising awareness and funds for breast cancer prevention and research.

- ☛ 34 Rotary Clubs
- ☛ 238 Rotarians from every corner of the country
- ☛ €2,000 donated to the cause

Our participation is not just a symbolic gesture; it is a statement of responsibility.

- ✓ We support the medical community's fight.
- ✓ We amplify the voice of prevention.
- ✓ We collaborate with organizations that share the same vision.

Warm thanks and congratulations to all participants!

Special mention and gratitude to Assistant Governor rtn. Rachel Topalidou for the excellent organization of our participation.

Rotary proves once again that we join forces – "United for Good" – because prevention saves lives and solidarity multiplies hope.

DG Stefanos Anastasopoulos

RID 2475



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - GLOBAL GRANT

A large Rotary delegation from RID2475, led by DG Stefanos Anastasopoulos, arrived in Anafi for a purpose that honors volunteerism and human contribution.

The delegation—consisting of AG Rachel Topalidou, AG Arsenios Moutsos, President of RC Santorini-Oia Ioanna Alafouzou, and club members Sotiris Kandyliis, Yiannis Rodousakis, and Flora Simou—delivered medical equipment for a complete cardiopulmonary resuscitation to the Anafi Multipurpose Medical Center, which is vital for dealing with emergencies.

This project is one of three major projects implemented as part of a significant Global Grant, which was completed last year by Governor Nikos Margaropoulos.

At the handover ceremony, we were warmly welcomed by Mayor Iakovos Roussos and members of the Municipal Council. The equipment was handed over to the doctor and nurse at the clinic, and the Mayor thanked all the Rotarians on behalf of the community for this invaluable donation.

DG Stefanos Anastasopoulos conveyed a message from PDG Nikos Margaropoulos and expressed his hope that the equipment would never need to be used, but that, if necessary, it would prove to be lifesaving.

The delegation enjoyed the warm hospitality of the local authorities, and during the visit, new friendships were formed and the possibilities for creating a new, modern type of Rotary Club on the island were explored.

This important action was further proof that Rotary has the power to touch lives, support local communities, and build bridges of hope and cooperation.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475

The Greek Rotary District (RID 2475) and the "Give the Gift of Access 1.0" Program to the Entire Rotary World Through "Rotary Magazine"!!!

We are delighted to share with you that the "Give the Gift of Access 1.0" program was featured in the August issue of The Rotary Magazine! It is truly an honor to see our efforts featured in such a beautiful and important Rotary magazine that reaches every Rotarian around the world.

This publication is not only recognition, but also a source of strength to continue. It reminds us that every step towards equal access for our fellow citizens to museums and archaeological sites in our country is worthwhile and that together we can make the difference.

A big "thank you" to everyone who supports this vision and makes it a reality. Together, we continue to give the most precious gift: the gift of access, making Greek culture accessible to all, and that is why the second cycle of the "Give the Gift of Access 2.0" program is starting immediately!



Greece
In December, the Rotary E-Club of Greece began delivering wheelchairs to archaeological sites and museums throughout the country. Through May, the e-club and three other clubs — Halandri, Preveza, and Psychico — had distributed 17 wheelchairs valued at \$2,600. Benefiting institutions included the Aegean Maritime Museum on Mykonos, the Archaeological Museum of Patras, the ESIEPIN Press Museum, and the Museum of Cycladic Art. "This is a large-scale project covering almost all of Greece, with deliveries planned for 14 museums and archaeological sites," says George Stavropoulos, immediate past president of the e-club.

2020
Wheelchair lift and special paths installed at the acropolis

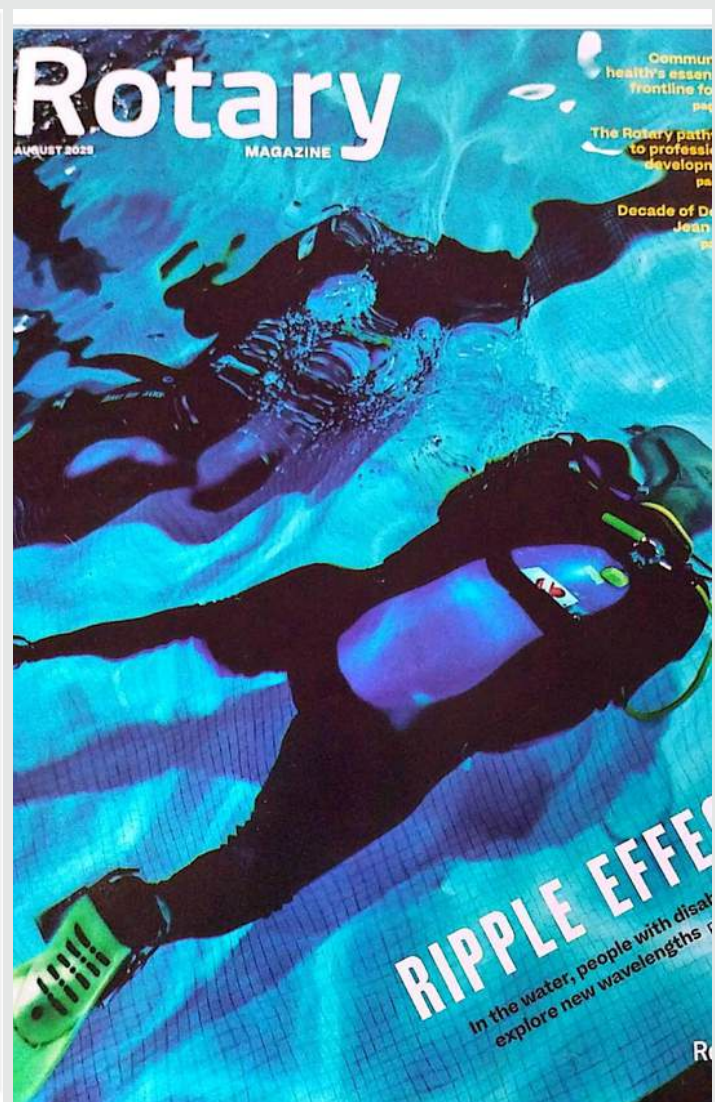
681 A
Gounsa temple originally cons

Korea
In March, the largest wildfires in Korean history swept across the country's southeast, scorching nearly 120,000 and forcing more than 37,000 people to evacuate. Rotary districts swiftly at the needs and delivered food, water hygiene kits, and other essential supplies to shelters and affected communities. Rotarians were able to reach even more people in need through \$100,000 in grants from The Rotary Foundation. Rotary members also assisted with clearing orchards and with home demolition in devastated areas. Some even provided heavy equipment, including to assist reconstruction of the historic Gounsa temple in Uiseong. "Disasters like this strike without warning," says Ung S. Jeong, immediate past governor of 3590. "No one is truly prepared, but Rotary is always there for the community."

Rwanda
The Rotary Club of Kigali Golf is passionate about more than just hitting the links. Within months of its formation, the club began supporting programs to foster entrepreneurship within the deaf community and other underrepresented groups. In November the club delivered more than a dozen sewing, knitting, and textile heat-press machines to the Rwanda National Union of the Deaf and to Empower the Future, an organization supporting mothers of former street children. The equipment, valued at about \$8,500, was paid for with member donations as well as a golf tournament (naturally). "We look forward to building a long-term partnership with the Rwanda National Union of the Deaf, Empower the Future, and other organizations supporting marginalized communities," says Tabvi "Mellow" Mutsi, a member of the club's public relations committee.

Rotary
Club of Kigali Golf

Συμπίλησε με το CamScanner



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC RHODOS

Signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Department of Social Policy and Health of the Municipality of Rhodes and RC Rhodos

The Department of Social Policy and Health of the Municipality of Rhodes and RC Rhodos signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on the occasion of Mother and Child Health Month on the Rotary calendar, with the aim of creating a framework for cooperation and connection between the two sides in the context of a joint effort to support vulnerable social groups, meet their basic needs, and strengthen social cohesion and solidarity in the local community.

The Cooperation Protocol was signed in the City Hall of Rhodes Ceremonial Hall by the Mayor of Rhodes, Alexandros Vassilios Koliadis, and the President of RC Rhodos, Dr. Beatriki Kalliopi Servou, in presence of DG Stefanos Anastasopoulos, the Deputy Mayor for Social Policy, Solidarity, and Equality, Thomas Sotrillis, the Deputy Head of the Department of Social Policy and Health of the Municipality of Rhodes, Christina Karagianni, the Assistant Governor 2025-2026 Rachel Topalidou, and the Secretary of RC Rhodos, Evanthia Bonis.

The aim of the collaboration is to expand the services provided by the Department of Social Policy and Health through the contribution of RC Rhodos:

- covering the basic health needs of vulnerable social groups in the municipality,
- facilitating the process of prescribing medicines and paraclinical tests for beneficiaries of the social services of the Municipality of Rhodes, and
- organizing informational activities and preventive health checks, in collaboration with volunteer doctors and other scientific partners.

This action is an initiative of the Health Committee of RC Rhodos.

After signing the Cooperation Protocol, the Mayor of Rhodes, Alexandros Vasileios Koliadis, stated: "Healthcare is not only a medical issue, but also a matter of social responsibility. Mothers and children are at the heart of the family, society, and our future. The Municipality of Rhodes supports prevention, information, and support initiatives for all women and children so that they have access to health, protection, and care services. We invest in the younger generation and honor the role of mothers, because only in this way can we build a healthy, safe, and promising society."

The President of RC Rhodos, Dr. Beatriki-Kalliopi Servou, stated: "It is with great pleasure and a sense of responsibility that RC Rhodos has entered into an important partnership with the Department of Social Policy and Health of the Municipality of Rhodes, with the aim of providing substantial and long-term support to vulnerable social groups on our island. Our joint commitment is to meet the basic needs of our fellow citizens who are housed in the structures of the Municipality of Rhodes, but also to strengthen social cohesion and solidarity in the local community."

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC RHODOS

Signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Department of Social Policy and Health of the Municipality of Rhodes and RC Rhodos

The Governor of RID 2475, Stefanos Anastasopoulos, stated: " I warmly congratulate RC Rhodos and the Department of Social Policy and Health of the Municipality of Rhodes for signing the Memorandum of Cooperation, which paves the way for the valuable contribution of the Club's medical members to the social structures of the island. This is an initiative that demonstrates in practice how cooperation between Rotarians and local authorities can bring real and lasting benefits to our communities.

Rotary is proud of its people, the professionals, scientists, and citizens who combine professional excellence with selfless service. This combination of knowledge, experience, and humanity is our strength and the foundation upon which we can provide high-quality services to local communities. With such initiatives, we are not just responding to the needs of society, we are taking a step forward, creating a better future for all"



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KERKYRA

The second consecutive action of RC Kerkyra for the new Rotary year was completed. A delegation from the club, led by President Christina Triviza and accompanied by the social worker of the Holy Metropolis of Corfu, Paxos & Diapondia Islands, delivered school bags filled with school supplies to children from vulnerable families



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC RHODOS

RC Rhodos, as part of its social action and long-standing contribution to the local community, and with the aim of supporting vulnerable social groups, has replaced and upgraded the basic equipment of the Rhodes Municipality Food Preparation Facility, where meals are prepared and distributed daily to our financially disadvantaged fellow citizens.

This donation covers essential needs for the daily operation of the Rhodes Municipality Food Preparation Facility, helping to improve the services it provides.

"On behalf of all the members of the Board of Directors and the employees of the Food Bank of the Municipal Welfare Organization of Rhodes, we warmly thank RC Rhodos for its immediate response to each of our requests," said Deputy Mayor Sotrilis.

The amount for this initiative was raised at an event organized by the Club in July with the support of the Rodos Palace Hotel, Karavolia Nurseries, and Tatakis Wines.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - ROTARY e-CLUB GREECE

To mark the start of the new school year, the Rotary E-Club Greece made a significant donation of school supplies and stationery to the Association of Parents, Friends & Guardians of People with Autism "Iliaktida," based in Kato Mitrousi, Serres. The donation was delivered on September 5, by our club member, Dimitris Naziridis. This action is part of the ongoing effort of the Rotary E-Club Greece to support charitable organizations where there is a need, strengthening their work!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KIFISSIA & RC VOLOS

On August 14, 2025, representatives of the Rotary Club of Kifissia and the Rotary Club of Volos visited the Special Primary School of Agria "Paidon Polis" — which includes a kindergarten and elementary school — and delivered support materials for the needs of the students and the school community.

The school, which has about 70 students, is a beacon of education and love for kids with special educational needs, offering them not only knowledge but also life skills, care, and acceptance.

Warm thanks to the school principal, Mr. Michalopoulos, for the guided tour and the warm welcome. His dedication and that of the teachers is a source of inspiration for all of us



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Twining of RC Corinth's with RC Bologna Nord!

On September 4, as part of the event organized by the Clubs of the Bologna region, the twinning of RC Corinth's and RC Bologna Nord, chaired by the dynamic Davide Vicari, was completed.

Past President Thimios Tsarmpos was the recipient of the exceptional hospitality of his Italian colleagues, and in his greeting, delivered in Italian in presence of over 150 Rotarians, he spoke about the deep historical ties between Italy and Korinthos, the rich work that Rotary offers when dynamic clubs join forces, and invited his Italian colleagues to reciprocate the visit, starting with the ICC & PUBLIC IMAGE SUMMIT, which will also stop in Corinth from November 13th to 16th.

Beyond the customary exchange of banners, our Club had a wonderful surprise in store: the presentation of a pin bearing our emblem, Pegasus, to Rotarian Simon Baraldi, whose participation was decisive in fulfilling this twinning.

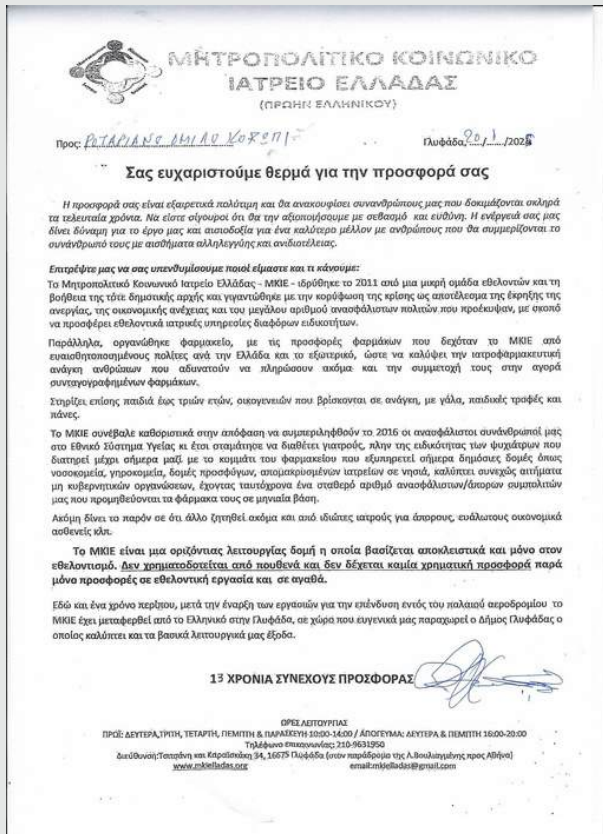
Cari amici e amiche Rotariani di Bologna, siamo gemellati!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KOROPHI

RC Koropi delivered to the Metropolitan Social Medical Center of Greece four carton boxes of anti-cancer drugs, worth more than 5,000 euros according to doctors' estimation



KOROPHI ROTARY CLUB <koropirotyclub@gmail.com>

ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΙΕΣ ΑΠΟ ΤΟ MKIE

1 message

Μητροπολιτικό Κοινωνικό Ιατρείο Ελλάδας <mkielladas@gmail.com>
To: koropirotyclub@gmail.com

Sun, Jun 29, 2025 at 2:35 PM

Αξιότιμοι κύριοι και κυρίες,

δεχθείτε τις θερμές ευχαριστίες μας για την δωρεά σας. Μας δίνετε δύναμη να συνεχίσουμε την προσπάθεια μας. Ευχόμαστε να είστε πάντα καλά και αλληλέγγυοι.

Με εκτίμηση,
οι εθελοντές του MKIE

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - ROTARY e-CLUB GREECE

Donation of Consumable Medical Supplies to the Hellenic Red Cross – Patras Branch by the Rotary E-Club of Greece

The Rotary E-Club of Greece, wishing to assist the Greek Red Cross in its work and aware of the shortage of supplies at the Patras Branch, due to the fires in the area, decided to reinforce its warehouses with a donation of consumable medical supplies, according to a list of needs compiled in collaboration with the Branch President, Ms. Tania Kanellopoulou, the Director, Ms. Angeliki Giannakopoulou, and the Head of the First Aid Nursing Service.

On the occasion of the delivery, members of Rotary E-Club of Greece met with executives of the Greek Red Cross - Patras Branch.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC DIONYSOS

RC Dionysos proceeded to a donation of food and hygiene products to the Dionysos Social Grocery Store. The items were collected by members and friends of RC Dionysos through a very successful event—a musical performance entitled "From the Opera to the Songs of the Paréa"—under the musical supervision and guidance of Rotarian Effie Adeilini.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC DIONYSOS

RC Dionysos received a wheelchair through a recycling initiative involving the collection of bottle caps in a metal heart, which began several months ago and continues successfully. The heart was placed in a prominent location in September 2023, in front of a restaurant, close to schools and next to the volunteer forest firefighting association. The careful choice of location made our initiative popular, and it was embraced and supported by the residents. The response of families and the education of young children about the dual purpose of placing the caps in the metal heart, so as not to burden the environment with plastic and to give them a second chance through recycling, resulted in social awareness and the collection of 50 large packages of caps in an initiative that became a beneficial habit for the residents.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC DIONYSOS

RC Dionysos responded immediately to the call for help in saving and caring for rescued animals in the burned areas of Chios. The large area affected by the fire threatened the lives of both humans and animals, with the latter suffering many casualties. Many people and protection groups mobilized to complete this specific relief effort. Our Club was present from the very first days to support this action for the unprotected animals by donating medicines and food.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KIFISSIA KASTRI / RHODOS KOLOSSOS

RC Rhodes Kolossos would like to express its sincere gratitude to the Municipality of Kifissia and the RC Kifissia-Kastri, specifically Ms. Katerina Karali from the Municipality of Kifissia and the Vice President of RC Kifissia-Kastri, Angeliki Metaxa, for collecting and sending aid to those affected by the fires on the island of Rhodes.

The donation of medical supplies and basic necessities, specifically long-life foodstuffs, personal hygiene items, and linens, which were sent by the Municipality of Kifissia to help the fire victims on our island, were distributed by the Club as follows:

The medical supplies were delivered to the Social Pharmacy of the Municipal Welfare Organization of the Municipality of Rhodes and handed over to the pharmacist of the Social Clinic, Mr. Thomas Kaikakis.

The basic necessities were delivered to the Parish of the Holy Apostles of Rhodes and handed over to Father Paisios, a theologian and teacher.

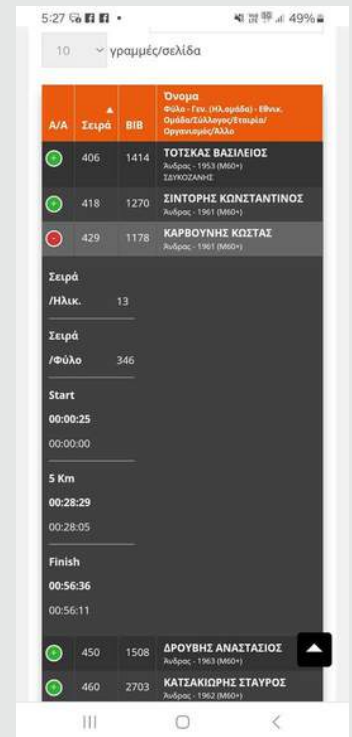
We thank everyone from the bottom of our hearts for their cooperation!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475- RC KERKYRA KAPODISTRIAS

With a net score of 56:11 according to the official timing, PDG Kostas Karvounis completed the 10 km race at Lake Ioannina. This effort was dedicated to the fight to eradicate polio, and for every minute under 60 minutes, Rotarians and friends pledged to donate €5 to the Rotary Foundation, thus for the 4 minutes, 20 euro each one. The amount will be deposited into our Club's account at Piraeus Bank by the end of the month and then transferred to the Rotary Foundation's special account for the global Polio+ program.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KERKYRA

The repeated successes of Panhellenic champion Teresa Kourtesis last year left no one unmoved. Especially when, each time she climbed to the top step of the podium, she honored the Club that supports her—and Rotary in general—by wearing our insignia.

It was therefore only natural that we renewed our support in terms of material and technical infrastructure (swimsuits, training program, appearances) for a girl who strives for excellence and continues to surprise us with the ever-higher goals she sets for herself - and which she surpasses every time.

RC Kerkyra wholeheartedly wishes her to fulfill her expectations this year and make us proud again.



ΠΡΟΕΘΝΙΚΗ ΟΜΑΔΑ ΚΟΛΥΜΒΗΣΗΣ Β' 2024-25				
Κατηγορία ΝΕΑΝΙΔΩΝ (2011 & 2007)				
1.	ΠΕΡΓΑΝΤΗ	ΔΑΝΑΗ	2010	ΑΑ ΑΣΤΕΡΙΑ ΚΟΡ.
2.	ΖΥΓΟΜΑΝΗ	ΑΙΚΑΤΕΡΙΝΗ	2011	ΑΑ ΑΣΤΕΡΙΑ ΠΚ Α'
3.	ΕΛΛΙΟΠΟΥΛΟΥ	ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ ΕΥΓΕΝΙΑ	2009	ΑΕ ΧΑΙΔΑΡ ΚΟΡ.
4.	ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΥ	ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑ	2010	ΑΙΓΑΛΕΟ ΑΟ ΚΟΡ.
5.	ΒΑΓΓΟΠΟΥΛΟΥ	ΝΑΤΑΛΙΑ	2010	ΑΝΟΓ ΚΟΡ.
6.	ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΟΥ	ΓΕΩΡΓΙΑ	2009	ΑΚΑΚΑΡΔ ΚΟΡ.
7.	ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ	ΛΟΥΙΖΑ ΜΑΡΙΑ	2010	ΑΙΓΑΛΕΟ ΑΟ ΚΟΡ.
8.	ΣΟΦΙΑΝΙΔΟΥ	ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΑ	2011	ΑΡΗΣ ΠΚ Α'
9.	ΠΕΤΡΟΠΟΥΛΟΥ	ΔΑΝΑΗ	2009	ΑΙΣ ΝΤΕΡΗ ΚΟΡ.
10.	ΚΟΛΕΤΣΟΥ	ΜΕΛΙΝΑ	2010	ΗΛΥΣΙΑΚΟΣ Α.Ο. ΚΟΡ.
11.	ΔΑΣΚΑΛΑΚΗ	ΑΝΝΑ ΜΑΡΙΑ	2011	ΗΡΑΚΛ91 ΠΚ Α'
12.	ΑΙΒΑΖΙΔΗ	ΑΝΔΡΙΑΝΑ	2009	ΙΘΥΟΣ ΚΟΡ.
13.	ΤΥΜΗ	ΑΙΚΑΤΕΡΙΝΑ	2011	Κ.Α.ΝΑΟΥΣΑ ΠΚ Α'
14.	ΧΑΛΚΙΑ	ΔΗΜΗΤΡΑ	2011	Κ.Ε.ΚΟΖΑΝΗ ΠΚ Α'
15.	ΚΑΡΑΤΣΕΒΙΤΣ	ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΑ	2010	ΜΙΛΩΝ ΚΟΡ.
16.	ΚΟΥΡΤΕΣΙΗ	ΤΕΡΕΖΑ	2008	ΝΗΡΚΕΡ ΝΕΑΝ.
17.	ΚΟΛΤΣΙΔΑ	ΒΑΣΙΛΙΚΗ	2010	ΝΟΘΑΚ ΚΟΡ.
18.	ΝΙΖΑΜΗ	ΙΟΥΛΙΑ	2010	ΟΕΑΝΑΒ ΚΟΡ.
19.	ΡΟΤΑ	ΣΤΥΛΙΑΝΗ	2008	ΟΙΦΠ ΝΕΑΝ.
20.	ΒΑΤΙΚΙΩΤΗ	ΛΥΔΙΑ	2010	ΠΑΛΑΙΜΩΝ ΚΟΡ.
21.	ΚΑΛΑΜΠΑΛΙΚΗ	ΣΠΥΡΙΔΟΥΛΑ ΙΡΙΣ	2007	ΠΑΟ ΝΕΑΝ.
22.	ΧΗΡΙΣΤΑΚΗ	ΠΕΤΡΟΥΛΑ	2007	ΠΑΟ ΝΕΑΝ.
23.	ΓΑΙΤΑΝΙΔΗ	ΜΑΡΙΑ	2009	ΠΑΟ ΚΟΡ.
24.	ΒΕΝΕΤΣΑΝΟΥ	ΝΕΦΕΛΗ	2009	Σ.Κ.ΡΟΗ ΚΟΡ.
25.	ΣΑΛΑΜΔΟΥ	ΗΛΙΟΣΤΑΛΑΚΤΗ	2008	Σ.Κ.ΡΟΗ ΝΕΑΝ.
26.	ΠΡΑΤΙΚΑΚΗ	ΕΛΕΝΗ	2010	ΤΡΙΤ.ΗΡΑΚΛ ΚΟΡ.
27.	ΡΙΣΟΠΟΥΛΟΥ	ΑΙΤΕΛΙΚΗ	2008	ΟΚΕΑΝΟΣ ΝΕΑΝ.
28.	ΜΥΛΩΝΑ	ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ	2010	ΟΚΕΑΝΟΣ ΚΟΡ.
29.	ΦΥΡΟΓΕΝΗ	ΑΝΝΑ	2010	ΟΚΕΑΝΟΣ ΚΟΡ.



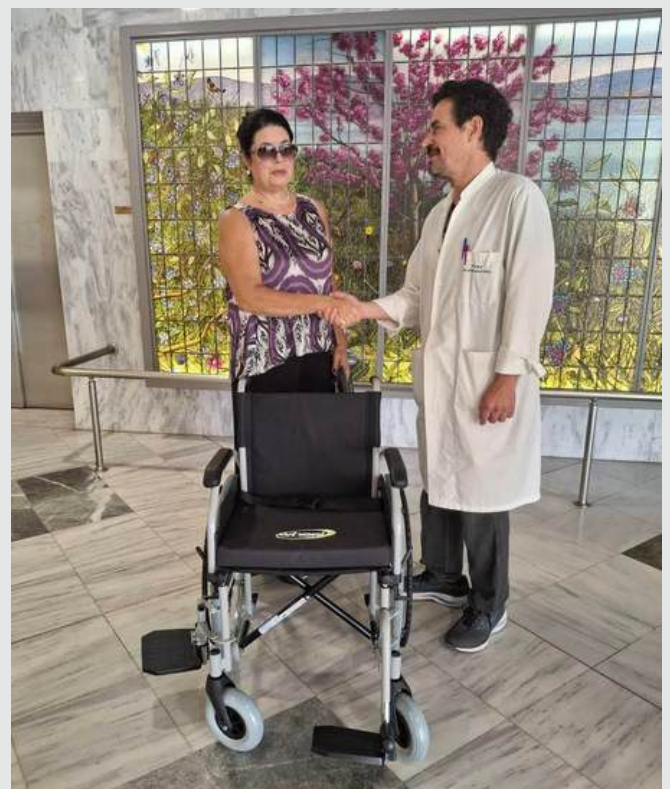
THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC DIONYSOS

RC Dionysos delivered a wheelchair, purchased through the plastic cap recycling initiative, to the Agioi Anargyroi General Oncology Hospital in Kifissia. The hospital administrator and other hospital officials were present at the handover.

RC Dionysos was represented by President Kalliopi Oikonomou, Vice President Aspasia Kallierou, past President Gioula Lakafosi, and Treasurer Theofanis Sivris. The wheelchair will be used in the hospital's Radiology Department to transport patients. A public benefit initiative was completed, benefiting our fellow human beings and proving once again that together we can do a lot for the common good.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in this initiative.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC ANOIXI SEMELI

On Saturday, September 20th, 2025, we bid farewell to summer with a beautiful trip to Isthmia. Members and distinguished friends of RC Anoxi Semeli gathered for a day of fellowship, exchange of ideas, and creation of beautiful memories.

As part of the trip, we visited the Isthmia Archaeological Museum, where we admired the exceptional glass artifacts, unique works of glass that came to light from excavations in the area and the sea.

This was followed by lunch at a local restaurant.

We were particularly delighted by the presence of the President of RC Psychiko rtn Sofia Mithou, and the founding President of RC Corinth's rtn Thymios Tsarbou.

With renewed enthusiasm, we welcome autumn and continue our activities!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC IRAKLEIO CANDIA

DELIVERY OF SCHOOL BOOKS TO THE SCHOOL OF THE VILLAGE MEGALI VRYSSI

On September 24th, 2025, RC Irakleio Candia donated school books to elementary and kindergarten students in the village of Megali Vrysi in the prefecture of Heraklion, Crete.

The school principal provided us with a list of specific books. Our club immediately took an interest in donating these books to the school by purchasing them from the respective publishing houses.

The amount needed was raised through a raffle of a painting created by Deputy Secretary, rtn Marianna Papadaki.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC IRAKLEIO CANDIA

The 17th Greece Race for the Cure®, an event aimed at raising awareness about breast cancer, was a great success. It was organized for the city of Heraklion on the initiative and through the efforts of the Rotary Club of Heraklion -Candia and with the participation of all the Rotary Clubs of Heraklion on Sunday, September 28, 2025.

The race attracted a large number of participants from the local community. People of all ages gathered at 18 Anglon Square, where the race started, and participated enthusiastically, supporting the message of the race, which was once again a huge success and set a new record for participation. More than 51,000 men, women, and children registered to participate in the event and flooded the streets of Athens and every corner of Greece, sending a strong message that TOGETHER we are stronger than breast cancer!

We would like to warmly thank everyone who participated in the race and our partners who contributed significantly to its success. The solidarity and unity that was demonstrated is proof that our society can achieve great things



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC DIONYSOS

RC Dionysos participated in the Race for the Cure event with a walk in the Community of Dionysos, at the Dionysia venue, supporting women with breast cancer and the ongoing fight for health and healing. We thank our members for completing the event and for their contribution. STRONGER TOGETHER



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF



Plamen Tsvetkov
District Governor 2025-2026
Rotary International
District 2482 - Bulgaria
Monthly Message September



ARPIC ARKAN APTURAHMAN
DISTRICT 2482

Dear Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interactors,

September is not just the beginning of a new school year. For Rotary, it is the month dedicated to one of our greatest causes – basic education and literacy. This year, the theme is especially close to us, because it lies at the heart of our message: “United for Good.”

Before the school bell once again gathers children in classrooms, we must ask ourselves a painful question: What is happening with education in our Homeland? The statistics are alarming. Bulgaria ranks among the top countries in Europe for the number of children who drop out of school or never even start. In a world that develops at lightning speed, this is a national tragedy. The family, once the foundation of upbringing, today in many cases cannot fulfill this role fully. The school, though burdened with responsibilities, cannot carry it all alone.

Education is not just about collecting knowledge. It is the most important investment we can make in Bulgaria’s future. It is the light that drives away the darkness of poverty, crime, and inequality. In recent years, our country has allocated significant financial resources to education, but that alone is not enough. We need more than funds – we need investments: in teachers, in infrastructure, in quality content. This is the most fertile ground for investment, because the return is measured in prosperous and literate generations.

Our work in the field of education must go beyond one single year. Literacy projects require time to take root, to grow, and to bear fruit. Let us build programs and carry out projects that will continue for years and leave a lasting mark. Whether you donate books to a school library, provide computers for digital literacy classes, or mentor children from disadvantaged backgrounds – every action matters.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Plamen Tsvetkov District Governor 2025-2026

Rotary International District 2482 - Bulgaria Monthly Message- September

Dear Fellows, in early July and August we opened applications for club service projects funded by District resources and for District Grants funded through The Rotary Foundation.

Let us use this month to prove that Rotarians are People of Action by:

- Assessing real needs: speak with headteachers, teachers, mayors, community centres, parents and young people. Ask: How do we create a better learning environment for our children? What holds the new generation back? What is missing? What can we fix?
- Choosing clear goals: focus on one or two projects. Better to achieve a small number of high-quality results than many without lasting impact.
- Engaging young people: they are our horizon. Work hand in hand with Rotaract and Interact. When young people lead projects for their peers, the effect is double – results for the community and a school of leadership for them.
- Preparing project ideas: brief outline, location, partners, budget, timeline – and, crucially, how success will be measured. Work with the Foundation, Community Service and Public Image Committees.

Please remember the application deadlines: 01 and 13 October.

Regional Assemblies are ahead. Do not treat them as a formality. They are a place for friendship, sharing ideas and setting common direction. Bring your project teams so that we become stronger together. The more of us there are, the stronger the link between clubs and the District, and the faster ideas turn into action.

Let us unite – across borders, languages and generations – and state clearly: Education is a right, not a privilege. Let us dream of a world where every child learns to read and write – and then, as People of Action, work tirelessly to make that dream real.

Together we can change lives, starting with the power of education. Together, we are united for good.

With respect and friendship,

Plamen Tsvetkov

District Governor 2025–2026

Rotary International, District 2482 – Bulgaria

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Leadership as a Journey

Leadership is a journey—it is not a momentary state or a position held. It begins from within—with a clearly defined purpose and the willingness to lead others in a direction you believe in. A true leader doesn't need recognition or a prominent place in the hierarchy. They are the natural, often invisible presence people instinctively look to in times of uncertainty.

At the heart of leadership lie values that are revealed through action. Integrity, empathy, and courage—these are the three pillars on which trust is built. They are not declared with words but proven through consistency and the choices made in difficult moments.

Every form of leadership begins with a vision. It is the clear sense of direction you wish to pursue. A vision that remains only in your mind is merely a dream. To come to life, it must be shared and understood. People need to see themselves in it in order to walk the path together.

A leader knows how to communicate in a way that hears not only what is said but also what is left unspoken. They understand different perspectives and weave them into a shared understanding. When they speak, they do so with clarity and honesty—building trust and confidence.

Leadership is also the care for the growth of those around you. It is the ability to recognize potential and to create space for it to unfold. To encourage. To support. To step aside and share the spotlight when someone else is ready for it.

To be a leader means to walk with purpose and persistence, with a willingness to serve a cause greater than yourself. It is a continuous journey of learning—alongside the people who walk with you.

The greatest recognition comes in the moment they continue confidently—even without you.

Tanya Georgieva – DPIC, D2482 Bulgaria

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Clubs and Investment in Education as a Possible Solution to Demographic Challenges

Have you ever imagined what a better future for Bulgaria could look like? A future where young people not only remain in their homeland, but truly thrive. This is one of the dreams that Rotary clubs in Bulgaria are turning into reality. We do not simply donate equipment or funds – we put our hearts into one of the most precious resources of all: Bulgarian education. With every project, we as Rotarians bring life and emotion into the learning process, we support talent, and we extend a hand to those in need. It is a mission that shows goodness can be very close to us – and it can change lives.

Between 2015 and 2025, more than **80 projects in Bulgaria have been dedicated to education**. Over 80!

The number itself is inspiring. Statistically, this means at least eight projects every year. The reality is probably higher – and if I have missed some, it is neither intentional nor selective. Words such as *education, training, scholarship, school, pupils, books and library* helped me uncover a vivid picture: a canvas painted by Bulgarian Rotary clubs, with budgets of hundreds of thousands, illustrating our deep and long-term commitment to the future of Bulgaria's children.

Education – the key to a brighter future

Deep down, we all feel the weight of Bulgaria's demographic challenges – the silence of empty schools in small towns, the sadness of parents whose children have left abroad. Rotary clubs believe that the strongest antidote to this loss is education. We transform every donation and every initiative into a message of hope that says: **“Stay here, grow here, because Bulgaria holds a future for you.”**

Our work is not just statistics – it is a collection of stories about transformed lives. When we donate laptops for online learning, we do not merely provide equipment – we open a window to knowledge for children who might otherwise be left behind. When we establish a scholarship, we do not simply offer financial support – Rotarians give wings to a talent ready to take flight. This is a struggle fought with love and dedication, whose ultimate aim is to keep young people in Bulgaria by helping them believe in themselves and in the potential of their homeland.

Impact on local communities: access and opportunity

The projects of Rotary clubs have a significant impact on local communities, reaching far beyond the classroom walls.

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THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

(continuation)

They often touch the entire social environment, making education more accessible and inclusive for every member of the community, regardless of their background or social status.

Access to knowledge for all

Initiatives such as donating computers to community centres in Berkovitsa and Petrich, to the home for children and families at risk in Malko Tarnovo, and providing water purification systems to schools in Varna, Kavarna and Dobrich – part of a multiplied project across other locations – improve not only the learning environment but also give access to basic resources for the wider community. The link between education and the wellbeing of the community is inseparable. Citizens who are better educated contribute to economic and social development, creating an environment where everyone can flourish.

Care for health in the classroom and library

Rotary Clubs Burgas-Primorie and Silistra donated air purifiers to schools and libraries, ensuring a healthier environment for children. Rotary Club Stara Zagora–Beroe built an outdoor fitness area for students, encouraging physical activity. Rotary Club Silistra also donated air purifiers to the Regional Library, including its children's section. These are only a small part of the projects listed on the District website – in reality, there are many more.

Support for children with special needs

Projects such as the creation of a sensory room in Stara Zagora and in other locations, as well as the donation of a modern interactive floor by Rotary Club Kazanlak to the Centre for Social Rehabilitation, demonstrate Rotary's commitment to inclusive education.

Equipment and learning tools

Rotary club Lyubimets supported a "Technology and Entrepreneurship" classroom with specialised equipment; Rotary Club Tutrakan provided a projector; Rotary Club Gabrovo helped the vocational training of students through the donation of sewing machines.

Innovation and digitalisation: education for the future

In a world of rapid technological change, Rotary clubs are ensuring students have access to modern learning methods and digital tools.

Interactive classrooms: Clubs such as Rotary Club Bansko–Razlog, Rotary Club Nova Zagora, Rotary Club Sliven, Rotary Club Sofia Capital, Rotary Club Sofia Triaditsa and Rotary Club Pomorie have donated interactive boards and displays, transforming classrooms into modern and engaging learning spaces.

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THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

(continuation)

Rotary Club Svishtov, with the support of The Rotary Foundation and Rotary Club Ruse, created a modern foreign language classroom in a digital environment. Rotary Club Ruse, again with Foundation support and in partnership with Rotary Club Silistra and Rotary Club Ruse–Danube, established a school classroom for civic education and the humanities.

Access to computers

Many clubs make life easier for pupils by donating computers. Among them are Rotary Clubs Dupnitsa, Panagyurishte and Plovdiv–Philippopolis. Rotary Clubs Nessebar and Sofia International have also contributed with cloud platforms and specialised learning materials. Rotary Club Smolyan, supported by The Rotary Foundation and in partnership with Rotary Clubs Zlatograd–Nedelino, Kardzhali, Interact Club Smolyan and other organisations, equipped a computer laboratory and built a wireless computer network across an entire school.

Innovative approaches

Rotary Club Shumen invested in teacher training in the Theory of Constraints method, while Rotary Club Nova Zagora created a workshop “From Children to Children”, where pupils themselves design electronic products.

Culture and knowledge: projects for spirit and skills

Rotary clubs understand that education is not only about technology. They support the development of culture, literacy and practical skills.

Support for libraries

Rotary Clubs Gotse Delchev, Pazardzhik, Kyustendil, Harmanli, Karlovo, Samokov, Silistra and Balchik have enriched local library collections with new books, donated shelves and equipment, and carried out renovations. Rotary Club Sofia–Centre, through a District Grant, delivered the project “Renovation and Equipment of a Computer Hall and Library.” Rotary Club Blagoevgrad–Centre, also through a District Grant and with the financial support of Rotary Clubs Dupnitsa, Bansko–Razlog, Gotse Delchev, Petrich and Sandanski, renewed the children’s and teen sections of the Regional Library. Rotary Club Ruse created a modern multimedia learning centre.

Encouraging reading

Rotary Clubs Aytos and Nova Zagora welcomed first-grade pupils with educational materials. Rotary Club Harmanli donated children’s books to mark International Children’s Book Day. Rotary Club Sofia Triaditsa achieved something remarkable by donating books to an entire network of community centres across the country. Our partners in education continue to turn to them for collaboration.

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THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

(continuation)

Cultural heritage

Rotary Club Zlatograd–Nedelino organised a “School of Traditional Crafts”, while Rotary Club Pleven–Centrum held events to showcase schools, stimulating interest in different fields of learning.

Praise for effort and awards

When Rotarians present a scholarship or a prize, what the student receives is not just an envelope – it is a promise. A promise that their hard work has been seen and valued.

Scholarships and financial support

Rotary Clubs Varna–Euxinograd, Veliko Tarnovo, Vidin, Kardzhali, Momchilgrad, Samokov, Popovo, Pleven–Centrum, Ruse, Sofia–Balkan, Haskovo, Nova Zagora, Bansko–Razlog and Troyan have all awarded scholarships and financial prizes to talented pupils and students. Rotary Club Zlatograd–Nedelino has even established a scholarship fund for doctors and medical professionals.

Support for dual education and innovation

Rotary Club Kardzhali supports dual education; Rotary Club Pazardzhik enabled a group of students to travel to Brussels to present their project; Rotary Club Harmanli backed a robotics team competing in an international tournament.

Mathematics and knowledge

Rotary Clubs Chirpan and Pleven–Centrum organise mathematics competitions. In Burgas, in October last year, a contest brought together 403 children. A second round is now being prepared, with invitations to children from across the country and neighbouring districts. Rotary Club Targovishte provides learning aids for first-grade pupils, while Rotary Club Kazanlak supplies school materials.

Every five years, Rotary Club Burgas publishes a book featuring the works of talented children – poems, essays and paintings. Rotary Club Burgas–Pyrgos traditionally awards the winners of a fine arts competition.

International mission and community service

Rotary clubs in Bulgaria extend their mission beyond the country’s borders, partnering with international clubs and helping communities abroad. Rotary Club Gorna Banya, together with Rotary Club Sofia International, donated books to a Bulgarian school in Greece.

Rotary Clubs Kardzhali and Edirne support a Sunday school in Turkey. Rotary Club Plovdiv International works with international organisations to support the integration of refugee children into the education system.

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THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

All these actions are proof that Rotary clubs in Bulgaria are not simply investing in education. They are investing in people, in the future, and in the hope that Bulgaria can be a better place to live. They remind us that with a little more care and faith, we can change the world around us for the better.

In this field, the Basic Education and Literacy Rotary Action Group (BELRAG) also plays a key role. It was created in 2011 by Rotarians and other dedicated individuals from around the world who share a special interest in advancing the mission and goals of Rotary International related to reducing illiteracy; improving the teaching and learning of literacy globally; and helping to provide educational materials and equipment at different levels. Like all Rotary Action Groups, BELRAG is an autonomous association of Rotarians with shared interests, together with partners of Rotarians and Rotaractors, working alongside clubs and districts on projects focused on basic education and literacy.

As with other Rotary Action Groups, BELRAG has implemented many impressive projects across the globe. One of the most striking examples that illustrates the scope of its work is the Guatemala Literacy Project (GLP).

This is one of Rotary's largest and most successful multi-club, multi-district projects. It began in 1997, launched by two brothers who volunteered as teachers in Guatemala. Their mission was to fight illiteracy in a country where many speak indigenous languages, while school materials were available only in Spanish.

The project began as a small initiative to donate textbooks, but it quickly grew into a large-scale programme that includes:

- More than 48 Global Grants funded by The Rotary Foundation, with a total value exceeding US\$6.5 million.
- The participation of 817 Rotary clubs from 99 districts worldwide (as of 6 September 2025).
- Partnerships with NGOs and other local institutions.

This project is not limited to donating books. It is a comprehensive programme that includes:

- Providing textbooks and learning materials in indigenous languages.
- Building computer labs and offering training in digital literacy.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

- A scholarship programme for young people.
- Teacher training, enabling them to teach more effectively and to work with a variety of learning materials.

One of the greatest successes of the project is its sustainability. Schools that receive textbooks establish a revolving fund from the rental income of the books, which allows them to replace the materials over time without requiring further external assistance from Rotary.

This project is an excellent example of how a small idea, when supported by the strength of Rotary, can grow into a global movement that transforms the lives of thousands by giving them access to quality education.

You can learn more about the project here: <https://www.guatemalaliteracy.org/>

Galia Atanasova

Rotary Club Shumen

District Rotary Brand Protection Officer

District Public Image Committee Member

District 2482 Bulgaria



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS FUTURE GENERATIONS, TOWARDS CONTINUITY, AND TOWARDS ROTARY?

If we look at the word generation in two ways – first as those younger than us in age, and second as the next companions in doing good – then responsibility takes on a clear and precise definition. **Rotary is more than an organization** – it is a community built on values that transcend time. The success of its mission to serve society through peace, understanding and goodwill depends precisely on **continuity between generations**. In that continuity lies the **sustainability and strength of Rotary**. That is why the question of our responsibility towards future generations is not merely formal, but profoundly moral and practical.

Our first responsibility is to be an **example**. Young people do not learn from slogans and presentations, but from actions. If we ourselves embody the values of Rotary – Service Above Self, integrity, friendship and respect – then we will inspire the next generations to adopt them as their own. A single good deed has the power to light a spark that will be passed on.

Our second responsibility is to create **space for involvement and growth**. Young Rotarians and Rotaractors need support, mentoring and trust. They must feel that they are an important part of the community, that their voices are heard, and that their ideas can be realized. Only then will they see in Rotary a field for personal growth and for meaningful contribution to society.

Our third responsibility is to preserve and pass on the spirit of tradition, while also remaining open to change. Rotary has survived and flourished for more than a century because it combines stability with adaptability. Our duty is to tell the story of the past, to preserve our values and symbols, but also to give freedom to new generations to introduce innovations that respond to today's challenges.

And finally, our responsibility is to **think beyond the personal**. To build projects that will continue to bring benefit after us. To leave a legacy – not carved in stone or written in documents, but in human lives. For continuity in Rotary is not simply a formal passing of the baton, but a living connection between people, values and deeds.

I believe that when we recognize these responsibilities and carry them out with dedication, Rotary will continue to be a bridge between generations, a source of hope and inspiration for a better world.

Boyana Bankova, Rotary Club Sofia Triaditsa
Assistant District Governor, Zone II, Public Image Committee
District 2482 Bulgaria

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Club Kardzhali brought together young architects from the Balkans at the Fifth Architectural Workshop in the Rhodopes

Just a few days ago, from 22 to 27 September, the Rhodopes became a stage of inspiration, cultural exchange and youthful energy. The Fifth Balkan Architectural Workshop – an initiative of Rotary Club Kardzhali, in partnership with Momchilgrad Municipality and Rotary Club Momchilgrad – was held in Kardzhali and Momchilgrad. It united architecture students and their mentors from Bulgaria, Greece, North Macedonia and Turkey.

The beginning – an unforgettable encounter with history

At the official opening ceremony in Kardzhali, the President of Rotary Club Kardzhali, Petar Petkov, announced the start of the workshop. He emphasised the importance of this project for cultural exchange and the professional development of young architects. This year's edition was dedicated to one of the most enigmatic cultural and historical treasures of the region – the Thracian sanctuary of Orpheus near the village of Tatul. The students, divided into three international teams, had the opportunity to visit the site together with their mentors – arch. Yusuf Nalbant, arch. Bujar Mucha from Rotary Club Skopje Stone Bridge, arch. Serhad Bil from Rotary Club Istanbul Şişli, and arch. Ioannis Dendrinis. The mystique of Tatul inspired the teams with energy and ideas, which the young people later carried into their projects.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Club Kardzhali brought together young architects from the Balkans at the Fifth Architectural Workshop in the Rhodopes



The creative process – dialogue between cultures

In the days that followed, right up to the very end, participants worked in the village of Glavatartsi. In the setting of a creative workshop, they exchanged ideas and perspectives, learnt from one another, and sought to build bridges between antiquity and modernity. The atmosphere of the workshop was both academic and friendly – a true testament to the power of international cooperation.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Club Kardzhali brought together young architects from the Balkans at the Fifth Architectural Workshop in the Rhodopes

The finale – recognition and gratitude

On 27 September the official closing of the workshop was held at Hotel “Konak” in Momchilgrad. The event began with a minute’s silence in memory of arch. Stanislav Lukov – co-founder and inspirer of the initiative, who passed away unexpectedly six months ago.

Among the official guests were Gyulizar Ismail – Deputy Mayor of Momchilgrad Municipality, arch. Yusuf Nalbant – Chief Architect of the Municipality, Ersin Yumer – Chair of Momchilgrad Municipal Council, as well as representatives of Rotary Clubs from Istanbul, Izmir, Bursa, Athens and Skopje. Greetings and words of gratitude were also given by Presidents Petar Petkov of RC Kardzhali, Mustafa Mehmed of RC Momchilgrad, Raif Bolat – Chair of ICC Turkey–Bulgaria from the Turkish side, PDG Müfit Ülke – coordinator of the three Turkish districts for ICC, and Shaban Rodoplu – member of ICC Turkey–Bulgaria, along with the mentors.

Heartfelt thanks were extended to the partners without whose support the event would not have been possible – the Union of Architects in Bulgaria, the Chamber of Builders in Bulgaria, Hotel “Konak”, family hotel “Trifon Zarezan” and ROZA 1969 Ltd.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Club Kardzhali brought together young architects from the Balkans at the Fifth Architectural Workshop in the Rhodopes

The three teams presented their design concepts, inspired by the power of Tatul:

- Team Continium – Chris Demos, Mia Anastasova, Eniz Mahmud, Işlay Türküm
- Team Achro – Selin Ismail, Elena Momirovska, Ata Dalkılıç, Ionna Papadaki
- Team Synchrona – Azize Bilyal, Ema Stankovic, Filiana Kokkinou, Salih Enes Çalık



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Club Kardzhali brought together young architects from the Balkans at the Fifth Architectural Workshop in the Rhodopes

An event is truly successful when it leaves a lasting mark on people's hearts. The Fifth Balkan Architectural Workshop in Kardzhali was both an academic initiative and a living experience – a meeting of cultures, ideas and dreams. These students from different countries created a community that went far beyond projects and drawings. Their spontaneous words, full of gratitude and emotion, tell the story better than any statistics.

“I was expecting it to be a nice experience – and it has been exactly that. I am happy to be part of this project and to meet so many colleagues.”

— *Eniz Mahmud, BG*

“I’ve taken part in many international workshops, but this one truly felt like being with a big family. I met so many wonderful colleagues, and I am grateful for that.”

— *Azize Bilyal, BG*

“I knew from the very beginning that this would be a truly educational workshop. We all became like a family right from the start, and I was delighted to meet all these colleagues.”

— *Filliana Kokkinou, GR*

“This architectural workshop has brought me so many new experiences: my first flight abroad, my first time working with people from other countries, and my first encounter with Bulgarian culture. Any fear or uncertainty quickly disappeared once I met you all. The experience and knowledge I gained from working with you will follow me throughout my academic journey in architecture. I am deeply grateful for the memories we created together.”

— *Christina Demos, GR*

“During the workshop, I had the opportunity to collaborate with other students, exchange ideas, and work on creative solutions together. It was a valuable experience that helped me improve my teamwork skills and gain new perspectives.”

— *Elena Momirovska, N. Macedonia*

“For me, the workshop was a new experience. At first, I was worried about working on a project in a team of foreign students, but it turned into an unforgettable experience and a fun way to work by sharing ideas and advice. Here I not only met new people, but I believe I made new friends. I am glad to have been part of this project.”

— *Selin Ismail, BG*



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Club Kardzhali brought together young architects from the Balkans at the Fifth Architectural Workshop in the Rhodopes

“This workshop gave me the chance to work for the first time with people from different countries, to exchange creative ideas, and to create something truly wonderful. It allowed me to experience aspects of architecture I had never encountered before, and I am grateful for being part of it.”

— Ionna Papadaki, GR

“I am very grateful for this opportunity to work with colleagues from different countries. It has been a very pleasant and enjoyable experience.”

— Ema Stankovic, N. Macedonia

“This was my first time taking part in a workshop like this, and it exceeded all my expectations. I especially enjoyed exchanging ideas and perspectives on the same topic, and seeing how students from other countries approach their work. Even better, I had the chance to make new friends along the way.”

— Mia Anastasov, N. Macedonia

“It was a pleasure for me to participate in this programme. I made new friendships and learned important things from professionals. I am very happy to have attended, and I would like to thank everyone.”

— Ata Dalkılıç, TR

“This workshop gave me new experiences and wonderful friendships. I learned a lot, shared ideas, and I am truly glad to have been part of it.”

— Salih Enes, TR

“It was a wonderful experience to discover the commonalities of our cultures and values with the countries we gathered with for the Architecture Workshop. This opportunity allowed us to learn about life and architecture in Kardzhali. We thank all those who provided us with this opportunity through collaboration.”

— Isilay Turkum, TR

These voices reveal the strength of friendship and collaboration – the strength of Rotary to unite and inspire. Every smile, every new friendship, every shared idea proves that when we work together, we overcome boundaries and build bridges. The Architectural Workshop in Kardzhali is both a memory and an inspiration for a future in which cultures meet to create together.



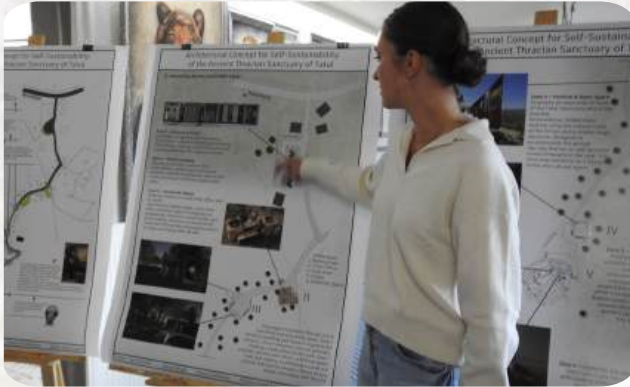
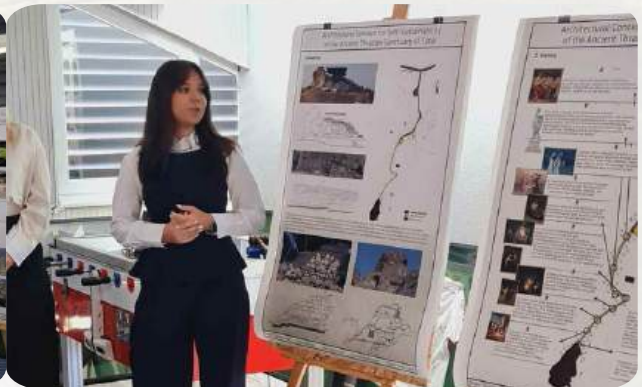
THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Club Kardzhali brought together young architects from the Balkans at the Fifth Architectural Workshop in the Rhodopes



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The projects remain at the disposal of Momchilgrad Municipality, to be developed further and potentially turned into real future initiatives. The students received certificates and gifts, but the most valuable reward for them were the new friendships and the professional experience gained in the Rhodopes.

The legacy of the workshop

The fifth edition of the Balkan Architectural Workshop once again demonstrated that young architects can be ambassadors of culture and guardians of heritage. It showed that when talent meets history, and when different cultures unite around a common goal, ideas with a future are born.





ARPIC ALEKSANDAR RADOJICIC
DISTRICT 2483

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RI FUSION EVENT

A successful Rotary Institute is behind us. Very important and successful meetings with dear friends and my colleagues, Governors from other Districts, opened numerous fields for concrete cooperation, and some of them have already been agreed upon.

Numerous delegations from District 2483 worked with quality on various topics that are very important for us in the present time, but also for our future. Vladimir Lalošević and Daliborka Bradić successfully passed their educational and preparatory workshops, received awards and achieved excellent networking. Jasmina Đokić worked well on the promotion of the District together with friends, representatives of the fraternal club from Turkey. Marija Jevtić did an excellent job in conceiving and exchanging ideas for the further activities of the Committee for Mental Health and Climate Action. Our dear Ljiljana Lainović officially entered the family of Major donors and we heartily congratulate her on such a significant recognition. Marko Mitrašinić successfully presented the District at the ICC summit and agreed on the next steps towards the development and implementation of projects with friendly countries. Our Nikola Božić was a great facilitator and presenter of our District at workshops intended for incoming and nominated Governors.

We had the opportunity to hear important messages from leaders from various areas of social and public life, politics, business, Rotary, among them the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Minister of Internal Affairs, the President of Rotary International and others. Every conversation was enriching and broadened our horizons for further action.

Let these activities lead to concrete and measurable results, and let those results be the motivation to be even more numerous at each subsequent similar event and thereby create even greater benefits for our countries and for us, the District!

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THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

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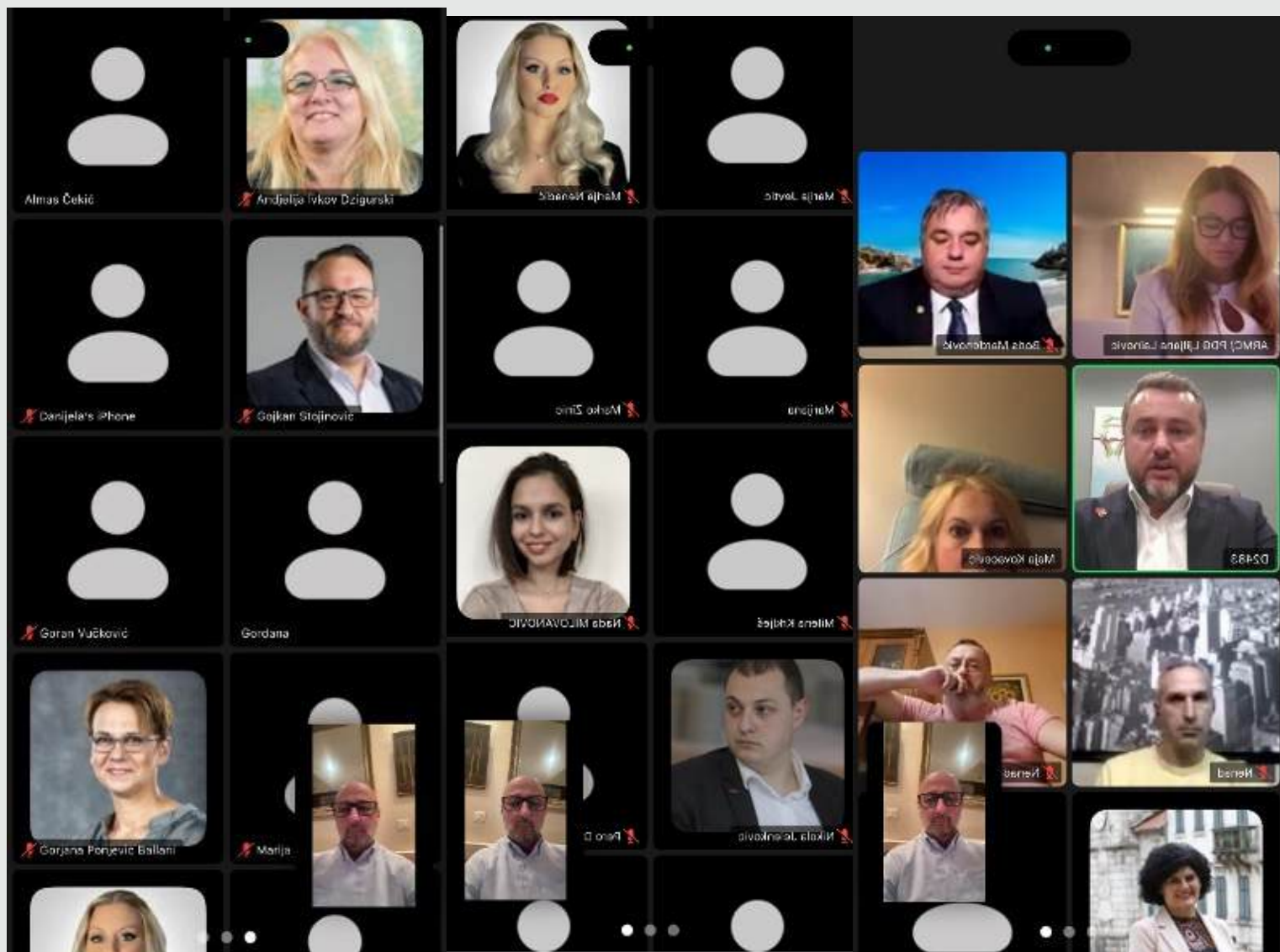


THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

District membership online training

On Monday, September 29, 2025, the first district online training on "Membership" was held via the ZOOM platform, which was attended by more than 40 Rotarians from various clubs in our District. The training was led by PDG Aleksandar Radojičić under the motto: "Each new member brings new energy, ideas and a heart ready to serve. By developing membership, we are not only building a stronger club - we are building a stronger community, a stronger network of friendships and a greater influence for good. In Rotary, every membership changes the world - let's start with us!"

The training program was divided into three segments: selection of new members, admission to the club and mentoring, and within each part, after a short introductory presentation, there was space for discussion and exchange of good practices and experience among the participants. In this way, the participants received good examples and practices that are already being applied in clubs. The training took place in an interactive atmosphere, with active participation and exchange of experiences. Once again, membership development is the foundation of a strong Rotary, and meetings like these provide clubs with the inspiration and tools to build stronger communities and lasting friendships.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

01.09.2025 - RC Sombor: Donation to the Elementary School "Bratstvo Jedinstvo"

Rotary Club Sombor had the pleasure of visiting elementary school "Bratstvo Jedinstvo 27. 08. 2025 in Sombor. On that occasion, the wireless microphone system was handed out, with the aim of improving the quality of school performances, ceremony and other important events. The donation has enabled a simpler organization and higher level of technical equipment of the school, which directly contributes to the quality of educational work and cultural life of students and teaching staff.

We remind you that Rotary Club Sombor organized humanitarian action called "Sweet for the Halls" in June. The event was held on the main street in Sombor starting at 6 p.m. Within the action, the funds were collected by the sale of domestic cakes, and all income is intended for the "mane" association, in order to allow them further progress through therapeutic riding. This action was aimed at providing support to children in development and involvement in therapeutic activities that contribute to their health and socialization.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

02.09.2025 - RC Novi Sad Eco-Art: Art-Eco Dialogues - To Unite for Good

Rotary Club Novi Sad Eco-Art Together with Danube dialogues organized in beautiful Salon Museum Salon, joint reflection of Art-eco dialogues (to unite for good).

The idea for the event originated from Vesna Latinović, honorary members and Marija Jevtić, Past President Rotary Club Novi Sad Eco-Art. The panelists were: adrienna ujhazi, visual artist, association, art historian, galerist, marija jevtić, marija klub Novi Sad Eko-Art, Vesna Latinović, Cultural manager, Gallery Belart.

The topic of the meeting was the bond of art and ecology, the importance of art-eco-related community, the implementation of art-eco principles in rotary, the importance of test 4 issues and Danube dialogues as an environmental principles.

We agreed that the Rotary community has the capacity to develop activities in unification for good implementation of eco-art principles. After the panel we enjoyed the current retrospective exhibition of Danube dialogues and leading curator of Ksenija Marinković.

We thank Members of RC Pancevo, RC Kalemegdan, RC Skadarlija, RC Neimar, as well as Rotary Friends who have increased the meeting with their presence and active participation.

Rotary Club Novi Sad Eco-Art remains committed to activities that connect art, ecology and health, as well as working with children and young people within these topics.



13.09.2025 - RC Sremska Mitrovica: V donor rotary grape harvest

Fifth Rotary Berba Grapes in Winery Brestovač in Erdevik, has traditionally in good mood and socializing. The funds raised are intended for making a Roman emperor from Sirmium, for whom the development of viticulture on Fruška Gora, Prokusa is connected. On that occasion, we hosted friends from the Rotary Club Bihać.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

13.09.2025. RC Mihajlo Pupin: Biciklijada 07 - "Bike for Health and Schools"

On Saturday, 13. September 2025. was held by the seventh humanitarian "bicycle", under the slogan "bicycle for health and schools". The bicycle race is the traditional event Rotary Club "Mihajlo Pupin", which gathers hundreds of cycling lovers from Pancevo and the environment.

Our action aims to improve the local community and promote healthy living habits. The funds raised are invested in the development and donation of bicycle bikes schools. This year, 260 cyclists participated, including 50 children. The program included:

- Revijal driving city streets, 10 km long, with start in the "Barutan" park. Security provided orders, police and professional security.
- Competitions in "Deal Polygon" and the "slowest race" for children and young ages from 10 to 21 years. Vanja Jekić, President of the Club, and Size Stamatović, the District Governor, handed over valuable prizes to the winners, as well as all competitors who won from the first three places. The prize pool for the best competitors amounted to RSD 100,000.

The atmosphere complemented DJ with music and announcement of the program. The event was completed by a joint handle of participants and guests. Preparations lasted six months and included over 1,200 volunteer hours. These events have more than 210,000 views at: https://www.bicikliad.rs.com/pancevacka_biciklijad/, <https://www.facebook.com/rcpupin>. The information was also transferred by numerous media (RTS, 013info, Hi Pancevo, K 013, Pancevo online and others). The event was supported by Veliša Stamatović, the Governor of the District 2483.



14.09.2025. RC Kikinda: Donation of equipment for students for the elementary school "6. October"

Thanks to the humanitarian auction of children's works and part of local artists, we have provided new equipment for students for students "6. October". The mission is to improve the conditions of education and developing children with special needs. The new didactic materials, sports and educational equipment are now part of the classroom of this school. We send special gratitude to friendly rotary clubs from the women's clubs, Ruma and Zrenjanin, whose support has contributed a lot to the success of this action. Education and support for young people are the foundations of a better society - we make changes together!



15.09.2025. RC Belgrade Sava: Common meeting of Rotary Clubs Belgrade Sava and Skadarlija

On Tuesday 15. September 2025. year, a joint meeting of Rotary Clubs Belgrade Sava and Skadarlija was held. On that occasion, our Member and the future Governor of District 2483 for 2026/2027 Daliborka Bradić held an extremely significant and inspiring lecture dedicated to the Rotary Foundation.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

16.09.2025. RC Rotary E-Club Montenegro: Donor evening for the procurement of equipment in the Elementary School "Sutjeska" in Podgorica

Rotary e-Club Montenegro was organized by 16. September 2025. in Podgorica, an extremely significant donor evening with the aim of procuring equipment for elementary school "Sutjeska". This humanitarian initiative was much more than ordinary assistance to the educational institution; It was a demonstration of empathy, consciousness and responsibility of the Rotary Community and its partners.

The event gathered donors, friends, supporters and partners from the economy, showing the strength of communion born of love and good ideas. The aim of this action was to ensure that students' schools "Sutjeska" learn in better and more dignified conditions. The organizers pointed out that every child deserves the opportunity to grow in an environment that provides him with safety, heat, comfort and quality conditions for learning, growth, development and progress.

This donor action was sent a powerful message: In the world that sometimes forgets the most sensitive, we have not forgotten children. By entering the children and encouraging their education, Rotary and partners invest directly into the future. The motive and communion that gathered present that in September, which in Rotary, was dedicated to the service in education, proved that the goals were achievable when it was initiated by the real idea and real people.

Mr. Edita Dautoviic as the organizer expressed special gratitude to those who believed in this mission - our donors, friends and supporters, partners from the economy, and everyone who contributed, regardless of its size. The total value of the project was almost 16,000 euros, of which Rotary e-club Montenegro collected € 7,900 and the Ministry educates the second half.

This donor evening serves as a reminder that no one has ever become poor to give others, and that each honest hand help changes the world. The smile of children is our reward, and their gratitude is our strength. Thank you for believing we can do more together. For children. For knowledge. For the future.



**16. to 21. 09. 2025. RC Budva, RC Belgrade Skadarlija and RC Belgrade Singidunum:
Participation in the open championship in Tennis**

In Pula is 16-21. In September, another ITFR opened Europe Rotarian Open Consignment in Tennis. There were over 120 participants from 14 countries, and our District represented Miško Radjenović from RC Budva, Finko Avramovski RC Belgrade Skadarlij and Bato Đurković from RC Belgrade Singidunum. Our representatives won significant awards: Miško Radjenović has won the first place in singles in his category, and Finko Avramovski from RC Belgrade Skadarlija and Miško Radjenović won second place in the category of doubles.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

17.09.2025. RC Kotor: Lecture by prof. Dr. Dejan Chicards "Rotary Movement in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia"

At the regular meeting of Rotary Club Kotor held on 17.09. At the "Cattaro" Hotel, we had an exceptional honor to host prof. Dr Dejana Chicar, a member of the Rotary Club Belgrade-Danube, President of the Council Past Governor Rd 2483, a reputable Rotarian and University Professor.

Prof. The Čikar held an inspiring lecture entitled "Rotary Movement in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia", which spent a special chapter of Rotarian History.

It was about the beginnings of Rotary Ideas in Belgrade and the first initiatives for the establishment of the Club, the reception of Yugoslavia in Rotary International, activities and events that marked this time, prominent members, their projects and contribute to society. The lecture conveyed the spirit of one time, considered through the broader historical, political and social context of the occasion of the then opportunities in the region and the world.

Prof. The Čikar reminded us of the importance of friendship and humanitarian action of rotarians and in the most difficult times, stating that "being a member of the Rotary Club Belgrade, between the two world wars, meant to be in good company, be among friends."

Rotary Club Kotor thanks prof. Chicards at this exceptional lecture that inspired us and reminded of the power of the Rotarian Ideas - then, as today.

19.09.2025 - RC Belgrade Stari Grad: "Koreni and Identity - heritage that connects us to the Matica"

We are especially pleased to distribute impressions from traditional gathering to support the "roots and identity - inheritance, which organized us by the Belgrade club, in cooperation with the Alumni club of Serbian students abroad on 19.09. In the House of Vuk's endowment in Belgrade.

Marking the month of primary education and literacy, this special event has gathered a commitment to the preservation of the wolf's endowment, Serbian language and the rich cultural and historical heritage of the Serbian people, with special reference to the involvement of young educated creators with nuts.

The event was dedicated to the collection of funds to support the work of the Vukova Foundation, and scholarship talented Serb students at the University of Cambridge. We sincerely thank the presence and solidarity Rotary club Mihajlo Pupin, Rotary Club Belgrade Sava, Rotarakt club Belgrade Center, as well as the organization of Serbian students abroad and organization of the return point.

In the time in which the world is rapidly changing, our task is to be a bridge between the past and the future, between the nut and the diaspora, between the words and works. The roots do not bind us, they empower us, and identity is not just a matter of origin, but also the responsibilities we carry according to what we are and what we want to leave future generations.

Thank you to everyone who was part of this evening and that you keep the most valuable, spiritual continuity of one nations and a noble mission of Rotary.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

20.09.2025 - RC Novi Sad Eco-Art: Eco-Art & Opens (F) Ora - World Cleaning Day

Rotary Club Novi Sad Eco-Art in cooperation with Opens is on 20.09.2025. He has now organized the traditional, third action in a row: "Eco-Art & Opens (F) ora" and the world-marked day of cleaning.

Rotary Club Novi Sad Eko-Art is in line with its mission, together with children and young people, organized educational workshops intended for children and the youngest. The small gardening workshop and creative "green" art workshop was inspired by nature members of Gordana Nišević Tadić and Marija Jevtić. The children enjoyed creating art works from natural materials and leaves, and the barrier planting and planting plant was especially creative and very attractive to children.

Workshop "Green Talk: Unite for Eco Good - Da Less Principles - To more clean", where you talk about the climate action opportunities in our community and incentive for personal contribution.

This event also had a humanitarian character, where donations are provided by the organization of future art workshops for children and all the amount collected is fully for the needs of the program. We are grateful to our partnership organization Opens and the Novi Sad volunteer center, all the present volunteers, including two students from Poland, as well as Rotary Friends in active participation and contribution. Special thanks expressed rotary club Budva, which joined our action and marked the World Cleaning Day in their own way.

EKO-ART & Opens (F) connects climate action and creativity, contributes to communion and helps in healthy growing up our youngest and our youth, and the new Sad CLUB EKO-ART will continue in the same rhythm and further. In this "unite for good" year, Rotary Club Novi Sad Eko-Art is dedicated to the youngest and youth, vulnerable groups, and thematically engages in the environment, connecting them in a creative way.



23.09.2025. RC Kula: Donation to the Hungarian Cultural Center Nepker

Rotary Club Kula, on the days of peppers in Russian Krstur, had its own stand with advertising material and promotion of the Rotary Organization, and had a stand for food preparation. The food chefs from the Hungarian Cultural Center Nepker from the tower were helped in the preparation of food.

Pljeskavice and Langosh were prepared. From realized profit Nepker was purchased and a donated drying machine was purchased. This made exceptional cooperation between the Rotary Club Kula, whose president of Valka Karolj, KC Nepker and the organizers of the Pepper Day from R. Krstura. Thank you all for perfect cooperation!



**29.09. 2025 - RC BELGRADE CUKARICA: MEETING WITH ROTARIAN FRIENDS FROM
GEORGIA / USA**



24.09.2025. RC Sremska Mitrovica: Hanging out with Rotarians from Georgia

Rotary Club Sremska Mitrovica hosted Rotarians from Georgia, wonderful people who delighted our archeological and tourist potentials, of course with socializing and gastronomic specialties. We exchanged flags and promised a visit to their clubs.



CONTACT US!

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