



THE IDEA BEHIND THE **PROGRAMME**

Public Image and Rotaract Summit **Roots & Wings**

22–25 October 2026



We did it together!
Wait for our
special edition soon!

October 2026

**We did it together in
SAMSUN!**

**Our special edition
is coming soon!**



ROOTS & WINGS DAILY



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 | SAMSUN, TÜRKİYE | VOLUME 1 • PAGE 2

ONE ROTARY, MANY GENERATIONS



Bridging generations across Zone 21B: Rotary and Rotaract leaders share the stage to exchange fresh perspectives and strengthen mentorship for lasting impact.

WARM WELCOME IN SAMSUN



District 2430 banners and the registration desk greet delegates arriving from across the region for four days of fellowship and learning.

BEHIND THE SCENES: 'THIS CLOSE' TO ENDING POLIO



The dedicated summit organizing team prepares welcome kits in Samsun while uniting behind the End Polio Now flag: we are 'this close' to a polio-free world.

CREATING LASTING IMPACT TOGETHER



Distinguished speakers and panelists receive commemorative Rotary tokens in recognition of their inspiring contributions to the Roots & Wings Summit.

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CREATE LASTING IMPACT

Region 25 in Figures towards



Rotary Regional Group 25 — Membership Tracking 2026 → 2027 Target

District	Members (1 July 2025)	Members (1 July 2026)	2026 Growth	%	Target 2026 (1 July 2026)	Towards goal 2026	Target 2027 (1 July 2027)	Current Membership	Towards goal 2027	2027 Growth	Current clubs
2420	2 286	2 366	+80	+3,5%	2 361	5	2 438	2373	-65	7	89
2430	2 339	2 541	+202	+8,6%	2 351	190	2 362	2592	230	51	110
2440	1 789	1 748	-41	-2,3%	1 880	-132	1 975	1785	-190	37	70
2452	1 965	1 926	-39	-2,0%	1 975	-49	1 985	1940	-45	14	95
2475	1 665	1 610	-55	-3,3%	1 673	-63	1 682	1622	-60	12	79
2482	1 775	1 803	+28	+1,6%	1 784	19	1 793	1839	46	36	87
2483	1 091	1 135	+44	+4,0%	1 096	39	1 102	1132	30	-3	69
2485	1 002	994	-8	-0,8%	1 040	-46	1 079	1013	-66	19	47
TOTAL	13 912	14 123	+211	+1,5%	14 160	-37	14 416	14 296	-120	173	646

Rotaract 2025–2026, 2026-2027

District	RAC clubs 2025	RAC members 2025	RAC clubs 2026	RAC members 2026	Member net growth 2026	Avg/club 2026	RAC members 2027	Member net growth 2027	Clubs
2420	38	675	40	762	+87	18,0	721	-41	40
2430	52	721	58	806	+85	13,8	802	-4	58
2440	37	641	36	644	+3	18,6	668	24	36
2452	56	637	49	630	-7	12,0	601	-29	50
2475	8	67	7	53	-14	7,9	55	2	7
2482	28	189	30	226	+37	7,7	238	12	31
2483	27	232	21	201	-31	9,4	198	-3	21
2485	10	150	10	151	+1	15,1	151	0	10
Total	256	3312	251	3473	+161	13,84	+3434	-39	+253

President's Message

Olayinka Hakeem Babalola
Rotary International President 2026/2027

99.9 percent is not 100 percent

Ahmed Tudun-Wada knows what polio takes from a child. He contracted the disease as a young boy in Kano, Nigeria, and was left paralyzed. Decades later, when Nigeria was struggling to eradicate polio, Aminu decided that he would use his experience to help protect other children.

He brought together polio survivors and began going door to door, talking with parents about vaccination. The survivors told their stories. They showed families the effects of polio. And they urged parents to make sure their children never had to go through the same experience ...

By 2021, the Polio Survivors Group that Aminu founded had grown to more than 400 members. Their work helped Nigeria reach a milestone that once seemed impossible: **In 2020, the World Health Organization certified Nigeria, and the entire African region, free of wild poliovirus.**

I think about people like Aminu whenever we talk about ending polio. **Eradication is about children who will never know what it means to lose the ability to walk. It is about parents who will never have to watch a healthy child become paralyzed by a disease that vaccines can prevent.**

And it is about making sure the people who remember polio become the last generation that does. **Rotary has been part of this fight for more than four decades.** Together with our partners, we have helped vaccinate more than 3 billion children, contributed more than \$3 billion to the global effort, and reduced cases of wild poliovirus by 99.9 percent.



But 99.9 percent is not 100 percent.

Wild poliovirus remains endemic **in Afghanistan and Pakistan.** As long as it circulates anywhere, children everywhere remain at risk. And even after wild poliovirus disappears from a country, we must maintain strong immunization and surveillance systems so the virus cannot find a way back.

Aminu could have looked at his own experience and asked, "Why me?" Instead, he asked a different question: **"How can I make sure this does not happen to another child?"** That is the spirit we need now.

The final mile of any journey can be the hardest. But we have walked too far, worked too hard, and protected too many children to stop here.

Let us remember why we began. Let us listen to those who have experienced polio. Let us be the generation that creates lasting impact and ensures no one ever experiences polio again.

Yinka
President, Rotary International

Director's Message

Emmanuel Katongole

Director Zone 21/22, 2026-2028

The Skill That Restores Dignity

In Lebanon, fifteen women recently completed specialised training in soap-making through the Rotary Club of Beirut Cadmos.

At first glance, it may appear to be a simple vocational training programme. But look deeper.

**A new skill can become an income.
An income can restore independence.
Independence can strengthen a family.
And stronger families build stronger communities.
That is the power of Community Economic Development.**

Across Zone 21, our communities are remarkably diverse. Our languages, cultures and economic realities may differ, but one aspiration connects us: **people everywhere want the opportunity to build secure and meaningful lives for themselves and their families.**

As we mark Community Economic Development Month this October, I invite every Rotary and Rotaract club to ask one important question:

Are we simply meeting today's needs, or are we creating opportunities that will continue tomorrow?

Sustainable service must go beyond what Rotary can provide directly.

When we equip a young person with a marketable skill, support a woman to establish a small enterprise, connect farmers and producers to markets, mentor emerging entrepreneurs, or help communities develop sustainable livelihoods, we multiply the impact of our service.



We move from assistance to empowerment.

And empowerment matters because economic security touches almost everything else we seek to achieve through Rotary.

A child is more likely to remain in school when a family has a stable income. Health becomes easier to prioritise when families can meet basic needs. Communities are better positioned to care for their environment, strengthen local institutions and recover from difficult circumstances when people have sustainable livelihoods. Economic development therefore does not stand alone. It strengthens the foundation on which many of our other areas of focus depend.

Community ownership is equally important.

Rotary does not need to arrive with every answer. Our responsibility is to listen carefully, understand local realities, bring people and resources together, and help

Director's Message

communities develop solutions they can ultimately sustain themselves. That spirit is especially important in Zone 21.

Across our Zone, communities are responding to very different circumstances - yet the principle remains the same: **lasting change is strongest when the people we serve become partners in designing and sustaining that change.**

October also begins the second quarter of our Rotary year.

I thank our Governors, District leaders, club leaders, Rotarians and Rotaractors for the energy invested during the first three months. Goals have been established, teams organised and priorities identified.

Now comes the most important part: implementation.

I encourage every club to ensure its goals are properly recorded, move at least one Community Economic Development initiative from planning into action, measure the results, and tell the story of the people whose lives are changing.

**Let us not only count activities.
Let us measure opportunities created.
Skills transferred.
Businesses started.
Jobs supported.
Families strengthened.
And communities empowered.**

Every documented success gives another club an idea it can adapt and multiply.

As we continue through this Rotary year, let us remember that some of the most powerful gifts Rotary can provide are not things at all.

Emmanuel Katongole

Director Zone 21/22, 2026-2028

**They are skills.
Connections.
Knowledge.
Confidence.
And opportunity.**

The tool may be a welding torch, a sewing machine, a computer, farming equipment or simply good business knowledge. But the true investment is always the same:

Human potential.

May our service across Zone 21 continue to unlock that potential and enable people to build stronger futures for themselves. Together, let us create opportunities that last.

Emmanuel Katongole
Director Zone 21/22, 2026-2028

Meet the Changemakers

***CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT***

Rotary 

“Lead with Impact – Serve with Passion”

OUR VISION

To unite and energise Rotarians across our 9-country District, empowering clubs to grow, serve, and lead with impact through strategic planning, youth leadership, meaningful service, Rotary Foundation support, and a strong public image.

1. Membership Growth & Club Health

- +10% net membership growth
- Focus on young professionals, alumni and Rotaractors
- 100% Club Health Checks completed
- Develop a strong mentorship culture
- At least one new club or satellite club in each country

2. The Rotary Foundation

- 100% club participation in EREY
- +15% increase in Annual Fund giving
- 10 Global Grants aligned with the Areas of Focus
- 5 Peace Fellowship candidates
- USD 100 per club to the End Polio Now campaign

3. Youth & New Generations

- Strengthen Interact and Rotaract
- District RYLA with measurable leadership outcomes
- Launch a Youth Peace Ambassadors / Positive Peace Pioneers initiative
- 30% increase in youth participation at district events
- Active Rotarian–Youth mentorship

4. Public Image & Storytelling

- District Branding & Storytelling Toolkit for all clubs
- 100% Public Image Chairs trained
- One impact story per club per quarter
- +25% growth in digital reach and engagement
- Strong, consistent Rotary visibility in communities



May Monla Chmaitilly
District Governor 2026–2027
Rotary District 2452

5. Vibrant & Innovative Clubs

- 60% of clubs hold visioning or strategic retreats
- Club plans aligned with district goals
- Launch District Innovation Awards
- New or adapted service projects responding to real community needs
- More engaging, meaningful and visible club meetings

6. Learning & Leadership

- Enhance Rotary knowledge and leadership skills
- Promote high ethical standards in clubs and across the District
- Encourage meaningful learning and leadership opportunities
- Promote international understanding, goodwill and peace
- Strengthen leadership development throughout the District

**Stronger clubs • Engaged members •
Inspired youth • Visible impact
Together, we Lead with Passion.
Together, we Serve with Impact.**

LEAD WITH IMPACT

SERVE WITH PASSION

9

COUNTRIES

ONE SHARED VISION

Unite and energise Rotarians. Empower clubs to grow, serve and lead through meaningful action and a strong public image.

01 Membership Growth & Club Health

+10%

NET MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

100% Club Health Checks completed

1+ new club or satellite club in each country

Young professionals, alumni and Rotaractors •
Strong mentorship culture

02 The Rotary Foundation

100%

clubs in EREY

+15%

Annual Fund giving

10

Global Grants*

5

Peace Fellowship
candidates

US\$100 / club → End Polio Now

*Aligned with the Areas of Focus

03 Youth & New Generations

+30%

YOUTH PARTICIPATION AT DISTRICT EVENTS

Strengthen Interact and Rotaract • District RYLA
with measurable leadership outcomes

Youth Peace Ambassadors / Positive Peace
Pioneers • Active Rotarian-youth mentorship

04 Public Image & Storytelling

+25%

DIGITAL REACH AND ENGAGEMENT

100% Public Image Chairs trained

1 impact story per club per quarter

Branding & Storytelling Toolkit for all clubs •
Consistent community visibility

05 Vibrant & Innovative Clubs

60%

OF CLUBS HOLD VISIONING / STRATEGIC RETREATS

Club plans aligned with District goals • District
Innovation Awards

Projects responding to real needs • Engaging,
meaningful and visible club meetings

06 Learning & Leadership



KNOWLEDGE



SKILLS



VALUES

High ethical standards • Meaningful learning and
leadership opportunities

International understanding, goodwill and peace •
District-wide leadership development

STRONGER CLUBS • ENGAGED MEMBERS
INSPIRED YOUTH • VISIBLE IMPACT

Mobilization: From Strategy to Collective Impact

Rotary's strength has always been rooted in people coming together to serve. Yet, in a rapidly changing world, good intentions are no longer enough. The challenge is to transform vision into coordinated action, measurable results and lasting impact.

For Rotary District 2475, this is the meaning of **Mobilization**: not simply doing more, but creating the conditions for better, more meaningful and more sustainable action.

The District Action Plan for 2026–2027 translates this philosophy into a practical framework for Rotary Clubs. It is built around the four strategic pillars of Rotary International: **Increasing Our Impact, Expanding Our Reach, Strengthening Member Engagement, and Enhancing Our Ability to Adapt**. These pillars provide a common direction while allowing each Club to respond to the particular needs of its community.



Four Pillars, One Strategic Direction

The first pillar, **Increasing Our Impact**, focuses on the quality and effectiveness of Rotary action. A project should not be measured simply by the fact that it took place, but by the difference it creates. Clubs are therefore encouraged to identify real community needs, define clear objectives, establish measurable indicators and evaluate results through a baseline–endline approach. Projects are considered according to their scale and potential impact, with greater weighting given to larger and more substantial interventions.

The second pillar, **Expanding Our Reach**, goes beyond membership numbers. It seeks to bring new people, new perspectives and new forms of participation into Rotary. Net membership growth, diversity, participation in District activities, volunteering and cooperation with other

Clubs and organizations all contribute to a broader and more inclusive Rotary presence. The emphasis is not simply on increasing numbers, but on creating a stronger and more diverse Rotary community.

The third pillar, **Strengthening Member Engagement**, places people at the centre of the organization. Engagement means creating an environment in which members feel valued, listened to and able to contribute. Satisfaction, participation in decision-making, education and leadership development, recognition, social interaction and opportunities for meaningful involvement are therefore treated as important indicators of a healthy Club.

MOBILIZATION

From strategy to collective impact

FOUR PILLARS. ONE STRATEGIC DIRECTION.



Increasing Our Impact

01

Real community needs • clear objectives

Measure change, not just activity.



Expanding Our Reach

02

Net growth • diversity • partnerships

Bring new people and perspectives in.



Strengthening Member Engagement

03

Belonging • participation • recognition

Make every member feel able to contribute.



Enhancing Our Ability to Adapt

04

New ideas • education • strategic review

Evolve while staying true to Rotary values.

FROM “I” TO “WE”

Club grouping is a platform for cooperation — not another administrative layer.

EXPERIENCE

NETWORKS

RESOURCES

GENERATIONS



JOINT ACTION

Greater shared capacity

Collective action is the method.

Share knowledge. Combine strengths. Create impact that lasts.

Mobilization: From Strategy to Collective Impact

The fourth pillar, **Enhancing Our Ability to Adapt**, recognizes that Rotary must evolve without losing its identity and values. Clubs are encouraged to generate new ideas, review their strategic plans and governing

documents, invest in education for innovation and adaptability, and explore new tools and methods. Innovation is not change for its own sake; it is the ability to remain relevant, effective and connected to a changing society.

From Individual Clubs to a Culture of Collaboration

An important feature of the District 2475 approach is the **grouping of Rotary Clubs**, not as an additional administrative layer, but as an invitation to develop a stronger culture of cooperation.

Clubs have different experiences, strengths, professional networks and resources. Bringing them closer together creates opportunities to exchange good practices, develop joint initiatives and undertake projects that might be difficult for an individual Club to implement alone. Collaboration is therefore viewed as a multiplier of impact. **A successful Club can share its experience with another; a Club with strong professional connections can support a community project; several Clubs can combine their resources for a larger initiative; and younger and older generations of Rotarians can work together, learning from one another.**

The **Action Plan** also recognizes cooperation in measurable terms. Partnerships may involve joint projects and activities, cooperation with professional or social organizations, networking initiatives, formal memoranda of cooperation, funding or in-kind support. The objective is to move from occasional contact to structured and meaningful collaboration.

In this sense, the grouping of Clubs becomes more than an organizational arrangement. It becomes a practical mechanism for **creating a culture of “we” rather than “I”**.

Sixteen Steps: Turning Strategy into Action

The District’s strategic approach is supported by a practical system of **16 monitoring steps**, covering the four pillars of the Action Plan. The purpose is not to create bureaucracy or competition for its own sake, but to provide Clubs with **a clear roadmap** and a common language for **measuring progress**.

Each pillar is translated into specific indicators, allowing a Club to identify where it is performing well and where further development is needed.

Under **Increasing Our Impact**, the indicators include the number and quality of programmes, volunteer participation, support for The Rotary Foundation and, most importantly, measurable results.

MEASURE WHAT MATTERS

16 MONITORING STEPS

One roadmap across four strategic pillars

THE PRACTICAL PATH

- 1 LISTEN**
Identify real needs
 Community research and a clear starting point.
- 2 DEFINE**
Set the target
 Agree objectives, indicators, budget and timeline.
- 3 ACT TOGETHER**
Combine strengths
 Mobilise members, partners and resources.
- 4 ASSESS**
Find out what changed
 Compare results with targets and the baseline.

HOW PROGRESS IS RECOGNISED

BEFORE → AFTER

Baseline → Endline

Assess change against the starting point.

>85%

of the defined target achieved

Considered successful within the proposed framework.

WEIGHTED FOR SIGNIFICANCE

Major project	<div><div></div></div>	3
Medium-sized project	<div><div></div></div>	2
Smaller intervention	<div><div></div></div>	1

Illustrative project weighting

REFLECT → PLAN → IMPROVE → REPEAT

Use measurement for continuous improvement, not activity counting.

Mobilization is the starting point.
Lasting impact is the destination.

Sixteen Steps: Turning Strategy into Action

Projects are **evaluated according to their objectives and their achievement**, with larger projects receiving greater weighting. For example, a major project such as hospital equipment may carry a weighting of 3, a medium-sized project a weighting of 2, and a smaller intervention a weighting of 1.

Under **Expanding Our Reach**, the measurement system includes net membership growth, participation in District events, volunteering, partnerships and support for The Rotary Foundation. Importantly, **membership growth** is calculated as a net figure, **taking into account both new members and departures**.

Under **Strengthening Member Engagement**, the indicators focus on the **experience of members: satisfaction, participation, development, recognition.**

and social activity. Recognition within the Club itself is also encouraged, through awards for service, innovation, participation or outstanding contribution

Finally, under **Enhancing Our Ability to Adapt**, the indicators encourage Clubs to **generate and implement new ideas**, periodically **review their strategic plans** and governing documents, provide education in innovation and adaptability, and introduce activities such as innovation workshops, digital-skills training, best-practice presentations and team-building initiatives. The scoring methodology combines quantitative measures with weighting factors, so that the system does not simply count activities but attempts to recognize their significance. In this way, the 16 steps become a practical tool for reflection, planning and continuous improvement.

Measuring What Matters

A central principle of the Action Plan is that **measurement should serve purpose**.

A Club should not receive recognition simply because it has organized many activities. The important questions are: **Did the activity respond to a genuine need? Did people participate? What changed? Was the objective achieved? Can the result be sustained?**

For this reason, the Plan emphasizes community research before major projects, clearly defined

objectives, budgets, timelines and measurable indicators. Where possible, results should be assessed before and after an intervention. A project that achieves more than 85% of its defined target is considered successful within the proposed measurement framework.

This **approach shifts** the emphasis **from activity to impact, from quantity to quality**, and **from isolated initiatives to sustainable programmes**.

Mobilization as a Culture

Ultimately, the Action Plan is not simply a checklist.

Its deeper purpose is cultural.

It seeks to encourage Clubs to become more collaborative, more measurable, more inclusive and more adaptable. It encourages Rotarians to share responsibility, exchange knowledge and transform individual efforts into collective achievements.

The 16 steps provide the structure. The four pillars provide the strategic direction. The grouping of Clubs creates opportunities for cooperation. And Mobilization provides the energy that brings all these elements together.

The ambition is therefore not merely to have more activities, more members or more meetings. It is to build a Rotary that **works better together, understands its communities more deeply, measures its results more intelligently and creates impact that lasts.**

Mobilization begins with a decision: the decision to move from intention to action. And when action is supported by strategy, collaboration and measurable results, Rotary can transform individual contributions into collective impact.

**Mobilization is the starting point.
Collective action is the method.
Lasting impact is the destination.**

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Meet the Rotarians

***CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT***



A wide-angle, low-angle shot of the interior of the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul. The image captures the vastness of the central dome, which is covered in intricate mosaics and frescoes. The dome's base is lined with a series of small, arched windows. Below the dome, the nave is supported by a series of piers and arches. The floor is covered in a green carpet, and numerous ornate chandeliers hang from the ceiling, casting a warm glow. In the foreground, a dark wooden railing with a decorative pattern is visible. The overall atmosphere is one of historical grandeur and architectural marvel.

Istanbul

District 2420

From the Great Offensive to the Great Victory

As part of the 104th anniversary of August 30 Victory Day, the Galata Rotary Club welcomed Burhan Yentürk to a meeting titled “From the Great Offensive to the Great Victory.”

The evening explored the history of the Great Offensive, the path to victory, and its significance in the founding of the Republic of Türkiye. Participants remembered Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and all the heroes of the struggle for independence with respect and gratitude.

An Evening Honoring the Islands’ Living Memory

The Adalar Rotary Club presented the Vocational Service Award to Ahmet “Fıstık Ahmet” Tanrıverdi, honoring his lifelong dedication to preserving Büyükada’s cultural heritage and passing it on to future generations.

An author, researcher, printer, and prominent representative of traditional meyhane culture, Tanrıverdi is known as “the Memory of Büyükada” for his work documenting the Islands’ history, multicultural life, and collective memory. The evening at Prinkipo Meyhanesi was a heartfelt tribute to someone who has helped carry the Islands’ past into the future.

Celebrating Victory Day Together

Hosted by the Beylikdüzü Rotary Club, we celebrated the 104th anniversary of Victory Day on August 30 with great pride and enthusiasm. Joined by our District 2420 Governor, club and committee chairs, and fellow Rotarians, we shared in the unifying spirit of this victory and our Republic.

At this gathering, which strengthened our bonds of unity and solidarity, we remembered Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and his comrades-in-arms with respect, gratitude, and a deep sense of longing



3rd Istanbul Rotary Club's annual Essay Competition on International Peace

What If Peace Starts with You?

Istanbul Rotary Club invites young people from around the world to participate in the 3rd International Essay Competition on Peace. Rotary Zone 21B supports the promotion of this inspiring initiative. Peace does not necessarily begin with major decisions, international agreements or historic events. Sometimes, it begins with a conversation, an outstretched hand, a willingness to listen to someone else, or the courage to admit our own mistakes.

This idea lies at the heart of the 3rd International Essay Competition on Peace, organised by Istanbul Rotary Club, District 2420.

This year's theme is "World Peace Starts with Me! My Daily Decisions and Actions Make Me Part of a More Peaceful World!" The competition challenges young people to reflect on their own lives and recognise how their decisions, words and actions influence their relationships with others.

From Personal Experience to a Global Message

Istanbul Rotary Club invites young people from around the world to participate in the 3rd International Essay Competition on Peace. Rotary Zone 21B supports the promotion of this inspiring initiative. Peace does not necessarily begin with

major decisions, international agreements or historic events. Sometimes, it begins with a conversation, an outstretched hand, a willingness to listen to someone else, or the courage to admit our own mistakes.

952 Essays from 51 Countries

The first two editions of the competition attracted 952 submissions from 51 countries.

Behind these numbers are hundreds of young people with different cultures, experiences and perspectives, united by a desire to reflect on peace.

The third edition continues this international exchange of ideas, giving even more students the opportunity to make their voices heard.

Who Can Participate?

The competition is open to students born between **1 January 2007 and 31 December 2012**.

Essays must be written in **English**, contain no more than **500** words, and be submitted in PDF format. Entries must be original, **the use of generative AI to write essays is not permitted**.

Submission **deadline**: 1 December 2026. Three main **prizes** will be awarded — USD 3,000, USD 2,000 and USD 1,000 — along with two Special Recognition Awards of USD 500 each.

Essays should be submitted to **PeaceEssay@istanbulrotary.org**, following the official competition guidelines.

When a Club Initiative Reaches the World

Istanbul Rotary Club's competition demonstrates how an initiative launched by a single club can create opportunities for young people far beyond the boundaries of its district.

The Rotary Zone 21B Public Image Team is supporting the promotion of this initiative, helping it reach more students, teachers, parents, and Rotary, Rotaract and Interact clubs.

We believe that valuable ideas deserve visibility. By sharing opportunities created by our clubs and districts, we help extend their reach and strengthen their impact.

Encourage a young person to participate. Share the competition with a school or a Rotary family club.

Because peace is not simply something we expect from the world. It starts with each of us.

Full details and official competition guidelines:

<https://istanbulrotary.org/3rd-essay-competition-on-international-peace>





Join us for the
3rd Essay Competition
on International Peace



We are announcing the 3rd edition of our essay competition for young people to promote peace in the World which is a focus area of Rotary International.

Essay topic:

World Peace Starts With Me! **My Daily Decisions and Actions Make Me Part** **of a More Peaceful World!**

We invite high school students from around the World to reflect on how their everyday choices and actions can contribute to a more peaceful World.

Participants should share **three specific examples** from their own lives and reflect on the peace-building competencies demonstrated through these experiences.

*Together, let's
write a future
where peace
prevails.*

Announcement: September 1, 2026
Submission Deadline: December 1, 2026
Announcement of Winners: March 15, 2027



AWARDS

First Place Prize: **USD 3,000**
Second Place Prize: **USD 2,000**
Third Place Prize: **USD 1,000**

Two Special Recognition Awards:
USD 500 each

The first three winners will be invited for a
complimentary visit and award ceremony to
İstanbul, Türkiye.



For further details, scan the QR code >
For inquiries and updates visit website:

<https://istanbulrotary.org/3rd-essay-competition-on-international-peace>

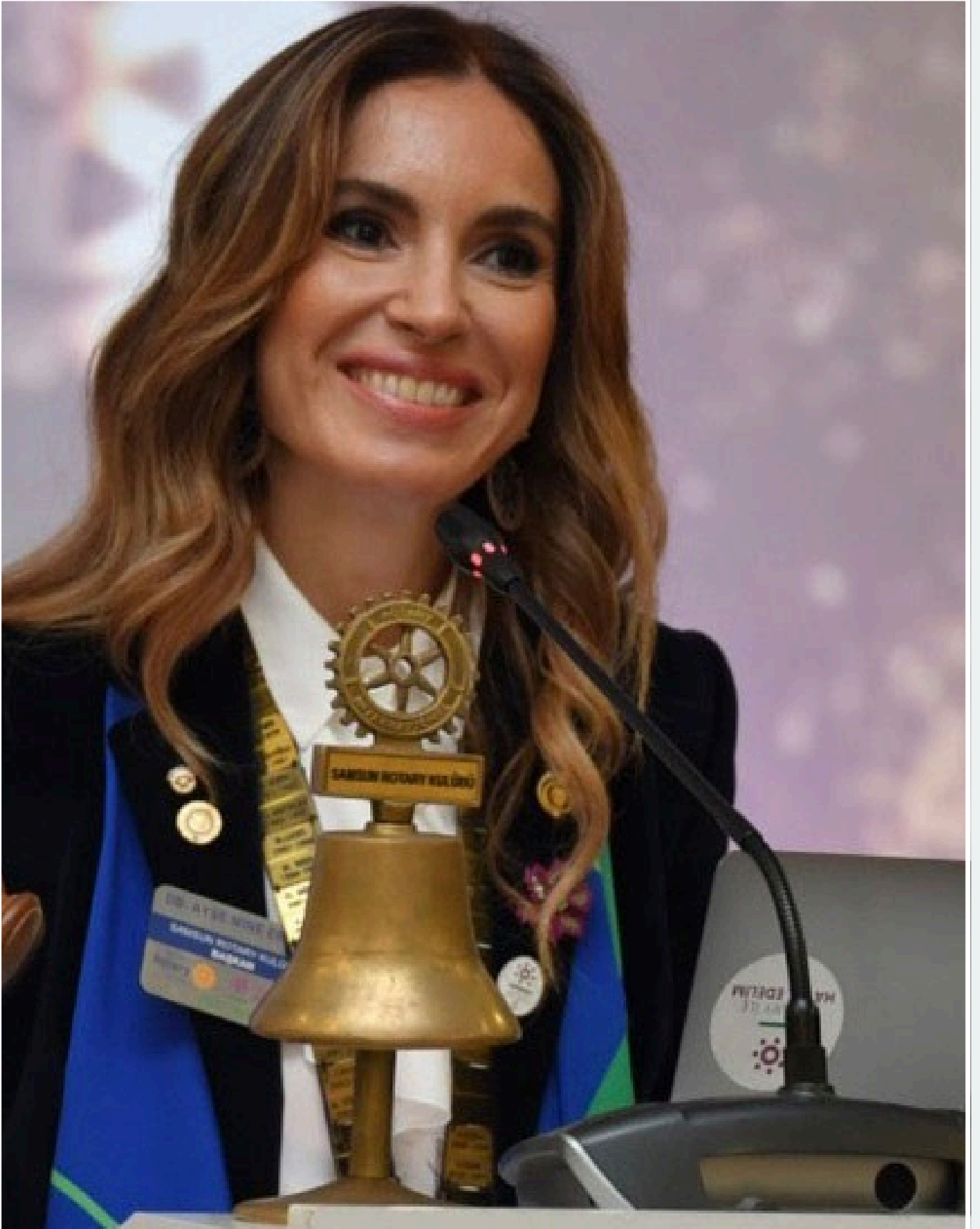


Almaty

District 2430



ARPIC Ayşe Mine Ergun
Rotary club Samsun, D2430



The Karataş Summer Camp for Children with Special Needs

Adana, Adana Seyhan, Adana Güney, Adana Tepebağ, Adana 5 Ocak, Adana Taşköprü, Osmaniye Anatolia, and Adana Koza Rotary Clubs, in cooperation with Biz de Varız Association, organized the Karataş Summer Camp for Children with Special Needs on 1–4 September 2026.

Throughout the camp, children with special needs enjoyed swimming, games, dancing, art, and various social activities, while their mothers participated in educational and sharing sessions accompanied by psychologists.

The project supported the children's social development and well-being while also providing mothers with an opportunity to take time for themselves and participate in activities designed to empower and support them.



“One Box, One Hope” - Antalya Aspendos Rotary Club and Antalya Aspendos Rotaract Club

Antalya Aspendos Rotary Club and Antalya Aspendos Rotaract Club organized a Padel Tournament as part of the “One Box, One Hope” project to support the medical and essential needs of children receiving treatment in the oncology department.

Held at Antalya Padel Club on 24–25 September 2026, the tournament brought together the unifying power of sport and the spirit of solidarity. With participants from different skill levels, the event contributed to meeting the needs of children undergoing treatment while delivering a meaningful message of hope and support to the children and their families.



The Universal Language of Music on World Peace Day – Rotary Clubs in Antalya

Rotary Clubs in Antalya came together through the universal language of music to mark World Peace Day on 1 September. Held at RE22 Kültür Sanat, the evening featured Soprano Ceren Aydın, Tenor Erdi Can Aybaş, and Pianist Onur Altıparmak, with a special repertoire extending from Antalya and Anatolia to Azerbaijan and Vienna.

Bringing together music, peace, friendship, and solidarity, the event also supported the “Engelliler Nemrut’a” project. The evening combined the spirit of World Peace Day with Rotary’s commitment to service and solidarity, carrying the message: “The voice of peace is in music, its strength is in solidarity.”



“Touch a Dream, Light the Future” – Gaziantep Yesemek Rotary Club

Gaziantep Yesemek Rotary Club held its traditional Scholarship Night as part of the “Touch a Dream, Light the Future” project to support the education of university students. The event brought together Rotarians, Rotaractors, business representatives, civil society organizations, sponsors, donors, and volunteers in support of education.

The scholarship fund raised through the event aims to support university students in financial need and help them continue their education. The project also contributes to equal opportunities in education while creating a lasting impact on the future of young people.



“Upcycling & Creativity Workshop” - Yenimahalle Rotary Club

Yenimahalle Rotary Club held an “Upcycling & Creativity Workshop” at Rossini Ankara on 5 September 2026. Led by Rtn. Halil Kürklü, President of Yenimahalle Rotary Club, the workshop gave discarded and unused materials a new life by transforming them into functional and creative products.

Through hands-on activities, participants explored the importance of reducing consumption, reusing materials, and recycling, while discovering the potential value of items often considered waste. The workshop highlighted how upcycling and small changes in everyday habits can contribute to a more sustainable future.



Education support project at Kapuzbaşı Primary School in Yahyalı, Kayseri by Rotary clubs

Kayseri Rotary Club, Konya Rotary Club, Ankara Gazi Rotary Club, Ankara Çayyolu Rotary Club, Konya Meram Rotary Club, Adana Taşköprü Rotary Club, and Konya Meram Rotaract Club carried out a joint educational support project at Kapuzbaşı Primary School in Yahyalı, Kayseri, in September 2026.

Educational sets containing school bags, lunch bags, and stationery supplies were prepared for all 52 students at the school.

Rather than distributing the sets through a ceremony, they were placed on the students' desks before they arrived, allowing each child to find a set prepared especially for them on the first day of the new school year.

The initiative brought Rotary and Rotaract clubs from different cities together in a meaningful collaboration supporting equal opportunities in education.



Çanakkale

District 2440



Ömer BAŞBUĞ, Zone 21 B Public Image Team
Rotary club Bodrum, D2440



BEET Opens Employment Pathways for Young Women

İzmir Dokuz Eylül Rotary Club's BEET Global Grant Project Moves from Training to Employment

The first course under Both in Education and Employment (BEET), a Rotary Foundation Global Grant project, is now in its eighth week in Konak. Alongside the ongoing welding training, employment support activities for participants have begun. Applications are also being collected for the next course, planned in partnership with Manisa Metropolitan Municipality, with training expected to start in November.

Launched on 8 August in partnership with Konak Municipality, the welding course is attended by 14 young women at the Toros Social Facilities Vocational Training Centre. As the participants continue their training, the project is also helping prepare them for the transition into working life.

The Manisa course will be the next step in the project. Applications are currently being collected for the course, which is planned in partnership with Manisa Metropolitan Municipality.

BEET is implemented by the Cevdet İnci Education Foundation and Dokuz Eylül Rotary Club, in partnership with Konak Municipality and Manisa Metropolitan Municipality.



BEET Opens Employment Pathways for Young Women

The international partnership of Chatswood Roseville Rotary Club in Australia, together with the contributions of local partners, brings local needs and international cooperation together.

The project was launched to support young women's access to vocational training and employment in İzmir and Manisa. Over its 18-month implementation period, it aims to provide training for 45 women aged 18–35 who are not in education, employment or training. The programme includes three courses—two in İzmir and one in Manisa—in welding and CNC operation.

In addition to technical training, participants receive support to develop social, digital and workplace skills. The project aims to help them earn certification from Türkiye's Vocational Qualifications Authority (MYK) and move into sustainable employment. Meetings with employers, job referrals and follow-up support for women who find work are also part of its pathway from training to employment.

Supported by a Rotary Foundation Global Grant, BEET brings Dokuz Eylül Rotary Club, international Rotary partners, local governments and the Cevdet İnci Education Foundation together around a shared goal. The project aims to expand young women's participation in manufacturing, including fields often

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self Ömer BAŞBUĞ, Zone 21 B Public Image Team

perceived as men's work, and to strengthen their economic participation and local development.



PEACE BEGINS TOGETHER

A camp by Rotary that lets children experience peace

The Rotary Peace Camp, organized under the leadership of Rotary District 2440, Cesme, Denizyildizi, Karsiyaka, Kusadasi, Nilufer, Milet, Kulturpark, and the District Peace Committee, with the contributions of volunteer Rotarians, was organized to make children experience peace together rather than just telling them about peace.

In the one-night camp held at Aliaga Afacan Youth Camp, a total of 34 guests were hosted, including 24 children and 10 mothers from the Kadifekale Women's Solidarity Center. For two days, the children both had fun with volunteer Rotarians and experienced the culture of peace, solidarity, empathy, and coexistence.

In addition to the peace-themed workshops, team games, and creative activities held throughout the camp, the children had a great time swimming in the sea. Swimming together, playing games, chatting, and making new friends were among the most enjoyable moments of the camp for the children.

The main idea of the camp was to make children feel that peace is not just a concept that is talked about; it is a value experienced while playing together, sharing, accepting differences, and listening to each other.

In the workshops "Colors of Peace," "Can We Agree Without Fighting?" and "Young Peace Ambassadors," organized by age groups, children addressed empathy, communication, respect for differences,

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Ömer BAŞBUĞ, Zone 21 B Public Image Team



PEACE BEGINS TOGETHER

, and listening to each other.

In the workshops "Colors of Peace," "Can We Agree Without Fighting?" and "Young Peace Ambassadors," organized by age groups, children addressed empathy, communication, respect for differences, and resolving conflicts peacefully through games and role-plays.

In the team games that mothers and children participated in together, the message "We may be different but we can succeed together" stood out. In the Peace Night organized in the evening, the enthusiasm of the camp reached its peak with music, dance, games, and competitions.

On the second day, the children created a large Peace Visual by bringing together their own drawings, messages, and peace proposals. At the end of the camp, "Peace Ambassador" certificates were given to the children. While the Peace Tree and Peace Painting created together were completed, what remained was not only photographs but also beautiful memories that will live long in the children's minds.

This camp was a meaningful example of Rotary's work in the area of peace and prevention and resolution of conflicts touching the world of children.

Because peace sometimes begins in a workshop, sometimes in a game, sometimes on the same team, and sometimes while swimming together in the sea.

PEACE BEGINS TOGETHER.

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
Ömer BAŞBUĞ, Zone 21 B Public Image Team



PEACE BEGINS TOGETHER



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Armenia



Bahrain



Cyprus



Georgia



Jordan



UAE



Lebanon



Palestine



Sudan



Monastery, Petra, Jordan

District 2452

ARPIC Faisal Juma
Rotary club Salmaniya, D2452



Bahrain: Promoting sustainable lifestyle to public

The Rotary Club of Manama conducted its Reusable bags distribution project at Lulu Hypermarket on Sunday, 30th Aug 2026.



Lebanon: Kick off for vocational project Inbox

The Rotary Club of Beirut Cadmos kicked off the RAD project of teaching ladies how to make soap with 15 participants joining.



Lebanon: Rotary Tripoli Explores the Future of Medicine with Artificial Intelligence

The Rotary Club of Tripoli, in collaboration with the Order of Physicians in North Lebanon, organized a seminar titled "Artificial Intelligence for Healthier Aging: From Disease Treatment to Prediction and Prevention" at the Rashid Karami International Fair.

The event was attended by District 2452 Governor May Monla Shmaitilly, Chairman and Director General of the Fair Dr. Hani Al-Shaarani, representative of the Mayor of Tripoli Dr. Mohammad Bakri, President of the Order of Physicians in Lebanon-Tripoli Dr. Ibrahim Makdessi, along with several physicians, academics, judges, Rotary club presidents, and representatives from universities and organizations.

Ms. Lina Sahmarani, President of the Rotary Club of Tripoli, emphasized the importance of transitioning from curative medicine to predictive and preventive medicine. Meanwhile, Shmaitilly highlighted the necessity of keeping pace with technological advancements while maintaining a balance between human expertise and artificial intelligence. Dr. Makdessi noted that AI enhances the doctor's role rather than replacing it, calling for training on its use.

Dr. Adnan El Bakri, a Lebanese-French physician and surgeon, delivered a presentation on AI applications in

disease prediction, medical imaging and data analysis, personalized medicine, and biological age. He addressed the concepts of the human body's "Digital Twin" and epigenetics.

Dr. El Bakri stressed that the goal is not merely extending lifespan, but expanding healthy life years and improving overall quality of life. He urged turning research and innovation into actionable projects while leveraging Tripoli's scientific and technological talent.



The seminar concluded that the future of medicine is moving toward a model reliant on data analysis, prediction, and prevention, with the primary challenge remaining in deploying technology to serve humanity and enhance quality of life.



Lebanon: Assessment of Social Welfare Institute

A delegation from Rotary Club Beirut Cadmos took part in a guided tour of Dar El Aytam Al Islamiah (Social Welfare Institutes – SWI), covering three of the institution's premises: the Old Age House, the Warehouse & Procurement Depot with its Day Care Center, and the Skills Teaching Center. The visit offered a close look at the range of services SWI provides and opened the door to a potential partnership with the club.



Jordan: Walking Together for Health & Community

Rotary Club of Amman Jordan River was delighted to join Neighbours Club Jordan for a meaningful walk promoting health, well-being, fellowship, and community spirit.

For Rotary, making a difference starts with people coming together, building meaningful partnerships, and turning shared values into action.

Today, we walked together, connected as friends, and took another step toward a healthier and stronger community.

Service Above Self — Together for Health, Together for Our Community.



Cyprus: Inspirational collections for school kids



Rotary Deputy District Governor for Cyprus Michalis Avraam attended and supported the efforts and initiative of the Rotary Club of Kyrenia for collecting school bags and writing materials for needy students.

The event has become an annual initiative of the club, thus creating a lasting impact. Congratulations to AG Panicos Nicolaides, President Vrasidas Neophytou, and his team for a very successful project benefiting 100 students.



Cyprus: Celebration of Successful "Fashion Unites for Good" Campaign

On 10 September, the **Rotary Club of Nicosia** and the **Rotary Club of Nicosia-Aspelia** came together for a special evening celebrating the success of "Fashion Unites for Good" and, most importantly, the difference this initiative has made.

During the evening, a cheque for **€20,000** was proudly presented to Ms Ersi Papayianni, Director of the **Archangelos Michael Elderly Nursing & Rehabilitation Centre (AMEN)**, representing the proceeds raised through the charity fashion show jointly organised by our two Clubs on 3 June 2026.

A particularly meaningful moment for our Club was the recognition of PP Stavriana Antoniou, under whose Presidency Fashion Unites for Good was organised. On behalf of the Rotary Club of Nicosia, President Stephanie Georgiadou presented Stavriana with a special plaque of appreciation, recognising her exceptional dedication, leadership and the tremendous success of this initiative.

Our warmest thanks also go to President Jenny Avraam and DDG Michalis Avraam for graciously hosting approximately 150 guests at their home, and to PDG Kevork Mahdessian, who guided us through the evening's programme.

The evening concluded beautifully with a special musical performance by Sophia Patsalides, bringing a memorable celebration of service and fellowship to a close. Congratulations once again to PP Stavriana Antoniou, to our friends at the Rotary Club of Nicosia-Aspelia, and to every person who helped turn Fashion Unites for Good into a tangible contribution to our community.



Jordan: Give Light to Others reaches Karak!

As part of the “Fighting Blindness in Jordan” project, the Friends of the Jordan Eye Bank Society, in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Amman Ammon and the Jordan Eye Bank, held an awareness session at Karak Governmental Hospital on 8 September 2026.

The session highlighted the importance of early detection and treatment of corneal diseases, corneal transplantation, and the life-changing impact of corneal donation.

The project, running through 2027, aims to strengthen the capacity of the Jordan Eye Bank and increase the number of patients who can benefit from donated corneas—helping reduce waiting lists and restore sight.

One donation can give light to more than one life.
Together, we can raise awareness, prevent avoidable vision loss, and give the gift of sight.



Bahrain: Supporting the Diabetes Mobile Unit Project

The Rotary Club of Manama, represented by President Ghizlane Rahali, Past President Robert Timmers and Community Services Director Laetitia Vanden Ameele, officially handed over specially printed T-shirts to RCSI Bahrain in support of the DMU (Diabetes Mobile Unit) project.

We are proud to continue supporting this meaningful initiative, which empowers young people living with diabetes through education, connection and encouragement.



Lebanon: Champions of Initiatives of Young Leaders



On Tuesday, September 8, Past Presidents Aïda Daou, Mounir Douaidy, Habib Saba, and Naïm Teyrouz attended the Rotaract Club of Beirut's annual meeting on behalf of the Rotary Club de Beyrouth.

Sponsoring three vibrant Rotaract Clubs, Rotary Club de Beyrouth is proud to champion the initiatives of young leaders driving meaningful community change. We look forward to another year of strong collaboration and outstanding local impact!



Lebanon: Digital Transformation Literacy training session for Visually Impaired

On Thursday, September 10, representative members of the Rotary Club de Beyrouth—led by Past President Mimi Hamam, Head of Actions—met with the Cedars Phoenix NGO at the Sin El Fil municipality offices to support a transformative digital literacy training session for visually impaired individuals.

Currently in its first phase, this impactful project is generously funded by NGO ALAM. Under the guidance of Mr. Milios Awad, 30 participants across three cohort groups attend hands-on computer training twice weekly.

As we highlight Rotary's commitment to Basic Education and Literacy this month, this project demonstrates the powerful role technology plays in bridging educational gaps and expanding accessibility in our community.



UAE: One meaningful Sunday afternoon at Thrift for Good

178.2 kg of clothing. 94 books. 700+ items. One meaningful Sunday afternoon at Thrift for Good.

Through our MOU with Thrift for Good, the Rotaract Club of Dubai is committed to promoting circular giving and creating more opportunities for our community to turn preloved items into real impact.

Together, we contributed items valued at approximately AED 8,845 equivalent to supporting nearly 6 children with healthcare, food and education for an entire year.

This project was led by Carley T. in association with the Rotary Club of Dubai and Interact Club of Dubai bringing our communities together for a shared purpose.

Sometimes, all it takes is a small amount of our time to create lasting impact!



Jordan: Humanitarian Relief Achievement – Gaza

On behalf of Rotary Clubs in Jordan, 648 tents provided by ShelterBox UK and stored at the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO) facility in Mafrag were successfully inspected to ensure their safety and readiness for shipment to Gaza, in cooperation with the Palestinian Agricultural Development Association (PARC).

Special thanks and appreciation to PP Muhsen Mufleh – Disaster Relief Committee Chair, Jordan, for his dedicated efforts and continuous follow-up, as well as to all partners and organizations contributing to this humanitarian initiative.

Another meaningful step in our collective efforts to deliver humanitarian assistance to those who need it most.



Bahrain: Beginning of Possibilities

Members of the Rotary Club of Manama visited the Friendship Society for the Blind as part of our ongoing efforts under the "Gift of Possibility" initiative, exploring ways we can support their programs and the community they serve. The visit was attended by President Mrs. Ghizlane Rahali, Community Program Director Laeticia Vanden Ameele, and Club Services Director Deepak D'Souza. It offered valuable insight into the areas where our club can contribute, from skills development to broader opportunities for financial independence, and we look forward to building a lasting partnership with the Society in the months ahead.



Jordan: Vision of Hope

The Rotary Club of Amman Citadel proudly launched its **“Vision of Hope”** project at the **Specialized Eye Hospital in Amman** — with five patients receiving cataract surgeries on the very first day.

Light returns... and hope is renewed.

This project marks a very special milestone for the Club: its first Global Grant in nearly fifteen years. As Club President Wesam Mohammad Al-Rashdan shared, it is “a dream that was once shared by generations of our club” finally becoming a reality. PDG Bashar reflected on this important achievement, noting that a Global Grant “was once a dream shared by every president who led our club, and today it has become a reality.”

Funded through a Global Grant from The Rotary Foundation, with Rotary District 1830 as the international partner, Vision of Hope was made possible through the support and collaboration of the Rotary Clubs of Aalen-Heidenheim, Bietigheim-Vaihingen, Wertheim, Amman Jerash, and Amman Cosmopolitan, along with DGN Maher Al-Khaiyat.

Through the project, every eligible patient receives:

- Cataract surgery
- Three months of medical follow-up
- Post-operative medication

All at no cost to the patient.

Behind every surgery is more than restored vision. It is renewed independence, dignity, and hope. Five surgeries on the first day — and many more lives waiting to see a brighter tomorrow.



Rise Again with Dignity Program continues

Fifteen women completed a specialized soap-making workshop in Lebanon, organized by the Rotary Club of Beirut Cadmos and led by trainer May Daouk. This workshop represents the inaugural training session delivered under the club's RAD – Rise Again with Dignity program.

Following the presentation of completion certificates, participants were commended for their dedication and achievement. The practical skills acquired through this training are designed to foster economic self-reliance and support personal empowerment, advancing the core objectives of both the project and the club within the community.



Together for Early Detection. Together to Save Lives. - Jordan D2452

In line with the basic education and literacy month, six Rotary Clubs came together in Amman for a special joint meeting dedicated to fellowship, collaboration, and raising awareness about early breast cancer detection.

Hosted by the Rotary Club of Amman Ammon at Fairmont Amman, the evening brought together members of the Rotary Clubs of Amman, Amman Philadelphia, Amman Jordan River, Amman Citadel, and Amman Jerash.

A highlight of the evening was an insightful presentation by Dr. Ghadeer Abdeen, Consultant in Hematology and Oncology, who highlighted the vital role of awareness and early detection in giving women better treatment opportunities and improving outcomes.

The evening also celebrated Rotary through New Member Pinning and Paul Harris Fellow Recognition, strengthening the bonds of fellowship and service across our clubs.

Six clubs. One message. One community united for a healthier future.



District 2452 UAE: Thrift for good

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us this Saturday! Together, our team contributed a wonderful 368.6 kg of clothing, shoes, bags, and accessories to Thrift for Good!

Based on average donation estimates, that's roughly 1,253 items—translating directly into AED 17,324 raised for our charity project in partnership with Gulf for Good.

What that means for our cause:

- Almost 6% of our total goal to buy land and build a school in Cambodia
- The equivalent of sponsoring 12 children for an entire school year
- Members from Rotary club of Jumeirah Dubai, Rotaract, and Interact came together at the shop to help sort clothes, learn about how Thrift for Good operates, and share a meaningful day of true Rotary fellowship.

A massive thank you to all the participants who gave their time and energy, and a special thank you to Mrs. Jennifer Sault, founder and CEO of Thrift for Good, for the warm welcome and for sharing the story behind her amazing organization. Together, we are making a real difference!



Creating Lasting Impact Through Education & Service - District 2452 Jordan

The Rotary Club of Amman Jerash, in collaboration with the Rotaract Club of Amman Jerash, carried out a meaningful community service project at the Model School for Cerebral Palsy (المدرسة النموذجية للشلل الدماغي).

School bags and stationery were distributed to the students, helping them start their school year with the supplies they need and, most importantly, with a message of care, encouragement, and inclusion.

Through collaboration between Rotary and Rotaract, we continue to turn Service Above Self into action and create a lasting impact in our community. Together, we serve. Together, we create lasting impact.



Partnership for Better Access to Healthcare - District 2452 Jordan

The Rotary Club of Amman Citadel signed a Memorandum of Understanding this Tuesday with the National Aid Fund (NAF), marking an important step toward supporting families in need with access to essential healthcare.

Through this partnership, the Club will help provide medical support to eligible families benefiting from the Fund, as well as those on its waiting lists who do not have health insurance. The initiative includes support for cataract surgeries for eligible cases, helping restore sight and improve quality of life.

NAF Director General Khitam Salem Al-Shunaikat highlighted that the partnership reflects the Fund's commitment to strengthening cooperation with civil society and expanding support beyond direct cash assistance through its "Cash Plus" approach.

Rotary Club of Amman Citadel President Wesam Mohammad Al-Rashdan emphasized that the agreement provides a clear and organized framework for identifying eligible cases and ensuring that support reaches those who need it most.

A small step on paper, but one that can make a life-changing difference for a family — and help someone see clearly again.



An afternoon well spent at BARC! - District 2452 Bahrain

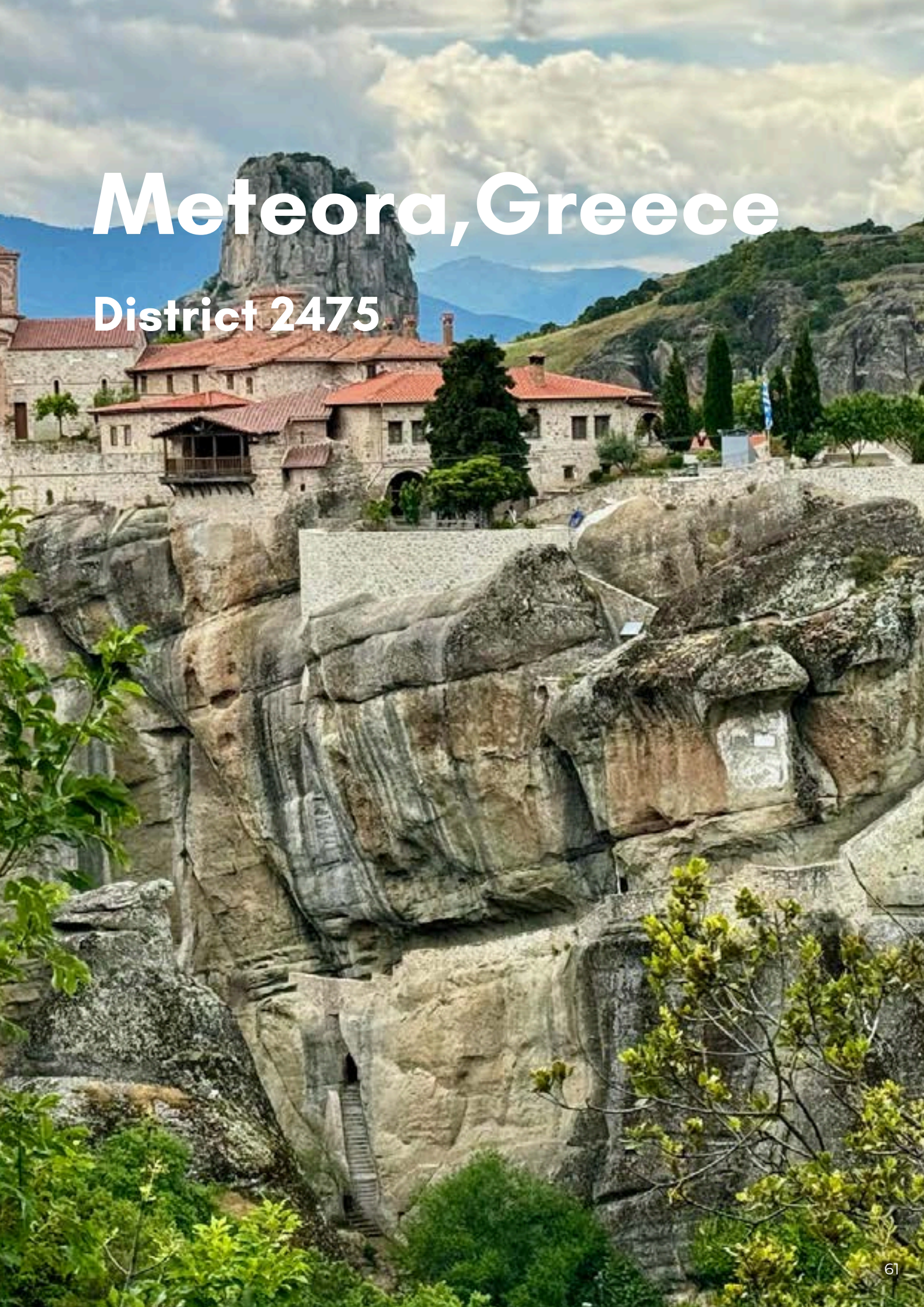
On Saturday, 26th September, the Rotaract Club of Bahrain spent the afternoon volunteering at BARC (Bahrain Animal Rescue Center), lending a helping hand and spending some much-deserved time with the animals in their care. A lovely reminder that even a few hours of our time can make a meaningful difference.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the day so special!



Meteora, Greece

District 2475



ARPIC Elena Janniki
RC Rodos-Kolossos, District 2475



Rotary Club of Athens North Unites Voices for Global "Memory Makers" Campaign

In recognition of World Alzheimer's Month, the Rotary Club of Athens North successfully launched its local participation in "Memory Makers," a flagship global initiative organized by the Alzheimer's/Dementia Rotary Action Group (ADRAG). The project successfully bridged personal storytelling with international advocacy, showcasing the unique power of the Rotary network to address global health and social challenges at a grassroots level.

The "Memory Makers" campaign centers on the power of memory and human connection. Seizing this poignant theme, members of the Athens North club became active participants by writing personal dedications to individuals who have left an indelible mark on their lives. Each dedication served as a small tribute to the relationships that shape our individual histories, reinforcing the idea that memories are a precious equity to be protected.

Through this collective action, the club aimed to spark a broader conversation regarding health, empathy, and care architecture. The initiative explicitly extended a message of love, solidarity, and profound respect to those living with Alzheimer's or dementia, as well as the families and frontline caregivers who support them daily.

"Fostering education, reducing social stigma, and strengthening human connection is a shared duty for all of us," the club noted in a statement. "Every single memory matters. No patient or caregiver should ever feel isolated, and by standing together, the Rotary community proves we can move the needle on awareness."

As a vibrant part of Zone 21B, the Rotary Club of Athens North continues to demonstrate how local clubs can seamlessly integrate with Rotary Action Groups (RAGs) to maximize project impact, elevate Rotary's public image, and bring meaningful change to the communities they serve.

For more information on how your club can get involved with dementia and Alzheimer's awareness initiatives, visit the Alzheimer's/Dementia Rotary Action Group (ADRAG) platform.

<https://adrag.org/>



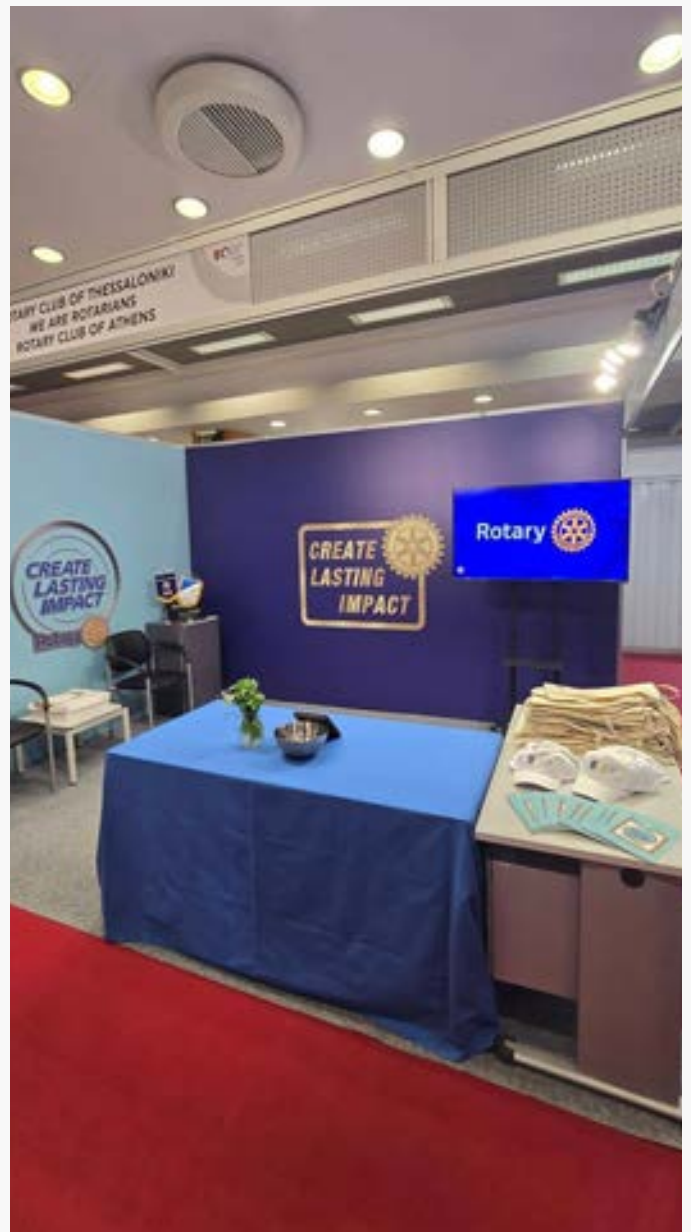
Uniting Forces for a Century of Service: The Rotary Clubs of Athinai and Thessaloniki at the 90th Thessaloniki International Fair

The 90th Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF), held from September 5–13, 2026, marked a historic milestone for Rotary in Greece.

The Rotary Club of Athens, led by President Anastasios Ballas, and the Rotary Club of Thessaloniki, led by President Lena Chatzidimou -the two oldest and most historic Rotary clubs in the 2475 RI District, established in 1928 and 1934 respectively-joined forces in a powerful display of unity, honoring nearly a century of continuous Rotary presence, action, and humanitarian service in the country. This joint initiative served as a significant meeting point for two clubs with distinct historical trajectories but deeply synchronized rotarian values and visions.

Since its foundation in 1928, the Rotary Club of Athinai, the country's pioneer club, has carved out a long legacy of social and humanitarian contributions under its leadership. Its decades-long efforts have been instrumental in developing and anchoring the ideal of Rotary across Greece.

In parallel, the Rotary Club of Thessaloniki has stood as a steadfast and active pillar of Rotary in Northern Greece since 1934. With a timeless presence in the social fabric of Thessaloniki, the club has consistently championed impactful initiatives in solidarity, corporate social responsibility, and community relief, substantially reinforcing the reach of Rotary while spreading the core values of cooperation and selfless service.



Uniting Forces for a Century of Service: The Rotary Clubs of Athinai and Thessaloniki at the 90th Thessaloniki International Fair

The collaborative presence of the two clubs at the 90th Thessaloniki International Fair was crowned with remarkable success. Designed as a dynamic hub for public outreach, information, and networking, the Rotary pavilion offered thousands of Greek and international visitors a firsthand look at the philosophy, core principles, and multifaceted humanitarian footprint of the organization.

Today, just as on the very first day of their chartering, both clubs and their leadership remain passionately dedicated to serving the same foundational tenets: impactful contribution, strategic collaboration, social responsibility, and deep respect for humanity.

Honoring our history.
United in our actions.
With our eyes fixed firmly on the future.



Bringing Smiles and Creativity: Rotary e-Club of Greece Donates Safe, Educational Toys to PAGNI Daycare Center

True community service requires not only a willing heart but also meticulous care and a commitment to excellence. This was clearly demonstrated by the volunteers of the Rotary e-Club of Greece through their recent impact project benefiting the Daycare Center at the University General Hospital of Heraklion (PAGNI). Public preschool and childcare facilities strictly adhere to rigorous hygiene and safety protocols. Donating pre-loved educational materials—such as wooden playsets, puzzles, and construction toys—demands strict compliance with these regulatory standards. Items must be in pristine condition, fully complete, free of sharp edges, manufactured from non-toxic materials, and thoroughly sanitized before entering the classroom environment.

Recognizing these vital needs, dedicated members of the Rotary e-Club of Greece invested significant time, effort, and care into meticulously inspecting, restoring, and deep-sanitizing a curated selection of safe, high-quality educational resources, which included:

Wooden Toys: Eco-friendly and durable sets designed for tactile learning.

Creative Activities: Educational tools focused on motor skills and cognitive development.

Books and Puzzles: Engaging materials tailored to foster early



childhood literacy and problem-solving skills.

The refurbished collection was proudly and affectionately delivered to the PAGNI Daycare Center by the CP Dimosthenis Marakis. Upon receiving the donation, the director of the facility, Ms. Marazaki, extended her warmest gratitude to the club, highlighting the real-world impact of the initiative. She emphasized that "such donations offer essential, practical support in cultivating and developing children's creativity."

Through projects like this, the Rotary e-Club of Greece continues to demonstrate its dedication to community welfare, proving that creative solutions and preparation can overcome any logistical obstacle to serve our youngest community members.



Preveza at the Heart of an Important International Rotary Gathering: IYFR Greece & Israel Regional AGM & Fleet Fellowship Exchange

With the departure of the final international delegates from Aktion Airport, a highly significant four-day gathering in Preveza officially came to a successful close. The event marked a major milestone in the ongoing journey of the Rotary Club of Preveza and, most notably, for the Preveza-based Hellenic Ionian Fleet of the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians (IYFR).

The international meeting, titled “IYFR REGIONAL GREECE & ISRAEL AGM - FLEET FELLOWSHIP EXCHANGE,” took place from September 18–20, 2026.

Jointly organized by the Hellenic Ionian Fleet (IYFR) and the Rotary Club of Preveza, the event drew Rotarians and IYFR members from multiple countries to the historic coastal city.

In addition to official representations from the Fleets of Greece and Israel, delegations and friends from Germany and Ukraine traveled to participate. The event was further distinguished by the prominent attendance of Past IYFR Area 1 Commodore Olha Paliychuk, whose presence underscored a shared commitment to strengthening cross-border cooperation and maritime fellowship within the region.

The comprehensive itinerary seamlessly balanced formal organizational proceedings with cultural and recreational immersion designed to showcase the unique heritage of Preveza and its surroundings. Delegates participated in strategic regional meetings and fleet experience exchanges, complemented by guided tours of Preveza, a marine excursion across the Amvrakikos Gulf, and visits to major historical and natural landmarks including Ancient Nicopolis, the Necromanteion, the Acheron River, Ammoudia, and Parga.

Beyond the structured agenda, the gathering served as a practical demonstration of the core values that unite Rotary and IYFR: enduring friendship, international cooperation, mutual understanding, and a shared passion for the sea. The personal connections forged and the warm hospitality extended by the local hosts have established a strong foundation for future maritime partnerships and joint humanitarian initiatives.

The Rotary Club of Preveza and the Hellenic Ionian Fleet extend their deepest gratitude to all the delegates who traveled to honor this event, as well as to the volunteers and organizers whose dedication ensured its flawless execution. Once again, Preveza has proven to be a vibrant crossroads for diverse cultures and ideas—demonstrating that while the sea connects lands, it is Rotary friendship that truly unites people.



Education That Unites, Knowledge That Empowers: Rotary Club of Rodos- Kolossos Hosts High-Impact Hybrid My Rotary Seminar

In an era where digital proficiency directly dictates organizational efficiency, the Rotary Club of Rodos- Kolossos recently spearheaded a major educational initiative.

The club successfully organized a comprehensive hybrid training seminar dedicated exclusively to unlocking the full potential of the My Rotary platform, setting a benchmark for leadership development within Zone 21B.

Demonstrating the power of modern communication, the seminar transcended traditional geographic constraints. Through its highly effective hybrid format, 73 Rotarians representing diverse clubs across Greece connected in a unified educational space. The session provided participants with targeted, practical knowledge on utilizing Rotary's digital suite to streamline club administration, optimize membership tracking, enhance cross-club networking, and drive deeper member retention and engagement.

The seminar featured specialized insights from key leadership, with Giorgos Stavropoulos, Coordinator of the Rotary Clubs Electronic Support Committee, serving as the keynote speaker and delivering a masterclass on navigating the platform's infrastructure. The session was seamlessly moderated by the President of the Club Kyriakos Salachouris, and was highly honored by the presence and support of District 2475 Governor Charalampos Tinginagkas and Governor-Elect Dimitra Soukara.

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Elena Janniki

This initiative underscores a vital dimension of modern Rotary governance: internal training is not merely administrative maintenance, but a direct investment in the success and sustainability of our humanitarian footprint. By equipping members with strong digital toolkits, the RC Rodos-Kolossos has reinforced the operational foundations of clubs nationwide. When we share institutional knowledge, we expand our collaborative horizons, strengthen our organizational framework, and maximize the real-world impact we deliver to the communities we serve.



The Journey of Inclusion: "Give the Gift of Access" 2.0 Concludes Cycle with Nationwide Impact on Cultural Accessibility

Every significant humanitarian journey has a final destination.

For Cycle 2.0 of the pioneering project "Give the Gift of Access" (Χάρισε Το Δώρο Της Πρόσβασης), that final milestone was reached at the Museum of Ancient Sicyon in Kiato, Corinthia. This final wheelchair presentation concluded a massive nationwide initiative driven by a single, powerful objective: to ensure that cultural heritage is accessible to all individuals, regardless of physical mobility.

The expansion of the project during its second cycle has been remarkable, stretching from one end of Greece to the other and reaching several of the country's most remote and frontier regions. In total, the project successfully empowered more than 30 museums, archaeological sites, and cultural hubs by delivering over 45 specialized wheelchairs directly to areas of critical need.

These numbers represent far more than a statistical achievement; they translate into tangible pathways to social inclusion. Through these provisions, individuals with mobility challenges are now empowered to navigate historical spaces independently, stand before exhibits, engage deeply with local heritage, and fully share cultural experiences alongside friends and family.

This monumental achievement was made possible through the strategic collaboration of eight Rotary Clubs that joined forces to co-sponsor and execute

the second cycle, proving the compounding power of collective service:

Rotary e-Club of Greece

Rotary Club of Agia Paraskevi

Rotary Club of Anoixi Semeli

Rotary Club of Kifisia Kastri

Rotary Club of Patras "Kostis Palamas"

Rotary Club of Preveza

Rotary Club of Chalandri

Rotary Club of Psychiko



The Journey of Inclusion: "Give the Gift of Access" 2.0 Concludes Cycle with Nationwide Impact on Cultural Accessibility

The extraordinary reach of this cycle was further amplified by a diverse network of supporters. Contributions from individual Rotarians, local schools, daycare centers, and major corporate sponsors enabled the project to far exceed its original budgeted estimates, increasing the total number of mobile units available for distribution.

While the delivery at Ancient Sicyon marks the conclusion of Cycle 2.0, the momentum of the initiative continues. Organizers are already developing "Give the Gift of Access" 3.0. This upcoming third cycle is designed to be highly interactive, offering participating Rotary Clubs an even more hands-on, decentralized role in coordinating local deliveries and assessing regional accessibility needs.

"Give the Gift of Access" has proven that it is not a static project ending with a single donation, but a continuous movement. By connecting one wheelchair, one

cultural institution, and a dedicated team under a unified purpose, this initiative demonstrates how a targeted gift can open an entire world of heritage to everyone.



Turning Solidarity into Action: Rotary Club of Corfu Delivers School Bags of Hope

Building stronger and more resilient communities begins with ensuring that the next generation has the tools to succeed.

In keeping with this core value, the Rotary Club of Corfu successfully executed its long-standing annual community service project on Saturday, September 5, 2026, providing practical relief and joy to vulnerable families ahead of the new school year.

The initiative focused on distributing equipped school bags to children from families facing severe socioeconomic difficulties. Beyond the practical utility of classroom supplies, the project aimed to share a profound message of solidarity—reminding young students that they are valued, supported, and never alone as they embark on their academic journey.

A critical factor in the project's success was the strategic collaboration with key local institutions.

The club worked alongside the Holy Metropolis of Corfu, the Catholic Archdiocese of Corfu, and the Association of Families with Many Children of Corfu (Polyteknon). Because these organizations closely maintain verified records of families requiring assistance, the project managed to deliver targeted aid directly and with the utmost discretion. This initiative stands as a testament to the power of collective local action.

The Rotary Club of Corfu extends its warmest gratitude to its institutional partners and dedicated volunteers who transformed an idea into a tangible community benefit. By addressing immediate educational needs, the club continues to manifest the Rotary ideal of Service Above Self, proving that localized support can meaningfully uplift a child's everyday reality.



Investing in the Future of Medicine: Rotary Club of Corfu Sponsors Ionian University Students at International AI Summer School

Demonstrating a steadfast commitment to youth empowerment and global health, the Rotary Club of Corfu successfully sponsored local university students to attend the prestigious international Summer School, "Artificial Intelligence in Cancer Research." The high-level scientific event took place from September 3–7, 2026, on the historic island of Corfu, Greece.

By fully covering the registration and participation fees, the Club enabled advanced students from the Department of Informatics at the Ionian University to attend the summit. The event commenced with an elegant opening ceremony at the historic Ionian Academy, setting the stage for five days of intensive academic exchange.

The conference transformed Corfu into a global scientific hub, gathering more than 50 prominent researchers, data scientists, and medical pioneers from 12 countries. Delegates represented elite global institutions, including Harvard Medical School, the University of Cambridge, King's College London, and leading oncology networks across Europe. The central focus of the summit was exploring how machine learning and artificial intelligence can revolutionize early cancer detection, diagnostics, and personalized treatment protocols.

Through this Rotary sponsorship, the sponsored students were placed at the very center of cutting-edge oncological discourse. They had the unique opportunity to learn directly from trailblazers shaping tomorrow's medicine, engage in cross-disciplinary networking with international data scientists, and open doors to global research collaborations.

This initiative directly advances two of Rotary International's core Areas of Focus: Disease Prevention and Treatment and Basic Education and Literacy.

By bridging the gap between local student talent and global scientific networks, the Rotary Club of Corfu proudly honors the ideal of Service Above Self, investing heavily in the young minds who will shape the future of global healthcare.



Rotary e-Club of Greece Delivers 3rd Donation to "Iliachtida" Children's Guesthouse in Heraklion, Crete

Demonstrating a steadfast commitment to community service and long-term solidarity, the Rotary e-Club of Greece has completed its third consecutive donation to the "Iliachtida" Children's Guesthouse in Heraklion, Crete.

Club President Demosthenes Marakis personally delivered the latest contribution, which consisted of books and creative educational toys, to the representatives of the guesthouse. The primary goal of the donation is to offer meaningful recreation, psychological comfort, and creative engagement for both the young patients and their adult caregivers during their challenging stays at the facility.

Founded in 2013, the "Iliachtida" Guesthouse serves as a critical sanctuary. It provides entirely free lodging, care, and emotional support to families whose children are battling cancer and undergoing treatment in the specialized pediatric units—including Pediatric Hematology-Oncology, Neurosurgery, and the Pediatric ICU—at the University General Hospital of Heraklion (PAGNI). For families traveling from afar, the guesthouse serves as a vital home away from home during their darkest hours.

This sustained initiative directly embodies this year's Rotary International presidential theme: "Create Lasting Impact."

Rather than focusing on isolated, one-off projects, the Rotary e-Club of Greece has strategically chosen a path of continuous, long-term support. By consistently showing up for these vulnerable families year after year, the Club exemplifies the true spirit of Service Above Self, proving that the most profound institutional impact is made through reliable, enduring presence on the front lines of community need.



Cultural and Educational Initiative by the Rotary E-Club of Greece in the Sacred City of Missolonghi

Demonstrating its ongoing commitment to social solidarity, education, and cultural preservation, the Rotary E-Club of Greece successfully completed a targeted community service mission to the Sacred City of Missolonghi on Saturday, September 26, 2026. The primary focus of the visit was a substantial book donation to the historic "Valvios" Municipal Library of Missolonghi. The contribution aims to expand the library's available resources, thereby enhancing educational opportunities, creative engagement, and lifelong learning for residents of all ages.

Representing the Rotary E-Club of Greece, club members Yiannos Inglessis, Konstantina Kitsou, and Anastasios Alexopoulos officially handed over the volumes to the Head of the Library and Chief of Museums of Missolonghi, Mr. Michalis Kitsinelis. Mr. Kitsinelis extended his sincere appreciation to the Club, noting that strategic civic partnerships are vital for fostering a modern culture of reading, critical thought, and community development. Following the donation, the Rotary delegation visited the permanent installations of the Byronic Society of Missolonghi. The members were received by museum educator Mrs. Mimika Gavrina, who led a detailed tour of the historical archives. The presentation highlighted the historic role of the Philhellenic movement during the 19th century and the enduring legacy of Lord Byron's contributions to the Greek nation. This multifaceted initiative reflects the core mission of Rotary International: transforming community values into actionable progress, advancing public education, and fostering social cohesion.

In a moving tribute, the Rotary E-Club of Greece explicitly dedicated this entire cultural program to the memory of Past District Governor (PDG) Panagos Theodoros, honoring his profound legacy of leadership, structural contribution, and ethical service to the organization.



Rila Lakes, Bulgaria

District 2482



ARPIC Arkan Nihat
Rotary club Kardjali, District 2482



Bridges of Friendship: Rotary Clubs of Nova Zagora and Momchilgrad Connect Across Continents

When friendship crosses borders, it creates opportunities for cooperation, understanding and lasting impact.

On 30 August 2026, a Bulgarian delegation including members and friends of the Rotary Club of Nova Zagora and the Rotary Club of Momchilgrad visited Rotary Club Çanakkale in Türkiye during the 39th annual Dardanelles Swimming Race.

More than 1,500 swimmers from 23 countries took part in the iconic event, crossing the historic strait between Asia and Europe. Beyond the sporting challenge, the gathering became a powerful symbol of connection—bringing together people, cultures and communities on both sides of the Dardanelles.

For the participating Rotary clubs, the visit was an opportunity to strengthen a long-standing tradition of friendship and cooperation between Bulgarian and Turkish Rotarians under the spirit of “Friendship Without Borders” within Rotary District 2482.

The encounter also opened the door to discussions about future joint humanitarian initiatives, with potential areas of cooperation including youth, healthcare and community service. Such conversations are an important first step towards turning international fellowship into practical action that can benefit communities in both

countries.

The true impact of Rotary fellowship is often found beyond the event itself. Meetings such as this create relationships that can develop into partnerships, shared projects and new opportunities to serve. A sporting event may bring people together for a day, but the friendships formed can continue to generate positive change long afterwards.

The Dardanelles once again served as more than a geographical crossing. For Rotarians from Bulgaria and Türkiye, it became a bridge between communities, cultures and shared aspirations.

When friendship becomes partnership, borders become opportunities—and together, we can turn those opportunities into lasting impact.



On the Road to Shipka: 15 Years of Remembrance and Continuity

For 15 years, a tradition has brought people together from across Bulgaria and led them upwards – towards Shipka, towards the Monument of Freedom, and towards a summit that has become a powerful symbol of national remembrance and gratitude.

This year once again, the walks organised by Rotary Club Gabrovo as part of the National Commemoration of the Shipka Epic brought together hundreds of participants. Yet behind the photographs of mountain paths are human stories – stories of remembrance, continuity and the sense of belonging that brings people back to the same summit year after year.

The day began at Sokolski Monastery with a memorial service for those who gave their lives for Bulgaria's freedom. In his address, Archpriest Ruslan offered words that seemed to give meaning to the entire journey ahead:

“We must defend freedom within ourselves and remain human in a cold and increasingly distant society.”

Later, among the walkers, we happened to meet Dilyana, a young woman from Razgrad whose life had once been changed by an opportunity created through Rotary. With the support of Rotary Club Ruse, she was able to continue her education in the United States. There she met her future husband and built a family.

This year, she returned to Bulgaria for a short holiday with her husband and their two children. When she learned about the national commemorations and the Rotary walks to Shipka, she decided to bring her family to the mountain.

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Arkan Nihat

“Let us pass our historical heritage on to the next generation.”

And that message could be seen along every path towards the summit.

Among the participants were friends from different parts of Bulgaria who had joined the walks from the very first year after the commemorations were revived – and who have not missed a single journey since. Alongside them walked Rotarian families with children: small hands held by parents, a new generation following the same path and gradually discovering why Shipka is much more than a place on a map.

For 15 years, the walks organised by Rotary Club Gabrovo have led towards the same summit. Yet every year the people are different, the stories are new, and the message remains.

Because the journey to Shipka is not only a climb up a mountain. It is a journey back into history – and forward towards our children.

Freedom remains alive as long as there are people willing to remember, to tell the story, and to take the next step along the path for those who will follow.



Together for Cleaner Rivers and a Cleaner Environment

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Arkan Nihat

On 12 September 2026, Rotary Club Bansko-Razlog joined the international **“Act Now! – Clean Up Europe’s Rivers”** initiative, contributing to global efforts to protect rivers and reduce plastic pollution.

Together, Rotarians and volunteers cleaned a section of the Mesta River, near the junction for Dolno Draglishte, collecting waste that had accumulated along the river and its surroundings. The initiative was a simple yet meaningful reminder that environmental protection begins with action. Every piece of waste removed from a river is one less piece of pollution threatening ecosystems, wildlife and the quality of our natural environment.

For the volunteers, the activity was also about setting an example. When people come together to care for the places they call home, small local actions can contribute to a wider culture of environmental responsibility.

Rivers are life. Keeping them clean is a responsibility we share.

Through initiatives such as this, Rotary Club Bansko-Razlog continues to encourage community participation and practical environmental action. The impact goes beyond a single day of cleaning: it helps raise awareness, strengthens community ownership of local natural spaces and reminds us that protecting tomorrow begins with what we do today.

The club extends its appreciation to all Rotarians and volunteers who contributed their time and energy to turning a shared concern into visible action.

Together, we can protect nature today so that future generations can enjoy it tomorrow.



Safer Streets – Healthier Children

For Rotary Club Chirpan, children are at the heart of our commitment as Rotarians and members of the community. Their safety, health and development are not only priorities for today – they are an investment in the future of our town.

On 15 September, a day that symbolises new beginnings and hope, Rotary Club Chirpan presented reflective safety figures to the Mayor of Chirpan. The figures have been installed at two high-risk locations in the town, where they are designed to attract drivers' attention, encourage lower speeds and help prevent accidents. The project is a practical step towards making everyday journeys safer for children and families. At the same time, it aims to contribute to a lasting culture of road safety, helping children grow up with a stronger understanding of responsibility and safe behaviour on the road.

The club extends its appreciation to the Mayor, municipal staff and Traffic Police officers whose cooperation and support helped make the initiative possible.

For Rotary Club Chirpan, however, physical safety on the streets is only the beginning of a wider commitment to children's wellbeing.

The club is therefore launching a series of initiatives centred on healthy childhood and prevention, and has announced the cause of its annual Charity Ball, taking place on 16 October under the theme:

“Every Child Deserves to Grow Up Healthy.”



All funds raised will support a spinal health programme, including free medical screening for spinal curvature among schoolchildren across Chirpan Municipality.

By connecting safer streets with preventive healthcare, Rotary Club Chirpan is taking a broader approach to child wellbeing – protecting children today while helping create the conditions for healthier, safer lives tomorrow.

Rotary Club Ruse–Danube Raises Funds for an Inclusive Playground

Nearly 100 guests gathered for the traditional International Danube Barbecue, organised by Rotary Club Ruse–Danube, with this year’s event dedicated to a clear and meaningful goal: raising funds for an inclusive outdoor playground accessible to children with disabilities.

The initiative brought together Rotarians from 10 Rotary clubs in Bulgaria and abroad, alongside friends and supporters who turned an evening of fellowship into a concrete investment in inclusion. Over good food, freshly prepared fish and friendly conversations, guests contributed towards the project, which will create an outdoor play area equipped with specialised facilities designed to meet the needs of children with different abilities. “This will be a barrier-free space – a place where children with special educational needs and mobility difficulties can play, interact and grow alongside their peers. Every child deserves a happy childhood and an equal opportunity to make friends,” said Stoyan Hristov, President of Rotary Club Ruse–Danube.

The new facilities will be located in the grounds of the Regional Centre for Support of the Inclusive Education Process – Ruse Region. The Centre’s Director, Evgeniya Stoyanova, explained that its specialists support more than 400 children with different disabilities and individual needs. The new playground will expand opportunities for therapeutic and developmental activities outdoors, particularly during the warmer months.

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Arkan Nihat

Parents of children with mobility difficulties also welcomed the initiative, highlighting the limited number of accessible outdoor play spaces and the challenges families often face in finding suitable places where their children can play safely.

The International Danube Barbecue therefore became more than a social gathering. It transformed fellowship into a first major step towards creating a space where children of different abilities can meet, play and develop together. Rotary Club Ruse–Danube expresses its gratitude to every guest, partner and supporter who contributed to bringing the project closer to reality. Because inclusion begins when every child has a place to belong



Over 100 Participants Take Part in the 21st Rotary Marathon Around Batak Reservoir

More than 100 runners took part in the 21st edition of the Rotary Marathon “Around Batak Reservoir”, a long-standing sporting tradition that brings people together around one of the most beautiful reservoirs in the Rhodope Mountains.

Held on 22 September, Bulgaria’s Independence Day, the event was jointly organised **by Rotary Club Pazardzhik, Rotary Club Panagyurishte and Rotary Club Velingrad.**

Participants could choose from four distances – 5, 10, 20 and 42 kilometres – creating an inclusive sporting challenge for both experienced runners and people who simply enjoy being active. For 21 years, the marathon has turned sport into a meeting place for friendship, community and shared experience. Held on Bulgaria’s Independence Day, the event also carries an additional symbolic meaning: a national celebration is marked through movement, shared energy and people choosing to come together. What makes the initiative particularly significant is its continuity. Year after year, the three Rotary clubs have maintained a tradition that continues to attract new participants while bringing returning runners back to the shores of Batak Reservoir.

The marathon demonstrates how a simple idea can grow into a sustainable community tradition – one that promotes an active lifestyle, strengthens connections between people and gives participants an opportunity to experience the natural beauty of the Rhodopes together.



After 21 years, the route around Batak Reservoir is more than a race. It is a tradition that keeps people moving – and keeps a community connected.

Article is prepared by :

**Galya Pencheva, DPIC District 2482
Bulgaria**

Rotary Club Pleven Centrum's 22nd Tennis Tournament: A Tradition Built on Friendship

For more than two decades, the tennis tournament of Rotary Club Pleven Centrum has brought Rotarians and friends of the sport together on the court. This year, the tradition continued with its 22nd edition, once again creating a weekend where competition, fellowship and a shared passion for sport came together.

The tournament was launched in 2002 and has since become a recognised annual meeting point for Rotarians and tennis enthusiasts. Its growing reputation has also earned it a **place on the calendar of the International Tennis Fellowship of Rotarians (ITFR)**, connecting participants with a wider international community united by their love of tennis.

On 26 and 27 September, the courts in Kaylaka Park once again welcomed players ready to compete for every point. Over two days, participants faced one another in both singles and doubles matches, combining sporting ambition with the friendships that make Rotary sporting events special.



The shooting awards were presented during a friendly dinner by **Alexander Petrov, District Governor of Rotary District 2482, and Mariana Stoeva, Chair of Inner Wheel District 248 – Bulgaria.**

Together, the two competitions created more than a weekend of sport. They brought Rotary and Inner Wheel communities together through friendly competition, fellowship and a tradition that continues to grow.

The trophies may now have new homes, but the countdown to the 23rd edition has already begun.

Article is prepared by :

Galya Pencheva, DPIC District 2482 Bulgaria



Rotary
Club Bourgas



Maths Festival

INTERNATIONAL ROTARY MATHS FESTIVAL

A Maths Festival for children of grades 1 to 12
organised in Bourgas, Bulgaria, by the Rotary
club of Bourgas



PHOTO: NIKI DINOY

LOCAL ROUND



October 25, 2026



Different places around the world

INTERNATIONAL ROUND



April 17, 2027



Bourgas, Bulgaria

Belgrade, Serbia

District 2483



ARPIC Aleksandar Radojicic
RC Beograd Skadarlija, D2483



This is the balance we want to promote across District 2483/ Futurism with Humanity.

Where Art and Environment Meet Action

Two events, one shared vision: creating lasting impact through creativity, connection and service.

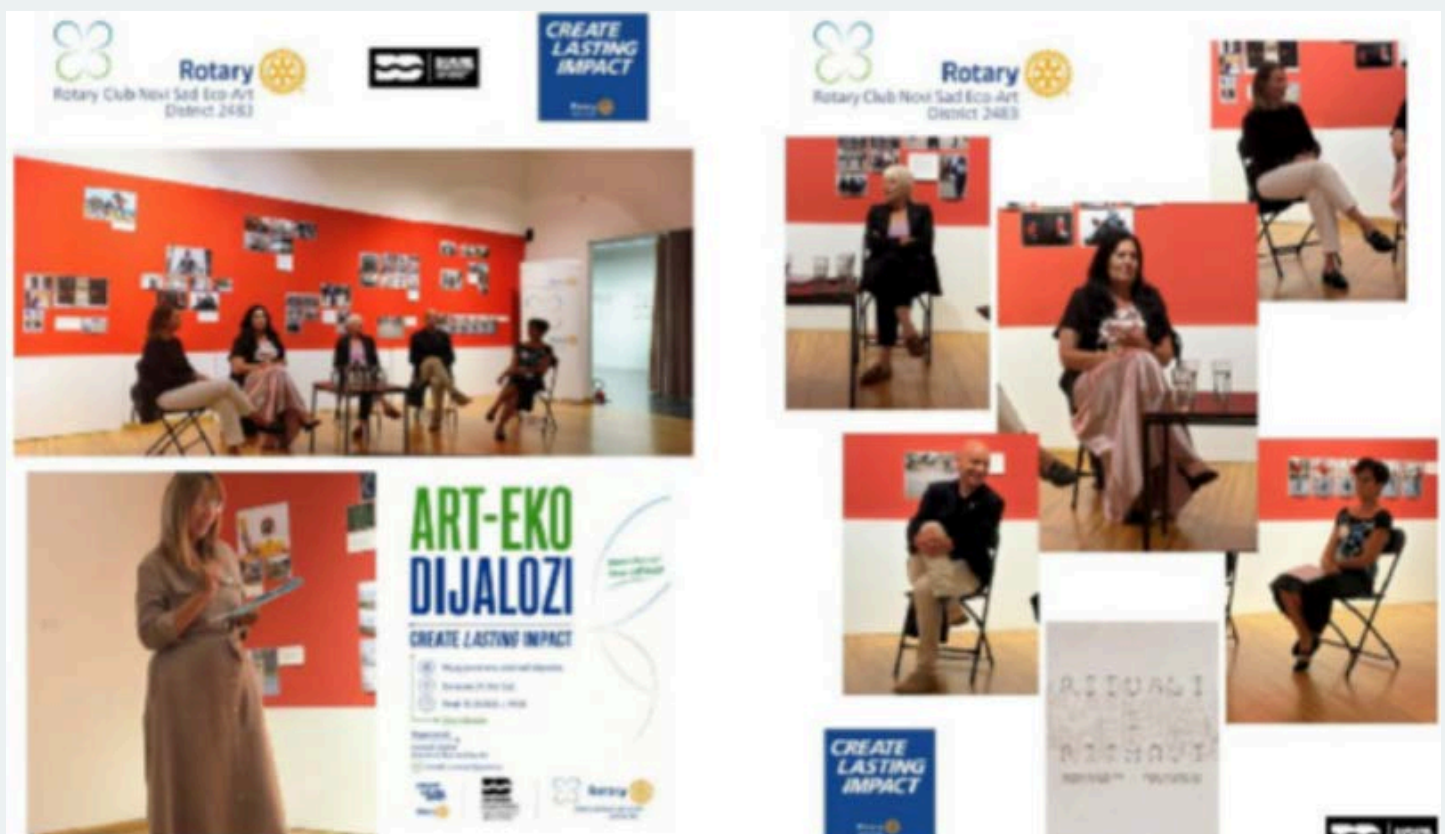
ART-ECO DIALOGUES2026 | Rituals and Rhythms of Rotary, Art and Ecology

In the inspiring setting of the Museum of Contemporary Art of Vojvodina, as part of the international Danube Dialogues Festival, Rotary Club Novi Sad Eco-Art launched its activities for the Create Lasting Impact Rotary year with ART-ECODialogues, exploring the connections between Rotary, art, culture and care for the environment.

Entitled “Rituals and Rhythms of Rotary, Art and Ecology”, the gathering invited reflection on the rhythms of

contemporary communities, the rituals that bring us together, and the ways art and creativity can enrich Rotary service and inspire responsible action for people and nature.

We were honoured to welcome District 2483 Governor Daliborka Bradić, who shared personal insights shaped by her dedication to Rotary values, humanitarian service and the natural world. Fellow panellists included Ana Vrtačnik, whose academic and artistic work connects creativity with ecology, and Miljan Vojnović, an



university professor, actor, manager and psychodrama practitioner, who offered valuable perspectives on people, art, community and nature.

The discussion was moderated by Vesna Latinović, Director of the Danube Dialogues Festival and an honorary club member, and Marija Jevtić, Club Secretary and District 2483 Climate Action Coordinator.

Club President Gordana Nišević Tadić opened and closed the event with a message that lasting positive change grows from human connection, shared values and small but consistent acts of service.

A particular focus was placed on Rotary rituals as expressions of belonging, trust and continuity and on how they can be enriched by art, culture and environmental responsibility.

ECO-ART & OPENS (F)ORA | A Hands-On Day for Nature, Art and Friendship

On 26 September, children, Rotary members and friends, and volunteers came together at OPENS in Novi Sad for a hands-on day of creativity, learning, nature and friendship.

The programme combined art and gardening workshops, giving children opportunities to explore their imagination, develop environmental awareness and learn about caring for nature through play, creative expression and practical activities.

A delightful clothesline exhibition displayed children's artwork from an earlier workshop. The colours, ideas and

This connection between enduring Rotary values and contemporary social and environmental challenges is central to our club's distinctive identity.

Questions from the audience and the sharing of personal experiences turned the gathering into a genuine dialogue, followed by a curator-led tour of the festival exhibition. ART-ECO Dialogues reaffirmed that art is more than an aesthetic experience: it can bring people together, deepen understanding and inspire responsible community action.

messages highlighted the importance of giving young people space to express themselves and experience art as part of everyday life. The art workshop created further opportunities to connect and create together.

During the gardening workshop, participants planted colourful pansies, which we will continue to care for indoors at OPENS. This small green action remains a living reminder of our time together and a symbol of the patience, care and continuity needed for a greener future.

This is the balance we want to promote across District 2452/ Futurism with Humanity.

A Green Talk workshop encouraged an open exchange on the green agenda, energysystems, the energy transition and the potential role of nuclearpower in a sustainable and responsible energy future. The discussion highlighted the value of exchanging knowledge and exploring different perspectives on environmental issues.

We were delighted to welcome incoming District Governor Vladimir Lalošević, Michelle Matthews from Georgia,USA, friends from Rotary Club Novi Sad and an Assistant Governor. The exchange of Rotary pennants, experiences and ideas for future activities was a reminder that Rotary fellowship knows no borders.

The event formed part of our ongoing partnership with OPENS, an association of youth organisations with which Rotary Club Novi Sad Eco-Art has signed a cooperation agreement. Together, we connect young people, children and volunteers through creativity, education, social responsibility and environmental protection.

Our sincere thanks go to our OPENS partners, every child, volunteer, Rotary friend and participant who helped make the day one of learning,creativity, fellowship and positive energy.

***Rituals connect us. Rhythms move us.
Art inspires us and working together
enables us to create lasting impact.***



ROTARY CLUB NOVI SAD ECO-ART / DISTRICT 2483 EDU-ECO-ART (Education • Wellbeing • Environment) Young Minds, Lasting Impact

Marking Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy Month through learning, creativity, curiosity and care for young people.

For RotaryClub Novi Sad Eco-Art, education provides a vitallink between environmental awareness, art, health and service to the community.

We are especially committed to working with children and young people, believing that knowledge, creativity and personal empowerment help build a healthier, more responsible and sustainable future. Throughout September—Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy Month—our members dedicated their time, expertise and volunteer service to local schools through our EDU-ECO-ART programme,

connecting education, environmental protection, health and active youth participation.

25 September| Growing a Greener Futurein Kovilj

We were delighted to begin a new partnership with “Laza Kostić” Primary School in Kovilj, focused on education, environmental protection, health and children's creative development. During our first visit, we held an interactive workshop with fourth-grade pupils, discussing nature, healthy habits, the importance of protecting the environment and the contribution each of us can make to a healthier community.



STVARAMO
TRAJAN
UTICAJ
Rotary



CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT
Rotary

Poseta os „Laza Kostić” u Kovilju
Zajednički čas sa decom
Mala green radionica Eko-Art Kutak



Rotary
Rotary Club Novi Sad Eco-Art
District 2483
Poseta os „Laza Kostić” u Kovilju
Potpisivanje Sporazuma u sarad



STVARAMO
TRAJAN
UTICAJ
Rotary
CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT

The children's curiosity, openness, imagination and thoughtful questions reminded us that meaningful education begins with exploration and freedom of expression. In these encounters, children are not merely listeners but active partners whose ideas and creativity enrich the learning experience.

We thank the school principal, teaching staff and class teacher for their warm welcome and willingness to collaborate, and the pupils for their enthusiasm and inspiring participation. This meeting marks the start of a partnership we hope to develop through further educational and creative workshops, school visits, joint events and environmental activities.

One planned initiative is an Eco-Art Corner—a dedicated space where children can develop and present their ideas, bring art and nature together, and take small, practical steps towards a more environmentally responsible school community.

We believe that initiatives built on collaboration, trust and children's active participation can grow into long-term change and lasting positive impact.

29 September | A Little Mental Hygiene Training, a Big Step Towards Youth Resilience

Continuing our long-standing collaboration with "7 April" Secondary Medical School in Novi Sad, Rotary Club Novi Sad Eco-Art delivered another EDU-ECO-ART activity dedicated to empowering young people and supporting mental wellbeing.

The workshop, "A Little Mental Hygiene Training: Empowering Adolescents to Protect Their Mental Health in Times of Change", was led by prof dr Marija Jevtić.

In an open, welcoming atmosphere, first-year pharmacy students explored the challenges of adjusting to a new school, setting personal goals, developing perseverance and self-confidence, and building psychological resilience.

Starting secondary school is an important life transition, bringing new expectations, responsibilities and challenges. The workshop therefore focused on recognising personal strengths, understanding individual abilities and developing healthy study habits. Through conversation and shared experiences, students were encouraged to reflect on their aspirations and future goals while remaining flexible and open to change. Together, we considered how discipline, curiosity and perseverance can go hand in hand with the freedom to learn, reconsider decisions, change our minds and grow.

We are grateful to the students for their openness and active participation and to "7 April" Secondary Medical School for its hospitality, trust and longstanding partnership.

Our message to young people: Stay curious. Set goals. Believe in yourself. Keep learning, develop your strengths and embrace change with courage.

RC BeogradCukarica and D2483 Rotary Clubs in Serbia Equipped 100 Kindergartens in 45 Cities and Municipalities across the country

More than \$350,000 invested in improving preschool education and creating a more stimulating environment for children's learning and development

Through a partnership with the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia—established via a Memorandum of Cooperation within the "Years of Ascent" (*Godine uzleta*) program—Rotary Clubs in Serbia have equipped 100 kindergartens across 45 cities and municipalities nationwide. This initiative has helped improve working conditions for educators while fostering a higher-quality environment for children's learning, play, and development.

The project focuses on enhancing preschool education by donating modern furniture and digital equipment, enabling educators to foster children's curiosity, exploration, and acquisition of new knowledge in a creative and interactive way.

Each kindergarten included in the project receives four pieces of mobile furniture and six digital devices or pieces of equipment—such as a laptop, printer, camera or tablet, webcam, laminator, and projector. This equipment provides

additional opportunities to carry out activities tailored to children's needs and aligned with modern approaches to preschool education.

The total value of the "Global Grant" projects implemented to date for equipping kindergartens has exceeded 350,000 US dollars, underscoring the importance of international cooperation and joint investment in the education of the youngest children. An important component of the project is the mandatory training for preschool educators, which has already been attended by over 200 educational professionals from various parts of Serbia. This training includes both formal instruction and ongoing online support for educators throughout the duration of the project. Consequently, the project entails more than just the donation of equipment; it also fosters the development of the knowledge and skills necessary for its effective use in daily work with children, in alignment with the "Years of Ascent" programmatic framework.

The implementation of the project and the handover of the donations were attended by seven Rotarians from Georgia, USA, who serve as key international partners in initiatives to equip preschools. Their involvement further underscores the importance of connecting local communities with international partners to achieve a shared goal: creating better conditions for the upbringing and education of future generations.

Through the collaboration between Rotary Clubs, the Ministry of Education, and international partners, the "Years of Ascent" project continues to contribute to the development of preschool education in Serbia—driven by the conviction that investing in children, knowledge, and a high-quality educational environment is an investment in the future of society as a whole.



Prizren, Kosovo

District 2485



DPIC Nora Siqeca
District 2485 (Albania&Kosovo)



A New Chapter of International Cooperation: Albania, Kosovo and Austria Join Through ICC

International friendship and cooperation took another meaningful step forward on 19–20 September in Salzburg, Austria, with the signing of a new Inter Country Committee (ICC) between Albania, Kosovo and Austria.

The initiative brought together Rotarians from the three countries with a shared commitment to strengthening international understanding, developing lasting friendships, and turning these connections into concrete opportunities for cooperation and service.

The new ICC will provide a framework for the participating Rotary districts and clubs to work together on a joint international service project, bringing together members, expertise and resources from Albania, Kosovo and Austria. It will also encourage club-to-club partnerships, youth and professional exchanges, cultural understanding, and further initiatives that strengthen Rotary's international network.

The Salzburg gathering marked an important first step toward translating friendship into action. Through the ICC, the three countries will continue to identify common priorities, develop collaborative projects, and create opportunities for Rotarians to make a shared impact across borders.

The event was wonderfully hosted by Rotary Club Pinzgau and Rotaract Club Saalfelden, whose warm hospitality and commitment helped make the gathering a memorable celebration of Rotary friendship, collaboration and international understanding.



This new partnership opens the door to a stronger future of “Service Above Self” across Albania, Kosovo and Austria, together, connected, and ready to act.

The establishment of this ICC represents an opportunity to further expand its international network and create new connections with Rotary clubs and districts in Austria.

District Governor Florentina Dushi represented District 2485 together with members of the ICC team Arben Haveri, Skender Boshtrakaj, Zajmira Qeraxhiu, Fatbardh Doko and Arber Prenaj. Rotary District 1920 was represented by DG Eckehard Bauer, as well as DG Sabine Unterweger of District 1910, Walter Ebner, ICC Coordinator for Austria, and Thomas Wieser, ICC Committee Chair for Austria. The programme in Austria brought together Rotarians in an atmosphere of fellowship, cultural exchange and collaboration, demonstrating the value of Rotary's international dimension. The gathering also provided an opportunity to strengthen relationships that can develop into future partnerships and joint initiatives.

A New Chapter of International Cooperation: Albania, Kosovo and Austria Join Through ICC

From Friendship to Future Cooperation

The new Albania–Kosovo–Austria ICC creates a platform for Rotarians to move from friendship to practical cooperation. Future opportunities may include joint service projects, professional and cultural exchanges, youth initiatives, club partnerships and other collaborative Rotary activities.

For Rotary, international relationships are not simply about bringing people together. They are about creating connections that can eventually lead to shared ideas, shared resources and shared service.

The signing of this ICC marks the beginning of that journey — connecting Rotarians across borders and opening the door to new opportunities for friendship and service.

A new partnership. New connections. New possibilities for Rotary in action.



Turning Partnership into Inclusion: Together for every Child

On 3 September 2026, Rotary Club Mitrovica and Down Syndrome Kosova – Mitrovica Branch signed a Memorandum of Understanding to support a meaningful new initiative: “Integrated Support for Communication, Development and Inclusion of Children with Down Syndrome and Autism Spectrum Disorder.”

The project will directly support 30 children and 30 parents or caregivers, while reaching an additional 50 children through community inclusion and awareness activities.

The initiative brings together Rotary, families, professionals and local organizations around a shared goal: creating greater opportunities for children with Down syndrome and autism to communicate, develop and participate fully in their communities.

The signing was attended by Rotary District 2485 Governor Florentina Dushi, Assistant Governor Dafina Ballanca, Sazane Ramaxhiku from the Autism Association, activists Anesa Çollaković and Ajla Jonuz, representatives of the KFOR LMT unit, and members of Rotary Club Mitrovica.

This partnership is a powerful example of Service Above Self in action — turning collaboration into meaningful support and creating a more inclusive community, one opportunity at a time.



WE'RE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE A GRSP SCHOLARSHIP WINNER FROM DISTRICT 2485

District 2485 Celebrates GRSP Scholarship Recipient

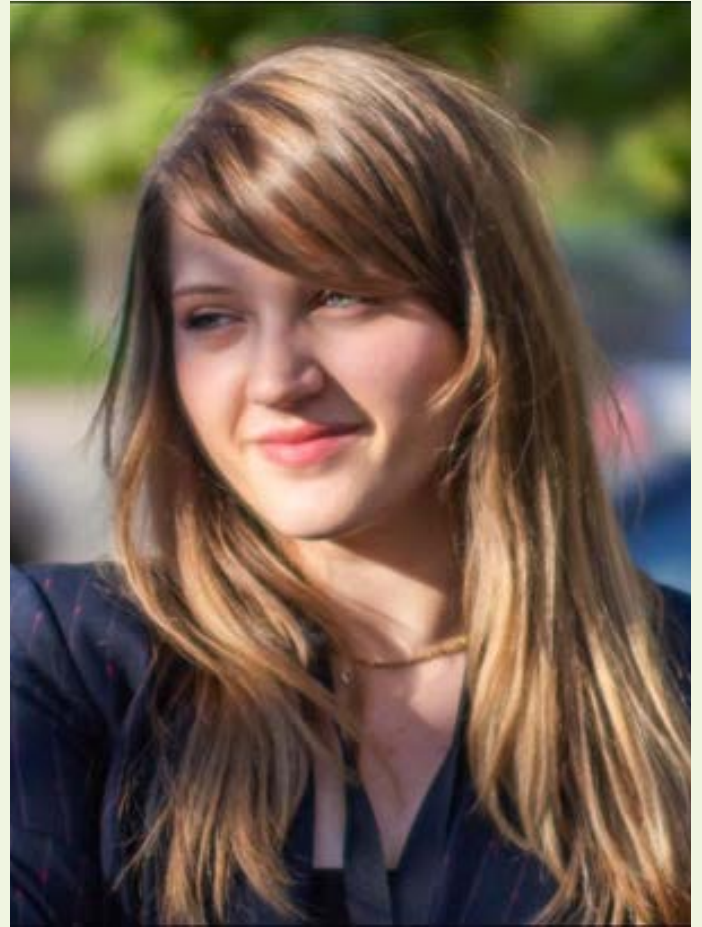
District 2485 is delighted to announce that Tringa Ibrahimi has been selected as this year's Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP) Scholarship recipient. Tringa will travel to Georgia, USA, where she will spend the academic year studying at a Georgia college, living with a host family, and taking part in a unique cultural exchange experience. Through this opportunity, she will not only further her education but also gain a deeper understanding of American culture while sharing her own culture and experiences. Established in 1946, the Georgia Rotary Student Program has welcomed students from around the world, creating opportunities for academic study, cultural exchange, and lifelong international friendships through Rotary.

We warmly congratulate Tringa Ibrahimi on this outstanding achievement and wish her a successful, enriching, and inspiring year in Georgia. We look forward to hearing about her experiences and the connections she will build along the way.

An Invitation to Rotary Clubs

District 2485 also encourages all Rotary Clubs to consider nominating a candidate for next year's GRSP Scholarship.

The program offers a remarkable opportunity to support a young person in pursuing an international educational and cultural experience while becoming part of the worldwide Rotary family.



By sponsoring a student, Rotary Clubs help build bridges between cultures and foster the international understanding and friendships that are at the heart of Rotary's mission.

The program offers a remarkable opportunity to support a young person in pursuing an international educational and cultural experience while becoming part of the worldwide Rotary family. By sponsoring a student, Rotary Clubs help build bridges between cultures and foster the international understanding and friendships that are at the heart of Rotary's mission.

Congratulations, Tringa, and best wishes for an unforgettable year in Georgia

Plastic pollution is one of the environmental challenges that communities around the world face every day. From rivers and lakes to coastlines, parks and natural areas, plastic waste can have a lasting impact on ecosystems, wildlife and the places we call home.

Recognizing the importance of local action, Rotary District 2485 is taking action for a future with less plastic through the EndPlasticSoup initiative. Across Albania and Kosovo, Rotary, Rotaract and Interact clubs joined forces to raise awareness about plastic pollution and turn concern into practical community action. Through clean-up activities, environmental awareness efforts and the active involvement of young volunteers, members came together to demonstrate that meaningful change can begin with simple actions taken close to home.

From awareness to action
The EndPlasticSoup initiative encourages communities to look at plastic pollution not simply as an environmental issue, but as a shared responsibility. Every piece of plastic collected, every conversation started and every young person engaged contributes to a broader culture of environmental responsibility.

Members and volunteers from participating clubs took part in activities in a variety of natural and community spaces. Rivers, lakes, coastal areas and other public and natural environments became places where Rotary members could make a visible contribution while encouraging others to think about how everyday choices affect the environment.

These activities also provided an opportunity to bring different generations together. Rotary members, Rotaractors, Interactors and young volunteers worked side by side, sharing ideas and demonstrating the power of collaboration.

Stronger together

The initiative brought together clubs from across the region, including:

- Rotary Club Tirana International
- Rotary Club Korça
- Rotary Club Elbasan
- Rotary Club Tirana West
- Rotary Club Tirana Bllok
- Rotary Club Durrës
- Rotary Shkodra
- Interact Tirana International
- Rotaract Club Prishtina Ulpiana
- Interact Durrës
- Interact Shkodra

Each club contributed in its own community, reflecting the diversity of Rotary's network while sharing a common objective: helping create cleaner, healthier and more sustainable places for people today and for generations to come.

Inspiring the next generation

A particularly important part of the EndPlasticSoup effort is the involvement of young people.

Through Rotaract and Interact, the initiative creates opportunities for younger generations to take an active role in addressing environmental challenges. Their participation demonstrates that environmental responsibility is not only something to discuss—it is something to practice

EndPlasticSoup: Turning Awareness into Action

Young volunteers bring energy, creativity and new perspectives to community projects. By taking part in clean-ups and awareness activities, they also help inspire their peers, families and wider communities to consider how plastic is used, discarded and managed. This intergenerational collaboration is at the heart of the Rotary approach: bringing people together, developing future leaders and transforming shared concerns into practical action.

Local action, wider impact

Plastic pollution may be a global challenge, but its effects are visible in our own communities. That is why local initiatives matter.

A cleaner riverbank, a plastic-free section of coastline, a restored public space or a conversation that changes someone's habits may seem like a small step on its own. When communities act together, however, these individual efforts become part of something much larger.

The EndPlasticSoup initiative shows what can happen when clubs, volunteers and young people share a common purpose. It is a reminder that environmental change does not always begin with large-scale projects. It can begin with people coming together, taking responsibility for their surroundings and encouraging others to do the same.

Continuing the commitment

The activities carried out through EndPlasticSoup are more than one-day

clean-up efforts. They are opportunities to build greater awareness and encourage long-term changes in attitudes and habits around plastic.

Rotary District 2485 and its clubs continue to promote the idea that protecting our environment is a shared responsibility. By connecting communities across Albania and Kosovo and engaging Rotary, Rotaract and Interact members, the initiative helps turn environmental awareness into visible action.

Every volunteer who participates, every community member who becomes more aware of plastic pollution and every young person inspired to take action helps move us toward a more sustainable future. Together, we can create cleaner communities, inspire responsible action and build a future with less plastic.



Rotary District 2485 Albania-Kosovo and UNICEF Kosovo Strengthen Cooperation for Children and Families

Rotary District 2485 Albania-Kosovo and UNICEF Kosovo have strengthened their cooperation through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), reaffirming a shared commitment to advancing the well-being and rights of children and supporting families across Kosovo.

The agreement was signed by Rotary District 2485 Governor Florentina Dushi and UNICEF Kosovo Representative Veronika Vaschchenko, with the support of Dafina Zuna. The partnership aims to create opportunities for stronger advocacy, community engagement, and collaboration among organizations working to improve the lives of children and families.

The MoU builds on recent cooperation between Rotary District 2485 and UNICEF Kosovo, including the visit of Rotary International President Olayinka “Yinka” Hakeem Babalola to Kosovo.

During his visit, President Babalola met with health professionals and visited a community centre, where he engaged with children, parents, and community representatives.

Through this partnership, Rotary and UNICEF will explore initiatives that bring together community organizations, professionals, and partners to address the needs of children and strengthen support systems for families.

The cooperation represents another step toward transforming shared values into meaningful action and creating sustainable, community-based impact for children and families throughout Kosovo.

SHARED PRIORITIES

- Advocacy for children’s rights and well-being
- Community engagement and partnerships
- Stronger support for children and families
- Meaningful and sustainable community impact



Rotaract



Districts 2420, 2430, 2440

ARPIC Cemre Bařkır

RAC Ankara - Tandogan, D2430

Rotaract 2420, 2430, 2440

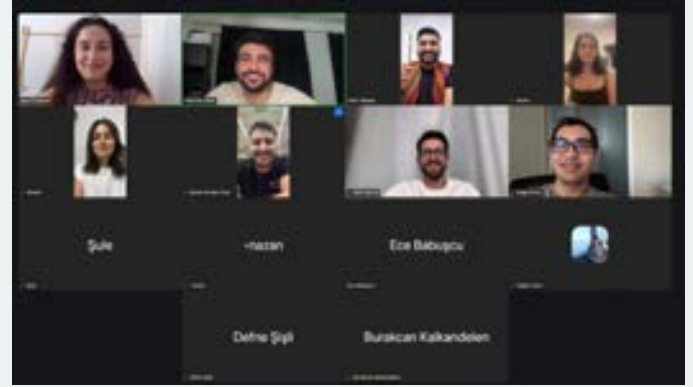


RID 2420. Melodies of Anatolia (Anadolu'nun Ezgileri)

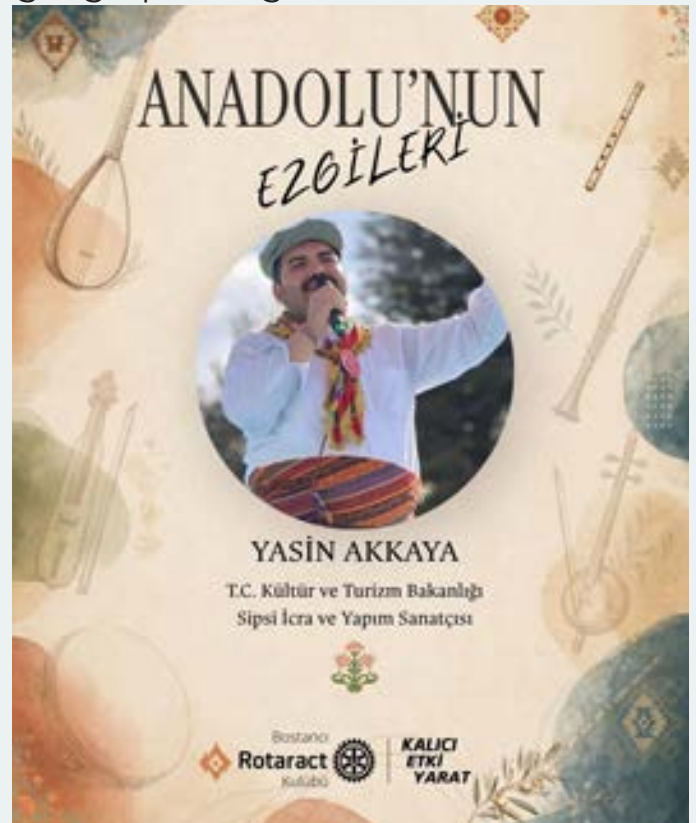
As Bostancı Rotaract Club, we launched on 27.08.2026 the "Melodies of Anatolia" project to introduce the traditional musical instruments from the seven geographic regions of Anatolia and the cultural heritage they carry. Within the scope of the project, which will take place online on the last Thursday of every month, we aim to introduce a different musical instrument selected from seven regions over seven months together with expert guest speakers and listen to live performances.

We held the first meeting of our project on August 27, 2026, via Zoom. In the first stop of our series, we traveled to the Teke Region and focused on its characteristic instrument, the sipsi. Yasin Akkaya, Sipsi Performer and Instrument Maker from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Türkiye, was our guest for the event.

Throughout the gathering, we learned about the history of the sipsi, the materials used in its crafting, its acoustic characteristics, performance techniques, its place in the Teke Region and Yörük culture, as well as the master-apprentice tradition. In the interactive session enriched by questions from participants, we also had the opportunity to listen to the unique sound of the sipsi through our guest's live performance.



Through this first gathering, we helped raise awareness among participants of our traditional musical culture and local instruments. In the next meeting of our project, which aims to contribute to promoting, preserving, and transmitting Anatolia's musical heritage to future generations, we will focus on the kabak kemane (gourd fiddle). We will transform our series into a cultural journey in the coming months by continuing with different instruments and artists from other geographic regions.



RID 2420. The Flavors of Istanbul Youth Exchange Camp

The Flavors of Istanbul Youth Exchange Camp ✨

Together with our guests from France, Spain, Brazil, Czechia, Hungary, India, and Taiwan, we explored, on 18.7.2026, Istanbul, shared our cultures, and once again discovered that friendship is a language everyone understands. We are especially grateful to Göksu Rotary Club, with whom we were delighted to bring this meaningful project to life, as well as to everyone who contributed and all the participants who shared this unforgettable journey with us. Here's to new friendships and Creating Lasting Impact!



RID 2420. Keep Alive with Love (Sevgiyle Yaşat)

As Bostancı Rotaract Club, we visited , on 22.8.2026, Encander to raise awareness about the living conditions of paralyzed, elderly, and special-needs animals, support their needs, and raise awareness of animal welfare. Our guest from the Rotaract Club of Agadir Atlantique, whom we hosted in Istanbul as part of our club's international fellowship and cooperation efforts, also joined our visit. Thus, we added an international dimension to our social responsibility initiative, experiencing Rotaract's philosophy of service and solidarity that transcends borders.

During our visit, we received detailed information from the association's representatives regarding the work carried out, particularly for paralyzed, elderly, and special-needs animals. We spent quality time with the animals living at the shelter and made a pet food donation to support their needs. The Encander Association team welcomed us with great warmth, guided us through the facility, explained the animals' care and treatment processes, and answered our questions. Furthermore, we closely observed how crucial volunteer support and regular donations are to sustaining these efforts.

Thanks to this visit, we raised our awareness of the vital importance of regular care, medical treatment, safe living environments, and volunteer support for the well-being and quality of life of animals requiring special care. We were deeply moved by the atmosphere created with love and dedication at Encander. We believe that everyone who wishes to touch the lives of animals and support the association's work should visit Encander, spend time with the animals, and contribute to their needs as much as possible. We express our gratitude to the Encander team for their hospitality and invaluable work.



RID 2440. A Small Step for Education, A Big Step for the Future

As Agora Rotaract Club, within the scope of September – Basic Education and Literacy Month, we carried out a meaningful social responsibility project aimed at supporting children's educational journeys and contributing to their basic educational needs. On September 9, 2026, we delivered a total of 100 school bag sets to two different primary schools, one of which was Bizim Mahalle School. Each set included essential educational and stationery materials that students may need throughout their school life: a school bag, lunch bag, drawing notebook, pencil case, watercolor paints, colored pencils, oil pastels, a pencil, and an eraser. Through this project, we aimed not only to contribute to students' stationery needs, but also to make the educational materials they need more accessible and support them in starting the new academic year better prepared. Reaching a total of 100 students across two primary schools, the project highlighted the importance of equal access to education while demonstrating how even a small contribution toward basic needs can make a tangible difference in students' everyday educational experiences. By contributing to children's access to the resources they need throughout their educational journey, we aimed to make an impact not only on their needs today, but also on their potential for tomorrow. Reaching 100 students through this initiative, we took a meaningful step toward turning our belief in the transformative power of education into tangible action.



RID 2440. Following Nature

As part of our “Following Nature” project, the Adana and Erenköy Rotary Clubs, together with the Erenköy, Karşıyaka, İstanbul, Adana, and Alleben Rotaract Clubs, visited Hatay to support the conservation of mountain gazelles, one of the region’s important natural heritage species.



RID 2440. Rotapuan App

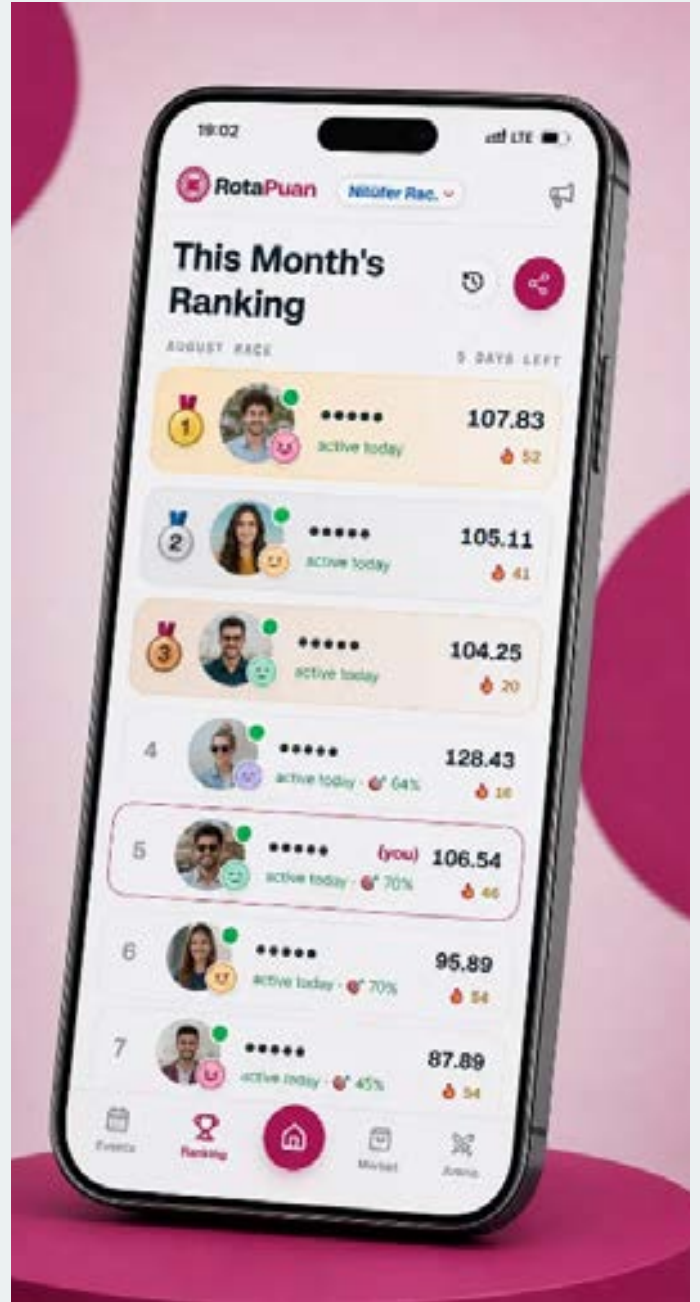
Nilüfer Rotaract Club proudly launched the RotaPuan App, an innovative digital membership development project, in August, recognized in the Rotary calendar as Membership and Extension Month.

This app aims to encourage active participation, reward volunteering, and condense the Rotaract experience into a fun, interactive digital platform to strengthen club culture. Members earn points not only by attending club events but also by taking on active roles, such as contributing to projects, supporting social media efforts, leading committees, and completing specific assignments. Point values correspond to the quality and impact of the contribution.

The RotaPuan App gamifies club life through several interactive features: Ranking: An instant, monthly ranking system fosters friendly competition, making member activity visible and motivating.

Market & Auction: Points are transformed into tangible rewards. Club merchandise and surprise gifts can be claimed via the marketplace or strategic auctions.

Connection: The platform hosts corporate discounts, mini-games to boost daily logins, motivational quotes, and member profiles, enhancing social bonding.



Ultimately, the RotaPuan App is not merely a point tracker; it is a comprehensive digital ecosystem designed to increase engagement, and make the Rotaract journey more sustainable, fun, and rewarded

RID 2440. Mother-and-Child Kits Rotaract Club of Agora

As part of Mother and Child Health Month, we launched our Newborn Kit Project to support the essential needs of mothers who have recently given birth and their babies during the early stages of their journey. As part of the project, we carefully prepared kits containing essential products that mothers and babies may need in their daily lives. Through this project, we aimed not only to contribute to their immediate needs, but also to raise awareness of the importance of maternal and child health and foster greater social awareness on this issue. With each kit we prepared, we sought to provide small yet meaningful support for a new beginning while strengthening the power of solidarity and sharing.



RID 2430. When Children Smile, the World Smiles (Çocuklar Gülerse, Dünya Güler)

Some projects begin as acts of social responsibility, yet by the time they are completed, they become something far more meaningful. For us, “When Children Smile, the World Smiles” was exactly that kind of project.

As members of Akdeniz Rotaract Club, in cooperation with the Women and Family Services Directorate of Yenışehir Municipality, we had the privilege of visiting children aged 0 to 6 who live with their mothers at the Tarsus Women's Closed Penitentiary Institution. Following the completion of the necessary permissions, our club members and guests visited the facility and personally delivered the gifts we had carefully prepared for the children.

Yet the moment we met them, we realized that we had not come there merely to hand over gifts.

Their excitement, the curiosity shining in their eyes, and the small smiles that appeared on their faces as they received their presents touched each of us deeply. While we believed we were bringing them a moment of happiness, it was they who left us with something far greater.

When it was time to leave, we carried away more than empty gift bags. We left with full hearts, unforgettable memories, and emotions that are difficult to put into words. This experience reminded us once again that kindness is never one-sided. Sometimes, when you set out to make a difference in a child's life, you return with a memory that changes your own.

We went there hoping to leave a smile behind for the children; instead, they left us with a smile we will never forget.

When Children Smile, the World Smiles. (❤️Çocuklar Gülerse, Dünya Güler. ❤️)



RID 2430. Pide from Us, Pet Food from You(Pideler Bizden, Mamalar Sizden)

With the aim of improving the lives of our furry friends, Ankara Çayyolu Rotaract Club organized the “Pide from Us, Pet Food from You” fundraising event.

Held on 20 September 2026 at the Gökyüzü Foundation, the event brought together members of Ankara Çayyolu Rotaract Club and Ankara Çayyolu Rotary Club for a day centered on solidarity, community engagement, and social responsibility. Thanks to the generous support of participants, the proceeds raised were dedicated to meeting the nutritional needs of animals living in shelters and providing financial support for sterilization operations for those in need.

Beyond fundraising, the event sought to raise public awareness about the challenges faced by stray and shelter animals while encouraging greater social responsibility toward their welfare. Once again, it reflected Rotaract’s commitment to volunteerism and creating sustainable positive impact within the community.

As Ankara Çayyolu Rotaract Club, we believe that even the smallest contribution can create meaningful change. Guided by this belief, we remain committed to making a lasting difference in the lives of our furry friends, one act of kindness at a time. 🐾❤️



RID 2430. Breath for Nature

On September 12, 2026, we started the new Rotary year as Ankara Tandoğan Rotaract Club with our first field project, “Breath for Nature” (Doğaya Nefes), at Pazar Creek in Kızılcahamam, Ankara.

Pazar Creek is a beautiful place surrounded by pine forests, where many families, hikers, and nature lovers spend their weekends. However, with so many visitors, plastic bottles, food packaging, and picnic waste are often left behind. We wanted to do our part to help protect this place.

We divided into small teams and spent the day cleaning the creek banks, walking paths, and picnic areas. With gloves, bags, and litter pickers in our hands, we collected the waste we came across and separated it whenever possible. One of the nicest parts of the day was seeing local residents notice what we were doing and join us. It reminded us that even a small initiative can encourage others to take action.

After the clean-up, we shared videos from the project with Kızılcahamam Municipality to help draw attention to the pollution in the area. We also shared our experience on Instagram and YouTube to remind people to take their waste with them and leave natural areas as they found them.

For us, “Breath for Nature” was more than just a clean-up. It was a meaningful way to start the new Rotary year together, spend time outdoors, and take responsibility for a place we all share.



RID 2430. Taking Steps Against Polio with Rotaract Europe

As Mersin Rotaract Club, we joined Rotaract Europe's international campaign to raise awareness about polio and support the global effort to end the disease.

Between 24 September and 24 October, Rotaractors from different countries will come together through movement and sports, turning every step into an opportunity to create awareness about polio.

As part of the campaign, our club has already started taking action. We ran, exercised and encouraged our members to become part of this international movement. For us, however, this initiative is not limited to a one-month campaign. We aim to make physical activity a regular part of our lives while continuing to draw attention to the importance of ending polio worldwide.

Through this project, we combine healthy living, international Rotaract fellowship and social awareness around a common purpose.

Together, we take steps toward a polio-free world.



RID 2430. From Memories to Hope – Hatıradan Umuda Projesi

We are proud to have successfully completed the second phase of the “From Memories to Hope” project, carried out in collaboration between Ankara International Rotary Club and Ankara International Rotaract Club. The initiative was designed to support families in need by improving their living conditions and contributing to the social well-being of children through the power of community solidarity.

In cooperation with the Eserkent Housing Administration, operating under the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, a wide range of essential items was delivered to families in need. These included one double bed, two three-seat sofas, a dining table with four chairs and a dinner set, 16 food packages, six bicycles, six boxes of clothing, 10 pairs of shoes, toys, two baby cribs, and one high chair.

Thanks to these contributions, support was provided to a total of 17 families, while six children were given the opportunity to own bicycles of their very own. The project's success was made possible through the generosity of our donors, as well as the valuable support of Gölbaşı Rotary Club and President Ömer Gürbüz, and our dedicated volunteers.

This initiative stands as a meaningful example of how Rotary and Rotaract clubs can combine their resources, networks, and commitment to service to create lasting impact within their communities. Together, we continue to transform cherished memories into hope, and hope into tangible change.



RID 2430. One Pink Step Forward

As Ankara Kızılay Rotaract Club, we launched this year's edition of One Pink Step Forward, one of our long-standing signature projects, in collaboration with Ankara Kocatepe Rotaract Club. Before beginning our field activities aimed at raising awareness about women's health and breast cancer, we came together to strengthen our knowledge and ensure that our efforts would be built on accurate and reliable information.

For this purpose, we were honored to welcome Dr. Fatma Abacigil as our guest speaker. During our meeting, we explored not only breast cancer but also the broader fundamentals of cancer, including its mechanisms, risk factors, the importance of early diagnosis, and the critical role of public awareness in prevention and treatment. By addressing our questions and sharing her expertise, Dr. Abacigil helped us gain a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the subject.

The session proved to be both enlightening and inspiring for all participants. We were especially pleased to have members of Kızılay Interact Club join us, further extending the project's impact beyond fieldwork. Through this knowledge-sharing opportunity, we aimed to encourage young people to become more informed about health issues and to empower them to raise awareness within their own communities. We hope the insights they gained will help foster a more conscious approach to women's health and cancer awareness while inspiring future initiatives of a similar nature.

This gathering provided a strong foundation for the next phase of One Pink Step Forward, ensuring that we approach our community outreach efforts with greater awareness, confidence, and responsibility. By bringing what we have learned into the field, we strive to share accurate information with a wider audience and to make awareness-building a sustainable effort rather than a one-time event.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Dr. Fatma Abacigil for sharing her valuable knowledge, to Ankara Kocatepe Rotaract Club for their partnership throughout the project, and to all Rotaract and Interact members who contributed through their participation and enthusiasm.



Rotaract



Districts 2452, 2475, 2482, 2483, 2485

ARPIC Foteini Papadimou

RC Panorama, D2475

Rotaract 2452, 2475, 2482, 2483, 2485



Rotary & Rotaract Training Day - D2483 Serbia & Montenegro

On September 27, we had the opportunity to take part in a Rotary & Rotaract Training Day, dedicated to learning, sharing experiences, and strengthening cooperation within our Rotary family.

Throughout the day, we discussed Global Grants, The Rotary Foundation, membership, and Rotary and Rotaract projects, gaining valuable insights and exchanging ideas for future initiatives.

Our DRR Kristina Zejak represented the Rotaract clubs of District 2483 together with DG Daliborka Bradić, highlighting the work, projects, and contribution of Rotaract clubs and strengthening the connection between Rotary and Rotaract at the district level.

A great day of learning, collaboration, and inspiration, and another step towards creating lasting impact together.

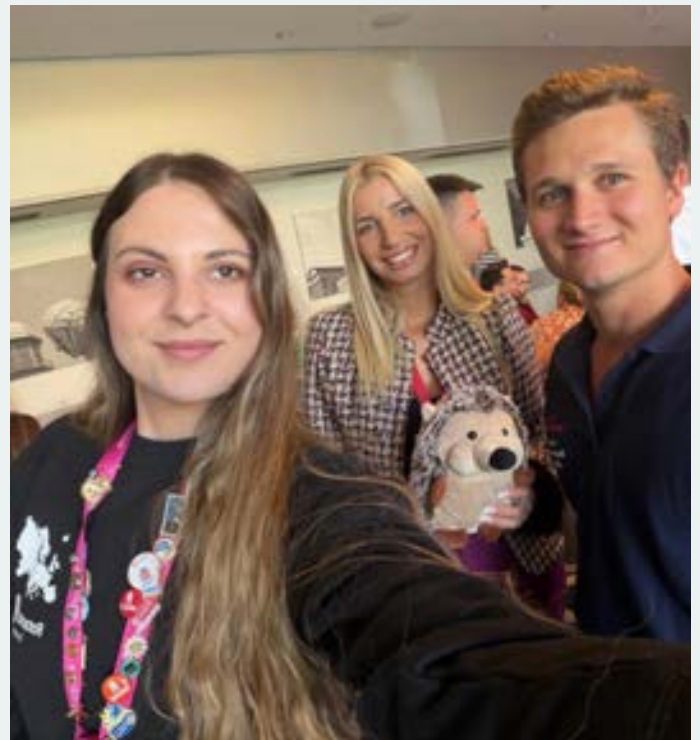


The General Assembly of ERIC MDIO

The General Assembly of ERIC MDIO

In September 2026, RID 2483 was represented at REM Karlsruhe by three district representatives: Jovana Vanovac, CR Serbia, Kristina Zejak, DRR, and Milan Vojisavljević, District Treasurer.

Our members attended the ERIC MDIO General Assembly, representing Rotaract District 2483 and actively participating in the international Rotaract community. Their presence provided an opportunity to strengthen connections, exchange experiences and contribute to the work of Rotaract Europe.



Rotaract Club Zrenjanin organized the charity quiz “Quiz for a TV” - D2483 Serbia & Montenegro

On 22 September 2026, Rotaract Club Zrenjanin organized the charity quiz “Quiz for a TV”. Funds were raised to purchase a 50-inch Smart TV for the “Alternativa” Day Centre.



Rotaract Clubs Belgrade Skadarlija and Belgrade Čukarica, Charity Seminar - D2483 Serbia & Montenegro

Rotaract Clubs Belgrade Skadarlija and Belgrade Čukarica, in cooperation with Judo Club Imperium, organized a charity seminar led by MMA fighter Dušan Džakić. The initiative raised €1,000 for the treatment and rehabilitation of Dragan, a young judo player who became paralyzed following a serious traffic accident.



Padel for Humanity – Playing with Heart – Rotaract Club Niš D2483 Serbia & Montenegro

On 26 September 2026, Rotaract Club Niš organized the charity padel tournament “Padel for Humanity – Playing with Heart”, the second event as part of our fundraising campaign to purchase a video laryngoscope for the Maxillofacial Surgery Clinic at the University Clinical Center Niš, carried out together with our mentor club, Rotary Club Niš.

Our partner in organizing the event was Padel Spot, to whom we are deeply grateful for their support and cooperation. The tournament brought together 20 teams, while throughout the day numerous friends, members of the Rotary and Rotaract family, and sports enthusiasts stopped by to cheer, enjoy a drink, and support the cause.

In addition to exciting matches, the event was filled with wonderful energy, lots of laughter, new friendships, and genuine fellowship. Thanks to all participants, visitors, donors, and partners, more than RSD 100,000 was raised, bringing us significantly closer to achieving our shared goal.

Once again, we showed that humanity, sport, and togetherness can make a real difference.



Visit to the “Naš svet” Association- Rotaract Club Niš D2483 Serbia & Montenegro

Rotaract Club Niš continued the tradition of last year's district initiative and, during the summer break, visited the “Naš svet” Association from Leskovac.

During the visit, club members delivered 15 bags of cigarette packs that had been collected over the previous four months. The “Naš svet” Association brings together people with developmental difficulties who recycle collected cigarette packs into recycled paper. Besides its environmental importance, this process contributes to their empowerment and inclusion in meaningful work activities.

In addition to the collected packs, we returned from the visit with many wonderful impressions. We were welcomed by amazing people, positive energy, and yet another reminder of how small everyday habits can contribute to meaningful change.

We are certain that this will not be our last collaboration with the “Naš svet” Association, and in our future activities, we hope to use paper produced through their recycling process.



The Gala Night and the flag ceremony D2483 Serbia & Montenegro

During the event, the representatives participated in the General Assembly, connected with Rotaractors from across Europe, and represented Serbia and Montenegro throughout the programme. The event provided an opportunity to exchange experiences, strengthen international connections, and further promote cooperation between Rotaract districts and clubs.

As part of the Gala Evening, Serbia and Montenegro were represented during the Country Flags Ceremony, together with Rotaract representatives from countries across Europe. The ceremony provided an opportunity to celebrate the diversity of the Rotaract community while presenting the culture and identity of our countries.

Balkan Flag Ceremony

The Balkan representatives also continued a tradition that has been present at major Rotaract events for many years. Representatives from the countries of the region gathered for the Balkan Flag Ceremony, bringing together the flags of the participating Balkan countries and creating an opportunity for regional networking, cultural exchange and friendship.

The tradition has become a recognizable part of international Rotaract gatherings, combining regional cooperation with the informal exchange of culture, customs and, of course, a little bit of Balkan hospitality.

Impact Wall – “Can You Hear Me?”

One of the highlights of REM Karlsruhe was the presentation of the “Can You Hear Me?” Global Grant project by Rotaract Club Stara Pazova and Rotary One from Chicago on the ERIC’s event’s Impact Wall during the Gala Evening. The project was showcased alongside other 73 initiatives from across the Rotaract community, highlighting the work being carried out at the local level and demonstrating how projects initiated by clubs within RID 2483 can reach and inspire the wider international Rotaract community.



New Members – Rotaract Club Niš D2483 Serbia & Montenegro

During september, Rotaract Club Niš welcomed several new, active, and motivated members. Toma Mitrović, a first-year student at the Faculty of Law of the University of Niš, has been a prospective member since March 2026. From the very beginning, he has shown great interest in Rotaract and actively participated in club activities, as well as events organized by other Rotaract clubs in Niš. Matej Mitrović, a first-year student at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the University of Niš, has been a prospective member since May 2026.

He has actively participated in club activities and the organization of team-building events, contributing with his creativity, ideas, and diverse interests. Tamara Mihajlović, a fourth-year student at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Niš, has been a prospective member since May 2026. She quickly became involved in the club's activities, demonstrating initiative and a strong willingness to work as part of a team, while her positive attitude contributes to a welcoming and motivating atmosphere among the members.

Toma, Matej, and Tamara are currently working on their induction projects, through which they will further showcase their ideas, creativity, and potential to contribute to the club's future activities.



Visit from a Rotaractor from RAC Zahle-Bekaa, Lebanon D2452

During the past period, we had the pleasure of hosting Radovan El Bourjija, a member of Rotaract Club Zahle-Bekaa from Lebanon, who spent part of his stay in Serbia with Rotaractors from Niš.

Radovan attended meetings of Rotaract Club Niš and Rotaract Club Niš University, joined our informal gatherings, and took part in the charity padel tournament, where he played on a team with the Secretary of Rotaract Club Niš Centar.

During his stay, he had the opportunity to present the work and projects of his club, while also learning more about the activities of our clubs and directly supporting one of our charity initiatives.

We exchanged experiences, ideas, and stories that reminded us once again of how strong Rotaract is as an international network of friendship and cooperation.

Radovan shared that his time spent with the Rotaractors of Niš was a truly memorable experience and that he looks forward to meeting us again in the future.



MEDICON Greece 2027: The Mediterranean Rotaract community comes together in Greece D2475 Greece

In May 2027, Greece will welcome MEDICON, one of the highlights of the Rotaract Mediterranean MDIO calendar.

Rotaractors from across the region will come together for friendship, learning, cultural exchange and international cooperation.

For District 2475, hosting MEDICON Greece 2027 is both an honor and an important responsibility.

We aim to offer our guests an authentic experience of Greece, its culture and its renowned hospitality.

At the same time, MEDICON will provide meaningful educational, social, and networking opportunities for participants.

The event will also showcase what Rotaract represents: young people taking action, sharing ideas, and creating positive change in their communities. Strong cooperation between Rotary and Rotaract will be essential to making this vision a reality.

As preparations continue, we want every club and member of District 2475 to feel that MEDICON belongs to them.

Stay connected, follow the preparations and get involved. There will be many opportunities for clubs and members to contribute along the way.

Together, let's make MEDICON Greece 2027 an unforgettable experience for the Rotaract Mediterranean MDIO family!

Dr John Koutroumpis
District Rotaract Representative
Rotary International District 2475 –
Greece



World Cleanup Day: Young People Taking Action for a Cleaner Prishtina

As part of World Cleanup Day, Rotaract Club Prishtina Ulpiana joined an environmental initiative organised by Let's Do It Kosova, supporting a city-wide effort to create cleaner public spaces and encourage young people to take responsibility for their environment.

Seven schools took part in the initiative, with students actively participating in clean-up activities across Prishtina. Rotaract Club Prishtina Ulpiana supported the organisation and implementation of the project, with members responsible for distributing essential equipment, including gloves, masks and rubbish bags, to the participating students.

The students were then divided into four groups and assigned to four different locations across the capital. Working alongside volunteers, they collected waste and helped restore the selected areas, turning environmental awareness into practical action.

The initiative demonstrated the value of bringing schools, young people, volunteers and community organisations together around a shared environmental responsibility. For the students, participation was not simply about cleaning public spaces; it was an opportunity to see the direct results of collective action and to understand their own role in protecting the environment. Through its involvement, Rotaract Club Prishtina Ulpiana helped create a space for young people to become active participants in improving their communities.

World Cleanup Day may take place on a single day, but its message can last much longer: cleaner communities begin with people who are willing to take action – and lasting environmental change grows when that responsibility is shared.





***CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT***

District Governors' Corner

Educating for Hope, Lighting the Way to the Future: District 2420's September Vision for Basic Education and Literacy

Dear Rotary Family, Club Presidents, and Fellow Rotarians,

As September begins, we turn our attention to Basic Education and Literacy Month, one of the key focus areas in the Rotary calendar. Education shapes not only individual growth but also the well-being, peace, and future of our communities. This month reminds us once again of the responsibility we share as Rotarians.

As District 2420, our goal is to address today's educational needs while creating lasting opportunities to learn for every person we reach. At a time when the ways we access information are changing rapidly, equal access to education matters more than ever. We all have a part to play in building a future where every child can receive a quality education and everyone has the opportunity to learn throughout life.

With this in mind, I would like to share the guiding goals we have prepared to inspire and support the work our clubs will undertake throughout September. May every step we take, every door we open, and every piece of knowledge we share leave a lasting impact on the future.



Erden Gökmen

**District Governor, District 2420
2026-2027**

The Next Generation of Literacy: Digital and Functional Skills

- In today's world, literacy means much more than recognizing letters or signing one's name.
- We should establish computer and coding classrooms that introduce children in underserved areas to digital literacy.
- We should organize programs that teach the safe use of artificial intelligence and essential technologies.
- To support community development from the ground up, we should plan seminars on financial, legal, and health literacy for adults, especially women.
- Knowing one's rights and managing a budget are essential to building resilient communities.

Strengthening Schools' Physical and Technological Infrastructure

- We should promptly identify gaps in libraries, laboratories, and internet access at public schools in our district with limited resources.
- To promote equal educational opportunity, we should increase support for technology resources and tablets that help students engage with the modern world.
- We should improve classrooms and other learning spaces, from lighting to hygiene, to raise the quality of education.
- We should implement lasting infrastructure projects at schools that lack access to clean water or adequate sanitation.
- A healthy environment is essential to quality education.

- We should also offer parent education programs that use evidence-based methods to strengthen family communication and parents' support for learning.
- Helping families make learning a part of everyday life at home will make our projects' impact last.

Erden Gökmen
District Governor, District 2420
2026–2027

Early Childhood Education and Family Guidance

- The foundations of learning and character development are laid during early childhood, before children begin school.
- We should expand projects such as the "Library of Love," "Kitapcan Book Buddy/Mentor" and "Mobile Library," as well as "Book Days" events, to help children develop a love of books and reading from an early age.
- We should develop projects that support nurseries and preschools for children who cannot access early childhood education.

Monthly Message - September 2026

Dear Rotary Family,

As we complete the third month of our Rotary year, I am very pleased to see that our preparations are now giving way to activities, projects, and gatherings across our District. **July and August were intensive months dedicated to planning the new Rotary year, setting our goals, forming our teams, and preparing our clubs' roadmaps.**

Through our club visits, meetings, and evaluations, we listened to one another, shared our goals, and laid the foundations of our year together. Every club has its own story, needs, and goals. Yet, above all these differences, we are united by one common value: **Service Above Self.**

With September, we have begun to see the results of these preparations. Our clubs are actively **implementing projects, organizing events, engaging with their communities, and turning Rotary's spirit of service into action.** Every day, we hear about new projects and activities from different parts of District 2430, once again demonstrating what a strong Rotary family we have. I believe this momentum will grow even stronger in the months ahead.

One of the issues I particularly want to emphasize is strengthening collaboration among our clubs. Each club has its own experience, human resources, connections, and areas of strength. We should not see these differences as reasons to remain apart, but rather as opportunities to complement one



Orhan Uludağ
Governor 2026-2027
RI District 2430 - Turkiye

another and achieve greater things together.

A good idea from one club can become a much larger project when combined with the experience of another. When the human resources of two clubs come together, we can reach more people. A joint project involving several clubs not only creates a broader impact but also strengthens Rotary fellowship and the sense of belonging.

For this reason, I encourage our clubs to **develop joint projects, share their experiences, and support one another.** As a District, we can make our collective success greater than the sum of the successes of our individual clubs. Because **when we work together, we create not only more service, but greater impact.**

The District meetings we will hold in the coming months will be among the most important opportunities to strengthen this spirit of togetherness. We should not view these meetings merely as formal gatherings on our calendar or occasions for sharing information. Every District

Monthly Message - September 2026 Orhan Uludağ Governor 2026-2027, RI District 2430 - Türkiye

meeting is an opportunity for Rotarians from different clubs to come together, exchange experiences, develop new ideas, learn from one another, and lay the foundations for new collaborations. For this reason, I invite all our clubs and fellow Rotarians to participate in our District meetings **actively, enthusiastically, and in strong numbers.**

A Rotarian's participation in a District meeting contributes not only to their own personal development. An idea shared there may become another club's project, a new friendship may become the beginning of a new collaboration, and an experience shared may provide a solution to a challenge faced by another club.

The more we participate, the more we share, and the more we create together, the stronger Rotary District 2430 will become. Let us make our District meetings platforms where we learn from one another, inspire one another, and build the collective wisdom of Rotary.

In the months ahead, our goal should not simply be to carry out a large number of projects, but to develop initiatives that respond to real needs, are sustainable, and continue to make a difference long after we are gone — initiatives that embody our commitment to **“Create Lasting Impact.”** To achieve this, we need the energy of our clubs, the contribution of our members, the dynamism of our young people, and the collective wisdom of all of us.

One of our most important responsibilities must be to ensure that every member has the opportunity to participate in our projects and feel that

they are an integral part of the service we provide. We must make every member feel that their contribution matters and that we need them. When each Rotarian feels valued, we can build much stronger bonds of belonging between our members and their clubs.

I sincerely thank all our clubs, Assistant Governors, District committees, and every Rotarian who has contributed their time and effort to our projects. We now have the time and opportunity to build upon this energy and transform it into an even greater impact. **We should focus not on increasing the number of things we do, but on increasing the impact we create.**

This is precisely what our theme, **“Create Lasting Impact,”** means. What matters more than simply carrying out an event is what that event changes in people's lives. What matters more than completing a project is whether that project continues to make a difference after we are gone. For this reason, I hope that in the months ahead our clubs will learn even more from one another's successful practices, increase joint projects, and combine our resources to create greater impact.

Let us go beyond the boundaries of our individual clubs.

Let us focus on making our best even better.

Let us support one another's projects. Let us meet more often at District meetings.

Let us share our ideas, experiences, and resources.

**With my warmest Rotary regards,
Orhan Uludağ
2026-27 Governor District 2430**

Basic Education and Literacy Month

Education Today/ Humanity Tomorrow.

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

September invites us to celebrate one of Rotary's most fundamental commitments: Basic Education and Literacy.

Education is changing. Artificial Intelligence is transforming the way students learn, teachers teach, and knowledge is accessed. As Rotarians, we should embrace this transformation, but we must also make sure that technology remains at the service of humanity. This year, District 2452 is turning this vision into action through our **mega project for public schools**.

We aim to provide laptops to public schools, helping bridge the digital divide and giving more children access to modern learning opportunities. Alongside this, we will organize IT and Artificial Intelligence workshops for teachers, equipping them with the knowledge and confidence to introduce digital and AI-supported learning into their classrooms.

But our goal goes beyond technology. A laptop is a tool. AI is a tool. Education is about the human being who uses them. We want our young generation to benefit from automated learning while developing the qualities that technology can never replace: critical thinking, creativity, curiosity, empathy, responsibility, and compassion.

Our message is simple:

“AI can expand our possibilities / Humanity must guide our purpose.”

This is the balance we want to promote across District 2452/ Futurism with Humanity.



May Monla Chmaitilly
District Governor 2026-2027
Rotary District 2452

By **empowering teachers, we empower students.**

By giving children access to technology, we give them **access to opportunity**. And by combining innovation with human values, we prepare them not only for the future, but to shape the future responsibly.

I invite every Rotary Club in our District to join this mission and help us bring these opportunities to the children who need them most.

Let us make education more accessible.
Let us make technology more meaningful.

Let us make our service more impactful.

Let us Lead with Impact, Serve with Passion, and Create Lasting Impact.

With warm Rotary regards,
May Monla Chmaitilly
District Governor 2026-27

Polio – The Power of a Promise

There are diseases we remember because we fear them.

And there are diseases we once feared so deeply that we decided we would not allow them to define the future of our children.

Polio belongs to the second category. For many generations, the word was associated with fear, disability, and uncertainty. With children who, within moments, could lose their freedom of movement, and families who had to learn to live with consequences they could not change.

And yet, today, the story of polio is also a story of human perseverance.

Since 1988, polio cases have declined by 99.9% worldwide. Polio remains endemic in only two countries.

These numbers are remarkable. But they are not what we should remember most.

We should remember the children.

A child growing up without knowing the fear of a disease that once had the power to change an entire life. A child who runs, goes to school, plays, and dreams. That is the true meaning of polio eradication.

And this is perhaps one of the most defining stories of Rotary.

Because this fight has taught us that great change is not created only through great decisions. It is created by thousands of people who, day after day, continue to persevere.

The recent example from Afghanistan reminds us of this in a particularly human way. In 2025–2026, Afghanistan saw the first use of intradermal jet injectors — needle-free devices that deliver vaccine through the skin using pressure, without a needle — as part of a fractional



Charalampos Tinginagkas
Governor 2026-2027
RI District 2475 - Greece

inactivated polio vaccine (fIPV) campaign in the eastern region of the country. There, vaccinators used needle-free injection devices for the first time, protecting children in difficult-to-reach and remote areas. The technology made the process faster and less painful. But the most important outcome was something that is not easily measured: trust.

Parents who had previously hesitated to vaccinate their children came forward with greater confidence.

And there lies a deeper lesson about service.

Progress is not only about having better tools.

It is about finding ways to help people feel safe within change.

To turn innovation into trust. Science into protection. And collective effort into a future that will belong to people who may never know the struggles we once faced.

Polio — The Power of a Promise

This is the paradox of lasting service: its greatest success may be precisely the moment when, one day, there will no longer be a need to talk about it.

The eradication of a disease is not only a victory for public health.

It is a legacy.

It is the moment when one generation decides to Mobilize in order to protect the next generation from a fear that it once knew itself.

And perhaps this is why polio is so deeply connected to the idea of Create Lasting Impact.

Because lasting impact is not found only in what we can see today.

It is found in what will not happen tomorrow.

In a child who will not become ill.

In a family that will never have to know the pain.

In a society that will take for granted something that once seemed impossible.

Mobilization is the moment when intention meets action.

In the story of polio, this mobilization has taken the form of millions of people — scientists, healthcare workers, communities, and volunteers — who refused to accept that a disease should remain part of the human condition.

And the journey continues.

Because the final distance is often the hardest.

But that is precisely where the value of a promise is tested.

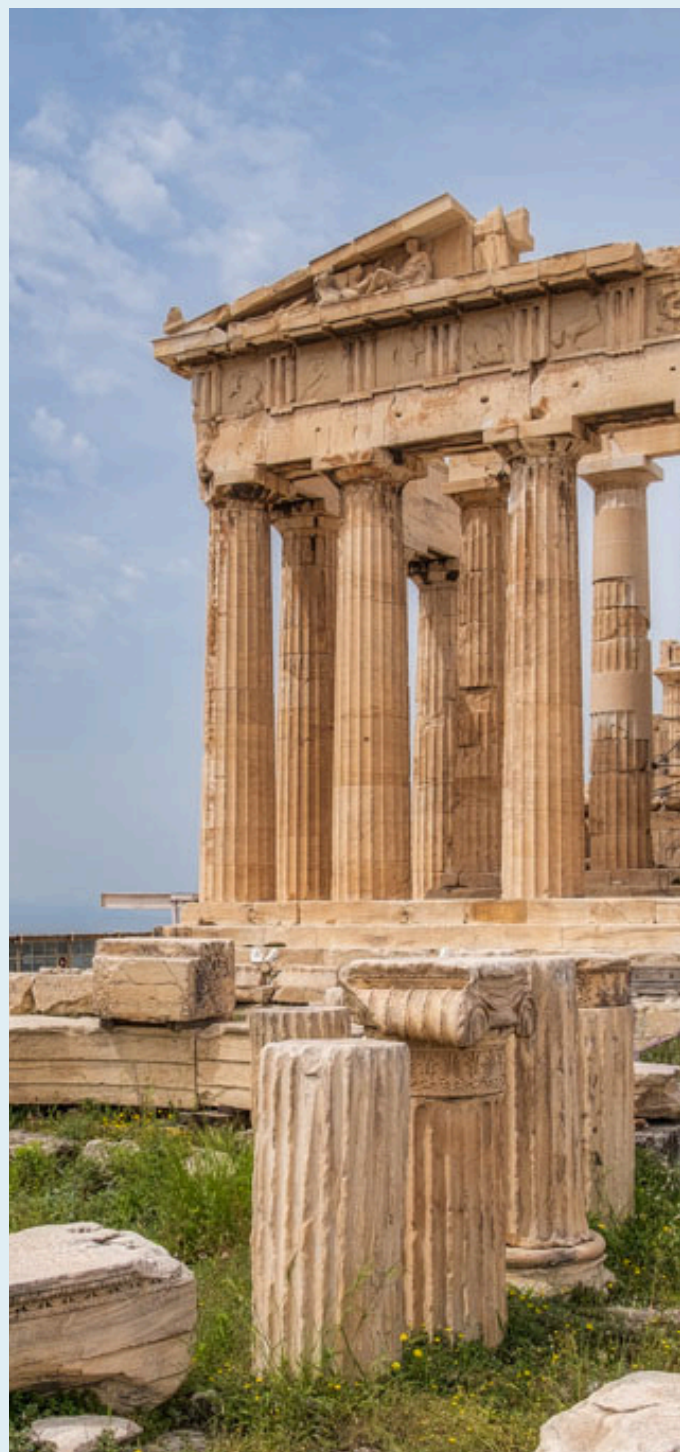
The promise that no child should be limited by a disease that humanity has the ability to eradicate.

The promise that service does not end when progress becomes visible.

And the promise that Rotary will continue to see the person behind every number.

Because in the end, the story of polio is not only the story of a disease in retreat.

It is the story of a humanity that, when united around a common purpose, can transform even the most ambitious vision into reality.



And perhaps that is the most lasting impact of all:

a child growing up free from the fear of a disease because, long before that child was born, some people refused to give up on hope.

Charalampos Tinginagkas
Governor 2026-2027
RI District 2475 - Greece

Give Young People the Opportunity to Lead

Dear fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors,

In September, we spoke about knowledge and education as a legacy that remains. In October, I would like us to take the next step, because knowledge has true power when we give people the opportunity to turn it into action.

October is the month when Rotary turns its attention to the economic development of communities. When we talk about development, we often think first of investment, jobs, infrastructure and financial resources. Yet behind every thriving community are people who are educated, prepared, enterprising and capable of taking responsibility and turning good ideas into reality. That is why I believe that one of the most important investments we can make is an investment in young people – in their education, professional skills, confidence and leadership. Not simply to help them, but to give them the opportunity to learn, meet people with experience, build connections, try, sometimes make mistakes and, above all, lead tomorrow.

Over the past few months, during my visits to clubs across the country, we have increasingly been talking about the future of Rotary. In September, I had the opportunity to meet with our friends in Svilengrad, Lyubimets, Pleven-Centrum, Botevgrad, Berkovitsa, Velingrad, Vratsa, Sofia-Vazrazhdane and Sofia-Centre.



Alexander Petrov
District Governor 2026-2027
Rotary International
District 2482 - Bulgaria
Monthly Message October

Different clubs, different cities and different challenges, yet one question keeps coming up again and again: Who comes after us? Who will build businesses tomorrow? Who will pursue the professions our society needs? Who will stay and help develop our towns and cities? Who will take on leadership in our clubs and communities? Sometimes the most valuable resources we can give are our knowledge, professional experience and time.

Alexander Petrov, Governor 2026-2027, District 2482

The answer is already around us. They are the young people in Interact and Rotaract, the participants in RYLA and Youth Exchange, the pupils, students, young professionals and entrepreneurs who may not yet know Rotary, but who have ideas, energy and a desire to change the environment around them. Our task is not to tell them what the world should look like tomorrow, but to give them the tools, confidence and opportunity to build it themselves. Young people are not only the future of Rotary. **They are part of Rotary today.**

October gives us wonderful opportunities to do exactly that. **From 16 to 18 October in Gabrovo, RYLA “Leaders with a Cause”** will challenge young participants to step outside the classroom, discover real problems and seek solutions for their communities. The Interact and Rotaract Assemblies are also coming up – opportunities for our young friends to exchange ideas, develop their leadership skills and take an increasingly active role in the life of our District. And from **30 October to 1 November in Stara Zagora, “House of RYLA 2026”** will bring young people together in a different format – three days of living, learning and working together, focusing on leadership, communication, new technologies and turning ideas into real projects.

Let us use these programmes not simply as events in our calendar, but as opportunities to discover and support the young leaders around us. Let us be their mentors, share our professional experience and, when they demonstrate their abilities, give them genuine responsibility.

October also reminds us of a cause that demonstrates what perseverance truly means. On 24 October, we mark World Polio Day. For more than four decades, Rotary has been working towards a world free from polio. We have travelled almost the entire journey, yet, as Rotary International President Yinka Babalola reminds us, 99.9 per cent is not 100 per cent. When human lives are at stake, “almost” is not enough. This fight teaches us not to abandon what we have started when the going gets difficult, and to be the organisation that stays until the end.

Dear friends, economic development does not begin with money. It begins with people – with their education, skills, confidence and opportunity to turn their ideas into reality where they live. If we want strong communities, we must build strong people. And if we want Rotary to leave a lasting legacy, we must not only create projects for the next generation; we must help create the next generation of leaders.

Let us, this October, give young people not simply our advice, but our trust. Not simply a place among us, but the opportunity to take action. Because the most lasting investment in a community is not only what we build for people, but the people we prepare to build the future.

Yours in Rotary,
Alexander Petrov
Governor 2026-2027
RI District 2482 Bulgaria

Dear Fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors

As we enter October, I invite you to pause for a moment and think about one simple question: **What will remain because of what we do today?**

Every Rotary year brings new goals, new projects, new challenges, and new opportunities. But beyond the meetings we attend, the events we organize, and the projects we complete, there is something much more important: the lives we touch and the change we leave behind. This year, Rotary calls us to “Create Lasting Impact.” It is a powerful reminder that our service should not be measured only by what we accomplish today, but by what becomes possible tomorrow because we chose to act.

A young person who gains confidence because we believed in them. A family that finds a new opportunity. An entrepreneur who receives the support needed to grow. A community that becomes stronger because people came together. A child protected from disease. These are the moments when Rotary becomes more than an organization. Rotary becomes a force for lasting change.

October gives us a special opportunity to put this spirit into action through our focus on Community Economic Development. Strong communities are built when people have the opportunity to learn, work, create, and build a better future for themselves and their families. As Rotarians, we can contribute by supporting education, vocational skills, entrepreneurship, mentoring, local businesses, and initiatives that create opportunities.



Florentina Dushi
Governor 2026–2027
RI District 2485 Albania & Kosovo

October also reminds us of one of Rotary's greatest commitments: World Polio Day on 24 October. For decades, Rotarians around the world have stood together in the fight to eradicate polio. We have helped protect generations of children and have brought the world closer to a polio-free future. But our work is not finished.

World Polio Day is a reminder that lasting impact requires persistence. We cannot stop when the finish line is within sight. We must continue until polio is eradicated everywhere. Let us use this important day to raise awareness, engage our communities, support the End Polio Now campaign, and demonstrate once again what Rotary can accomplish when we stand united behind a common purpose.

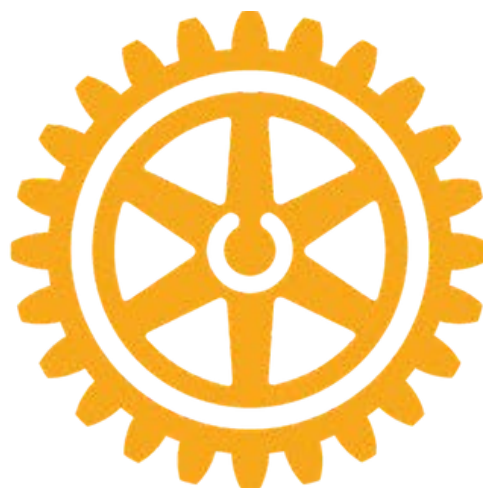
My dear Rotarians, our greatest strength is not what any one of us can accomplish alone. It is what we can achieve together. Let us make our clubs places where people find friendship, purpose, and inspiration. Let us make our communities places where people find opportunity and hope. And let us make our service something that continues to make a difference long after we have finished the project.

Be the change that lasts.

Let our actions today become someone's hope tomorrow. Let our service create opportunities that continue for years to come. This October, let us serve with greater purpose, connect with greater heart, and act with greater determination. Together, let us create impact today, build hope for tomorrow, and leave a legacy of service that lasts.

***With gratitude and Rotary spirit,
Florentina Dushi
District Governor 2026–2027***

The Rotary Foundation



Trustee Chair's Message



Jeniffer Jones

Foundation Trustee Chair 2026/2027

Like a rock

Being a rock is Rotary's quiet superpower, and with this year's instability we've been reminded how much that matters. Families face displacement, communities navigate climate shocks, and humanitarian needs arise both close to home and across the places we serve. These realities touch us.

Yet even as the world shifts, Rotary's response remains steady, compassionate, and effective. We don't turn away from uncertainty — we meet it with purpose.

The Rotary Foundation was not built for fair weather. Over the last decade, we have strengthened our approach: weaving sustainability into every project, expanding partnerships, and embracing evidence-based solutions. This evolution has made us more resilient and more community-driven.

It's why our comprehensive goal of raising \$500 million across the Annual Fund, Endowment Fund, and PolioPlus Fund is not only ambitious but achievable. We've proved before that we could reach it, and momentum is building again. While global attention shifts from one crisis to the next, Rotary stays. We convene partners who might never otherwise collaborate. We mobilize resources quickly because our networks are already in place, built through decades of trust. And we strengthen communities not through one-time interventions but by sustained presence and shared commitment.

Nowhere is this dedication more evident than in our work to end polio. Last month, I asked you to reflect on your club's role in this historic effort, and many of you responded with renewed energy and generosity. Polio cases are down more than 99 percent since Rotary began this fight, a testament to the health workers, volunteers, and members who kept vaccinating children through wars, border closures, and every imaginable obstacle. They didn't know how the story would end. They knew who they were, and they kept going.

That is our inspiration in this moment. When the ground feels unsteady, Rotary becomes the stable ground. When plans shift, we are the partner who responds. When the path forward is unclear, our strength of self becomes our compass. By the time you read this, I will be in a place that has tested my own footing. I'll share the full story online, and it's one you won't want to miss. Let us continue being an organization the world can count on. We may not always know how every challenge will be solved. But we know who we are, and that's always been enough for us to begin.



END
POLIO
NOW

What does vaccine development even mean?

October 24 is the **birthday of Dr. Jonas Salk**, who led the team that developed the first successful inactivated polio vaccine in **1955**. Rotary recognizes this day as **World Polio Day**, as part of its long-standing commitment to the global eradication of polio. As we are currently in the month of October, I want to use this opportunity to talk about vaccine development and, more importantly, **what is required to turn a scientific discovery into real protection for people around the world.**

Developing a vaccine is not just the scientific breakthrough of finding a safe and effective method for fighting against a pathogen but also producing it in **a massive scale, transporting it all across the globe, administering it correctly and efficiently and most importantly helping the communities that need the vaccine to accept it.**

Generating a vaccine is a **scientific challenge** that requires enormous amount of scientific knowledge, infrastructure, human expertise and a bit of luck. This was how Dr. Jonas Salk and the team that he led achieved the polio vaccine as well. They utilized the enormous amount of scientific knowledge and the scientific infrastructure that was present thanks to brilliant scientists and the foundations that supported these scientists to achieve a safe vaccine.

A safe and effective vaccine is only one part of the equation; to fight against a disease the vaccine needs to be produced on a massive scale. This level of production requires specialized facilities, trained personnel, and quality-control systems.

Furthermore, diseases usually affect the **entire world** which include places with limited healthcare infrastructure as well as areas of the world that are difficult to access which poses major logistical challenges which require not only substantial financial investment but also collaboration and coordination of a very large number of people and many different organizations.

Developing, manufacturing and transporting a vaccine is not enough. Healthcare items require **human-to-human connection** a vaccine cannot administer itself. Someone has to administer the vaccine. This requires trained and empathetic healthcare personnel, functioning healthcare systems and appropriate facilities which needs a significant amount of human resources to achieve.

However, there is another important **challenge** which is that people need to know that the vaccine exists and understand why vaccination is important. **A vaccination campaign** can have all the necessary doses and medical personnel and still fail if people cannot access the vaccination, do not have sufficient information, or do not trust the healthcare system providing it making awareness a crucial part of turning scientific discoveries into real results against any disease.

I am confident that while you are reading this you have realized that as members of the Rotary International, we were and are present in all of the steps that I have outlined in fighting against a disease.

What does vaccine development even mean?

As Rotarians and Rotaracts we are helping in **educating** future scientists through educational programs, scholarships and support for young people and developing the scientific and medical expertise that is required to address major health challenges once they arise.

Furthermore, with our presence in UN and our work in Global Polio Eradication Initiative we are not only mobilizing financial and human resources through our donations and volunteer work but also **connect different governments and communities** to get the vaccine to the people who need them.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, our **global outreach** allows us to engage with the global community. Rotarians and Rotaractors around the world contribute at this level by supporting local

Ege Çiğirgan, RAC Ankara Tandoğan

vaccination activities, raising awareness, working with healthcare organizations and helping connect global initiatives with local communities.

Rotary has been at the heart of that effort for decades at every stage, and we will continue to be there until the job is finished.

As we are recognizing another World Polio Day on which we are ever closer to completely eradicating the disease completely, I would like to thank every past present and future member of Rotary International for their continuous efforts.

**Yours in Rotary,
Ege Çiğirgan
Rotaract club of Ankara Tandoğan
District 2430 Türkiye**



Vaccination campaign in Pakistan, October 2025



Regional & International Events



INTERCOUNTRY
COMMITTEES
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Intercountry Committees and Fellowships

Uniting Rotarians Across Borders



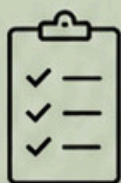
LEADERS' TOOLBOX

One practical guide for clubs and district teams

ONE PAGE. ONE SKILL. ONE ACTION.



What is...?



How to...



Practical Guides



Quick Answers

*A practical chapter for ideas,
tools and human-friendly guidance.*

Get Your Club Event Listed on Rotary.org

ARPIC Foteini Papadimou

Perhaps you would like your club event to be listed on Rotary.org, reaching a wider Rotary audience and helping more people discover the work your club is doing in the community.

Here are some hints and advice

Tell a story, not just an announcement

Give people a reason to be interested in your event. Explain what the event is, why it matters, and how it benefits the community.

Instead of simply writing:

“Our Rotary club is organizing a charity walk.”

Try to **explain the purpose and impact** of the event. **Who** it supports, **what** the community will achieve, and **why** people should take part.

Include the essential information

Make sure your submission clearly answers the basic questions:

- **Who** is organizing the event?
- **What** is happening?
- **When** and where will it take place?
- **Who** can participate?
- **Why** is the event being organized?
- **How** will the community benefit?
- **Where** can people find more information or register, if applicable?

Show Rotary in action

Whenever possible, include a good-quality photograph that shows people participating, volunteering, or making an impact. A strong image can help bring the story to life.

Make the Rotary connection clear

Identify your organization correctly, for example, “Rotary Club of [Club Name].” Follow Rotary's brand guidelines when using the Rotary name, logo, and other visual elements.

Plan ahead

Do not wait until the last minute. If an event is a good candidate for wider Rotary visibility, think about submitting it when the event is first being planned. This gives you time to prepare the story, gather a suitable photograph, and meet any submission deadlines.

Make it a habit

Whenever your club plans an event, ask, “Could this story be shared with the wider Rotary community?”

GET YOUR CLUB EVENT LISTED ON ROTARY.ORG

1

CHECK THE CURRENT INSTRUCTIONS

Visit Rotary International's Club Events page.

rotary.org/get-involved/club-events

2

TELL A STORY — NOT JUST AN ANNOUNCEMENT

PURPOSE

PEOPLE

COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Explain why the event matters, who it supports and why people should take part.

3

INCLUDE THE ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

WHO

Organising Rotary club

WHEN & WHERE

Date, time and location

WHY

Purpose of the event

MORE INFORMATION

Contact or event webpage

WHAT

Event and activities

FOR WHOM

Who can participate

COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Who benefits and how

REGISTRATION

How to join, if applicable

4

SHOW ROTARY IN ACTION



A STRONG PHOTOGRAPH

Show people participating, volunteering or making an impact.

A CLEAR ROTARY IDENTITY

Use your club's correct name and follow Rotary brand guidelines.

5

PLAN AHEAD & SUBMIT FOR CONSIDERATION

TO **magazine@rotary.org**

SUBJECT **calendar**

Check the page again before sending.

AT LEAST

5 MONTHS

before the event for
print-edition consideration

MAKE IT A HABIT

Consider wider Rotary visibility whenever your club plans an event.



BARCELONA

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

SAVE THE DATE

BARCELONA, SPAIN | 26-30 JUNE 2027

Registration opens in September 2026 at convention.rotary.org.



***Meet
The Team***

***CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT***



Meet the TEAM



RPIC 2026-2029
Tanya Georgieva



PRPIC 2023-2026
PDG N. Altan Arslan, D2430



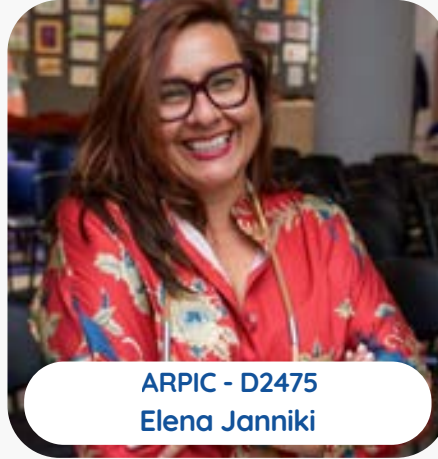
ARPIC - D2483
PDG Aleksandar Radojicic



ARPIC - D2482
Arkan Nihat



ARPIC - D2420, D2430, D2440
Ayşe Mine Ergun



ARPIC - D2475
Elena Janniki



ARPIC - D2452
Faisal Juma



ARPIC - RAC
Foteini Papadimou



ARPIC - RAC
Cemre Başkır



Rtn. PP Ömer BAŞBUĞ
District 2440

Meet the Advisors & Supporters



Past RPIC 2023-2026
PDG N. Altan Arslan, D2430



Past RPIC 2020-2023
PDG Nijad Al Atassi, D2452



Past PRPIC
PDG Gunes Ertas, D2440



Past ARPIC - D2475
Maria Mastora



Past ARPIC - D2452
Sertac Gumus



Technical advisor
Cengiz Turgay



Rtn PP Gergana Georgieva
District 2482



Rtn. PP Galya Atanasova
District 2482

CONTACT US!

If you have questions or would like to share projects for publication in the Zone 21B newsletter, please reach out through the contacts below:

✉ Main Email for Public Image Inquiries – Zone 21B:
21bzone.journal@gmail.com & RotaryPublicImageZone21B@gmail.com

👤 Public Image Coordinator for Zone 21B:
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✉ tanya@rotary-bourgas.com

👥 Assistant Regional Public Image Coordinators (ARPICs):

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- Ayşe Mine Ergun – D2420, D2430 ✉ mineerg@gmail.com
- Cemre Başkır – Rotaract, D2420, D2430, D2440 ✉ cemre.baskiir@gmail.com
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- Gergana Georgieva D2482 - Supporting Team Member, D2482,
✉ gergana@development-bg.com
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🗣️ You are welcome to contact the assistants assigned to your districts and send in your questions or projects to be featured in the Zone 21B newsletter.

Rotary
Club Bourgas



Maths Festival

INTERNATIONAL ROTARY MATHS FESTIVAL

A Maths Festival for children of grades 1 to 12
organised in Bourgas, Bulgaria, by the Rotary
club of Bourgas



PHOTO: NIKI DINOY

LOCAL ROUND



October 25, 2026



Different places around the world

INTERNATIONAL ROUND



April 17, 2027



Bourgas, Bulgaria

RPI Zone 21 Social MEDIA Networks



Rotary Public Image Building Your Online Presence Find us on



If you want your stories to be published or you need training, and invitation for seminar and events, please contact your Assistant Rotary Public Image Coordinator for assistance