



E.R.I.C. *magazine*  
WINTER '17



**#ROTALOVE**

*Dear fellow Rotaractors,*

On behalf of the E.R.I.C team, I would like to wish you a happy new year and welcome you to our second issue of our 2016-2017 magazine. Time flies extremely fast, it seems like just yesterday we were all enjoying each other's company at REM Athens, but thankfully we have the wonderful opportunity to meet again during REM Bratislava. I am truly looking forward to all the amazing activities and workshops planned. A big thank you to the HoC team who has been working on this project for the last year to ensure we have an extraordinary experience and Rotaract European Meeting.

With that being said I also want to thank everyone under the auspices of E.R.I.C. for all your hard work during the first half of this Rotaract year. Going through this magazine you will find truly amazing, sustainable and impactful projects being implemented. I strongly urge you read and share the magazine. You will be fascinated and inspired when you see all the new project ideas, twinnings and friendships going on.

Lastly, I would like to remind you of two important initiatives (i) our honourable and prestigious E.R.I.C. awards: Best European Social Project Award (BESP) and Twinning Certificate Award (TCA)- every year we highlight and award the remarkable achievements within Europe, and (ii) Buy One More, an international and hands-on project from 13-19 March, to reduce hunger and increase your club's exposure. We want to make this project massively impactful and therefore ANYONE can participate.

All you need to do is go to your local supermarket and hand out flyers, kindly ask customers to Buy One More item during their shopping and collect/donate the items.

For more information check out: [rotaracteurope.eu](http://rotaracteurope.eu) for more dates/deadlines/details

Once again, thank you for your hard work this year, thank you to our remarkable E.R.I.C. board and representatives, our hospitable HoC team and everyone else serving humanity. Keep up the good work and take a moment during REM to reach out to other clubs in the magazine and congratulate them.

Yours sincerely,

*Jens Christian*

E.R.I.C. President 2016 / 2017



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As we enter 2017, we also enter the second year of the initiative known as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. These goals, usually referred to as the SDGs, pertain to a list of 17 areas where the people of the world can come together to address our most pressing economic, political, and social challenges. It is a hugely ambitious list, and it has to be. The ultimate aim of these goals is nothing less than peace, prosperity, security, and equality for all of humanity.

How do you even begin to tackle such a project? At Rotary, our answer is simple: one step at a time. These goals are nothing new for Rotary: They're already reflected in our areas of focus. We also understand that all of these 17 goals, just like our six areas of focus, are interrelated. You can't have good health without clean water. You can't have clean water without good sanitation. Good sanitation in turn helps keep children in school, which improves education, which improves economic prosperity and health. When you are talking about the advancement of an entire planet, no one indicator, no one goal, no one country, exists in isolation. To make real and lasting progress, we must all move forward together.

The idea of sustainability is key to the SDGs – and to our service in Rotary. Sustainability

simply means making progress that will endure. It means not just digging a well, but being sure that a community can maintain it. It means not just running a health camp for a week, but training local health workers. It means empowering families and communities to take charge of their own futures by giving them the tools they need to succeed.

Sustainability has always been at the heart of our thinking in Rotary. We've been around for nearly 112 years and intend to be around for many more. We've already seen the difference our work has made: in health, in education, in water and sanitation, and of course in our efforts to end polio.

Polio eradication is the ultimate in sustainable service: a project that, once completed, will benefit the world forever. And those benefits will go far beyond the eradication of a single human disease. The estimated cost savings we will see once polio is eradicated are about \$1 billion per year. That is money that can be returned to public health budgets and directed to other pressing needs, carrying the good work of today forward for many healthier tomorrows

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Germ". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

John Germ  
President Rotary International 2016-2017



## survivals' guide

# REM Bratislava

### How did you decide to host a REM in Bratislava?

I think the first moment was, when we started to visit REMs in larger numbers. The Idea was then first discussed at REM Zagreb 2014. In our club we have one event manager and one event company owner. They were the ones, who had to agree to organise all the hotels, catering and gala. I was at the time of our decision at the ERIC position to our district 2240 of former Czechoslovakia, so I was ready to take over the PR and promo part. Key to everything was to have the right people at right time in one place with common goal.

### What has been your biggest challenge while organising and planning this event?

I think that the biggest challenge overall is the communication with the participants. Basically in the time, when you are getting to the final preparation stage, you have massive overload of mails information etc. in your head, that you have to resolve or forward to another HOC member. Additional to that you are trying/have to create a lot of materials for the participants, that can provide them with useful bulletproof information, so no questions will come. . . .

### How many are the participants going to be?

At the Gala we await 650 Rotaractors/Rotarians and Guests

### What would suggest to the next organiser?

To have a good webpage and FAQ, to choose just one guy responsible only for messaging and registration system. Keep hands off the special visa cases. Also, remember that if there is flowing money from Colombia or in huge amount on your bank account, the bank will stop all of the oncoming transactions! Banks are very sensitive to our REM/EUCO type of payments.

### What is the worst and favourite moment during the preparations?

The worst moment was when the first hotel cancelled. My favourite moments was when we got the REM and when the first wave went out and the packages were sold in less than a minute.

### Which is the "slovakian" characteristic of the REM?

Slovakia has very different characteristic through the Land. But Bratislava REM will be characteristic for its history of town cornering another two lands, what will be shown at the events, professional seminars from world top ranked personas and for crazy party ideas. . . . :)

### What would you like each participant to remember after the REM, going back home?

We want each participant to talk about how fun and great time they had during the REM. Moreover, we are That back here we can do as good official events as crazy were the parties. . . . :)

Or there is a possibility, that they will not remember anything ;)

## A chat with...Martin

President of REM Bratislava's HOC team

### BASIC VOCABULARY

Dobrý deň • good morning

Dovidenia • goodbye

Prosem • please

Ahoj • hello

Na zdravie! • cheers!

Nerozumiem • I don't understand

Dobrý večer • good evening

Dobrou chut! • have a nice meal

Dakujem • thank you

# WORKSHOPS

HOTEL CROWNE PLAZA  
Saturday 14. January 2017



## Dr. Eduard KUKAN

Member of the European Parliament (second term)  
Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee Working Group on  
Western Balkans

Chairman of EU-Serbia SAPC Delegation  
Former (triple) Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia  
Former UN Ambassador of Slovakia and Czechoslovakia

**"European Neighbourhood Policy and  
Enlargement Negotiations: Where do we stand?"**

## Juraj Droba

Entrepreneur  
Member of Slovak Parliament

**"Double Cross Vodka:  
Success story of a Slovak brand"**

*Special bonus: free tasting of Double Cross Vodka at the  
end of the meeting*



## Lukáš BEDI

Director of Sales Strategy & Transformation at  
DELL Technologies

**"Growing your career in a competitive  
environment"**



# WORKSHOPS

HOTEL CROWNE PLAZA  
Saturday 14. January 2017



**Friederike Schlüter**

E.R.I.C. Marketing Assistant

&

**Christian Mielert**

E.R.I.C. Social Assistant

**"Communication Game"**



**Justin Hadjilambris**

Marketing Professional at Ernst and Young

**"Ultimate Guide to Bigger Sponsorships"**

# Remembering Athens...

A post-REM article

#RemAthens2016

RemAthens has finished... i couldn't wait to say that sentence !!! stress, madness, anger, that were only some of my feelings until the last night, but the main feeling that overcame all the above was Happiness.

Nothing could remove the smile from my face even when everything got crazy when "THE STRIKE" was announced.

I love to solve problems and resolve crisis, so there I was, in the middle of the most unexpected situation possible, that occurred at the worst time, able to destroy all the great work that we made.

But then it came to me i am not alone, there are a lot of friends around me a lot of Rotaractors and other friends and if there is something that a Rotaractor know how to do is to transform a disadvantage into an opportunity. Therefore we managed to book busses to go to Sofia for the people that really had to go to their countries and didn't want to take advantage of the extra postREM in Athens and the crisis PostREM Sofia bus tour was created.

As a result of this strike there were a number of people that left before the Gala and a lot of food and tables were not used but were already paid for. So the ACTION Elderly GALA dinner occurred and more than 100 elderly people had their own Gala that was planned by the non profit organisation BOROUME (WE CAN ) and was payed by all of us.

So i think that although this unexpected event made us all crazy and nervous WE the Rotaractors and more specifically the ERIC Rotaractors managed not only to solve our own problems but to take advantage of this misfortunate situation and have an even bigger impact on the local community.

I strongly recommend to everyone that want to plan a REM to just do it! The things that you learn over this process are extremely useful for everyone and its a huge asset in any aspect of your life. This process that I hate to love and I love to hate made all the HOC team grow in an unimaginable way.

## Hints and tips - to organize a REM

Plans are just there for your help, and the majority of them will not be there when the time comes, so have more than one for every situation. There was more than one occasion that Plan D was used during REM Athens.

Accept help and delegate responsibilities. There will be some things that will go wrong but it is not possible to do everything by yourself and you are not supposed to.

Enjoy your time cause this is the time of your life and also use power drinks and sleep a lot the previous days!

Last but not least i would like to comment on one small detail that in the end made a huge difference and we are proud of:

For the first time during a R.E.M., there were provided 24h Medical Services and also taken into consideration the dietary restrictions of the 741 participants during the Gala dinner.

More specifically, during the Gala dinner we arranged for a wide variety of dishes but also different menus for certain people according to the food disorders that we were informed of.

The main reason that we decided to have Medical Services was for the participants' safety. During the R.E.M., 38 incidents were dealt with by the Medical Service in only 3 days, while 3 of them were at critically state.

I strongly recommend that every single HOC take into consideration the dietary restrictions and have medical services and standby ambulances in every venue.

I would like to thank everyone that helped to make this REM possible, the Hoc team and all the Rotaractors and friends but most of all i would like to thank every single one of you, my Rotaract family that traveled from 60 countries to share this experience with us and filled us with their positive energy always with a smile in order to complete this unforgettable event.”

**THANK YOU !!!**

*Antonios Oikonomidis  
Head of REM Athens' HOC*

# Rotary Institute 2016, MADRID

During the Rotary Institute in Madrid in November, a round table was organised in which roughly 100 Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors and Youth Exchange Program Alumni participated. The event started with speech by three former E.R.I.C. board members and was followed by a passionate 4 hour open microphone discussion about 12 topics meant to give Rotarians a better understanding of issues at heart of our generation.

Among the topics touched on were

- What the current generation of Rotaractors worries about
- What are the barriers between Rotary and Rotaract/Interact
- Sharing experience from different districts
- Rotaract/Rotary e-clubs

All in all, the discussion was heated and animated by mainly Rotaractors from Spain & ERIC as well as Rotarians. The Rotary International Vice-President Jennifer Jones took part of the discussion and the resulting video can be found here: <https://goo.gl/eMFyCH>).

While the bulk of Rotarians does not seem to consider recruiting Rotaractors as priority to their club, there is certainly those who are waking up to a bitter reality in their club and district. The general consensus among Rotarians seem to be that Rotary/Rotarians have to dramatically modernize and revolutionize, which explains the feeling of helplessness and pessimism about the future of the organisation. Luckily, there are those occasional few who both understand that Rotary still has a lot to offer to our generation and that a fundamental change is not always necessary. While the hour-long lunches, high member fees and increasing age of Rotarians might not have to go all together, but it is the author's opinion that they have to be subject to more flexibility if one is to accommodate for our generation amongst the midst of Rotarians.

*Thierry Prost, E.R.I.C. Treasurer*



Rotaract Club “San Salvador Cuscatlán” is based in San Salvador, El Salvador. The club was founded in 1997 in ESEN University, under the sponsorship of the Rotary Club of San Salvador Cuscatlán. Even though it was first established within the university, it is in fact a community-based club, and with its 22 hard-working members, it is one of the most active in district 4240.

In 2014 the Club was awarded “Best Rotaract Club of the District” and El Salvador won “Best Country of the District” in the Annual Rotaract Conference, which took place in Guatemala. This coming year, 2017, El Salvador will host this conference in May.

Our primary projects for 2016-2017 are focused in education and health. We have partnered with “FEPADE”, a private post-graduate business school, to develop a book- donation program that helps impoverished public schools all around the country. On the other hand, we constantly develop health programmes in our community “Bendición de Dios” located near the capital. The programmes include oral hygiene campaigns and medicine donation.

# Outside

A Rotaract world

# E.R.I.C.

## Rotaract Club “San Salvador Cuscatlán”



Australian Rotarian and Peace Fellow Stephanie Woollard has been recognised on the global stage, with a prestigious Rotary Responsible Business Award recently awarded at the Rotary Day at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA.. Stephanie is one of only six honourees worldwide, applauded for her ground-breaking work establishing the Seven Women project, which supports disabled women in Nepal.

Stephanie started her Seven Women project when she was just 22 years old after visiting Nepal and meeting seven disabled women making soaps and candles in a small tin shed to sell at the local markets. In Nepal, disabilities carry a strong social stigma, believed by many to bring bad fortune. The women were consequently socially isolated, able to sell only a fraction of what they produced. They subsequently lived in dire poverty, with little prospect of improving their lot.

Stephanie used her last \$200 to pay for two trainers to up-skill the women to manufacture products appropriate for sale abroad. Literally started in a tin shed, the Seven Women project has since changed the lives of over 1000 disabled Nepalese women through training, employment and the sale of their ethically manufactured goods worldwide. In addition, 5000 women have been positively impacted through outreach programs facilitated by the enterprise.

Six Seven Women centres have now been established, with two in Kathmandu and four in remote villages. Centres include workshops and also operate as community hubs, teaching sustainable farming and income generation. The Seven Women headquarters in Kathmandu also provides shelter and medical assistance to women in need or escaping domestic violence. Services are additionally being provided to widows and single mothers who are often ostracised by their communities.

Numerous education programs are hosted by Seven Women, particularly practical production skills, such as sewing and growing vegetables. Other programs include literacy classes, money management, gender awareness, basic health and women's rights, business and savings classes. "Our approach is to give a hand up, not a hand out," said Stephanie. "All it takes is for one generation to learn how to break the cycle of poverty and pass their learning down to the next to transform a village forever. That's how real and lasting change is created. The ripple effects of education are awe inspiring."

Products produced by the women include silk scarves, dressing gowns, knitted scarves, bean-

ies, gloves, puppets and kids' toys. Volunteers in Australia sell the goods, which are also available from the Seven Women online store, the profits going towards sustaining the women and growing the enterprise further.

"Just as traditional businesses distribute profits to shareholders, 100 per cent of profits are re-invested into programs that educate and employ the enterprise's marginalised women," said Stephanie.

Stephanie believes there is potential for all businesses to be a strong force for good in our world. "Businesses, small and large, carry a responsibility to make sure they uplift and not exploit, and respect people and the planet as well as profit. It's not only businesses, but consumers as well – we all cast our vote on what type of world we want to live in with every dollar we spend. Buying fair trade is a simple example, which ensures the supply chain is transparent."

Ever eager to broaden her knowledge, Stephanie recently completed her Masters in Peace and Conflict Resolution at Uppsala University in Sweden and this year was nominated as Australian of the Year.

Like all volunteers, she receives no payment for her efforts, so in order to sustain her passion she founded Hands On Development, through which she speaks at conferences, provides mentoring and runs immersive tours to Nepal. The tours challenge perspectives, foster personal growth and connect participants to inspiring and resilient locals who have created change in their communities.

Seven Women provides traditional Nepali cuisine cooking classes, prayer flag making workshops and Basic Nepali lessons, allowing improvement of the women's teaching and communication skills. Profits made from the cooking classes fund hospitality training, transforming women into sought after employees for restaurants and hotels.

Stephanie has further begun leading cultural immersions in Indigenous communities close to Cairns and the Torres Strait. She believes tourism is a wonderful way to foster pride, preserve culture and create jobs in areas locals are passionate about, as well as offering life-enriching learning experiences to participants. Rotary has been a partner with Stephanie throughout much of her journey. In her role as a Rotary Peace Fellow she presented to many clubs throughout Sweden, at a Norwegian District Conference and at the Rotary International Europe-Africa Office and International School in Zurich.

She further spoke to many clubs in Argentina, where she did part of her Applied Field Experience and attended Rotaract conferences in Romania and Brussels. She is currently a member of the Rotary Club of Melbourne, Vic. Stephanie is dedicated to education and empowerment, believing a realistic understanding of the causes of poverty is a crucial ingredient for bringing peace and tolerance to our globalised world. "My key to a better world is as simple as finding your passion and dedicating your life to using that passion to bring hope to the lives of others."

## Rotary Responsible Business AWARD





## Rotaract United for Nepal

- TOGETHER WE ARE STRONG -

In Spring of 2015, a severe earthquake hit Nepal, destroying countless buildings, including a lot of schools. Due to this, many children were not able to get an education anymore and thus spent their days on the streets. Shortly after these events, the UNICEF declared the reconstruction of schools and bringing children back into the class rooms major targets.

At this point, our project "Rotaract United for Nepal" was initiated with the goal of contributing to the reconstruction of a school in Nepal as we wanted to be part of a sustainable and long term solution to the crisis. In the beginning the Rotaract Club of Westminster organized a simple bike tour, encouraging private donors to contribute via crowdfunding. However, this was not the end of the story.

Soon, the Rotaract Club Campus Salerno dei Due Principati and the Rotaract Club of Graz joined in and contributed to the project as well. After this, we started thinking about the next steps and decided to try engaging more Rotaract clubs in Europe to increase our collective impact. We therefore started sending out E-Mails and contacting clubs all around the continent asking them to join our common cause. We were not prepared for how quickly our idea was accepted and spread throughout the whole world.

We currently have received donations from 80 different donors, located in 30 different countries in Europe, North America, South America, Africa and Asia. We feel honored that over 65 Rotaract Clubs, 5 Rotary Clubs and Districts, 2 Rotaract MDIOS, 3 Rotaract Districts and 5 Private Business Partners have joined our cause, making this the only worldwide Rotaract project initiated by Rotaractors in Europe. In total, we raised around 20.000,00 € so far, enabling us to aim at funding the reconstruction of an entire school instead of only contributing to it. We want to take the opportunity to thank all of you who are already a part of this project!

Once we finished the fund-raising, the biggest challenge was to find a reliable and trustworthy partner organization to collaborate with and ensure that the money would only be invested into the reconstruction of a school. This process was longer than expected and took roughly a year, until we finally signed a cooperation contract with a German organization called "Namaste – Hilfe für Nepal e.V.". They themselves cooperate with the "Kushi Foundation" which is located in Nepal and takes care of all the work on site. Together with these partners we are currently working on the official approvals for the construction plans of the buildings. We are expecting to lay the first bricks of the school in the first months of the new year.

We already achieved a lot and we are on a very good way to start the reconstruction process soon. As the total projected cost of the three buildings is around 25.000,00 € we are still looking for more clubs who want to support us. So, if you are not yet a part of this worldwide Rotaract project, join us and we together will achieve our goal of giving Nepalese children a place to learn, study and lay the foundation for a happy and successful life!

You can find more detailed information and our contact details in the project group on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/640197926079918/>

**"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much!"**

Project Coordinators

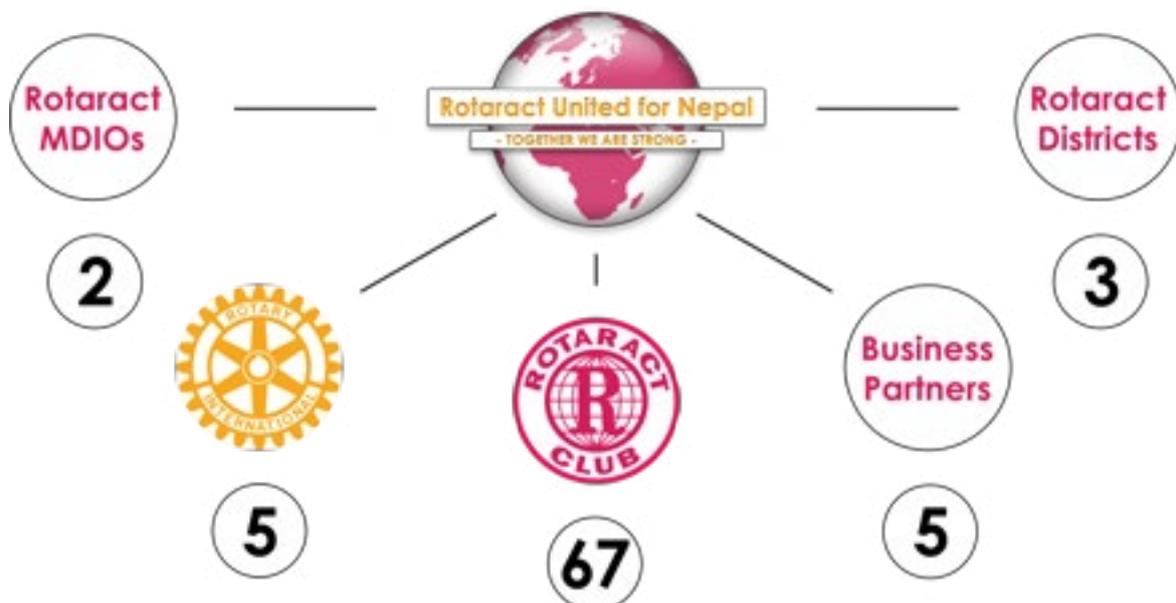
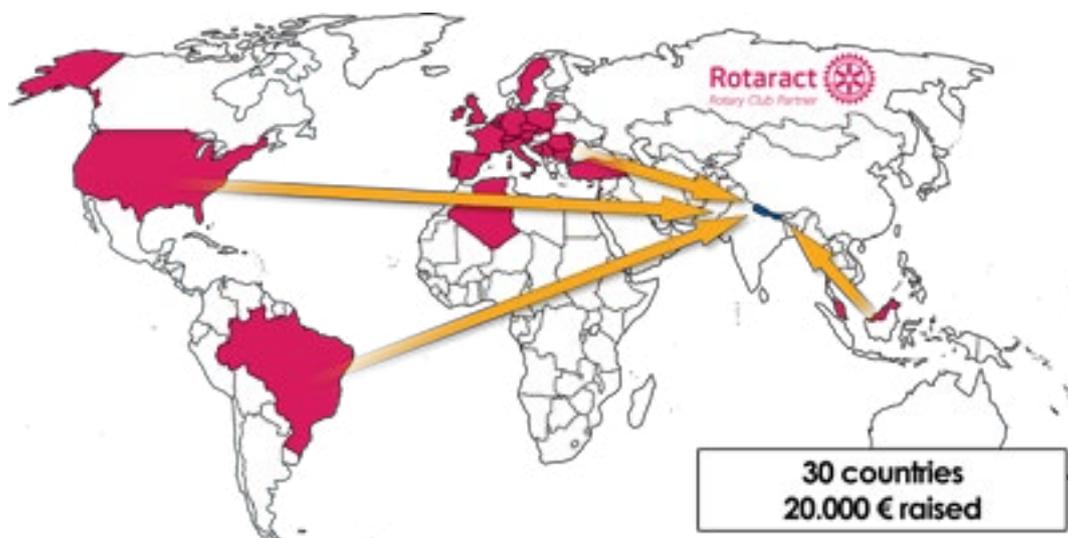
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# E.R.I.C. Soc

Save the date: 13-19 March, 2017

This Rotarian year E.R.I.C. Social office invites you to take part in the first official European social project – Buy One More. Fill out your next World Rotaract week with a good action!

Since many years Buy One More projects have been organized locally around Europe and it demonstrated a very high efficiency by applying minimum efforts, what proves that this project is one of the easiest ways to make an impact to our society. Especially if we gather to do it all together as Rotaractors, as friends.

Buy One More (BOM) is a hands-on project and it meets the basic demands of people. Members of European Rotaract clubs position themselves at supermarket/grocery stores and hand out flyers, asking customers to Buy One More item during their regular shopping. Those items will thereafter be given to the Rotaractors, who will take care of donating them to the respective benefitting organization. Such a project does not only benefit the respective organization in a social context, but also has positive side-effects for the organizing Rotaract Club, offering them a positive public exposure.

To make your preparations for the project as convenient as possible, we present you an Action plan you can follow. Check and see that it is easier than you expected! All you need is to:

- Find an organization your Rotaract club is willing to support;
- Make an agreement with a supermarket (preferably big one);
- Select a date (make a note for the next World Rotaract week!);
- Run the project and ask people to Buy One More item;
- Share you results with us!

The evaluation form will be placed on the website, where you can also submit your results. Just check the link: [rotaracteurope.eu/BuyOneMore](http://rotaracteurope.eu/BuyOneMore) and follow the latest updates :)

Here above we can see the simple steps which lead to a big impact. What could be better, right? But it is not the end of the story.

As far as all the efforts should be rewarded, the biggest impact made will be appreciated during the Gala dinner on the Rotaract European Convention 2017 in Warsaw. So, besides getting a reward in a shape of somebody's happiness, you can also make European Rotaract be proud of You!

Still doubting if it's worth doing? Don be, just join us for a social action!

**Buy  
One  
More**

Rotaractors from all Europe  
•  
Social benefits  
to different organizations  
•  
**13-19 March, 2017**

**Join us for a social action!**

Find an organization  
to support  
•  
Make an agreement  
with a supermarket  
•  
Set the date  
•  
Ask people to  
**Buy One More** item  
•  
Share your results with us!

~~~~~

[rotaracteurope.eu/  
BuyOneMore](http://rotaracteurope.eu/BuyOneMore)

# ial Team

Have you ever pictured yourself as a Hollywood star? Coming up to the stage, getting an award for the results of the job you did... Sounds like a perfect dream, doesn't it? And Rotaract can help to make your dreams come true!

E.R.I.C. Social Office introduces you to the most honorable and prestigious E.R.I.C. prizes: Best European Social Project Award (BESP) and Twinning Certificate Award (TCA). Every year we highlight the most remarkable achievements of the Rotaract clubs within Europe and award the winners of both nominations during the European Rotaract Convention Gala dinner. And this year you can feel as a star standing on the stage in the beautiful capital of Poland – Warsaw. Let's take a closer look at these awards.

**BESP.** 'Service Above Self' is an official Rotarian motto we follow every minute and every hour of our Rotaractor's lives. And the BESP award was founded in order to share experiences of serving humanity. Year by year we choose the best projects of the Rotaract clubs all around Europe and get inspired by the clubs' achievements. So, if you think your club organized a remarkable project, you should definitely apply for BESP. Now it is your time to inspire! Just remember that project should be finished by the time of application because we want to measure your results.

**TCA.** Rotaract acts through a framework of friendship and service and both these components are vital parts of our organization. This determines the foundation of Twinning Certificate Award. If you have a Twinning club and you complete your common social project before the application period started, then you can show all Europe that friendship without borders is real and it even makes a better world!

As soon as application period ends, evaluation committee which consists of E.R.I.C. President, Social Committee, Country Representatives and Rotaractors from all over the world selects the best of the best in our multi-district. You will know the best ten projects (5 BESP & 5 TCA) before the Convention, but the winners will be unveiled during the Gala dinner in May.

So now it is your time to write your own part of history in Rotaract Europe!

We will be waiting for your applications in the period from February 1st till March 1st 2017. All the documents should be sent via [rotaracteurope.eu](http://rotaracteurope.eu) website in the section 'Apply for BESP or TCA'.

**The world needs more great Rotaract projects! The world needs YOU!**



# February



In 2016 the world was stained of blood from terrorist attacks, the Syrian conflict and many other tragedies. These unfortunate and ongoing catastrophes serve as a reminder of how much we need long-term solutions, cooperation and tolerance to promote peace.

For the last 70 years, the Rotary community in cooperation with the United Nations, has fought several battles by creating peace in environments plagued by disaster and war. Nelson Mandela famously said that education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world. Rotary understood this message and continues to build peace in the world through investing in education. Since 2002, Rotary International has effortlessly established one of the biggest projects of the Rotary Foundation to build peace: the Rotary Peace Centers. These Centers are situated in different universities across the world which bring together the most brilliant minds with the aim of brainstorming and developing strategies for peace building, conflict resolution and promoting a better world. The impact of this project is tremendous. Every year 100 Rotary Peace Fellows complete their studies and go back to the job market influencing policy makers and institutions to encourage decisions and projects which promote a more peaceful and stable world.

While not all of us have the wonderful opportunity to attend one of these universities, we can still create meaningful and sustainable changes. In the coming days, just take a few minutes to ask yourself how you can solve some of the most pressing problems in the world. Perhaps start with a growing conflict in your local community and see how you can diffuse a conflict before it begins. A lot of the time, war and conflict is due to one person/group feeling unheard, rejected or disrespected. Rather than blame or pick sides during a conflict, take a step back and ask how you can develop a solution that everyone is happy about.

# Paul Harris on what Rotary will be in 100 years

*"May our happiness increase with our usefulness. What Rotary will be one hundred years hence, none living can imagine."*



[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

On February 23rd 2016, Rotarians around the world will be celebrating Rotary International's 112th anniversary. This day marks the birth of the earliest and most benevolent service organization. The organization initially started with one club in 1905 when three friends and an ambitious Chicago attorney, Paul Harris, met in Chicago to discuss how they could work together to help the greater community. Since then Rotary has grown immensely and internationally now encompassing over 1.2 million diverse members in more than 200 countries who cooperate to exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships and develop projects to respond to the needs of an uncertain world.

According to Rotary Heritage Communications, Rotary founder Paul Harris was an occasional writer in the Rotarian magazine, however every February issue Harris included a special anniversary message. One special message mentioned was in 1915 when he said, "We are passing our tenth milestone now. May our happiness increase with our usefulness. What Rotary will be one hundred years hence, none living can imagine. There is nothing impossible to Rotary now." While Mr. Harris did not know where Rotary would go in one hundred years, in hindsight he would be amazed at our accomplishments and steady efforts with Polio Eradication, Humanitarian Grants Programs and Educational Programs. But these victories and progress cannot solely be attributed to the Rotary family, they required your support and the support of all our wonderful sponsors and stakeholders. With your contributions and personal sacrifices, you have made

the impossible materialize and as a result brighten the lives of millions globally. I am confident Paul Harris would be proud of all of us and what we have done as a family in a little over 100 years, but this begs the question:

**How do you imagine Rotary 100 years from now? What action will you take that will lead to a better world?**



## Years of Rotary



# March



According to the Rotary calendar, March is Water and Sanitation Month.

On 28 July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly explicitly recognized the human right to water and sanitation and acknowledged that clean drinking water and sanitation are essential to the realisation of all human rights. “The human right to water is indispensable for leading a life in human dignity. It is a prerequisite for the realization of other human rights”. A comment, also, defined the right to water as the right of everyone to sufficient, safe, acceptable and physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic uses.

But what is...?

**Sufficient.** The water supply for each person must be sufficient and continuous for personal and domestic uses. These uses ordinarily include drinking, personal sanitation, washing of clothes, food preparation, personal and household hygiene.

**Safe.** The water required for each personal or domestic use must be safe, therefore free from micro-organisms, chemical substances and radiological hazards that constitute a threat to a person’s health.

**Acceptable.** Water should be of an acceptable colour, odour and taste for each personal or domestic use. All water facilities and services must be culturally appropriate and sensitive to gender, lifecycle and privacy requirements.

**Physically accessible.** Everyone has the right to a water and sanitation service that is physically accessible within, or in the immediate vicinity of the household, educational institution, workplace or health institution.

**Affordable.** Water, and water facilities and services, must be affordable for all. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) suggests that water costs should not exceed 3 per cent of household income.

Clean water, basic toilets and good hygiene practices are essential for the survival and development of children. Today, there are around 2.4 billion people who do not use improved sanitation, and 663 million who do not have access to improved water sources.

Without these basic needs, the lives of millions of children are at risk. For children under five, water- and sanitation-related diseases are one of the leading causes of death. Every day, over 800 children die from preventable diseases caused by poor water, and a lack of sanitation and hygiene.

UNICEF's water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) team works in over 100 countries worldwide to improve water and sanitation services, as well as basic hygiene practices. Last year, UNICEF's efforts provided nearly 14 million people with clean water and over 11 million with basic toilets.

In times of crisis children are particularly vulnerable; UNICEF responds and provides emergency relief to those in need.

Let's see now an example of a school in Varanasi, India. What did they do there concerning water and sanitation for children?

At the Badi Asha School, Varanasi, we tried from the beginning to improve the hygiene by building new toilets with a proper sewer water connection. We regularly educate the children about the importance of hygiene. This year we were able to install extra sinks where the children can wash their hands without standing in long queues.

Due to the poor quality of the local drinking water we decided to install a small water treating plant, which was gifted to us by a private donor. The machine has several different filters which ensure that the water is 100% safe to drink. Each child got a water bottle which they can fill before going home. The water plant needs to get serviced every 2 months and at least every 6 months the filters need to get exchanged.

Because the school increased the number of students from 40 to 120 in the last 3 years we would need extra funding to build more toilets and an additional water treating plant to supply also the families of our students with clean and safe drinking water.

At the moment we have only 2 toilets, 1 for boys and 1 for girls. We should at least build 2 more toilets (cost approx 1500 euro) and the water treating plant with yearly service (cost approx 700 euro, yearly service 300 euro)

Learn more about Badi Asha School, Varanasi, at

Site: <http://blog.learn-for-life.net/>

FB: [Learn for Life School Official Page, VARANASI](#)

Phone: Michael Schmid, Managing Director, 0091 9792420450

# Austria

## Intarconnect

*Authors: Julius Grüner, Livia Landskron, Albert E. Kafka*



## Strengthen the relationship between Rotary, Rotaract & Interact

**Intarconnect is all about one thing: bringing the Rotarian family closer together.**

With this objective in mind, Intarconnect was founded in late 2015 and soon, after hundreds of hours of project work, the pilot phase started in February 2016. We celebrated a joyful Kick-off with over 70 members and every Rotaract (10) and Interact Club (3) in Vienna participating. Later in July we concluded the successful year with a wonderful evening in the Loos House. This Rotarian year we launched Intarconnect Austria-wide (District 1910 and 1920) due to the positive feedback we received. Now Intarconnect is well into its second year and is expanding rapidly.

We think the future of Rotary lies in its youth and in order for Rotary to thrive, it has to focus on its younger members. Intarconnect does that. That's why there are two crucial pillars that Intarconnect consists of. On the one hand, there is the 1-one-1 mentoring between Interactors and Rotaractors. On the other hand, there are the Intergeneration projects.

Here is how the Mentoring works year by year: after a standardized application phase and an intensive matching process, where Mentees are able to choose their preferred Mentors, the Kick-Off event provides the first opportunity for the mentoring pairs to get to know each other through amusing and diverse teambuilding challenges. After that it is up to the pairs to make the most out of it. They can individually schedule their meetings, decide their topics of interest and their means of communication. Interactors profit through the knowledge and experience of Rotaractors and form strong friendships and networks for future engagement.

Rotaractors profit from the young viewpoints, the development of their leadership skills and the vast pool of talented, motivated and engaged future leaders and decision-makers. Simultaneously, they are offered the opportunity to participate in various workshops and trainings (sponsored by Dale Carnegie and Trinergy International), boosting not only their Rotarian knowledge but also their professional and communication skills. Later on, the year is rounded off at the annual summer closing event, where we reflect on the past year and look forward to a new round of Intarconnect.



Want to know more about Intarconnect? Get in touch here:  
[www.facebook.com/intarconnectinternational/](https://www.facebook.com/intarconnectinternational/) / [office@intarconnect.org](mailto:office@intarconnect.org).



### **A special highlight is always the Intergeneration project in Bosnia.**

Here Interactors, Rotaractors and Rotarians come together in groups of 6-9 people to construct a home for a family of war expellees. Not only is a house being built in only five days (timelapse: [https://youtu.be/EZTR1fd\\_3GM](https://youtu.be/EZTR1fd_3GM)), but friendships with the Bosnian part of the Rotarian family as well. The rotarian family is working together!

Since Intarconnect is so successful and receives seemingly endless positive feedback, we decided to expand. It's not rocket science - but it sure sparks the flames. A few weeks ago District 6980 in Central Florida adapted Intarconnect and is spreading the idea all over the US. Furthermore, RDK in Germany decided to start implementing Intarconnect within the next months. We are growing and constantly looking for people who share our vision. So if you want to bring Intarconnect to your district/country or simply be a member, contact us! We offer full support, a complete handbook for setting up Intarconnect and a great network of expertise.

# Belgium

## ROTARACT VALLÉE MOSANE



*Charter 15 October 2016*

There are over seventy clubs scattered throughout Belgium although we have to give in that the attraction for this kind of club is way more important in Northern Belgium.

The idea of creating such a service-club popped up while having a drink in summer 2015. After having gathered enough members, the ambitious future Rotaractors asked the three closest Rotary clubs to become their « godfathers ». The clubs of « RC Andenne », « RC Huy » and « RC Huy Rondia » welcome the invitation and took them under their wing.

During a year, this small group met every second week to set the basis of their creation and to launch their first projects. First, a name, a logo, a meeting room had to be found. Moreover, a committee including a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer and a head of protocol had to be chosen. Along with this, the nascent Rotaract Vallée Mosane worked on the projects he wished to sponsor for its first year of existence. Its choice went for « HAIM » in Andenne, « Dora Does » in Huy and « Une main tendue » in Namur.

Only one thing was missing to really become part of the Rotaract family: an official recognition. Thus, on the occasion of the inauguration Gala of the new club, the latter received the Charter formalizing the belonging of these some twenty youths to the large International Rotary family. To this event were invited the members of the Godfathers' clubs, the Rotaractors' relatives and not to forget the Mosane youth. As the President Guillaume d'Harveng underlined, this Gala was only the first step of a long way. Different projects are already in process. The first of these took place in the City Hall of Andenne for a conference on the accountancy and the fiscal aspects of self-employed workers.



### **ROTARACT ZONHOVEN – Charter 9 October 2016**

**Let us introduce to you Rotaract Zonhoven. We are a group of 24 youngsters who are all committed for good cause. Some of us study, others are already working. When the Rotaract was launched we didn't know each other well. But now we have become a cozy group of friends who work together and have fun.**

**On October 8, 2016 we organized a charter party. This is the official start of our club. At this party, there have been various speakers and all our friends and family. We were able to introduce our club and tell the guests where we stand for. This year we support Ukelila. They are an association offering music lessons to children who are disadvantaged and unprivileged. Because every child has the right to know the beauty of music, we**

Facebook page :

<https://goo.gl/ZjMe4y>

## ROTARACT PAYS D'HERVE – Charter 26 November 2016

On 26th of November, our Rotaract Club Pays de Herve, situated on the East side of Belgium, was recognized as an official Rotaract Club. At the initiative of three Rotary Clubs, around forty young people aged between 18 and 29 have gathered and worked-hard to help those in need.

The group quickly turned into a group of friends with Gary as a dynamic president. As he explains : “First of all, Rotaract Pays de Herve is based on a solid sense of friendship ! We are a group of highly motivated young people, full of energy and willing to give time to undertake social activities in our region. Our vision of the future? Having fun, welcoming new members and helping more people !”

*From the first meetings in February 2016 to our charter night, many activities were carried out in addition to meetings. These activities included an afternoon spent with children placed in a reception center and a dinner conference with the parents of a victim of the mass murder of Liège. New activities have already been planned: making and selling cookies for patients in need of palliative cares or selling a Belgian beer featuring our Rotaract's colours.*

*As a new club, we are looking for a Rotaract Club ready to create and invest in a tight partnership with us. Do not hesitate to contact us if you want to meet keen and enthusiastic members of the large and international Rotaract/Rotary family !*

*On the 13th of December 2011 occurred in a the Belgian city of Liège a mass murder. 5 people are killed, including 4 students, and 125 others are injured.*

**fully support this project. At the charter party we have donated a cheque of 1,500 euro.**

**All the fundraising we organize this year goes to Ukelila. For example we have sold soup and coffee at the weekly market in our village. After that we have organized another successful event. We made breakfast baskets and sold more than 130 of them. Thanks to several local businesses we can make another donation soon!**

**In 2017, we plan to do even more charity work. We ourselves are still young and we strongly believe in projects who are committed to youth. The most important thing is that we become a close and pleasant group by organizing these events and have lots of fun!**



# Cyprus

## Romanian Night

– Rotaract Larnaca Kition

### A cultural date with Romania

How is in Romania? - This was the question that led us to our last event, Romanian Night, which made us to learn more about food, games and country's culture.

The night began with food preparation („sarmale”, „salata boeuf”, „mici” and sweet cookies). A lot of work to do, but traditional food takes time. After we ate and enjoyed the dinner by tasting all the Romanian traditional food, we decided to have some fun. The games, music and funny videos about Romania and romanians made the night. Also we didn't missed short documentary and fact about the country, so now we can answer the question.

„Romania is a beautiful country with amazing landscapes, friendly people and great history.”



## Karaoke

Rotaract Club Nicosia-Ledra kick-started the year with an entertaining event, a “Beer, Pizza and Karaoke ”.

Everything was set up, a projector at the center of the party, a karaoke machine, a DJ paying the songs, lots of food and even draught beer!

More than 85 bravely signers attended the event full of enthusiasm and ready to uncover their signing talent. The party held all night with people signing their hearts out and enjoy the others doing the same.

We had lots of fun and laugh, we meet new and old friends of the club who come from all over Cyprus and most importantly we contributed to a good cause!

In this amusing and friendly atmosphere, the club managed to raise money which was donated to the “Panos Evripidou Foundation” a non-profit organization dedicated to the improvement of the lives of premature children facing life-long challenges caused by prematurity after leaving the N.I.C.U.



# Joint Meeting

of Rotary Club Nicosia Aspelia with Rotaractors of Aspelia

In November Rotaractors of Nicosia Aspelia joined their mother club to listen to the very interesting and eye-opening speech delivered by Professor Robert Jacobs from the Hiroshima Peace Institute and the Hiroshima City University, who travelled all the way from Japan.

The talk, entitled “Global Hibakusha: Fallout from 50 years of nuclear weapon testing around the world”, was extremely interesting, alarming and captivating, with Prof. Jacobs sharing insights of his research about radiation’s long-lasting effects people’s health and life.

Participants had the opportunity to learn about nuclear weapons, nuclear plants and how test explosions and nuclear plant accidents spread radiation around the world, and more specifically how the radioactive chemical element plutonium and uranium remain exposed in the atmosphere, earth and water for thousands of years.



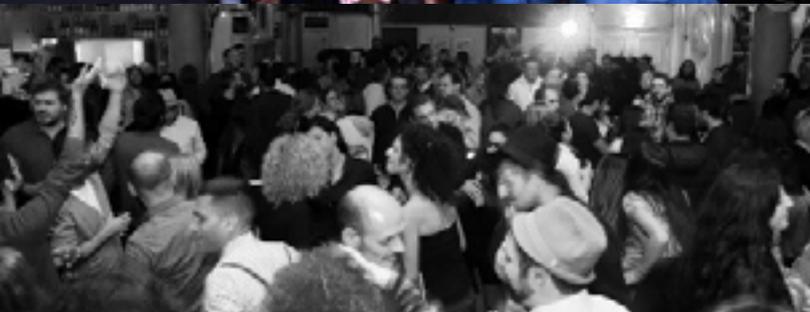
# Dance for Relief

The Rotaract Club of Nicosia organized a 60’s-70’s party to raise money to provide Christmas meals and gifts to local families in need. The party was all about the cool, hard-hitting, speedy, wonderful world of Jazz, Swing, Soul, Motown & Rock n Roll. Everyone came dressed in groovy outfits and suspenders! In total we fed over 12 families.



# Charity Gala Dinner

The Rotaract Club of Limassol Amathusia organized a Charity Gala Dinner at Elias Beach Hotel to support the “Panagia Pantanassa” Day Center, which hosts 15 children with severe disabilities.





## Welcome to the M2R - a new Mediterranean Rotaract Meeting

# A NEW CONFERENCE IS IN TOWN...

The very first M2R took place last November in Nicosia, Cyprus!

Rotaract Med MDIO's M2R is the successor of the Mediterranean Board Convention (MBC), an event during which the Med MDIO board members of each year would meet in order to get to know each other better. As of July, this four-day international event will now be held twice each Rotarian year in the Mediterranean Region and will always be available for every Rotaractor and Rotarian. The name M2R is given echoing the water molecule H<sub>2</sub>O, in honour of the Mediterranean Sea!

We enjoyed the company of over 20 countries- Rotaractors and Rotarians- our PDRR, DRR, IDRR, VDRR, MED and E.R.I.C.I. country representatives and tons of local Rotaractos.



## End Polio NOW

Rotaract Club of Nicosia, in an effort to increase awareness of Rotary's End Polio Now campaign, ran a month long social media awareness campaign in October.

They club sought donations and Rotaract Club of Nicosia has donated for this global mission to #endpolio once and for all!

# Denmark

## DOING GOOD, SIMPLY!

**It doesn't take a lot, to bring a lot of good.**

With warm hearts and creative minds, few people can make a big difference. Roskilde Rotaract got together with shopping centre "RO's Torv", MothersAid, Roskilde City, Salvation Army and Børns Voksenvenner (Mentors to children) to create the Christmas tree of 2016.

The idea behind the Christmas tree, is to give children from families from lower means a chance to get a Christmas present this year. The idea is that the wishes from the children hangs on the tree which then stands in the centre of the shopping centre. Here people who visits the shopping centre can take a wish and then buy the wish, wrap it in and then return it to the information in the shopping centre who then contacts Roskilde Rotaract who then distribute the presents to the organisations and families. This very first year Roskilde Rotaract received over 200 wishes and are happy to announce that all of the wishes has been granted.

The Christmas Tree initiative was only one of many social projects, which clubs all over Denmark came together to be part of these holidays. Aarhus Marselis Rotaract could celebrate a record breaking year of their fun Gift-Wrapping project (running on the 6th year) funding MothersAid with almost 900 EUR to use for their Christmas Aid, and securing a much better Christmas for moms with kids.



It all started in October 2014. An idea to organize the Nordact conference in Finland in 2016 for the first time ever.

Nordact 2016 took place in Helsinki as a weekend conference on 14-16 October and it was hosted by the Rotaract Club of Helsinki. The conference attracted over 100 international attendees from all around Europe.

During the three-day conference the guests had the chance to enjoy a diverse program with some traditional Finnish flavors. The weekend started with a Friday mingle evening at the conference hotel right in the heart of Helsinki. Based on the sounds of the mingling and laughter, it was clear that the evening was a fun one for everyone! What would be nicer than to meet old friends and to make contacts with new fellow Rotaractors?

On the next day it was time for the Nordact seminar. There were key note speakers from various fields with a focus on the theme of the conference 'Today for Tomorrow'.



HOC & KeyNoteSpeak / Photo: Craig Simons

What can we do in order to have a better tomorrow? How do our daily lives impact on the future of the world? The Rotaractors also had a task to come up with ideas for potential club projects. How would a 24-hour walking race sound to you for raising funds? Or baking Christmas cookies at the local elderly home?



Let's Get Energized / Photo: C. Simons

# Finland

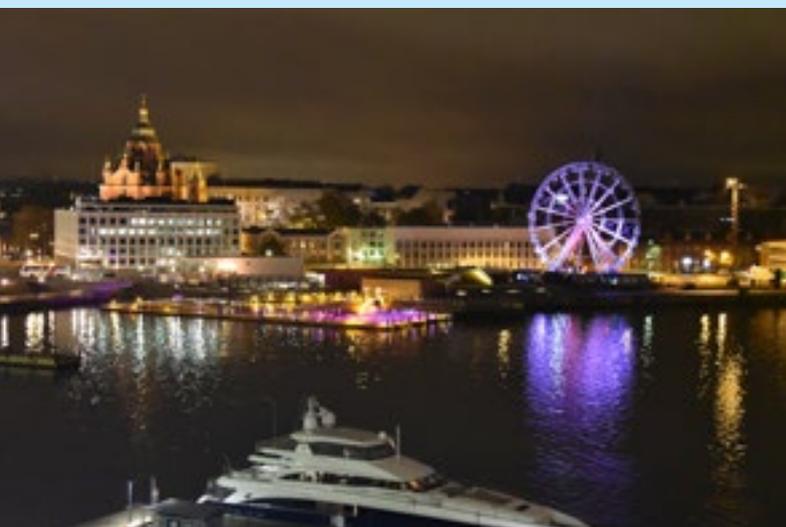
## NordAct 2016

Author: *Tanja Väkevää*  
/ President, Rotaract Finland



Getting ready for the legendary Nordic Challenge / Photo: Sebastian Grossmann

The traditional part of Nordact was still yet to come – the Nordic Challenge! This year the Nordic Challenge was inspired by the Amazing Race. The competing teams got to explore the main attractions of the city center while tackling challenging tasks. By now all competitors became familiar with some Finnish delicacies, landmarks, and historical moments.



Gala View of Helsinki + Danish Party Dance for HOC / Photo: Craig Simons

Nordact 2016 finished with a fabulous and glimmering gala dinner with a view. We had an honor to be greeted by the District Governor Markku Stenvall (D1420) as well as our dear country representatives with their country greetings. Especially the stunning dance of the Danes was something that not only broke the last bits of ice but also almost the floor of the venue!

The first ever international Rotaract conference held in Helsinki (or even in Finland!) was very successful based on the feedback and the atmosphere of the weekend. As a member of the organizing committee, I can say that the hard work paid off and our team is very proud and happy about our first international event. Hoping to see all of you in Norway in October 2017!

# Germany

## Rotaract&Wine

*Author: Jasper Vethaak  
/ Rotary e-Club of West England*

At REMs and EUCOs, there is not only the official program. There are also often events beside the official program.

For e.g., there is Rotaract&Wine: a group of winelovers in Rotaract and Rotary. Under the leadership of Jasper Vethaak (meanwhile Rotarian in e Club of West England), winetastings are held at winemakers near the event. During the EUCO a group of 30 winelovers visited wineries in Franciacorta and Oltrepe Pavese. Winemakers were also visited around Athens, Budapest, Nice and so on.



If you can't attend PreWineREM, you can sign in only for the Thursday daily program until 03.01.2017 for 40 €. More information on the Facebook group Rotaract&Wine: [www.facebook.com/groups/741915715881282/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/741915715881282/)

On Friday 13th of January from 16h to 18h there is another event: A wine reception at the Slovak national Institute of wine in the center of Bratislava. The 72 best wines of Slovakia are available for tasting: 25 €, a small tasting is available for 20 €.

Join via Facebook event in our group.

At the REM, raffles can be purchased to support the "Roll out the Barrel Trust" ([www.rotb.co.uk](http://www.rotb.co.uk)). There are beautiful wine prizes to win.

If you'd like to know more about how we went about organizing the weekend as you'd like to do one locally, we'd be happy to share our insights and learnings with you. [berlin-vorstand@rotaract.de](mailto:berlin-vorstand@rotaract.de)

If you're in Berlin, or just would like to say hello, visit us over at our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/hauptstadtclub](http://www.facebook.com/hauptstadtclub).



***Author: Brittany Arthur / RAC Berlin, President 2016/17***

***RI Joint Young Leaders and Alumni Engagement Committee, Vice Chair 2016/17***

## **RAC Berlin ..and 50 kids on tour!**

As we all know, this year's Rotary motto is 'Rotary Serving Humanity.' At RAC Berlin, we take that one step further and say 'RAC Berlin Serving Children.' The relationship between RAC Berlin and the children's home Casablanca is almost 10 years old. In September we were all in all, 70 participants (50 kids, 10 RACs and Rotarians), set off in mid-September for a fun-filled weekend at the Dorado camping ground in Ruhlesee, north of Berlin.

The peace of the countryside very quickly turned to laughter and shouting as soon as the 50 children arrived on Friday evening. The program began with 11 tables filled with children for dinner and was followed by a night walk around the lake by torchlight. Of course, this was a highlight for the teenagers while some Rotaractors and children were a little more wary! We began bright and early at 8 am for breakfast on Saturday morning as we were going to need some substance for the heavy duty morning of creativity where faces were painted and as well as having designed and spray painted our own shirts. This also acted as a souvenir for the children, which they could take home and remember their weekend. After lunch was the famous orienteering course, which had the children running through the forest completing tasks to complete for first place. How else could we close a weekend expect for a campfire on Saturday evening. As our program came to a close on Sunday, we waved goodbye to many happy yet tired faces (both of the children and Rotaractors)!

Weekends like these are many months in planning and over in a minute. Our members had planned and organized the entire program. We thank our enthusiastic yet sleep deprived club members. None of this would have been possible without the support of our sponsor club RC Berlin Gendarmenmarkt and RC Berlin, RC Berlin Pankow, RC Berlin Gedächtniskirche, RC Berlin Humboldt und Mr. & Mrs. Dorfstecher.

Maybe we can't change their lives completely but we certainly can give them a weekend where they leave their worries of the real world behind and simply enjoy being a kid.



# Great Britain & Ireland

*Author: Rotaract Tyneside*

Rotaract is a club for young men and women between the ages of 18 to 30. Rotaract is for people who want to make an impact in their local community, meet new people, have a great time and learn new skills along the way.

To commemorate International Children's Day 2016, the Rotaract team contacted St Oswald's in July with the view to collaborate, raise money and make a real difference to the lives of those residing within the Hospice. Sam and Ali visited the Hospice and after discussing some ideas with the Hospice's Management Team, an extremely exciting plan was formed.

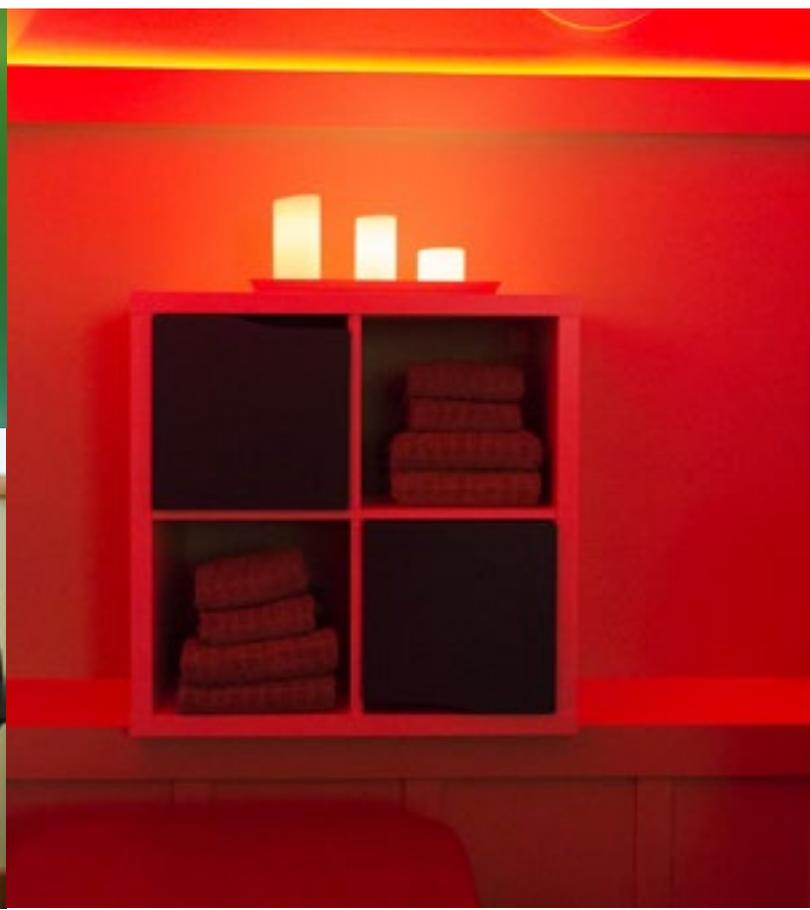
After outlining the club's desire to make a long lasting change to St Oswald's, Sam, Rotaract President and Ali, Vice President, were shown a recently installed high-tech bathroom in the Hospice. As shown by the pictures below, the bathroom includes a bluetooth sound system, allowing those living in the hospice to take a relaxing bath, listening to their favourite music. The LED lighting system means that the room's colour changes, helping the patients to unwind.

Susan Jones explained how the bathroom has proven to be a revelation in the Hospice, with patients quieting up to use the exciting new gadgets. When asked what Rotaract Tyneside could do to really make a difference within the Hospice, the answer was clear, fundraise enough money so the Hospice could install another bathroom with the same characteristics.

One of Rotaract's long standing members, Ruta, did a fantastic job by organizing a bake off and quiz at her company FaulknerBrowns Architects, and raised an amazing £368.00. The company's partners then kindly decided that they would double the amount raised, to make a total of £736.00. The Rotary District Governor, Peter Chandler, was able to provide Rotaract with a generous grant of £500.00, to make the grand total £1,236.00.

The construction of the new bathroom is now well under way and the Hospice anticipate that they project will be completed by Christmas. Rotaract are delighted to have made such a positive impact working with St Hospice and hope that this is the start of a long standing collaboration between the two organisations.

**Rotaract Tyneside has had the pleasure of working with St Oswald's Hospice over the past few months, in order to raise money for a fantastic new, state of the art bathroom.**





# International Food Night

*Author: Rotaract Manchester International*

Rotaract Manchester International presented its 5th Annual International Food Night on the 17th November. 40 Rotarians and guests attended, representing 12 clubs from District 1285. Also, 20 Rotaractors from the Rotaract Club of Manchester International organised and participated in the event.

Rotaract Manchester International is a diverse club with members from more than 10 countries. To celebrate this diversity we host the International Food Night each year with the aim of spreading international friendship and understanding to Rotarians in the district. Rotaractors cook meals (typically 3 courses) following traditional recipes from their home countries, which are enjoyed as a buffet by the attendees. After the meal entertainment comes in many forms.

This year, we held an International Quiz to test the knowledge of our guests followed by presentations covering the Wonders of Egypt, Chinese Culture & International Rotaract Clubs. Performances by Rotarians and Rotaractors ended the night on a high and included traditional songs from Bangladesh and Slovakia and Labanese dancing (to get the blood ROTating).

The event was a great success and over £700 was raised. This money will help fund our charitable projects for the remainder of the Rotary year.

# Societies Unite

*Author: Rotaract Manchester International*

On the 24th November Rotaract Manchester International held 'Societies Unite'; a fundraiser targeted at society members and friends from the University of Manchester Students' Union. Students do not need an excuse to party, but this certainly provided them with one. Over 100 people attended the event held at TriBeCa in Manchester helping us to raise £315 for the Manchester Christmas Dinner 2016! The Christmas Dinner project takes place in a number of cities across the country and aims to bring together care leavers between the ages of 18 to 27 and their families.



<http://www.lemnsissay.com/projects/?p=94> for more information about the project.

Many friends were made during the event; we hope to build on the success of Societies Unite to continue our fundraising and community support.

To keep up to date with our club and events please like our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/RotaractManchesterInternational/>



On October 11th the Rotary Club of Athens has held the annual meeting with Rotaract Club of Athens. The spokeswoman was the President Maria Antoniou and the subject of her speech was "Rotary, the ECOSOC Foundation and the target of sustainable development".

– Rotaract Club of Athens

# Greece

## Rotaract Kifissia

On Wednesday the 2nd of November the Rotaract Club of Kifissia was present at the Daycare Center of the Panhellenic Association of Greek Mothers, where 10 litres of oil and feta cheese were donated.

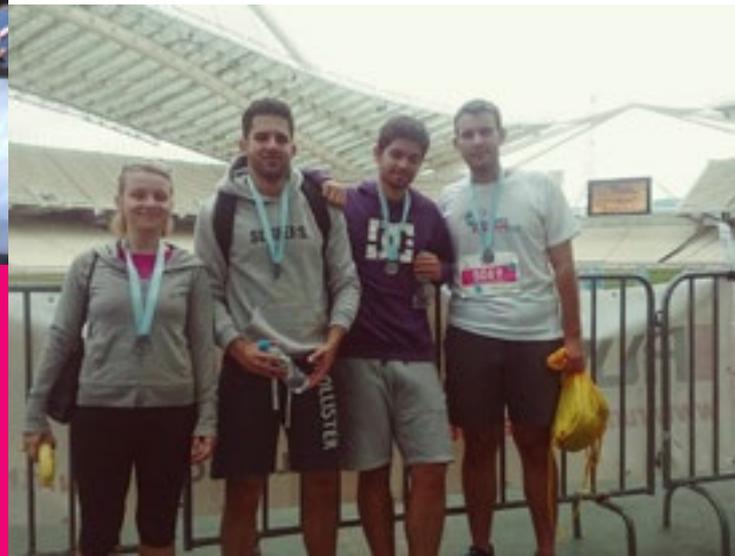


The Daycare Center has been open for 36 years in Palaio Psychiko and hosts children from the ages of 2 to 5 years old during the time their mothers are at work. A new partnership begins!

## Rotaract Athens

On 26th of October Rotaract Club of Athens visited the women's Prison of Korydallos. They donated basic hygiene and care items due to a lack of the institution in providing them. They also met with the prison's medical staff and agreed upon further cooperation between the club and the institution.

On Sunday 30th of October Rotaract Club of Athens participated in the "Olympic Stadium Run" 5 km race in order to support the effort of MAXH (FIGHT) organization for the prevention and treatment of autoimmune diseases



# Enable the Future - give a Rotaract hand!

On Friday 25th of November the Rotaract Club of Athens has made a fundraising party at a night club. More than 100 Rotaractors and friends from around Athens had joined the club's efforts to raise the necessary funds in order to accomplish its goal to donate a Rotaract Hand. "Enable the Future, give a Rotaract Hand", is a project of the Rotaract Club of Athens in collaboration with Gennimatas Hospital department of Plastic Surgery, The Presidency of Hellenic Republic and the Greek Government.

All together have made all the necessary preparations to 3D print prosthetic arms in order to donate them to people who are in need or decapitated.

– Rotaract Club of Athens

During these months Rotaract Club of Panorama has held a common gathering with Rotary Club Panorama, where the president of Rotaract Club of Panorama Anna Papakonstantinou

gave a speech entitled "How well do you sleep. Improve your sleep with 3 steps" and a new member was welcomed.maz

– Rotaract Club of Panorama



## Rotaract Panorama

Also, the club has delivered food to Church's bake sale, school supply to the Doctors of the World for the kids in need, with the money from the participation of the Club in the 5th Night Marathon of Thessaloniki and consumables to the dormitory of homeless people of Thessaloniki in order to fulfill their basic needs in food and washing powder.

The last action was common with the Rotaract Club of Anatolia.

Moreover there has been an active participation of Rotaract Club of Panorama to the Post REM and the Rotary Institute 2016 - Zone 20B which took place in Thessaloniki and in the "Taste of the World 3", which is a Mega Joint cultural exchange project between the mediterranean countries.





# Rotaract Volos

Focused on serving the common good and the continuous voluntary offer, Rotaract Club of Volos was very active during the month of November 2016.

Celebrating the World Pasta Day, the Club organized a "Pasta Night" on November 23. The event took place in a central restaurant in Volos, and the menu included primarily pasta. Before dinner, the dietician - nutritionist Hevonne Katergari, addressed to the guests on the topic of the dietary value of pasta.



Many members of the Rotary Club of Volos, together with other guests and friends joined this joyful event.

This event gave them the chance to reach out to their friends and supporters regarding the next big project that the club has undertaken on the occasion of the World AIDS Day.

On the occasion of the World AIDS Day that is celebrated on the 1st of December, Rotaract Club of Volos organized one of its most ambitious projects, committed to the mission of Serving above Self.

Together with Thess Check Point, an HIV prevention center in Greece, addressed to sexually active population, the Club hosted an all-day-long event at the center of Volos, offering to citizens free counselling and advice, together with the chance for a free and anonymous HIV rapid test



# Greece

Following the success of the same event in 2015, Rotaract Club of Volos decided to go big this year and invite more fellow clubs from around the world to join their efforts to raise awareness on AIDS and HIV. With the logo “Like playing games? Play Safe!”, the club reached out to a lot of clubs worldwide and invited them to organize similar activities for their local communities.

They also prepared and shared with them the promotional material. In the end, they had a great positive response from many fellow clubs in Greece and around the world.

Back in Volos, to better promote the event, on November 30, President, Ilona Kesidou appeared on the local TV Station and our Vice-President, Antonis Xognos, was interviewed for the local radio show. Local newspapers included articles and announcements inviting people to participate.



On December 1st, from 9.00AM to 9.00PM, the club's members had the chance to talk with many people, whom they gave more than 1,500 information flyers and 1,500 condoms for free. Moreover, around 70 people took the free rapid HIV test .

The following day, together with the Rotary Club of East Larisa in the neighboring city, Rotaract Club of Volos organized the same event for the local community of Larisa, again with great success, as they gave more than 1,700 flyers, 1,500 condoms for free, and 250 took the test.



Moreover, Rotaract Club of Volos honored November and the foundation MOVEMBER (moustache + Nov.), which is committed to changing the face of men's health, for issues such as cancer of prostate and testicular cancer, etc. Aiming to change the face of health, Rotaract Club of Volos attempted the first step in changing the faces of the members of the Club. To that direction, Rotaract Club of Volos prepared a poster, with all the members - boys and girls!- having a moustache. The poster 'travelled' around the social networks media of the Club and contributed to raising awareness for the sensitive purposes of this movement.



# Italy

## Rotaract Teddy Bear Hospital A small bear to fight big fears

How many of you remember the fright you had as a child during medical visits? The anxiety, the fear of injections, the smelly rooms. Some people even started experiencing these feelings of uneasiness days before the appointment and others were so terrified as the appointment date approached that even the most normal prevention procedures turned into a real nightmare. Not to mention the fear some children experience when they must actually be hospitalized. For them this is seen as a path of suffering more than a path of healing that will result in leaving the hospital healthy and with a smile.

For several decades, doctors and psychologists have studied methods aimed at reducing hospital anxiety among children and adults. They discovered a very useful passive experience approach which reduces anxiety and improves the child's outlook of the hospital and his/her relationship with the doctor.

From this research, various medical

students from universities in Italy started a project known as Teddy Bear Hospital. During the project, children are given teddy bears and told they are sick and the boys/girls must take their new little friends by the paw through injections, blood tests and x-rays in order to identify the bear's disease and nurse it back to good health.

The results are incredible. The hospital-related levels of stress significantly decreased when the children had the Teddy Bear experience and learned first-hand the power and scope of medicine, which is to make us feel better.

Thanks to Valentina Villa (Surgeon and member of RAC Saronno), this project was introduced into Rotaract and started as just a club service initiative and within a few years evolved into a Pan-Italian national service project. For yet another year all thirteen Italian Districts will promote Teddy Bear Hospital by implementing the project in their local



*Author: Eugenio Nicolò Cassotti,  
DRR D2042*

hospitals and raising the number of kids that will enjoy this experience and face their fears by keeping a teddy bear by their hand.

District 2042 is first in line in this project. The whole district gave support, information and instructions to the others in order to develop the service in their regions. Additionally, thanks to the help of doctors and psychologists who are members in our district we have prepared a survey for the kids to take before and after their experience. At the end of the year, we will produce scientific articles about the results.

Apart from the enthusiasm given by the results, the real experience for us is to live it: we all become doctors for one day, putting bandages on the teddy bears, healing wounds, preparing injections and x-ray exams, taking the surveys and accompanying the kids in this path made of playing, laughing and fun.



# Lithuania



## Vilnius International Rotaract Club

Vilnius International Rotaract Club was established in 2014 and currently unites 20 young, active, enthusiastic leaders from Lithuania who all had lived abroad for a certain period of time.

One of our main projects - a third year project Christmas Bubbles specifically aims at a preservation of a national heritage – currency Litas. In 2014 National Bank of Lithuania conducted the national currency withdrawal procedures. Afterwards thousands of tons of shredded banknotes remained out of which we have created a souvenir – a plastic bubble filled with the tiny pieces of Litas banknotes. Within the last two years almost 400 bubbles have found their home and the funds raised were used as a contribution to another big project Pain Clinic.

Our great project Pain Clinic was launched last year. It is oriented to the III and IV stages cancer patients and their relatives. Usually the

abovementioned patients are being given outpatient (ambulatory) treatment and thus individual psychological needs related to pain control are not satisfied. Aim of the project – to develop special attention to the importance of the abovementioned matters. Doctors and onco-psychologists hold lectures and psychology trainings on how to understand/ assess/control the pain, manage stress, how to communicate with the patients, etc. Last year almost 100 participants attended the lectures and trainings.

This Autumn we had a Rotary Running Dinner – a project aiming to strengthen the relations between Rotary family members. Three teams were preparing three course dinner (starter, main dish and dessert) which was served in three different locations at either Rotary or Rotaract members' apartments. 24 teams, 12 different clubs, 72 attendees in total.

# Klaipeda Old Town Rotaract Club Old Town Of Your Dreams

It's not a secret that people coming together as a community can make things happen. Not only make things happen, but also make a change. They can change the little things in our everyday life, or they can change something bigger, something that carries a greater meaning. Throughout the year, Klaipeda Old Town Rotaract club organized, participated and carried several of our most notable projects including "Old town Of Your Dreams" Rotary Academy and patronage of Klaipeda tuberculosis hospital children.



We believe that without past there is no future! Every citizen should know the history of his city. Driven by that idea our Klaipeda Old Town Rotaract club implement the project "Old town of your dream". The main goal of this project – is to create authentic view in the old town that would introduce the city guest and citizens to the "Old Klaipeda" with its facades, signs or other historical moments. The funds for this project are collected through the sale of our own designed postcards with views of the old town of Klaipeda.

Another major project which makes the club members proud is "Rotary Academy". This project, in cooperation with Rotary clubs around the city, applied mentoring approach to pupils and university students. An extensive professional and life experienced older brother or sister from Rotary club try to convey their knowledge and wisdom to the ones that have just started their journey. The project has been held since 2009 and annually attracts more and more students and mentors. "The project provides unique opportunity with people who are experts in their own fields. They already began their journey, which is still waiting for you" – Andrus Knolis, Rotary Academy student of 2013/2014, our clubs future President elected for 2017/2018, said.

Finally, one of the most exciting projects of our club is collaboration with Klaipeda Tuberculosis hospital

where we can make diseases disappear with smiles! During years most important holidays, Klaipeda Old Town Rotaract club visits the little ones, who are taken away from their families because of possible tuberculosis infection. Annually, by the end of October our club organizes "Pumpkin cutting" feast. This festival quickly became not only a great tradition for Klaipeda Old town Rotaract club, but also one of the most welcomed event to the little patients of the Klaipeda's tuberculosis hospitals children division. This day not only brings joy to children as they paint scary faces on the pumpkins and trick or treat later on, but also allows the club members to go back to childhood memories and importantly remind everyone that each of us can create a warm feast and spread happiness to others.

Currently, Klaipeda Old town Rotaract club members are actively preparing for another celebration dedicated to Klaipeda's tuberculosis hospital – a Christmas eve. During the most important holidays of the year the club members annually visit the little patients and together wait for Santa Claus to visit them.

Klaipeda Old Town Rotaract club has been taking care of the cities' tuberculosis hospital children's section for more than eight years already - throughout that time we also annually organize such events like "Summer feast", "Tub tub movie theater", "Arts and crafts", and "Christmas books".

Most importantly, club members not only entertain children during the year's biggest holidays, but ensure necessary medical equipment, educational tools, purposeful and interesting leisure activities, and mainly provide them with attention, that these children need the most. Our "Rotaract" club also seek to educate society about tuberculosis and its treatment.

Worth to mention, that our clubs activities do not end up here - club members willingly contribute to other projects, and create good enhancing activities: blood donation, "Running and Moving for Hope" which together with patients from oncological clinics raised funds for Klaipeda oncological center construction. Yet, there is one golden rule – the more the better.



# Luxembourg

## Rotaract Club of Luxembourg

November and December are some of the busiest months for Rotaract Club Luxembourg with the traditional activities which we have taken part of for many years.

In the Red Cross Bazaar, Rotaract Club Luxembourg sells every year paintings donated by artists or art galleries. This year the artists were refugees who created the paintings within the project "Hariko" <http://hariko.lu/>. Hariko intends to create a space for artistic creation, conversation, exploration and sharing for impoverished young adults and others attired by the project. The successful sell also promoted an appreciation and exposure of the artists in Luxembourg.

Every December, Rotaract Luxembourg creates the Traditional St. Nicolas "Kleeschen" Candy bags for fundraising for our main project, a partnership with MPG Responsibility now <http://www.mpgresponsibilitynow.com/>. Being Kleeschen the biggest project of the club, there is much prior organisation needed to lead a successful project. In the spirit of the traineeship programme organised in the club and required in order to become a member, two trainees and members as advisors carried out the project. The traineeship programme encourages our trainees to be highly involved in the projects to start living the Rotaract spirit and grow involvement in Rotaract from the very beginning of their journey in the organisation. Acting as project managers, the trainees carry out the project and delegate activities to other members, trainees and guests, which leads to an understanding of how the club works and the parameters which we use for our projects.

Both activities require a high involvement of our guests, trainees and members. From contacting the artists and art galleries to organising the stand at the bazaar, and making the sell. From contacting companies and individuals to sell to, requesting donations and making the candy bags, (which this year we are proud to mention we sold over 500) to delivering the bags with St. Nicolas and also bringing happy times to the children and young adults at "Foyer St. Antoine" refugee center. The success of the projects is thanks to the engagement of everyone in the club.

We closed the year with our traditional Rotaract Christmas Dinner, where we celebrated the success of the club but also our friendship and the incredible memories we have made during 2016.





# Malta

Malta in ERIC is represented by only one club - Rotaract Malta La Valette (RMLV), which was founded in 2006. One of the main focuses for RMLV is to create national awareness on domestic violence and to organise events to aid and support a shelter for victims of domestic violence – Dar Merhba Bik (DMB).

This month, RMLV organised two events to support DMB which were: 1) Christmas Crafts activities for the children at DMB held on 27th November and 2) Bake Sale in Aid of DMB held on 18th December.

During the first event, RMLV members spent the afternoon organising a Christmas themed, arts and crafts session for the children residing at DMB. Craft supplies were provided on donation by the club and with which the children were able to design their own Christmas socks, make their own mini Christmas trees and paint wooden snowflakes. The event was truly enjoyed by the little DMB residents so much so that they are looking forward for the next crafts event at DMB. During this activity, RMLV was pleased to be assisted by a member from the local Interact club based at St Edwards College. In the second event, RMLV organised a bake



sale at Zejtun to raise funds for DMB. The funds collected by DMB are used by them to buy convenience supplies for the running of the shelter. RMLV had raised successfully €137.95 by selling mince pies and gingerbread stars. RMLV are grateful to the Zejtun Parish Church for letting us to set up on the parvis of the church and humbled by the generosity of the Zejtun residents for buying all of our delicious baked goods. This event was also attended by Rotary Club La Valette Malta President, Rtn. David J. Dingli, and by fellow Rotarians: Rtn. Federico Milanetti and Rtn. Claudia Ginex, both from Rotary Club La Valette Malta all of whom bought and gave us a generous donation which went towards the same cause.

RMLV is looking forward to organise more events to continue to aid and support DMB and to raise awareness on the perils of Domestic Violence as we do believe that we as a club can make a difference!



# MOI DOVA



## Rotaract Club of Chișinău Rotaract Volleyball Cup

Rotaract Volleyball Cup is an annual sport event in which we involve local organizations and companies as sponsors but also players. This event helps us to raise funds for our social causes and to increase our visibility in the community we live and activate.

This year the Rotaract Volleyball Cup took place on the 10th of September and was a great success! We had more than 13 sponsors and participants that not only contributed to our beautiful cause, but also, had a lot of fun playing volleyball.

During the last two years the funds raised have helped the children getting cancer treatment at the local Oncologic Hospital. Last year we build for them a playground outdoors, which they did not have, while this year we managed to buy two braunostats for the Pediatric Hematology section.

The passion for sport and the social responsibility of our local partners make this a truly awaited project year after year. Together we can achieve much more!



# Montenegro

Rotaract Club Podgorica has successfully completed action initiated in order to collect funds for the training of guide dog for the visually impaired, and to help the Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro.

Complete amount of 6580€ was collected along with other funds directly transferred to the account of the Association.

Rotaract Club Podgorica is particularly proud of the fact that, despite the short period of time, a large number of institutions, businesses and citizens made generous contribution and most importantly showed maturity as a community, recognizing the importance and impact of this action on the overall situation of persons with disabilities.

Rotaract Club Podgorica celebrated its second birthday in the spirit of humanity and good deeds. This wonderful celebration, filled with positive energy and joy, was crowned with collected 1700€. All collected funds will be directed towards fostering knowledge, creativity and socialization of children from the Resource Center "Podgorica".



# Poland



## What defines a real Rotaract Club?

From my perspective it is creativity and engagement in providing services to the local community, but also prioritizing making all of that in a most pleasant and fun way for both members and the others. By this standards I must admit that the club that I am part of - Rotaract Warsaw Castle, does this job splendidly.

In this last month of the year 2016, we planned to fulfill some of our most notable actions. On 11th December our club is going to host a so called Christmas Brunch. The main purpose of it, is raising money to help us fund all our projects.

This year we plan to make this event even more spectacular, because our club is celebrating 15th birthday. Also, for the one that seek for some more intense "integration", we will provide a thrilling night in one of Warsaw's best party scenes.

The other action that also has the Christmas Spirit, is our well-known "Help kids smile for Christmas". The main idea of this event is to give humanitarian aid for those, who need it the most- children from the lowest-income families. We decided to pursue this action on 24th of December, the day that for all of us is very special. As a group, we are fully aware that the youngest ones, the ones that still believe in Santa Clause, deserve to get a present on that special day.

All of that what we are doing, positive feedback that we receive, motivates us further and encourages us to create, develop and upgrade new project.

Merry Christmas Everyone

Wiktor Danel

# Rotaract Club of Bydgoszcz District Conference

Our club decided to organize the first conference in the new district 2231.

It took place in Bydgoszcz – a lovely Polish city. It was held from the 18th to the 20th of November and its main theme was “Disco”.

Besides a great party on Saturday night, during which we celebrated our 21st anniversary, the Rotaractors, thanks to our guest speakers, had the opportunity to get to know how to communicate with each other, what to do to succeed in making a project, what it feels like to be a film producer and how to live a healthy lifestyle.

The conferences are always great ways to make new friendships, get to know other people better and, what is the most important, to get new ideas and extra motivation to do our best to make the world a better place.



**Time to celebrate! Greetings  
from our National Congress**

# Portugal

Somewhere between October and November, Rotaract Portugal comes together to celebrate how wonderful is be a rotaract in this country. The National Congress is our annual meeting and joins almost 150 rotaractors, interactors and rotarians from the Rotarian Districts 1960 and 1970.

This year it happened in the cosy city of Pombal, near Leiria, and the organization team was committed to make it memorable through a lot of team building moments and training workshops.

The first day started with a reception and an ice-break activity in a central spot of the city, where the participants were invited to test their knowledge during a night quizz.

In the following day, the focus was in learning and discussing: both districts presented their ongoing projects and also national projects. And of course, the international vertent couldn't be forgotten, and there was schedule to ERIC and its goals and objectives be presented. The day finished with a gala dinner and a party in a local disco.

Before returning home, on sunday, the participants planted a tree, keeping on Paul Harris tradition, and visited the Castle of Pombal, one important fortress during the Napoleonic Invasions.

We invite all Europe to join us in the next Portuguese National Congress that will happen next fall in Cascais and Estoril, near Lisbon!





## Rotaract Club of Torres Vedras The Matrafona Run

Since 1923, the city of Torres Vedras hosts the best carnival in Portugal: it's 6 days of non stop party, and in the 3 weekends before it, people are already in their masks making Torres Vedras' night a show of colors.

Rotaract Club Torres Vedras grabbed the opportunity and in one of these weekends they organized an event called "The Matrafona Run".

### What is a matrafona?

The favorite mask of all the men: dressing like a very ugly woman, using their mothers' and grandmothers' clothes. The results sometimes are very shocking!

In order to help us raising money to equip a snoezelen room for kids with special needs of a kindergarten, a lot of "matrafonas", men with skirts and highs (some of them grabbing a beer) participate in this run. A local gym was



responsible to do the warming up, the track team of Casa do Benfica (from Sport Lisboa and Benfica) was responsible to set the pace of the run, and in the end all the participants could grab a drink in two local bars, that sponsored the event.

With this run, the Rotaract Club raised over 2000 EUR, the enough amount to acquire the items in need by the institution. And the project also had a great coverage, and the most important thing (for Torres Vedras rotaractors): their event was included in the official Carnival program!



*The Rotaract Dreamer*  
www.therotaractdreamer.org

## **Rotaract Club of Porto** **The Rotaract Dreamer .** **We dream of a better world**

On July of the last Rotarian year, Rotaract Club of Porto came up with the idea of a project named The Rotaract Dreamer.

The club was still in a period of reactivation, so it was crucial to have a project capable of uniting forces. The members agreed that inside Rotaract there is a need to develop more long-term projects, with wide impact on society and that could create more synergies within Portuguese clubs.

The main idea behind this project is defined by the three points of our mission: the first is to catch dreams – we are looking for dreamers, especially children or elderly in poverty, disease or with other type of limitations; the second one is to break down barriers, either physical, monetary or social, that separate dream from reality; the last aspect is to make dreams come true with the help of our DreamCatcher.

Inside the project you can either be a DreamCatcher, who are the main engine for dream solving, or a DreamPartner, who supports the project via significant partnerships. After developing this concept, the website platform was launched on October 2015.

On January 2016, the first dream came true: through a partnership with a football



school from Porto, an eight-year-old boy is now able to attend free football classes! The second dream was achieved by Rotaract Club of Santo Tirso who was able to take 11 children in need to watch a football match of the Portuguese National Team, the new European Champions.

As a web-based project, there are no geographical barriers. After having received many positive feedback from visitors abroad, we are now thrilled to expand it internationally.

If you know a Dreamer or if you want to join us, it is as simple as filling the form at

[www.therotaractdreamer.org](http://www.therotaractdreamer.org).

And remember, "they may say you are a dreamer, but you are not the only one"!

# Romania

## LOOK UP by Rotaract Club Craiova-Romania



During previous projects we noticed that a high number of underprivileged children had eyes health problems. Due to financial reasons or to the limited education level of their parents, the majority can't benefit of proper health care. Rotaract Craiova decided to address this cruel reality and initiate the project „Look up” considering that each child deserves to enjoy the colors, the shapes and the greatness of the world around. We are supported by local ophthalmology offices and do fundraising by selling „I love Rotaract” glasses in order to offer free ophthalmology consultation, eyeglasses or surgery if needed to over 100 children.



# Oceană de fericire

## O Cup of Happiness – Rotaract Club Oradea signature project

Seven fairytale events, thousands of people involved, hundreds of happy children, numerous centers supported, one story –

A Cup of Happiness. Initiated on December 2009, as a charity fair, the main purpose of this project is to involve the community in solving the issues around them and to prove that together we can accomplish great things for the society we live in.

Year after year, you can find us in a little wooden house between the 5th and 22nd of December, offering the people of Oradea a Cup of Happiness, based on their preferences: mulled wine, hot chocolate,

tea or coffee in exchange for donations. The money we raise are spent to bring joy to children around the Winter holidays. Also, during the fair, people can purchase various decorations and ornaments, all handcrafted

in the educational programs of the different associations that we support.

Among our greatest achievements we would like to mention: equipping a room for sensorial therapy, purchasing a special bed needed for therapy,

equipping a school with teaching materials for blind people, computers, furniture, Braille typewriters, home appliances, food and winter clothing for children.



# Russia

## **Rotaract Club Chita**

On Dec.24th Rotaract Club Chita together with "Sluchayny Obraz" street theater is held a charity masquerade ball supporting the kids who are going through cancer treatment. The included a staged performance, some entertainment activities along with the presents from sponsors and project organizers.

## **Rotaract Club Ekaterinburg**

On October 20 Rotaract Club Yekaterinburg was lucky to host a wonderful meeting with the guests from Mexican Rotaract, some people from AIESEC, young professionals from Ural Architecture and Art University.

We played some games in Russian, English and Spanish, sang songs about tea, discussed the art of graffiti, volunteering programs, programs of professional development and even how to learn Korean. If you happen to be in Yekaterinburg stop by to say hello, our meeting are a lot of fun!

## **Rotaract Club Kemerovo**

For the New Year we prepared some great New Year experience for kids from the "Little Prince" juvenile rehabilitation center. By using our imagination we recreated the cozy atmosphere of the universally loved and expected holiday everyone looks so forward to. The program started off with a New Year theme movie "12 months" and go on to the self-staged performance where the kids themselves will get to play the roles from the movie.

## **Rotaract Club Krasnodar**

Do not wait for the miracles, make them happen.

Rotaract Club Krasnodar organized an internal championship for the KAMP martial arts school in Krasnodar. Young students demonstrated their skills through some basic moves while strict but fair jury (parents and rotaractors) was selecting the winners. In the end 5 best athletes were named winners. Each kid received a certificate and a medal.

As a perfect ending for such an amazing day the club also organized a little tea party combined with installation of new boxes for collecting used batteries.

## **Rotaract Club Krasnoyarsk-Yenisei**

On December 3rd Rotaract Club "Krasnoyarsk-Yenisei" held a party "Secrets of Hogwarts". As one might guess the theme of the party was built around the stories of Harry Potter. With almost two months of preparation the event gathered more than a hundred guests and 27 partners and sponsors. Actors from the theater studio played the characters from the Harry Potter books. Rotaract Club "Krasnoyarsk-Yenisei" have already started to plan the spring edition of the party. All funds raised from these two events will be spent on buying necessities for a boarding school for the blind and visually impaired children.

## **Rotaract Rostov-on-Don**

It's easy to make a step toward a child who is all alone in this world.

On November 13 Rotaract Club Rostov on Don payed a visit to an orphanage. We received a warm welcome from the kids most of the whom were boys, athletic, kind and very

RAC Krasnoyarsk-Yenisei



RAC Sochi



RAC Ekaterinburg



RAC Moscow Rossika



RAC Kemerovo



RAC Moscow East



RAC St-Petersburg



RAC Chita



RAC Rostov-on-Don



RAC Krasnodar



protective about those few little girls among them. We asked a popular question for this time of the year: "What would you like to get for a present for the New Year?" suggesting they make a list of three most desired gifts and write it down on the special "angel" new year tree decorations. Now our club is looking for the people who can make those wishes come true.

### **Rotaract club Moscow-East**

Rotaract club Moscow-East invites you to discover the wonderful capital of Russia - Moscow. 6 days of fun, adventure, Russian history, delicious food and friendship.

Come and explore this beautiful city!

Come and see if bears really walk on the Red Square.

Price is 280€

The application will be open on December, 1st.

Only 10 Rotaractors will be able to take part in Moscow TRIP.

Dates: 27.04 - 02.05.2017

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1816294465305281/>

### **Rotaract Club Moscow Rossica**

Rotaract Club Moscow Rossica made friends with Nepecin Orphanage. One of the visits was dedicated to Italy: we talked about Italy, watched some pictures and even cooked pasta all together.

Naturally, we didn't forget that the New Year was coming and gave a small task to our friends - to write a letter to Father Frost. Guys made awesome post cards and wrote down what they had wanted to get for a present for the New Year. In most cases the dream presents were clothes and toys. Now it's our turn to hold our end of the bargain and make all of their dreams come true.

### **Rotaract Saint-Petersburg**

December is Rotaract Saint-Petersburg's favorite time of the year. Not only do we get to see the smiles of hundreds of kids but we also enjoy the process of preparation. We opened the holiday season on December 25th when we began celebrating the upcoming New Year and Christmas holidays at our friends', the Orphanage #8. December 27th for the 6th consecutive year we are gave the New Year performance at the hospital for a bunch of little patients who didn't get to attend the celebration with their friends having to stay at the hospital instead.

As a warm up to those events we hoped to launch a couple of fundraisers for the New Year presents for the kids e.g. selling Rotaract branded cookies at the Christmas markets.

Endless rehearsals, sleepless nights, plenty of lines to memorize but so much fun in the end!

### **Rotaract Club Sochi**

We are all pleased to receive postcards from our friends from other cities and countries. Recently, we have faced the problem: there are no beautiful postcards in Sochi with the pictures of amazing nature of our region or memorable places of the city. Shelves of the souvenir shops are full with cookie-cutter cards with Olympic objects but there was nothing we would like to send to our beloved people.

Therefore, we have decided to draw our favorite city under the guidance of an experienced artist together with our Rotarians. We are going to paint the old Sochi: places of interest and nature. After that we will choose several best pictures and turn them into postcards and calendars. Maybe next year you will also receive our lovely greeting card!

# Serbia

## Rotaract Club Belgrade Dedinje

On Sunday, 10th of April, Rotaract Club Belgrade Dedinje successfully carried out with their charity campaign "Walk with the blind and visually impaired" which is aimed at raising public awareness regarding people with this type of handicap. The activity took place in the pedestrian zone of Belgrade, Knez Mihailova Street and ended



at Kalemegdan fortress where participants had a chance to play chess with representatives of the chess club for blind and visually impaired "Napredak". Numerous random citizens and also tourists who were visiting Belgrade had the chance to participate in the walk. The walk was opened by a speech from the City Council member Dragomir Petronijevic, Head of the Youth Office following Nedeljko Brkic from the cooperation with Associations of Belgrade as well as Branka Radosavljevic from the Association of the Blind of Serbia.

Beside these, the following institutions have also provided support for our action: City organization of blind Beograd, Chess club Napredak, ESN BelUPgrade, OMSI Committee

of the Student Parliament of the Law Faculty in Belgrade, IFMSA – Serbia and US Dr Jova Zmaj, Rotaract Club Beograd Vracar and Rotaract Club Zrenjanin. People's impressions after having the chance to put a blindfold and walk through the streets of Belgrade:



"The biggest challenges are the obstacles you come into, the biggest one being improperly parked cars since you never know where to expect them. Also holes in the pavement as well as random stuff such as garbage cans, traffic sign on the sidewalk, and so on. A big problem is that very few streets have crosswalks with audio equipment and the only way a blind person could cross the street is to ask a random pedestrian when the light is green" – said Nikola.

Aleksandra was very disoriented since he had no idea what was right and what was left. He noticed noises he usually wouldn't and said it was unthinkable to go by himself without anyone

guiding him. "The blind stick was always getting stuck in bumps on the sidewalk, I was not stable, and now I am aware of the challenges that the blind encounter in everyday life" - said Lena.



# Halloween costume party 2017 - Rotaract Club Belgrade



On 29 th of October, for the seventh time in a row, the Rotaract club Belgrade organized its traditional Halloween costume party at a club in Belgrade (World travelers club). The cost of the party was a piece of candy, as always, and the response by guests was excellent. We managed to collect 8 full bags of candies which was packed into small Christmas presents for children without parental care- Dragutin Filipovic Jusa in Belgrade.

We had a large number of very original masks. For those who didn't bring their own masks we provided masks which could be bought at the entrance at affordable prices. As part of the tradition, we provided prizes for the 3 best masks at the party. The first prize won an escape room voucher, second place won a voucher for Burger House and third place won a book.

We are very proud that our party was well visited by clubs from Belgrade (Belgrade Sava, Belgrade Metropolitan, Belgrade Cukarica, Belgrade Vracar, Belgrade Dunav) but also from Rotaract clubs of Bijeljina, Kragujevac and Pancevo.

# MASKERAJ - Rotaract club Novi Sad

Founded 1996, District 2483 Sponsored by Rotary Club Novi Sad

Rotaract club Novi Sad organized a big humanitarian costume party in October this year. Preparations started six months before the event. All the proceeds from tickets was intended for "Podrzi zivot" Foundation which is financing medical treatments for more than 50 children in Serbia. It was quite successful considering that we raised about 80.000 RSD (€650). We also had a great media promotion- two TV stations and 7 of the most listened to radios in encirclement announced this project. Additionally, famous Serbian actors Sergej Trifunović and Uroš Čertić invited people to come via video. Our popular performers Sevdah baby, Dj Groover and Dj LaCosta made a great atmosphere. There were more than 200 visitors with very creative masks.



## “Wear your sketch” - Rotaract Club “Nis-Constantin the Great”

Rotaract Club “Nis-Constantin the Great” proudly presents their project “Wear your sketch”. The main scope and objective of this project was to raise funds to purchase equipment for the first sensory park in south Serbia. This park is being built within the special school for sensory impaired children “Bubanji” in Niš and is intended for children with auditory, visual and other sensory deficits. The project was carried out in several stages. Starting from September 20th 2016, in cooperation with the school, we organized a gathering of lower grade students (age 7-11) with members of our club. The goal was for children to produce unique drawings which will be transferred on specially designed pieces of



clothing, dresses for girls and T-shirts for boys. At the time of drawing, the children didn't know their drawings were going to end up on clothes made specially for them. The first surprise we gave the children was a group visit to the National Theater in Niš, where we organized a fundraising music concert by our fellow Rotaract member Dušan Sekulić, accordion magistra and member of Rotaract Club Bijeljina, and his band. Then we had an event in their school where we gave them their second surprise which were the clothes, and of course, candy. After 2 months since the project began and the first time we visited the school, it was time to show everyone what it means to "Wear your sketch". Together with the school for sensory impaired children "Bubanj", we have organized a charity fashion show. The

kids wore the dresses and T-shirts which were made during the project and were based on their drawings. This project was supported by many city officials as well as our Rotary club- not only because of the financial aspect but because of other benefits to the local community such as, inclusion of sensory impaired children into society through various events, production of a special line of unique clothes and organizing two quality events in our city - the concert by Dušan Sekulić and a charity fashion show for children.



# WORKSHOPS

HOTEL CROWNE PLAZA  
Saturday 14. January 2017



## Room "BERLIN"

09:00 - 13:00 E.R.I.C. Meeting

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 - 16:00 "Communication Game"  
(Friederike Schlüter and Christian Mielert)

16:15 - 18:15 "Ultimate Guide to Bigger Sponsorships"  
(Justin Hadjilambris)

## Room "PARIS"

11:00 - 12:30 "European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations: Where do we stand ?"  
(Dr. Eduard Kukan)

12:30 - 13:30 Lunch Break

13:30 - 15:00 "Growing your career in a competitive environment"  
(Lukas Bedi)

15:30 - 17:00 "Double Cross Vodka: Success story of a Slovak brand"  
(Juraj Droba)

# Slovenia

## REM LJUBLJANA AUTUMN 2017



The Host Organising Committee of REM Ljubljana Autumn 2017 made a lot of progress so far. We have prepared a programme for the whole event and we have a detailed vision for the Gala Dinner. We have also made a financial overview of the event. Now we are working on a PRE-REM and POST-REM programme, which will be held by the local Rotaract Clubs.

We have decided that the whole event will be based on the fact that Ljubljana is the Green Capital of Europe 2016, therefore the environment and nature will be the main theme of REM Ljubljana Autumn 2017. We are working hard on making sure that this will be an unforgettable event, so make sure you #REMemberthedragon and join us for REM Ljubljana Autumn 2017.

# Spain

## Rotaract Club Barcelona '92

Rotaract Club Barcelona '92 was established in 2016. However, most of our 21 members already have many years of experience in Rotaract. We are all eager to carry out lots of project together with our new Rotary sponsor club RC Barcelona '92 as well as to continue projects that we took over from our old clubs. Moreover, we are growing and we estimate that we are going to finish this year with 5 new club members.

One of our most important projects is "Food in Action", which consists in preparing and distributing food for around 200 homeless people once every two weeks. This project started 4 years ago and it is very motivating and rewarding. It requires a large effort from our members and also from other collaborators, such as Rotarians and external volunteers.

Every year, two of our members take care of the finances and coordination of the project, even though everybody in the club participates. This project has recently been the cause for a new one: "Solidary Dentistry". With the help of Dr. Alistair Gallagher, we now offer free

of charge dentist treatments to people in vulnerable situations.

Another big project that the Rotaract Club Barcelona '92 is organizing annually is the International Charity Autumn Ball. This October almost one hundred people from all over Europe attended. This event emulates the Vienna Debutante Ball and all the benefits are designated to the District Project "Gambasse". It is a project of our district (2202) which has won several awards, such as the E.R.I.C. Best European Service Project (BESP) Award. The name of the project, "Gambasse", refers to a village in Guinea-Bissau, where we realized different projects in collaboration with the ONG SILO, of which the most important are: medical dispensary; solar panels; wells; improvement and extension the local schools.



This year we want to work together with the Interact Club ASB Barcelona '92 on a new project "Chalk for Peace", where we will be drawing phrases and pictures which represent peace, with chalk. This will help create a culture of peace through art. Besides organizing projects, members also participate in the conferences and assemblies organized by Rotaract and Rotary in order to acquire more knowledge and experience and to get to know members of different clubs better. Our club is always one of the most numerous in participants in all district events and the most active in all Rotaract areas. Lately, we have participated in REM Athens and are planning on attending upcoming REMs and EUCOs..



What makes us a really special club is the mix of cultures. Members and visitors that stayed with us for more than 6 months came from Argentina, Mexico, Honduras, Dominican Republic, United States, Netherlands, Guatemala, India, Russia, France, Germany, Italy, Mozambique and Brazil among other countries. This enables the exchange between the different cultures and helps us grow. We also meet once a year for an international dinner where every member brings a typical food from the region he or she comes from.

And like always, we, as Rotaractors, will be serving humanity.

# Rotary Institute Madrid 2016 – Rotary Youth Workshop

For the first time in a workshop during the Rotary Institute, we had a whole day dedicated to debating and sharing problems, needs and views of Rotaractors, Interactors and Rotex members. We must thank Eduardo San Martin since he was the main promoter of the day with the theme “Rotarins Working Together for a Better Future”. Jose Luis Goytre was the organizer of the workshop. He was supported by distinguished Rotaractors such as, Alodia Garcia, Maria Puy and Rita Gimenez and District 2202 Rotaract-Interact co-chair Rotarian Laia Marin.



A total of 80 diverse young leaders participated in the workshop. We had the attendance of various countries including Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Luxembourg, Sweden, Germany, Italy, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Moldavia, Peru, the United States, Turkey and the Netherlands.

The topics which were discussed were many, but we can highlight the ones relative to the future of Rotaractors in Rotary, the role of Rotaractors in society, their connection with Rotex and their personal and professional needs. Also, a hot topic was social networks and the promotion of the work of all the members of the Rotarian family. The conclusions of the youth-led workshop were presented by Florian Wackermann, Maria Puy and Alodia Garcia, in front of some of the most accomplished and distinguished Rotarian authorities, all the Governors for the RY 2016-17, Governor elects and nominees from 100 different districts and 30 countries and several Rotarians.

One of the issues that has to be noted from this event is that, for the first time, the young people have been present at a Rotarian Institute and it will definitely not be the last due to the great relevance they have in the regeneration, evolution and growth of Rotary.



# Sweden

## Advanced RYLA 2016

During 7-9 October Rotary and Rotaract Sweden arranged Advanced RYLA in Arlanda conference center, Stockholm, Sweden. Advanced Sweden RYLA is a leadership course where we take leadership issues to the next level. The course is organized by Rotaract and Rotary together and project leader was Daniela Ågren, president of Rotaract Sweden 2016-2017.

The purpose of the course was for each member to evolve their personal leadership skills, as well as develop knowledge of team development and change management. knowledge about Team development and to lead under Change. The theme of the course was integration awareness and how to lift and manage integration issues out of multiple perspectives.



## District 2320

The 14th of December Sundsvalls Rotaract club in collaboration with Sundsvall Municipality will arrange an art event to raise money for the national initiative called "Musikhjälpen". Musikhjälpen is a collaboration between P3 Swedish Radio, Swedish Television and Radiohjälpen which this year focus on the theme "Children in war have the right to go to school!". Local artists have sponsored the event with their artwork.

The Program looks like following:  
15:00 Flea market, bracelets workshop  
16:00 Welcome speech  
16:30 Documentary Display  
18:00 BOTTOMS - live music  
18:30 Drawing of lottery tickets

Rebecca Lampinen  
District Representative 2320, Sweden



## District 2380

Christmas time is here and therefore, Rotaract Skövde invited all the nearby members in Rotary to welcome the Christmas spirit. According to Swedish tradition, we tasted mulled wine and rice pudding along with beautiful voices by the very own official Lucia procession of Skövde.

Of course, it was the perfect timing to cooperate for a donation to an organisation which helps children in need, "Sällskapet Jultomtarna" (The society of Santas). All participants really appreciated the event because of the opportunity to meet and greet, but especially to feel the Christmas spirit and help others in need at the same time. After the success last year this is going to be a tradition. It is easy to organize and gives so much in return, both to participants and others. This year the event will be even bigger with an arranged collection of Christmas gifts for children in need because Christmas time is here only one time of the year!

Jennifer Skogh Tornstierna  
District representative 2380, Sweden

## District 2400

First weekend in December Rotaract club of Kristianstad arranged the project called "Buy one extra" where they collected 4 full trolleys! They were collaborating with large supermarket "ICA Maxi Stormarknad Kristianstad", standing outside the entrance handing out information about the project and what the beneficiaries need. The goal was to get in hygiene products that will be given to the city's homeless and socially vulnerable people. After that it is up to the customers in the supermarket to buy one extra product and put it in the collecting trolleys when they leave the supermarket.

The collected products will be distributed through an initiative called "Café David", a café for the homeless operated by "Skånes Stadsmission". This is a café where the homeless can get a breakfast for free and lunch for a low cost. Rotaract and Rotary will collaborate during a Christmas lunch at Café David and the plan is to give out these products at the café while Kristianstad-Hammarshus Rotary club arranges the Christmas lunch for the participants.

Olof Persson  
District Representative 2400, Sweden



# Switzerland & Linchtenstein



## Rotaract Club Solothurn celebrates its 5th anniversary

Founded November 11th 2011 (11.11.11) we could celebrate our 5 years charter for a whole weekend in November. We started the weekend with a Swiss Dinner. In a cosy place we ate Raclette (melted cheese) and played a charade game (every guest was either a Hollywood-star or a character). The evening ended not too late (its going to be a long weekend) in a bar next to the river.

On Saturday the guests from all over Switzerland and even from Germany had the choice between 3 afternoon programs: A guided tour through the most beautiful baroque city of Switzerland, Absinthe-tasting (anise-flavoured spirit) at the Absinthe Bar ore visiting the Flippermuseum where you had the chance to play on a lot of pinball machines from different decades. In the evening we held our „Hollywood“-Gala evening in the unique location Kulturm (a round tower with 3 floors) that was decorated in the style of our motto Hollywood.

A delicious dinner, a challenging hollywoodquiz and a very funny photo challenge about famous films made the Rotarians and Rotaractors feel like they were in Hollywood. After that the dancefloor was opened and the party went on till late. For those who stayed overnight we offered a brunch where everyone had the chance to talk about the weekend in „Hollywood“ and get some energy after the great galanight. We would like to thank all our guests for celebrating with us, especially our Districtgovernor, and all our sponsors.

Eveline Randegger  
Rotaract Club Solothurn

# Clean-Up Day in Baden

On a sunny Saturday afternoon in May 2016, members of the Rotaract Baden came together in Baden for the project „Clean-Up Day“ to make a statement against littering. After getting instructed and equipped with tools to pick up trash by a worker from Werkhof Baden, we spread out on a partially forested hill next to the river Limmat. It was unbelievable how many cans, plastic bottles and other garbage were found. There were places that were almost unreachable, because the ground was so steep and slippery – so from time to time, some of us suddenly found themselves sitting in the dirt.



The people passing by curiously glanced at us as we slowly made our way through the hill with our trash grabbers and bags. The feedback was very positive and many strollers even thanked us for our work. We heaved the full garbage bags on a vehicle of the Werkhof and we managed to fill up its loading space twice. After about three hours we finally made it to the end of our route at Theaterplatz, where we enjoyed a well-earned Apéro.



We would like to express our thanks to Werkhof Baden for giving us this opportunity and great experience to help keeping our city clean.

Written by Marina Rufenacht  
Translated by Duangsamorn Gasser

# National Fun Event

On the 1st of October a lot of Rotaractors from Switzerland met in Chur for the annual National Fun Event. This year the Rotaract Club Chur-Herrschaft organized the event for almost 30 participants from all Rotaract Clubs in Switzerland. We met at the train station in Chur and our first stop was the mountain railway Brambrüesch. A nice ride to the top of the mountain and a beautiful view over the city



Chur was a perfect start of the day. On the top we all grabbed a scooter and rolled down the mountain. An unforgettable experience. Back down we had a short stop at a bar, where we got to know each other better, before we went to a city tour to learn about the history of Chur. At the end of the day, we had a dinner at the favourite pub of the club Chur- Herrschaft was on the program. They served speciality from the region such as Capuns, Bündner Nusstore and Churer Röteli. So we had a lot of energy to experience the night life of Chur and therefore to end this beautiful day.

# Turkey

## ROTARACT CLUB OF ADALAR, İSTANBUL

Every Saturday for a year, our member Elif, an artist painter, is teaching 18 children of ages 7-10 the basic concepts in painting. The course is held on Büyükdada All of the materials used by children are sponsored by our club.

## ROTARACT CLUB OF ANTALYA

Our club had a joint project with Rotaract Club of Volos, Greece on 1st December, on HIV Awareness. We designed 6000 table mats which consist valid information on HIV and AIDS, and delivered to the restaurants and cafes throughout the city. We especially selected the cafes in the Akdeniz University campus, where more than 50.000 students study.

## ROTARACT CLUB OF BAKIRKÖY, İSTANBUL

We tried to increase awareness about dental hygiene and we distributed tooth pastes and tooth brushes in order to place a tooth brushing habit beneath the students of Muallim Köy Elementary School and Pre-School.

## ROTARACT CLUB OF BOSTANCI, İSTANBUL

In this project we jumped to our time machines and travelled back in time with our senior citizens from A-Dora Retirement Home with the help of Istanbul Toy Museum. In this journey we observed various different kinds of toys from different time periods. From cowboys of the wild west to legions of the Roman Empire. At the end of the day our senior citizens remembered their past happy memories and shared their wisdom with the young generation.

## ROTARACT CLUB OF BUCA, İZMİR

U.R 2440 district includes 8 city in Turkey. Buca Rotaract Club is visiting these cities and they are getting actions for children. Their first project just finished in Bursa. They visited our sisters and brothers. They effected from leukemia. We donate some thermal thermometers to the leukemia hospital and they gave some gifts to their brothers & sisters.

## ROTARACT CLUB OF CADDEBOSTAN, İSTANBUL

Build Your Future From Today is the most significant project for Rotaract Club of Caddebostan for previous and on-going term.

This Project aims abandoned children who are staying at institution for the care of orphans which is under control by the government to choose the most proper occupation for themselves. We wish children to recognize not only the classical occupation groups, but the profession areas that become currently popular in order to introduce them wider alternatives. For that aim, we prefer taking the children to the working area to help them to see the real work, observe the work, and even provide them to practice that job for a while, rather than just taking the professional at that specific occupation to the classroom and make him to talk about the job. Thus, we provide the children to enjoy a nice day, and recognize a new occupation at the same time.

Who knows, maybe the first day for him to meet his future job would be that day.

## ROTARACT CLUB OF FINDIKLI, İSTANBUL



Turkish Spinal Cord Injury Association's "bottle caps and lids for wheelchairs" project is still going on! The Findikli Rotaract Club in association with the Yeşilköy neighbourhood headman is giving a chance to people with spinal Cord Injury to get motorized wheelchairs by collecting bottle caps and lids in 3 different Community Health Centers and the Yeşilköy neighbourhood headman office. You can also be a part of the project and help

guarantee freedom of movement to hundreds of disabled people. Leave your bottle caps in the caps collection boxes! The other most important additive for this project; the bottle caps for recycle. Example; providing recycling, we can prevent the pollution of waters and nature.

On September 4th at 10:30AM, under our project called Bahçeden Dostluğa (From Garden To Friendship), we Findikli Rotaract and Beyoğlu Rotaract Clubs will landscape the Turkish Spinal Cord Injury Association's garden. Under the project, we're going to clean the front and back gardens of the Turkish Spinal Cord Injury Association and plant flowers. Our aim is to create a habitable environment where we can be able to sit down, chat and drink tea with our friends with spinal cord injury. We've strongly taken the first step towards our project named Bahçeden Dostluğa (From Garden To Friendship).

### **ROTARACT CLUB OF GAZIOSMANPAŞA, ANKARA**

We as Gaziosmanpasa Rotaract club of Ankara, Turkey have organised our second annual brunch named cheese and bread for hope "Umut İcin Peynir Ekmek" on 4 th of December. The money that has been raised will be used to buy New Year presents for the children who are currently being treated at the pediatric oncology ward in Ankara Oncology Hospital. We met at one of our members house and prepared everything in advance. The event was a success and many Rotaracts and Rotarians came with their families to enjoy the Saturday brunch.

We sold a large number of tickets and were very satisfied with the money we raised. After the brunch we still had some food which we could not sell so we took these to the United Nations refugee camp, where many Syrian refugees enjoyed the food. Our next step now is to buy presents with the money we have raised. We are so excited to see the smiles on the children faces when we hand out our presents to them in our club New Years Party.

### **ROTARACT CLUB OF GEMLİK, BURSA**

As Gemlik Rotary and Gemlik Rotaract clubs, we opened a literacy course in Gemlik. We started the project "We read everywhere" We share the photos sent by people from all over the world taken while reading books on our social media accounts.

### **ROTARACT CLUB OF GÖZTEPE, İZMİR**

One of the biggest community services projects of the Goztepe Rotaract in 2016-2017, named "Happiness-step by step" finished on the 4th December. The project divided on a weekly basis. In three weeks, every weekend, our club members and the candidates dedicated themselves to make every detail come true. In the first place, we have founded a school from an undeveloped suburban area, near to the city of Izmir. Conditions of the school was not so bright but our project was also including restoration, and construction for the kids to have a better conditions. The project contained many branches. The parents had a seminar about the Pediatric development by an expert pedagog. Also a nutritionist,



gave an educational lecture about healthy eating to the parents and to the children. Additionally, our club member who is a dentist, made a tooth scan and gave a lecture to all of the students about dental health, and prepared an informational document for each of the parents separately.

Another weekend, our members and the children made a tree planting activity to create a better environment in the school garden and also to create environment consciousness. Educational Ladders have English- Turkish translations, to increase the knowledge of the basic English phrases. The total budget for the project is, (school repair, electrical systems repair , remedy of deficiencies etc.) is 70.000 TL (approx. 20.000 USD)

### **ROTARACT CLUB OF İZMİR**

We as the Izmir Rotaract Club decided to organize plenty of projects and activities with Memmingen Rotaract Club from District 1841, Germany. One of our project is telling our Rotaract rituals to each others mutually.

Both clubs have arranged video slide show which has the project that we have summarized from past to future and we shared to each others. According to our twin club agreement we are going to send school bags full of stationery to the disadvantaged students in Aegan Zone as first step. When our President Aydın Yapan traveled to Germany for a business trip, he also met with Memmingen Rotaract Club Past Term President Berna Sepetoğlu and Berna donated nearly 80 school bags and other stuffs for this project with other members in her club. These school bags are going to be filled up with students needs. We prepared a list and we found a village school to send them. We can't wait to see the happiness on the students faces. We strongly believe that our fellowship with Memmingen Rotaract Club will continue overwhelmingly and we are going to keep touching people's lives and serving to humanity.

Between 3-17 December in every Saturday between 12.00 and 17.00 we had our 6th Sign Language class for our community. The class had over 20 people. After the education we got diplomas' from our sign language teacher. After the course, we also prepared several activity to improve and to remember sign language skill. If our future need our help, we should be with them. In this idea we found Düzce and İzmit's students and transfer them their yearly school material (67 school bags, notebooks, pencils, sharpners, erasers..etc) We went to schools in different days at two different place where are nearly 250 km far away from İstanbul. In this project we found our fund from social media.

### **ROTARACT CLUB OF KIZILAY, ANKARA**

As the Rotaract Club of Ankara Kızılay, we are glad to carry out our project "Smiling Teeth, Smiling Child" for the second time in Ege Elementary School which is located in Ankara, Mamak. We reached 250 students who were aged between 6-7. Majority of our team were Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry students with advisory support of Hacettepe Universities' professors and pedagogues. They distributed brochures, made presentations with slides and also showed children how to brush their teeth on a mouth model. While we were leaving, we gave toothbrushes and toothpastes as a gift to all children. Priceless smiles of all children were left to us from this project.



Our aim was to draw attention to organ donation and create an opportunity to sign up for organ donation for public. For that purpose, we set up a booth which included organ donation leaflets, Rotaract brochures, sign papers and organ/tissue donor cards. Also we gave away almost 200 Rotaract cookies to people no matter they signed up or not. At the end of the day we conducted 66 people to sign up for organ donation. We created official organ/tissue donor cards. Also, we informed people about organ donation and their questions.

### **ROTARACT CLUB OF MAVİŞEHİR, İZMİR**

Daily living house gives chance to disabled children to learn activities like cooking, brewing the tea, preparing beverages, catering, washing the dishes, bed editing, folding, washing and ironing, spending time at home environment, sharing responsibilities with an expert supervisor.

For the opening ceremony; two special workshops were held for the students. One of them was decorating kites with finger painting method and stickers; these kites are prepared in Mavisehir Rotaract meeting. The second one was cookie workshop; sponsored by Dr Oetker. Mavisehir Rotaract Club gifted cookies and kites to their disabled friends at the end of workshops.



### **ROTARACT CLUB OF NİLÜFER, BURSA**

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is an annual international health campaign organized by major breast cancer charities every October to increase awareness of the disease and to raise funds for research into its cause, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure. Pink is the colour of breast cancer, so we as Nilüfer Rotaract Club started to collect photos from Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors, Leo's and their family and friends in which they wear pink or at least hold a pink material. During October, every single day we posted a collage picture with same frame, content and hashtags via social media. More than 40 Clubs, 7 Districts and 200 People send their pictures and support our project.

Nilüfer Rotaract Club has built a Book Club which is open to everyone not only rotaractors. In the first meeting of our Book Club, we have interpreted together the book "Anne Kafamda Bit Var" of the sainted artist Tarık Akan. We had our second meeting accompanied by Sunday brunch. We have interpreted the book "Nu Peride" the 1998 Yunus Nadi Novel Prize winner. We had a lovely conversation with the author Hakan Akdoğan on his writing career; about books and being a qualified reader. As our 3rd book, we'll start to read "The Spy" from Paulo Coelho.

### **ROTARACT CLUB OF ŞİŞLİ, İSTANBUL**

This year, we organised the fourth of the camp that we carried out with the Gökkuşuğu Handicapped Scouts, that lasted 2 nights and 3 days. Our aim is to enable the handicapped, who have scouts training, that are between the ages 6 and 45 and do not go out of town often, to go out of their daily routines for at least a weekend and have a great time. We fulfill the requirements of scouting by making tents, playing scout games and building camp fires with them. In this traditional project of ours, we improved the quality of the camp with the

experiences we gained in our previous camps and by working with the municipality coordinately. We tried to maximise the joy of the children with the help of the gifts we gave them through the sponsors we have found. In this camp with 75 people, which was our the most crowded one yet, we can say that we have achieved our goal from the feedback we

got during and after of this organisation.

This project includes us donating food to animal shelters in various places in İstanbul and us building sheds with the equipment we acquired ourselves. With the equipment we acquired through sponsors, such as wood, awning, nails etc., we help animals to avoid the cold and rain in the harsh winter conditions. This year, we tried to contribute in Hasdal, with 4 sheds that we made. One of the most beneficial sides of this project is that the club members work coordinately and socialise while working.

### **ROTARACT CLUB OF PERGE, ANTALYA**

This year, we arranged a health check-up for early diagnosis of eye diseases second time. Fourty children was checked up in the Project. Selected children were between 3 and 12 ages, and who's financial situations are under the level of poverty. As a result of Project, it was realised that ten children have eye diseases. They were deeply controlled by opticians. Every year, as Perge Rotaract, we would like to touch more kids' life to improve their education standards with the Project.

### **ROTARACT CLUB OF TOPHANE, BURSA**

Our project consists of various levels all of which aim to serve those in need in the field of education. On the first level, we visited a state high school and gave a presentation called "Foreign Language Learning Styles and Strategies". As all learners are created equally and differently, the term "learning styles" speaks to the understanding that every student learns differently. In this presentation, we helped students find out the preferential way in which each individual learns foreign languages. Through a survey, students learned whether they are visual, auditory or kinesthetic learners. After finding out their individual learning styles, students were introduced to foreign language learning strategies.

We provided them with a variety of suggestions and resources to help them learn foreign languages in accordance with their learning styles. That is, the three types of learners (visual, auditory and kinesthetic) learned how to develop each foreign language skill (listening, speaking, reading, writing) and language elements (grammar and vocabulary) according to their styles. At the end of the presentation, we helped students become more effective learners and more able to acquire, retain and apply new information and skills while studying English.

On the second level, we visited the same school again and helped teachers in their projects. We helped teachers who take part in the EU projects with translation and provided them with academic support when developing projects. As there were European participants in the project, we prepared a culture box to introduce them to the Turkish culture and traditions and made a presentation of Rotaract.

### **ROTARACT CLUB OF YESEMİK, GAZİANTEP**

We started new term with our "Will You Play with Me?" project. Each week our different member groups go to the Oncology Hospital and do activities with children who left at the hospital. They are doing creative activities for a week with game dough, and they make Christmas ornaments the other week. On the other hand, a club member plans to have a different activity for club members every week and we have a nice time together.

We also attended with our club members Rem Athens which took at between October of 6-8, 2016. We had a wonderful time strengthening our relationships.



Dear friends in Rotaract,

It is with great pleasure that Rotaract Brussels Coudenberg International welcomes you in Brussels during the weekend of 19th to 21st of May 2017. Just like previous editions we start the Friday evening with a welcome drink, move on to discover the taste of Belgian fries, followed up by some fun and discovery of the nightlife in Brussels. On Saturday morning you will be able to sleep out and in the afternoon you can sign up for the optional waffle workshop and/or enjoy the gay pride that is taking place during the same weekend. In the evening our famous dress-up-gala takes place and we are looking forward to how you are going to make Rotaract great again, by dressing up like your favourite American character through the ages. We finish the weekend on Sunday noon, with an excellent optional brunch. Come join us and sign up at [www.rotaract.brussels](http://www.rotaract.brussels), starting on the 31st of January 2017, 7pm CET.

We are looking forward to see you there!

Yours in Rotaract,

*Eugenie Syx – head of the international weekend committee 2016-2017*





The 3rd wave for EuCo 2017 Warsaw  
will open on January 25th.

If you didn't get the Christmas Present you  
wanted, it's not too late to change that :)

[www.euco2017.pl](http://www.euco2017.pl)



September 2 - 6, 2017  
The Grand Hotel Taipei, Taiwan

Interota 2017 Taipei  
2017 國際扶輪世界扶青大會

# HIGHLIGHTS OF INTEROTA 2017 TAIPEI

## Taipei Tour

Looking for the best way to fully discover the beauty of Taipei City? During the tour, we are taking you to explore different faces of Taipei.

With four different routes, which are **HISTORICAL**, **CULTURAL**, **NATURAL**, and **LOHAS**, participants will enjoy a day savoring local delicacies, indulging in Taiwanese culture and experiencing the warm hospitality of Taiwanese people.



## Welcome Party - Taiwan Night



On the first night of Interota 2017, we're welcoming you with mouth watering Taiwanese delicacies and cultural performances.

Enjoy the fellowship as we gather and reveal the curtain of the amazing Interota 2017.

## Rotaract & Culture Workshops

**Rotaract Workshops** provide platforms for Rotaractors from different countries to exchange ideas in various topics, including **club operations**, **service projects**, **vocational development**, and **public relations**. Learn how to strive your club, organize a successful service project, develop your leadership skills and strengthen your ability to enhance public image and awareness.

**Culture Workshops** will introduce you with traditional Taiwanese arts and techniques, including **Tai-chi**, **tea arts** and **pottery**, **Dragon's beard candy art**, and **aboriginal dance**, with DIY activities and practice.



## Keynote Speech

In Rotaract, we learn, we serve, and we lead. At Keynote Speech, let's learn how Rotaract can bring our power together and take our service to the next level.

## House of Friendship

At House of Friendship, Rotaractors from different countries will showcase their cultures and what projects that Rotaract in their district or country has accomplished. Let's share our experience, learn from each other, and bring back innovative ideas to our clubs!



## Bando & Cultural Night

One of the best ways to learn a new culture is to learn from its food. During Interota 2017 Taipei, we are inviting you to Bando, the traditional Taiwanese roadside banquet. Enjoy a feast with a wide variety of dishes as well as local outdoor stage show and cultural performances performed by Rotaractors from different countries. This night under the stars let's enjoy the cultural diversity of Rotaract.



## Service Project & Working Holiday

Community service is one of the core values of Rotaract. We will take you to another city in Taiwan, which is Yilan, and conduct hands-on environmental service project. And at Working Holiday, Rotaractors will get to know more about agriculture in Taiwan through interesting DIY activities and enjoying a pleasant dinner in the paddy field.



We're looking for **Mr. & Ms. Interota** Rotaractors to represent the spirit and enthusiasm of Interota 2017. At this night, let's enjoy rounds of fascinating runway shows and vote for your ideal Mr. & Ms. Interota!

## Golden 50 Banquet

As 2017 also marks the 50th year of Rotaract, at Golden 50 Banquet, we're taking you back to where it all began and celebrate 50 years of Rotaract together.



## 1. The only RI-Recognized Rotaract World Conference

Interota is the only Rotaract world conference recognized and supported by the board of Rotary International.

## 2. Wait For Another 3 Years If You Miss This One

Interota is held every 3 years since 1981. Seize the chance and enjoy the second Interota held in Asia along its 36 years of history

## 3. Celebrate 50 years of Rotaract

2017 marks the 50th year of Rotaract! What better way to celebrate with the whole world! Come join us and celebrate at the Golden 50 Banquet (Gala Dinner) and explore 50 years of amazing Rotaract worldwide.

## 4. Explore Rotaract & Culture Diversity

Interota connects you with Rotaractors on the other side of the world! Don't miss this big party and global gathering where we make new friends, exchange ideas, share different cultures and perspectives, and have a lot of fun together!

## 5. Leadership Training & Development

Interota offers you leadership training programs, including Keynote Speech, Rotaract Workshops, and hands-on teamwork activities. Let's learn from each other and brainstorm for new ideas.

## 6. Taiwan Touches Your Heart

"Ilha formosa! Taiwan will touch your heart." This small island is full of wonders waiting for you to discover. Go hike up in the mountains or dive into the sea. Get fascinated by modern city or enjoy the peaceful countryside. Try a wide variety of local delicacies at night market and get ready to be blown away by Taiwanese people's warm hospitality

## 7. Asia's Calling!

It's time for a Asia adventure! Taiwan is the heart of Asia. With over 800 outbound flights everyday, it's very easy for you to choose your next destinations and explore more about Asia before or after Interota.

## Registration (through official website [www.interota2017.org/registration](http://www.interota2017.org/registration))

| Category      |                       | Fee (NTD) | Seat      | Date                        |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Rotaractor    | Early Bird            | 15,000    | 50        | Sep 11, 2016 ~ Sep 30, 2016 |
|               | 1 <sup>st</sup> Batch | 19,000    | 100       | Oct 1, 2016 ~ Dec 31, 2016  |
|               | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Batch | 23,000    | Unlimited | Jan 1, 2017 ~ Jun 30, 2017  |
| Alumnus/Guest |                       | 23,000    | Unlimited | Sep 11, 2016 ~ Jun 30, 2017 |
| Rotarian      |                       | 30,000    | Unlimited | Sep 11, 2016 ~ Jun 30, 2017 |

\* Registration fee includes 4-night accommodation (Rotarian: Double Room; Rotaractor/Alumnus/Guest: Twin Room accommodates 4 guests), meals, activities, transportation (airport transfer excluded), conference kit, T-shirt, group insurance during the conference.

## Contact Us



[www.interota2017.org](http://www.interota2017.org)



Interota 2017 - Taipei Taiwan



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Interota 2017 @interotaipei



September 2 - 6, 2017

**SEE YOU IN TAIPEI**

**Interota** is a triennial Rotaract World Conference organized by Rotaractors and hosted on a rotating basis in different cities. First held in Johannesburg, South Africa in 1981, Interota has been subsequently held in a number of countries, including Australia, UK, Turkey, Mexico, Brazil, Germany, South Korea, Egypt, and Canada.

Interota is the only international Rotaract conference recognized by the Board of Rotary International. Rotary International supports Interota by approving its program content and ensuring that RI leadership is represented at the event.



In 2017, Interota will be held from **September 2 to September 6 in Taipei, Taiwan**. The 5-day-4-night conference offers diversified programs, including keynote speech, workshops, cultural activities, service projects, and tours. Rotaractors from all over the world will join together to exchange ideas, share experiences, learn different cultures, and celebrate the milestone of 50 years of Rotaract. Come join us at this global gathering of Rotaract and enjoy the spirit of **"Amazing 50, Connecting Diversity!"**

The venue, **Grand Hotel Taipei**, is a **FIVE-STAR** hotel as well as the landmark located in Taipei. It's one of the world's tallest Chinese classical buildings and decorated with lots of dragon, lion and plum flower motifs throughout various structures. The guest rooms with abundant facilities offer the most comfortable stay. It's the most iconic place to explore historical, cultural and natural beauty of Taipei city.

## Agenda

| Date      | Sep. 2                       | Sep. 3                                 | Sep. 4                 | Sep. 5                    | Sep. 6                    |
|-----------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Morning   |                              | Grand Opening / Keynote Speech         | Taipei Tour            | Service Project           | Interota 2020 Bidding     |
| Afternoon | Registration / Check-in      | Workshops / House of Friendship        | Taipei Tour            | Working Holiday           | Closing Ceremony          |
| Evening   | Welcome Party - Taiwan Night | Golden 50 Banquet / Mr. & Ms. Interota | Bando / Cultural Night | Dinner in the Paddy Field | Farewell Party (Optional) |



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