

After the success of Interact clubs for high school-age youth in the early 1960s, the Rotary International created Rotaract in 1968. The new organization was designed to promote responsible citizenship and leadership potential in clubs of young men and women aged between 18 and 30. The first Rotaract club was chartered by the Rotary Club of Charlotte North in Charlotte, North Carolina, USA. In 1998 there were 139,000 members in more than 6,000 Rotaract clubs in 139 countries. Rotaract clubs emphasize the importance of individual responsibility as the basis of personal success and community involvement. Each club is required to complete at least two major service projects each year, one to serve the community and the other to promote international understanding. Rotaract also provides opportunities leading to greater leadership and professional development. Rotaractors enjoy many social activities as well as programs to improve their community. A Rotaract club can exist only when continuously sponsored, guided and counseled by a Rotary club. The programs of Rotaract are built around the motto "Fellowship Through Service."

The passage was taken from Cliff Dokterman's book The ABC's of Rotary

Rotaract in Serbia

"The idea to found the first Rotaract club in Belgrade is connected to the Rotarian Joerg Cop, member of Rotary club Amersville (Switzerland). It is well known that because of the UN sanctions, which were introduced on 30<sup>th</sup> of May in 1992, the only present club back then in Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Rotary Club Belgrade could not organize charter celebration ceremony, and there were not even words about new clubs founding. The club was accepted by Rotary International and it continued to work, but every other Rotary progress and founding of new clubs were stopped.

The Rotary International board, on the beginning of 1994, made the decision to exclude the part of ex SFRY territory (Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina) from the district 1910 and to form Special Area of Expansion which would be in the power of RI president, Bill Hantley. Immediately after he nominated PDG of district 2000 (Switzerland) Joerg Cop for his representative (PEA), in the period from 1994 to 1997.

One of the good actions which were started and ended in his mandate period was the foundation of the first Rotaract club, Rotaract club Blegrade. Namely, Cop considered that sanctions did not refer to the youth and that RI would charter Rotaract club regardless of the UN embargo, which was precisely the case in the end. This idea was accepted by membership of Rotary club Belgrade, and the board of the club named two members, Nikola Obradovic and Dejan Cikara, to lead this project. During the fall 1994, a series of interviews with potential candidates were conducted and during the first meeting of founding members, which took place on 24<sup>th</sup> December 1994, 25 young people were present. The meeting was held in Belgrade Palace, and the host was the company Christian Hansen's – Yugoslavia whose owner, Slobodan Jankovic, was the member of Rotary club Belgrade. The decision to found Rotaract club Belgrade was made on the meeting and also the first board of the new founded club was chosen. Igor Jankovic was elected to be a president of Rotaract club founding committee, and for the secretary Deana Cikara was elected. The mentor club was Rotary club Belgrade.

\*\*extract from documentation of founding Rotaract club Belgrade, author Dejan Cikara

Rotary clubs, as well as Rotaract clubs, are grouped on the international level into territorial units which are called Disticts. From the moment of founding the first Rotaract club in this region – Rotaract club Belgrade, several changes took place.

From 1994 the club was in the District 1910,

From 2000 in the District 2480

From 2007, our Rotary District is 2481.

From Rotarian 2011/2012 District 2483 constituted Serbia and Montenegro.

Today, our district numbers 29 of Rotaract clubs and over 320 Rotaractors.

The district is managed by Leadership team, led by the Governor. The important member of the team is DRR, Rotaract member. DRR is the intermediary between Rotaract clubs and Rotary District, as well as Rotary International. This representative also tries to improve communication between Rotaract clubs themselves, in order to help them to help them to coordinate the activities and projects which one another and their mentor clubs.

The list of DRR-s of District 2483

2011/12	Miloš Milojević	RTC Niš Konstantin Veliki
2012/13	Jovana Mrđen	RTC Novi Sad
2013/14	Stevan Perović	RTC Prokuplje
2014/15	Mina Vasović	RTC Beograd
2015/16	Tijana Pantelić	RTC Beograd Sava
2016/17	Petar Pešić	RTC Niš
2017/18	Srđan Barac	RTC Zrenjanin
2018/19	Simona Zimonjić	RTC Beograd Sava

For more information you can visit

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

-[www.rotarydistrict2483.org](http://www.rotarydistrict2483.org)

, Text was written by Mina Vasovic, Past DRR

Past President of Rotaract club Beograd