



Dear Rotary- and Baltic Sea Friends,

As the new BASRAN chair it's a great pleasure for me to be able to wish all our members a successful new year 2024. As you know BASRAN is a cross boarder co-operation between Rotary districts, clubs, and members around the Baltic Sea. Together we are about 2 000 local Rotary clubs with approximately 70 000 members.

Our aim is to contribute to the improvement of the environment in and around the Baltic Sea, together with several partners. The advantage with Rotary's engagement is that it's a regional project close to our clubs and their local networks, which facilitates to arrange local activities to influence the public and decision makers in their neighbourhood.

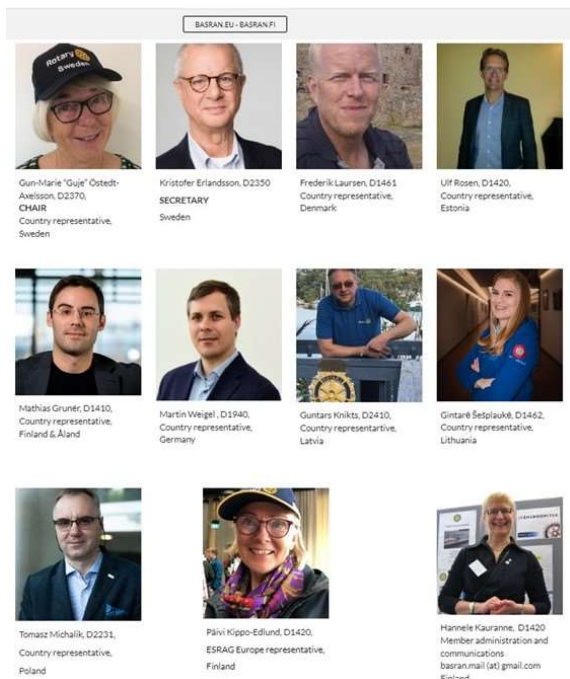
**REGISTER to the upcoming BASRAN webinar March 23rd!**



We are arranging webinars and has now the pleasure to invite you to our next webinar no. 7 with the title: **"The impact of industrial fishing on the Baltic Sea ecosystem"** taking place on Saturday March 23. It's a hot topic and the intention is to bring you an up-to-date picture of the situation.

Please read on our web site: <http://basran.eu/> and register in Zoom through this link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpdO2hqjMsGNRn-Ufll5T9NO9W3YYAqVml>



BASRAN started in 2019 by Finnish Rotarians in and after two years, in the autumn 2021, Poland took over the presidency. Sweden took over from October 7, 2023, and has the presidency for two years.

The [Board](#) meets online once a month and to the left you will find the current board members from our eight countries Sweden, Finland/Åland, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. There is also a member from ESRAG.

At our website <http://Basran.eu> you can read our Action Plan 2023-2025.

### A great opportunity for future leaders – RYLA Baltic Sea



We are also offering young adults a very qualified leadership training with focus on the Baltic Sea - **RYLA, Rotary Youth Leadership Award**. The first one took place in Germany 2022, the second in Sweden 2023, when 25 young participants between 18-30 years, were sponsored by Rotary clubs from five countries around the Baltic Sea.

Now there is a chance for you to invite young people to [RYLA Baltic Sea 2024](#) with focus on **“Climate change and the Baltic Sea”**, taking place on **August 4-9, 2024**, in Hanko/Hangö Tvärminne, in **Finland**.



Photo: Alf Norkko



Alf Norkko



Photo: Susanna Mikander



Photo: Johanna Sandin



Please read the invitation on our [website](#), where you also find the [registration](#) form:

**The application deadline is April 15, 2024.**

Hope to meet you online at our webinar on March 23!

Best "Save the Baltic Sea" regards,

*Gun-Marie "Guje" Östedt-Axelsson,*

Chair of the BASRAN board 2023-2025

Stockholm-Skanstull RC in district 2370, [gog.axelsson@telia.com](mailto:gog.axelsson@telia.com)



## **Baltic Sea Ambassador, Environment Ambassador or Sustainability Ambassador for every club!**

### **"Rotary Baltic Sea Ambassadors" current education in Sweden**

#### 1. Aim - After the education our ambassadors should:

- Have knowledge about the challenges of the Baltic Sea and possible ways to meet the challenges
- Have knowledge of good sources to talk about the Baltic Sea
- Be able to give a presentation of the Baltic Sea, its problems and possible solutions
- Be able to discuss the subject, to give and receive critics
- Be an engine (a driving gear) in his/her Rotary club to engage the club in local activities and project for the Baltic Sea together with partners

#### 2. Structure of the education - three steps

*Step 1:* Lecture, online, about the Baltic Sea state of today, challenges and future. Ways to counter the challenges. Presentation of good sites to learn. Discussions after the presentation. (Two hours). The lecture is given by the head of the Baltic Sea Centre at Stockholm University through Zoom.

*Step 2:* Work on your own and in small groups. Work with help of the presentation in step 1 and the sites presented as well as other sources with the aim to draft a Power-point presentation (20-30 minutes). Finalize the presentation in small groups. (One month break, work for 2-3 days)

*Step 3:* Joint live meeting with all participants at the Baltic Sea Science Center at Skansen in Stockholm. Presentations from all the groups of their work in step 2. Feed-back and discussions. Proposal of ideas and discussion about possible activities and projects in the different clubs. "Promotion" of all participant (with handover of the "Save the Baltic Sea cap") - four hours.



### 3. Future work and the background

We encourage the newly promoted ambassadors to inspire their clubs to start activities and to "spread the word" in their regions about the situation of the Baltic Sea. All participants are invited to a Facebook group called "Rotary Östersjöambassadörer" ("Rotary Baltic Sea Ambassadors"), where we present actual information about the Baltic Sea. The education started in 2022 and so far, we have had 3 educations with, in total, 30 promoted participants from 3 different Swedish Rotary districts. The latest education with 21 Rotary members has started on January 15, 2024.

For more information and questions please write to:

*Sven Rudberg*, Värmdö-Skärgård Rotary club in the Stockholm archipelago,  
sven.rudberg@gmail.com

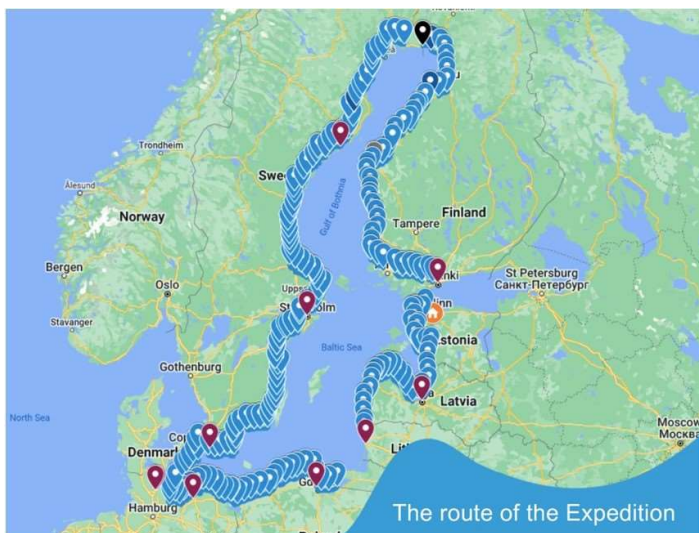
### **Take action - Join BASRAN Action Committees!**

<https://sites.google.com/rotaryfinland.org/basran/basran-action-committees>

- Awareness Raising and Environmental Education.
- Eutrophication, reducing excessive runoff, wetlands.
- Beach cleaning and micro plastics.
- Dangerous substances in the deep.
- The impact of industrial fishing on the Baltic Sea ecosystem

### **Hiking Expedition "Let's Save the Baltic" starts from Lithuania**

The idea: Walking around the Baltic Sea. Duration: one year. Countries visited: 8. Distance: 5500 km. Joined by organizations from the Baltic Sea countries and involving residents of the Baltic Sea countries.



<https://www.facebook.com/SaveTheBalticSea>

The expedition will commence in Lithuania and then proceed sequentially to Poland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, and Latvia.

**Contact:**

savebaltic.eu

Rimantė Balsiūnaitė | Partnership coordinator, Expedition "Let's save the Baltic Sea!"

<https://savebaltic.eu/partners/>

+370 689 67839,



## What is ESRAG and what does it do?

*Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action group* (ESRAG) is an association which empowers Rotarians worldwide to take action to make our environment more ecologically sustainable. ESRAG acts as a catalyst by, for example, sharing information with clubs and communities about ecologically sustainable practises and the climate change and assisting clubs and single Rotarians in initiating impactful environmental service projects.

For example, ESRAG has taken an initiative called **"Every Club Climate friendly"**. By now there are more than 140 interested and participating clubs in the campaign from 24 countries. Your club is welcome!

More information: <https://esrag.org/> and <https://becomesustainable.org/>

Become a member! To get the support and other benefits just pay a membership fee of 30 USD/year. On the first page of <https://esrag.org/> you will find a button "Join ESRAG".  
<https://www.facebook.com/GoESRAG>

*Päivi Kippo-Edlund*, Director, ESRAG Board of Directors, Member of the BASRAN Board

**The next BASRAN Webinar March 23, 2024. Register to Zoom:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpdO2hqjMsGNRn-Ufl5T9NO9W3YYAqVml>



BASRAN  
Baltic Sea Action Network

JOIN BASRAN – no costs involved <http://basran.eu/>