



Rotary
District 2405



**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



Invitation to a KICK-OFF and inspirational workshop in preparation for World Polio Day 2026



MONDAYS, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

20.00–21.30 Latvian time

No registration required



ZOOM

Digital meeting

The link is in the end of this invitation

Since 1985, Rotary's top priority joint project has been helping to eradicate polio. Today, many people have never heard of polio — a viral disease that primarily affects young children and can lead to paralysis. Latvia has been declared polio free in 2002, but outbreaks still occur in some countries; if we do not continue our fight to eradicate the disease completely, there is a risk it could flare up again.

This year, World Polio Day will be on Saturday, October 24. Rotary clubs around the world are encouraged to highlight the fight against polio through activities during the week of October 19–24.

Several clubs in our district hold annual activities to raise awareness about Rotary's work to combat polio and to collect funds for Rotary's End Polio Now campaign. In order to exchange ideas and inspire one another ahead of Polio Week, the District Chair for End Polio Now will host a kick-off event on September 14.

**HOW WILL
YOUR CLUB
HELP
ERADICATE
POLIO?**



***Start planning today for
World Polio Day on Saturday,
October 24, 2026***

What is World Polio Day?

- A day to raise awareness about our work to combat polio and to remind everyone that if we stop the fight against the disease, there is a risk of a resurgence.
- A day to raise funds for Rotary's End Polio Now campaign.
- A day to show the world that we are keeping our promise: to eradicate polio and help those affected by the disease.

What has Rotary achieved so far in the fight against polio?

In 1985, Rotary became the first civic organization to take on the fight against polio. Since then, we have mobilized funds, resources, and volunteers to support vaccination programs worldwide. Since 1988, we have collaborated on the *Global Polio Eradication Initiative* (GPEI) alongside partners such as the WHO, UNICEF, and the Gates Foundation. We have achieved amazing results since starting our work in 1985! We have helped bring polio to the brink of eradication. But we won't stop until the entire world is polio-free!

There are currently no cases of polio in Sweden or Latvia, but cases still occur in other countries. A major polio outbreak occurred in Sweden in 1953; 5,000 people were infected, 2,000 were paralyzed, and several hundred died. A vaccination program was launched in 1957, and the last case of polio in Sweden was recorded in 1977. The most massive outbreaks of polio in Latvia occurred during specifically between 1955 and 1958. During the peak of the 1950s epidemic, exact case numbers and specific death tolls in Latvia were tightly controlled and largely subsumed under total Soviet Union public health registries. Europe was declared polio-free in 2002. Africa is considered polio-free, although isolated outbreaks still occur in Central Africa. In Asia, there are occasional outbreaks in Indonesia, while Afghanistan and Pakistan still see multiple cases each year.

PPS Polio Plus Society

The Polio Plus Society was established some years ago. To become a member, you commit to donating a minimum of 100 US dollars annually to End Polio Now — either as a lump sum or, for example, in monthly installments. You will receive a pin signifying your active participation in Rotary's vital work to eradicate polio. We will share more details about this at the meeting on September 14.



We hope that all the clubs will be represented at our kick-off event. It is important for us to maintain visibility and stay active. Furthermore, it is wonderful to share our clubs' ideas and experiences — there is no need to reinvent the wheel...

The meeting will be led by District End Polio Now Coordinator Gunilla Öhlin and it will be conducted in English, but if anyone wishes to speak in Swedish, English, or Latvian, we will assist with translation.

Save the date: September 14, 2026, from 20:00 PM to 21:30 PM Latvian time.

Meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81442020282?pwd=gIKba6BHjF1WfaqujoD3JbZqcoElj5.1>

You can also find plenty of inspiration on Rotary.org: it features stories, images, and videos, as well as concrete ideas for activities and fundraising in support of End Polio Now. <https://www.rotary.org/en/articles/2026/05/so-you-want-to-end-polio>
<https://www.endpolio.org/en/together-in-the-fight/world-polio-day>

Very welcome!

Gunilla Öhlin
District End Polio Now Coordinator

Yael Tågerud
District Governor 2026-2027

SPREAD KNOWLEDGE	COLLECT	SHOW THAT WE ARE SERIOUS
Explain why polio still needs to be eradicated.	Support Rotary's End Polio Now campaign.	Together, we keep our promise – until the world is free from polio.