



**BERAS** *implementation*  
Baltic Ecological Recycling  
Agriculture and Society

## Invitation: International Conference on **Sustainable Food Societies**

Developing Sustainable Societies & Learning Centres  
for Recycling Agriculture

**Järna, Sweden 24 - 27 May 2011**

**The EU-project BERAS Implementation invites** Project Partners, Associated Organisations, sustainable society initiatives, Ministries and Government, and public at large.

**BERAS Implementation** is a three year EU project with a strong partnership involving all 10 countries in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) plus Norway. Among the partners are ministries, regional and local authorities, universities and research institutes, NGO's and the business sector.

**BERAS Implementation** is the genuine alternative for a sustainable and prosperous development in the BSR. The focus of the project is to establish ecological recycling agriculture (ERA) in the whole region. For further information, partnership and scientific background – [www.beras.eu](http://www.beras.eu).

**The main topic of the conference** is developing Sustainable Food Societies (BERAS Implementation Centers). The core of Sustainable Food Societies is the sustainable agricultural system – ecological recycling agriculture (ERA). By connecting the ERA farm to the other actors in the food chain - processing, distribution, consumers - we will create fully integrated examples of sustainable societies and local food clusters. These societies will also function as learning centres and hopefully inspire other similar initiatives. Sustainable Food Societies will be established in all 10 countries – 3 in Sweden, 4 in Poland, 3 in Germany and one each in Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Denmark and Norway.

**In the Järna region in Sweden** there are many examples of ERA farms, small scale food processing, distributors, restaurants, shops and school canteens which profile local and organic food. This may serve as an inspiration and starting point for the establishment of other Sustainable Food Societies.

**During the conference days** there will be excursions, lectures, seminars, and exhibitions. Please find below a preliminary program.

**Register at [www.beras.eu](http://www.beras.eu)**

For further information contact Maria Micha, +46-8-551 577 99, [maria.micha@beras.eu](mailto:maria.micha@beras.eu)

## Keynote speakers

### Johan Rockström

Johan Rockström is a Professor in natural resource management at Stockholm University, and the Executive Director of the Stockholm Environment Institute and the Stockholm Resilience Centre. He is an internationally recognized scientist on global sustainability issues, where he, e.g., led the recent development of the new Planetary Boundaries framework for human development in the current era of rapid global change.

### Patrick Holden

Patrick Holden has been the Director of Soil association in the UK for 15 years (1995 – 2010). He is now in the process of establishing a new organization The Sustainable Food Trust whose mission will be to accelerate the transition from the present intensive and industrial food production systems towards a more sustainable and resilient future. The aim of the SFT will be to achieve this through enabling greater cooperation between individuals and organizations playing leadership roles in the field of sustainable agriculture throughout the world.

### Artur Granstedt

Associate professor Artur Granstedt, Södertörn University, is research manager at The Biodynamic Research Institute and coordinator of the BERAS Implementation project. Granstedt has conducted the key research behind the BERAS project showing a practical way to reduce losses of phosphorus and nitrogen to the Baltic Sea from agriculture to a sustainable level and at the same time significantly reduce the output of greenhouse gases, preserve biological diversity and improve the economic development of rural areas.

## Preliminary Program

### Tuesday 24 May: Pre-meeting

Only for Project Partners and Associated Organisations; starts 18:00

### Wednesday 25 May: Excursions

To see the Järna and Södertälje BERAS Implementation Center/Sustainable Food Society in practice

**09:00** Get together and short introduction

**09:30-16.00** Visits to farms, gardens, dairies, bakeries, other processing facilities, research station, shops, distributors, schools, canteens, restaurants, etc

**Evening** Building of exhibition area in Järna Culture House

### Thursday 26 May: Conference day (lectures, workshops and exhibitions)

**09:00** Opening by Anders Lago, Mayor of Södertälje and Moira von Wright, Vice-Chancellor Södertörn University.

**09:20** Gabriella Lindholm, Ambassador for the Marine Environment, Swedish Ministry of Environment

**09:30** Keynote speaker: "The challenges of the agricultural sector and the need for systemic shift to sustainable food practices" Patrick Holden CBE, Director, Sustainable Food Trust

**10:00** Keynote speaker: BERAS project background, Artur Granstedt, Project Coordinator

**10:20** Break

**11:00** Sustainable Food Societies - the concept, Jostein Hertwig, BERAS secretariat Järna, Vesa-Matti Loiske, director of COMREC, Södertörn University, and Maria Staniszewska, Polish Ecological Club in Krakow, City of Gliwice Chapter

**11:40** Diet for a Clean Baltic: Johan Ununger, CEO, Saltå Kvarn, Sara Jervfors, Manager of Diet Unit at



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Södertälje Municipality, and Anya Hultberg, Copenhagen House of Food (to be confirmed)

**12:05** Instructions for the afternoon workshops

**12:15** Lunch and time to look at the exhibitions

**14:00** “Planetary Boundaries and Sustainable Societies” Johan Rockström, Executive Director of Stockholm Resilience Center and Stockholm Environment Institute

**14:20** Workshops, including coffee break

### Workshops

- 1. How do we stimulate the conversion of farms?** Karin Stein-Bachinger, Leibniz-Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research, Kaspars Žūriņš, Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre, and Wijnand Koker, The Biodynamic Research Institute
- 2. How can the private sector contribute to Diet for a Clean Baltic?** Johan Ununger, Saltå Kvarn
- 3. How can the public sector contribute to Diet for a Clean Baltic?** Sara Jervfors, Södertälje Municipality and Anya Hultberg, Copenhagen House of Food
- 4. Developing Sustainable Food Societies:** Maria Staniszevska, Polish Ecological Club in Krakow, City of Gliwice Chapter, and Per Hector, Swedish Rural Network
- 5. Inputs to the reform of EU’s Common Agricultural Policy:** Professor Per Wramner, Södertörn University
- 6. How do we communicate our objectives?** Sampsa Heinonen, The Biodynamic Research Institute
- 7. How to integrate the BERAS knowledge in schools and universities?** Artur Granstedt, Södertörn University
- 8. How can we assure the scientific basis of the project? Addressing eutrophication, climate change, biodiversity, and soil fertility** Pentti Seuri, MTT Agrifood Research Finland
- 9. How can banks support the development of Sustainable Food Societies and what changes in the business sector do we need?** Annika Laurén and Kristoffer Lüthi, Ekobanken
- 10. How can universities - scientists and students - be involved in creating Sustainable Food Societies?** Moira von Wright and Mikael Lönn, Södertörn University

**16:00** Summary from the seminar groups/the day

**18:00** Exhibitions, buffé, social gathering, cultural entertainment (music)

### Friday 27 May: Project meeting -only for Project Partners and Associated Organisations

**9:00-15:00** Work groups and planning of further work. Milestone 1 reporting, Milestone 2 activity planning, time schedule (conferences, work groups etc. for the whole project).

In addition a guided tour to the exhibition “See Colour” will be offered, [www.seecolour.se](http://www.seecolour.se), a Transition seminar, [www.transitionnetwork.org](http://www.transitionnetwork.org), and a Spouces program through cooperation with Green Coast destination development group.



Photo: Max Plunger