

ROTARY EUROPEAN ACTION SUMMIT

**5 ZONES,
92 DISTRICTS
54 COUNTRIES
1000 GUESTS**



TO BELONG
THE POWER OF
CONNECTION AND ACTION
ROTTERDAM 2026

**ROTARY &
ROTARACT
TO BELONG**

A MESSAGE FROM THE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL ZONE DIRECTOR

From 8 – 13 September 2026, Rotterdam becomes the European meeting place for Rotarians, Rotaractors, partners and changemakers who believe that belonging and connection leads to action and thus change the world.

Join us at the Rotary European Action Summit 2026 from September 11 - 13, 2026 in Rotterdam and experience how the power of connection leads to action – and to lasting impact.

Welcome



Harriette Verwey
Director
Rotary International
2025-2027
Convenor

As Rotary International Director and convener of this Summit, it is my great pleasure to invite you to Rotterdam in September 2026. Together with Co-Convenor Rotary International Director Massimo Ballotta, I look forward to welcoming you to a truly European gathering of inspiration, learning, connection and action.

Our theme, "TO BELONG – The Power of Connection and Action," reflects a simple truth: when people feel they belong, they connect and dare to act. And when we make connections and act together, we create change that lasts. This Summit is designed as a catalyst, not just a conversation. Our goal is clear: to inspire, connect, and activate Rotarians, Rotaractors, and partners from across Europe and beyond.



Massimo Ballotta
Director
Rotary
International
2026 - 2028
Co-Convenor

On the morning of September 11, there will be a choice of three inspiring seminars on the Rotary Foundation, Rotaract and Membership. This will be immediately followed by the start of the European Action Summit on September 11, 2026. The theme comes to life through three practical focus areas, where Rotary and partners are already making a difference: Literacy, Mental Health and Environment.

We warmly invite you to be part of this journey in Rotterdam. Places will be limited. We therefore encourage you to **register early** and secure your spot.



Olayinka "Yinka" Babalola
President Rotary International
2026-2027

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THE PROGRAM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Organised and facilitated by Rotaract
to enhance your visit to the summit
Can be purchased through the website.

Official summit program
organised in collaboration with Rotaract.
Can be purchased through the website.

TIME	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
9.00			Rotaract Seminar	Rotary European Action Summit	Rotary European Action Summit	
10.00		City tour				
11.00						
12.00						
13.00		Lunch	Rotary European Action Summit	Rotary European Action Summit		
14.00						
15.00		Social project				
16.00						
17.00						
18.00	Dinner at Foodhallen	Diner at your own convenience	Diner at your own convenience	Gala Evening		
19.00						
20.00	Welcome Drinks at Elvy SkyBay	Game night at Mooie Boules	Mentor Speeddate			
21.00			Country Nights at Keilecafé			
22.00						
23.00						
00.00						

THE ROTARACT SEMINAR

Friday 9.30-12.00

PARTICIPATE!

We want to make the Rotaract Seminar as interactive as possible. These are 3 ways you can participate. Apply before August 10th by sending an email to info@rotaract.nl

Pitch your project

Raise awareness for your project or initiative by presenting it on stage during the Rotaract Seminar. Submit your project by sending an email with project plan to info@rotaract.nl before 10th of August. 3 selected projects will get the opportunity to present on stage in 3 minutes. End your presentation with a specific question to the audience on the support you are looking for for this project. The audience gets 2 minutes to provide input. Connections for your project are made then and there!

Participate in a panel

Every club is different, whether Rotaract or Rotary. This is what makes the organisation strong and allows us to learn from each other. In this panel 3 Rotaracters and 3 Rotarians can participate to share best-practices and club and country insights.

Representing the Rotary Family

Interact, Rotaract and Rotary create a strong successive 'family' line, allowing people to grow along different memberships. There are beautiful examples of Interactors becoming Rotaractors, Rotaractor becoming Rotarians, Rotaract clubs starting Interact clubs, and people 'giving back' the value they got from Rotary by becoming a coach or mentor for younger generations. Do you have an initiative or journey to share? This is your chance!

THE SPEAKERS

Opening Keynote by the Rotary International president, Olayinka Hakeem Babalola

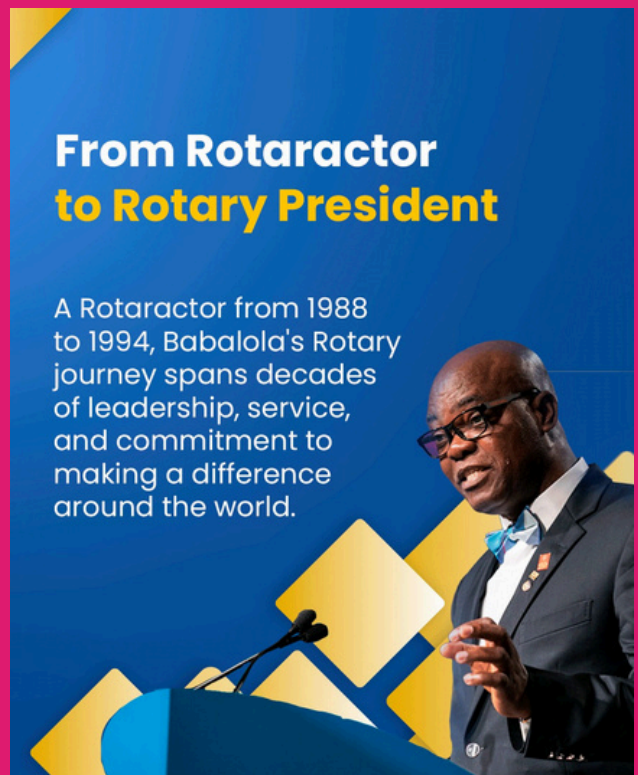
Olayinka is looking forward to share his experiences within Rotary and the journey that led to becoming Rotary international's President. He holds a degree in engineering and spent more than 30 years in the oil and gas sector, including senior leadership roles at Shell PLC. He founded the Riviera Technical Services Ltd., an oil and gas infrastructure delivery firm, as well as Lead and Change Consulting, an executive coaching and organizational performance consultancy.

He started his Rotary journey as a Rotaractor in 1983. A Rotarian since 1993, Babalola is a member of the Rotary club of Trans Amadi, Port Harcourt District 9141, Nigeria. He served on the Rotary International Board of Directors from 2018 through 2020 and as Vice President of Rotary International for the 2019-20 year.

Babalola is passionate about Growing Rotary. As District Governor, he grew membership by a net gain of over 650 members, emerging as one of the top three performing districts in the world and was recognized on stage at the Bangkok Rotary Convention. As RI Director, he inspired the growth of Rotary in Africa from 19,000 to over 44,000 members. Districts of his paired zones became the fastest growing districts in their region.

From Rotaractor to Rotary President

A Rotaractor from 1988 to 1994, Babalola's Rotary journey spans decades of leadership, service, and commitment to making a difference around the world.



THE SPEAKERS

Bruno Balbi - Keynote about high-performance and mental health

After years building and scaling companies as an entrepreneur, Bruno Balbi experienced burnout firsthand twice and began to question the real cost of high performance. In this session, he shares that journey openly not as a lesson, but as a personal account of what happens when performance stops working, and what it takes to rebuild.

Being a sing & songwriter as well, Bruno is blending storytelling with live music, creating a space where the topic becomes tangible and human. The goal is to open a conversation so that people who are struggling feel less alone, and teams can begin to talk more honestly about pressure, performance, and well-being.



MENTOR SPEEDDATES

Connecting Experience with Ambition

This interactive session brings together Rotarians and Rotaractors to exchange professional experience, insights, and ambitions.

Through a series of short, dynamic conversations, young professionals will connect with experienced leaders from diverse fields—exploring skills, challenges, and opportunities for growth.

More than just networking, this session is designed to spark long-term connections. Selected matches may continue their journey in a one-year mentorship relation with monthly check-ins to support personal and professional development.

We are actively looking for both mentors and mentees who are ready to invest in growth, share experiences, and build connections that last beyond the summit.

You can sign up here, by filling out [this form](#) as a mentee. The survey takes about 5 minutes, to make sure we can make the right curated mentor-mentee matches.

Feel free to share [this survey](#) with potentially interested mentors from your network.

The mentor speeddates are taking place on Friday 11th of September at the Keilecafé from 20.00-21.00.

Questions? Please reach out to Atche via +31 6 48205206!

THE SUMMIT PROGRAM

SUMMIT SPEAKERS

All summit sessions take place at the World Trade Center in Rotterdam. Find all speakers and the full program [here](#)

Carola Schouten

Opening keynote from the **Mayor of Rotterdam** about social impact. From 2022-2024, Schouten was **Minister for Poverty Policy**, Participation and Pensions and Deputy Prime Minister.



Princess Laurentien van oranje

Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands is a social entrepreneur, and writer and hosts a session on literacy as the **Director of a Foundation focusing on social issues** such as child poverty, language development, and digital inequality.



Bana Alabed

Bana (15, Syria) is winner of the International Children's Peace Prize 2025 and has become **a powerful voice for children in warzones, advocating for peace, education, and justice.**



Bernice Nootenboom

As polar explorer and climate expert, Bernice will be sharing personal experiences from the most extreme regions on earth rethinking climate change, leadership, and responsibility.



Julien de Wit

For his work as an author, columnist, and entrepreneur, Julien has been listed on the **Belgian Forbes 30 under 30 list** and will address leadership and societal change.



John Hewko

The CEO of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation, John Hewko, will guide us through the developments and impact of Rotary International.



THE SOCIAL PROGRAM

All tickets purchased through [here on the summit website](#) in advance

Welcome Drinks

Elvy Bar - Wed 9th



Ready to start off good? That can easily be done with drinks at the Elvy Skybar and a beautiful view of the Rotterdam Skyline!

From 20.00 - 00.00

Tickets of €15 can be purchased [here](#)

Drinks from 20.00-21.00 included

Buy before 10th of August

Address: [Wilhelminakade 137, 3072 AP Rotterdam](#)

Transportation: Can be reached via metro station Wilhelminaplein and a 5-minute walk

CITY TOUR

Thursday 10.00-12.00 - sign up [here](#)

Gather at the market square in front of Blaak Train Station

Visit the most iconic scences of Rotterdam with the Rotaract-led city tour.



SOCIAL PROJECT

Thursday 15.00-17.00 ; at Dries van der Vlerkstraat, 3063 RA Rotterdam

Baking classical Dutch pancakes and poffertjes for an elderly home and replanting a community garden in the city of Rotterdam.



Reach the social project by watertaxi - Reserve [here](#) before 31st of August. For questions please reach out to Warsha; +31 6 51554260

Game Night

Mooie Boules - Thu 10th



Ready to play a game of Boccia/Jeu de Boules, sing Karaoke, table tennis or any board games? All of this is possible at Mooie Boules!

From 20.00 - 01.00

Tickets of €10 can be purchased [here](#)

Buy before 10th of August

Address: [Vijverhofstraat 45, 3032 SB Rotterdam](#)

Transportation: A 10-minute walk from Rotterdam Central Station

Country Night

Keilecafé - Friday 11th



Want to experience the beach in the city? Keilecafé is the place to go.

From 20.00 - 01.00; Tickets costs € 10 and can be purchases [here](#); Buy before 10th of August. Address: Vierhavensstraat 46, 3029 BG Rotterdam

Transportation: via metro station Marconiplein and a 5-minute walk

Theme: Make sure to **represent your country by dressing up in your country colours** or original clothing! Since it is a bar it is not possible to setup country booths and not possible to bring your own drinks and bites. However, from 18.30, we will host a mini-country booth 'potluck picknick' style at the "Dakpark" next door. Hope to see you there!

Mentor Speeddates will take place from 20.00-21.00 at the Keilecafé

Gala night

SS Rotterdam - Sat 12th



Known as “La Grande Dame”, the Steamship SS Rotterdam has a long and rich history. Built in Rotterdam and now back in her home city, this flagship of the Holland America Line offers a truly unique setting for a special gala evening.

Welcome drink from 19.00 hrs, dinner from 20.00 hrs and at 21.30 the dance floor will open! The programme will conclude at 23.30 hrs.

Tickets of €150 can be purchased [here](#)

Address: [3e Katendrechtse Hoofd 25, 3072 AM Rotterdam](#)

Transportation: by [watertaxi](#), normal taxi or can be reached with a 20-minute walk from metro station Rijnhaven .

More information can be found on the [website](#)

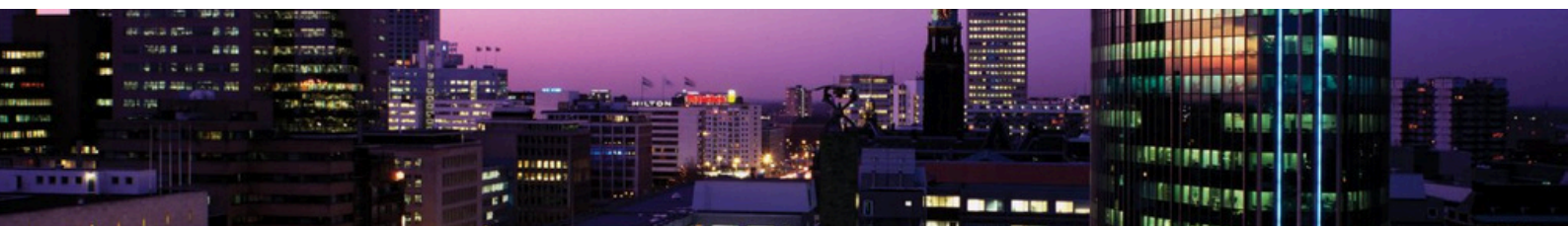
COSTS

Tickets for all activities must be purchased via separate registrations on the website and can not be bought at once.

SEMINAR + SUMMIT - €125

Access to all sessions at the World Trade Center, from Friday-Sunday, 3 times lunch and drinks throughout the whole summit program.

Tickets can be purchased [here](#)



GALA - €150

Including 3 course meal + open bar from 19.00 - 23.30 hours.

Tickets can be purchased [here](#)



ALL ROTARACT SOCIAL ACTIVITIES - €45

For all evening & day activiteis + pay per consumption (first drinks included)

Tickets can be purchased [here](#)



TRANSPORT

Transportation

Rotterdam - Karlsruhe

As the REM in Karlsruhe is unfortunately taking place in the same weekend as the Rotary European Action Summit, we want to give some information on potential transportation from Rotterdam to Karlsruhe on Friday 11th of September.

This allows you to join the social program of the Summit (welcome drinks, game night, city tour, and social project) and the Rotaract Seminar on Friday morning and then arrive in Karlsruhe before the Country Booths at 18.59. However, the official summit is from Friday afternoon, which you then won't be able to attend.

Outward trip

Friday 11 September 2026

13:15

Rotterdam Centraal

Track 4

5h 44m

3 × transfers

IC > IC > Regional > ICE

[Route details](#)

18:59

Karlsruhe Hbf

Track 2

1. Select a travel class



2nd class

€ 66.99

<https://www.nsinternational.com/en/traintickets-v3/#/search/NLRTC/DEQKA/20260911/1315/1859?pax=A>

Transportation during the summit

Transportation during the summit is not provided. Most locations are at a walking distance or within a range of 15 minutes using public transportation. Debit and credit cards can be used to check-in to

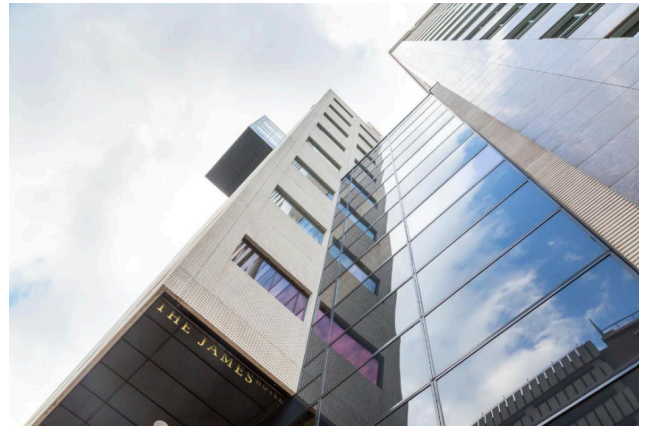
HOTELS



Hotels

We've selected two affordable hotels in Rotterdam. These hotels are not specifically booked for Rotaract. We do want to facilitate finding a roommate via the form below.

[The James ****](#)



[easyHotel Rotterdam City_Centre**](#)



Looking for a roomie?

Sign up here: [🌐 Hotel Matching](#)



Hostel



Rotterdam is known for its architecture! Experience it first hand in the Stay Okay hostel in these cubicle houses.

Address: [Stayokay Rotterdam](#) - [Overblaak 85, 3011 MP Rotterdam](#)

Let the reception know that you belong with Rotaract, and they will put you in a room with other Rotaracters if possible.



Hosting

Would you like us to check if a Rotaracter can host you?

Please fill in This form: [🌐 Hosting program](#)

**WANT TO STAY
CONNECTED DURING
THE SUMMIT?**

**JOIN THE ROTARACT
GROUP CHAT!**



**Rotaract at Rotary European
Action Summit**

WhatsApp group





We look forward to welcoming you in Rotterdam!

Pedro Summavielle

Atche Bilyal

Warsha Somai

Iris Bergshoeff

Isabella Minderop

Aster Deneyer

Hussain Alshabib