



Osiliana

ABOUT US



Since its launch in 2020, Osiliana has been led by archaeology doctor **Marika Mägi**, who has extensively explored and excavated Saaremaa for the past thirty years. Most of her research is dedicated to the Viking, Late Iron Age, and Medieval periods of Saaremaa, but she has also investigated earlier centuries.

During her long research career she has published several books and numerous articles in Estonia and abroad, taught archaeology at Tallinn University, organised several exhibitions, advised and participated in documentary films on the prehistory of Saaremaa, and been invited to speak at many conferences and seminars in different countries.

Marika spends her summers in Rõõsa, near Valjala, Saaremaa. She attaches great importance to the input given by the locals and values highly the involvement of the people of the island. Due to this, she has given many lectures and organised excursions, and always has open days at her archaeological excavations, to which everyone is welcome.

For more information (publications, books, *etc.*):
https://www.etis.ee/CV/Marika_M%C3%A4gi/eng/.



Piia Sandra Sandrak is an assistant of Osiliana and in 2022 she joined the PhD programme at Tallinn University as part of the Osiliana project. Her doctoral thesis is titled "[The sociopolitical landscape of the 13th century Saaremaa in the context of the Baltic Sea](#)" and her supervisors are Marika Mägi, PhD, head of Osiliana, and Kersti Markus, prof. of Tallinn University.

The island of Saaremaa was already the focus of her Master's thesis, and while her doctoral thesis aims to cover the whole of Saaremaa and the wider Baltic Sea area, in this one she focused mainly on the so-called twin parish of Valjala-Karja and also dealt with the similarities of the laws of Gotland and the treaties of 1241 and 1255. Although Piia grew up in northern Estonia, she has spent all her summers in Saaremaa near Leisi, where are her maternal roots (the villages of Veske and Parasmetsa), but her paternal roots reach Pöide as well (to the village of Mui).



Foundation Osiliana was established in 2020 with the support and initiative of Kristjan Rahu and Alo Lepik, who consider it important to contribute to the research of Saaremaa's history. In addition to them, the board of Osiliana also includes Marika Mägi and Jegor Klimov.



Osiliana also has a number of collaborators who have made a very important contribution to the study of Saaremaa's history over the years by participating in archaeological excavations and landscape surveys:

Janek Ojasaar, who has a good knowledge of the local landscape and is able to aid with everything from tool making to photography and drone flying.

Indrek Teppan, who is a master at flying drones and also works tirelessly on landscape surveys.

Kalev Kuusk, who has been a hobby detectorist on Marika surveys and excavations for many years and plans to study archaeology at the University of Tartu.

Ester Vaiksaar, who has invaluable knowledge of Saaremaa's folklore and antiquities, and works daily as a history teacher at school in Valjala.

Maris Niinesalu-Moon, who is studying the diet of the Saaremaa people as part of her [doctoral studies](#) at the University of Tartu, and is helping to excavate Saaremaa's prehistory layer by layer.

Karin Rannaäär, who studies the clothing and burial sites of the inhabitants of prehistoric Saaremaa and studies archaeology at the University of Tartu.

Mairi Kaseorg, who is also studying archaeology at the University of Tartu and has already been excavating independently in the Koigi bog with Karin.

Lisanna Lee Leiman, who studies history at Tallinn University, is interested in archaeology and is very much involved in all kinds of fieldwork.

Kaupo Surva, a very experienced hobby detectorist, who has been all over the Saaremaa with Marika over the years, and also makes sure that Osiliana's accounts are in order.

Toomas Mägi, an experienced hobby-detectorist, archaeology enthusiast and maker of copies of antiquities, who has been involved in the discovery of many sites in Saaremaa.

Jegor Klimov, a hobby detectorist with good hands and skills. In 2019, he found a gold brooch, which is known to be the most valuable single find recovered in archaeological fieldwork in Estonia.

Edvards Puciriuss, a blacksmith, specialist in historical metalwork and maker of replicas of archaeological artefacts, who has participated in many archaeological fieldwork projects in Saaremaa over the years.

We have benefited from the advice and support of many Saarlanders, and we are especially grateful:

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