



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS  
**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™**

## **EUFORIA**

### **Edition 66 Spring 2026**

**Dear friends,** here is EUFORIA, the Spring edition of 2026. This edition of Euforia provides updates on DKG's international activities, including upcoming conventions and leadership transitions. It features articles on the "5 Chairs 5 Choices" communication method, the role of AI in education, and various national projects, such as Iceland's 50th-anniversary history, Germany's remembrance culture, and Estonia's initiative to support new teachers.



**I am sad to inform you that I will be stepping down from my position as the editor of the DKG web magazine, Euforia.** Serving in this role has been highly educational and enjoyable. I am now seeking a successor to take over these editorial responsibilities. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact me directly or email Marie-Antoinette Hubers de Wolf or Carola Van Zänen - Van Rijn. I will do my best to help my successor. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and may you all have a wonderful summer.

Thanks to all the members who contributed exciting articles to this issue. Many thanks to Evelyn Goodsell (GB) for proofreading the articles; she has been a great help.

**Kristín Guðbjörg Snæland**  
Beta Chapter, Iceland

## Greetings from your Regional Director

Sitting at Keflavik International Airport, I'm writing my last article for Euforia as Europe Regional Director. I had a wonderful time with the Icelandic members and Louise Evans, who gave a workshop on her 5 Chair, 5 Choices method of communication. I felt very welcome, and it was excellently organised.



We stand at the beginning of a new period in our society. At the International Convention in Aurora, Colorado, June 30 th to July 5 th, 2026. We will vote for the Bylaws and GAPP (Guidelines, Administrative Policies and Procedures). Now we have our Constitution and International Standing Rules. A document of 102 pages! The new bylaws contain around 15 pages with just the most essential articles. All the procedures will be written out in GAPP. Making changes will be much easier. When a member, state, or committee wants to make a change, you have to fill in the special form and send it to the AB. They will discuss and, when accepted send it to the executive board. When there is a majority, the change will be made in GAPP. If you want to learn more, please take a look at the international website to see when there will be an Inside International or Townhall for explanation and discussion.

At this moment, every state chose their new chapter presidents. I want to thank you for standing up and starting a new leadership experience. I'm sure that you will be wonderful and you will get all the help you need to succeed.

### **What will the future bring us**

*First of all*, on the 21st and 28 th of March, there will be a new Educational Topic. Kenneth Xiaoling Jiang, an Amazing American concert pianist, teacher and altogether very creative and talented young man. He is happy to give a talk on The Unlimited Mind / his teaching methods. The link is on the European website.

*Second*, I want to ask you to put the 11 th -13 th of June 2027 in your agenda. The Norwegian members are working very hard to organise the second European Forum Conference in Kristiansand.

At the Convention in Aurora, we vote for the new Administrative Board. It is very important that you have a discussion about who will be your preferred candidate. You have to advise your state officer, who is going to the convention, that she votes on your behalf. All the candidates are on the International Website and in the News. I'm very pleased that Barbara Carlsen from Norway is nominated to take over. Unfortunately, we are still looking for candidates for the Nominating Committee and candidates for International Committees. In every International Committee, Europe can be represented. Please let us use that voice.

It was a privilege to serve you, and I always stood up for our region at the Administrative Board. We are unique and want to stay that way. Reflecting on those Biennia I'm proud of all of you, being courageous, leaders, curious, critical, but most of all sisters.

In my new role as a member of the International Finance committee, I will do all that is in my ability to keep standing up for the best for Europe.

I hope to see many of you next year in Norway.

**Marie-Antoinette Hubers de Wolf**

Europe Regional Director 2024-2026





### **News from the European Forum Committee**

This is my last writing for Euforia as chair of the European Forum Committee 2024-2026

It was a great learning adventure for me and it was awesome to work together with the best team, I could ever wish for. Thank you so much, Muriel, Henna, Ann-Katrin, Kadri, Diana, Marie-Antoinette, Asa and Thi. They all still give so much time, effort and dedication to the DKG European Forum Committee and I want to put them in the spotlight for once.

The Forum Committee is not finished yet; there is still a lot of work to do until July 1. On June 10 there will be a Forum committee meeting with the old and new members of the Forum committee. The agenda and minutes of the last meetings are always on the website. [www.dkgeurope.org](http://www.dkgeurope.org)

We hope you enjoyed the Educational Topics we had.

### **The latest Educational Topics:**

International Honorary Member **Marion Blumenthal Lazan** spoke at the United Nations, in observance of the United Nations International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

**Jelena Rootamm-Valter** spoke about

Values, Attitudes, and Socialization of Upper Secondary School Students during the Transition from Russian to Estonian-Language of Instruction. Jelena is a lecturer at Narva College of the University of Tartu, teaching mainly economics and digitalization subjects, she has a PhD degree in economics. She also teaches in one of Tallin private upper secondary school.

**Kenneth Xiaoling Jiang**, an Amazing American concert pianist, teacher and Altogether very creative and talented young man.

His lecture: The Unlimited Mind, his teaching method' was on March 21 st and March 28.

Be sure to look at our website regularly for updates on the Artist in the Spotlight, view Educational Topics you missed and read other news.

[www.dkgeurope.org](http://www.dkgeurope.org)

### **Artist in the Spotlight:**

There will be a new Artist in the Spotlight, a very creative member from Iceland. Read more about this special lady on our website: [www.dkgeurope.org](http://www.dkgeurope.org)



We are excited to host the next **DKG European Forum conference in Norway in Kristiansand June 11-13 2027.**

Be on the lookout for more news on the conference in Norway. I hope to see many of you there and meet you in person in 2027.

Of course we are looking forward to the **International DKG Convention in Aurora, Colorado June 30- July 4 2026.**

That will be an important convention because there will be voted on the bylaws, it will be educational and also lots of fun. The Forum meeting will be on July 3. First there is a joint Forum meeting with an interesting speaker at 14:30 hours and right after is the European Forum meeting.



There is always a lot going on in the world that affects us all. The upcoming of AI, the climate change, The Olympic Games etc. This all has an effect on the way we look at the world and the way we teach and what we need to teach preparing the students for the future. I believe we have to do much more to adapt our education systems to the changes of the world and see a lot of good practices there. I wrote an article on Design Thinking and hope it will be published in a DKG Bulletin. The Olympic Games is a good example of global connecting, empathy and helping each other. Like the bobsled team from Australia who lend the Dutch bobsled team their sled. They even let the Dutch team made the sled orange; - The sled belongs to a lady known as Blizzard and she shared the sled with the Dutch team before. This is so generous of her and gave the Dutch team a chance to enter the Olympic Games.

The five chairs, five choices method of Louise Evans will now be studied by Kadri Mettis and a team from the University in Estiona. She and DKG Estonia have initiated to have an Erasmus+ project on this inspiring valuable method from Louise. I am so proud of Kadri and Louise and hope this will be a great study and more countries will adapt this wonderful, educational and very important method. I experienced it myself with a three day seminar in Florence, with the children in my classes and think it is really important for children to understand their emotions, be able to talk about their emotions and can show understanding and empathy for others. In this age and time with a focus on phones, AI and devices it is extremely important we don't be individualists but reach out to others, learn from each other, learn to understand each other and connect.

If you have a great idea or an important topic we need to address, please contact the member of your county in the Forum Committee. Also if you experienced something educational you want to share. We can learn so much from each other. So please send in articles for Euforia and tip us on good Educational Topics or other issues that are valuable to know.

I wish you all a very sunny and happy spring time and summer with many friendships and connections with members from DKG

In closure a quote from Robert Kennedy:

**'Some men\* see things as they are, and say why. I dream of things that never were, and say why not'**

\*You can read instead of men the word women too.

**Carola van Zanen-van Rijn**

Chair of the European Forum Committee- 2024-2026



# Germany



## Updates from DKG Germany: On the road with cultures of remembrance, women's literature and creative educational practice

### 1. Stolpersteine - Stumbling Stones in Rastede – Remembering as We Walk

On 9 February, the first Stumbling Stones were laid in Rastede in commemoration of Karl, Klara, Selma and Hinrich Hattendorf – a deeply moving moment of lived remembrance culture, right in front of their former home at Schloßstraße 16.

Since last year, DKG Germany has been a member of the association "Stolpersteine Rastede e.V." and has taken on sponsorship – a small yet clearly visible sign against forgetting.

Until shortly before the start, the laying of the stones was in jeopardy because ground frost threatened to force a postponement. Gunter Demnig, the artist behind the Stumbling Stones, simply unpacked his tools and buckets and placed everything directly in front of the responsible representative of the



local authority – who could then only say, “All right, you can give it a try.” Ten minutes later, the four brass stones were already embedded in the pavement and have since invited everyone passing by to pause and reflect.



Gunter Demnig (centre) at the Stolperstein laying ceremony on 9 February 2026 in Rastede (source: <https://www.rasteder-rundschau.de/2026/02/09/steine-die-zum-stolpern-bringen/>)

From 1933 onwards, the Jewish Hattendorf family was subjected to harassment and persecution in Rastede; Karl Hattendorf was arrested during the November Pogrom of 1938 and interned in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, and the family was expelled from Rastede in 1940. Karl and Klara were deported to Theresienstadt in 1942 and murdered there, while Selma survived forced labour in Kassel, and her son Hinrich was placed in a children’s home.



Photo 2

Photo 3



At the ceremony, Johanna Oehne-Berdau and Elisaveta Apukhtina, pupils at the Kooperative Gesamtschule Rastede, gave a powerful account of the family's fate – a fine example of how young people can take responsibility for historical learning. More than two hundred people attended the laying of the stones and commemorated the Jewish citizens of their town.

Photo 4



(Source of photos 2-4:  
<https://stolpersteine-rastede.de/veranstaltungen/2025/12/verlegung-von-stolpersteinen-fuer-familie-hattendorf/>)

Sponsorships have now been found for all known Jewish victims of National Socialism from Rastede for whom Stolpersteine can be laid; co-initiator Anja Szyltowski will talk in more detail about the work of the association Stolpersteine Rastede e.V., which grew out of a school project on remembrance culture, in an "Educational Topic" planned for May 2026.

## **2. Women's Literature – Feminist Voices in the Classroom**

On 14 February 2026, several ladies from the Alpha Chapter met in wintry Delmenhorst for an inspiring afternoon at Claudia's home to discuss feminist literature under the umbrella theme "Women's lives" and how it can be worked with in the upper secondary English classroom. The focus was on how literary texts can help students engage thoughtfully with topics such as identity, the tensions between individuality and conformity, and current questions of gender.

The group drew on short fiction and essays by Charlotte Perkins Gilman ("The Yellow Wallpaper", 1892), Kate Chopin ("The Story of an Hour", 1894), Fay Weldon ("Weekend", 1978) and Bernardine Evaristo ("The First Feminists", 2020), each of which illuminates different facets of women's lived realities.

A particularly lively discussion arose around what it means when a text such as Evaristo's is set as compulsory reading for the school-leaving examination – and how much empowerment, but also challenge, this entails in the classroom. The conversation broadened to consider the role of Women in today's society and the opportunities and limits of school-based educational work.

With an eye to **8 March, International Women's Day**, it became clear how important literary role models and critical perspectives are in helping young people to appreciate the many voices within feminist debates.

### 3. Invitation to our State Meeting in Osnabrück

On 11 April 2026, we warmly invite you to our State Meeting in Osnabrück – the “City of the Peace of Westphalia”, an ideal setting for inspiring conversations about education, creativity and social responsibility.



© Photo by Tournasol7 - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=174959573>

As part of our annual theme “Creativity in the classroom”, Daniela will present her school project “Challenges”, which encourages learners to find their own ways of dealing with obstacles and conflicts.

In a second programme slot, Sabine will use the novel “Das Reich des Sascha Kozak” (The Realm of Sasha Kozak) by Moldovan author Iulian Ciocan, which she has translated into German, to open up perspectives on Moldova and the complex, often contradictory experiences of transformation in a post-Soviet society.



Photo by Sabine Krause

The novel will be published to coincide with the Leipzig Book Fair in March 2026 and offers rich material for discussions about democracy, remembrance and social fault lines – topics that are also central to our educational work. We very much look forward to welcoming many of you in Osnabrück, exchanging new ideas and continuing our joint efforts to strengthen women in educational professions.

**Dr. Sabine Krause**  
**State President, Germany**



## A Weekend in Florence - A Great Experience

Preparing the conference in Brighton last summer, Diana Bell asked me to thank one of the speakers, Louise Evans, for her presentation.

As I had never heard of one Louise Evans, I searched the web, and from then on, I was very excited about what awaited us.



Louise Evans - Entrepreneur, Author, Transformational Coach, Behavioural Trainer, TEDx Speaker, and Creator of THE Five Chairs, which she introduced to us at the auditorium of the University of Sussex, is a remarkable woman; in an extraordinary, personal way, she connects with her audience. The Five Chairs represent human behaviour in the form of five different animal personalities:



**The Jackal** (attack), **The Hedgehog** (self-doubt), **The Meerkat** (wait), **The Dolphin** (detect), **The Giraffe** (connect). For each symbol Louise develops and explains thoughts, feelings, reactions and impact in different situations everybody experiences in daily life. Listening to her, I kept thinking "If only I had come up with such an idea, if only I had encountered Louise before - life - especially as a teacher, would have been easier and more effective. After her presentation, I thanked her, deeply

felt from my heart. So when Louise mentioned a seminar in Florence, Tuscany, in October, I immediately said I would attend. After the invitation was sent via email, almost every day, one would find the story of an interesting, courageous Florentine woman from the past.



There were five of us from DKG Europe who met in beautiful Florence at an impressive hotel, where Louise welcomed us.

When she had the 29 participants introduce themselves and line up from young to old, I found myself not only being the shortest (as I am used to) but also the oldest. So from the beginning, we had a lot of fun. Louise not only presented in her unique, authentic and very entertaining way, but also encouraged us to share our own stories. Once again, I experienced that "life is a lifelong learning". I am very much looking forward to meeting Louise again, and chances are good because Louise became a member of the DKG State Organisation of the Netherlands!

Our Europe Regional Director gave Louise the membership pin of DKG International.



**Marika Heimbach**

Louise Evans: 5 Chairs 5 Choices: Own Your Behaviours, Master your Communication, Determine Your Success

ISBN 9798644293513

TEDx Youtube



# The Netherlands



## **AI in the classroom / daily life: Smart help or too much help?**

In our work and daily life, we get in touch with AI. Last year I gave two presentations, 1 online + 1 in Brighton, the last one you can also find on DKG.org. Two presentations to determine if AI is an aid or an enemy. Imagine a classroom where every student has a personal tutor, available 24/7, patiently explaining math problems or helping to draft essays. Sounds like science fiction? Not anymore. Across Europe, artificial intelligence (AI) and digital tools are changing how students learn—and how teachers teach. But as these technologies become more common, a big question comes up: are we preparing students for the future, or are we making it too easy for them to skip the hard work of thinking for themselves?



**Let's have a look at the Bright Side:** How AI is helping students and teachers  
Let's start with the good news. AI is making education more personal and accessible than ever before.

**Tailored learning:** AI platforms adapt to each student's strengths and weaknesses, offering custom exercises and feedback.

**Struggling with fractions?** The system notices and gives you extra practice.

**Bored with basic grammar?** It moves you ahead.

**Support for teachers:** Dutch schools are using AI tools to automate grading and administrative tasks, giving teachers more time to focus on what really matters—mentoring students and fostering creativity.

**Breaking barriers:** For students with dyslexia or those learning Dutch as a second language, AI-powered speech-to-text and translation tools are game-changers, making lessons more inclusive. In the Netherlands, schools are piloting AI assistants to help students with homework and revision. Early results show improved engagement, especially among students who might otherwise feel left behind.

**Now look at the Other Side:** Are we losing something important?

Not everyone is celebrating. Critics worry that too much trust in AI could backfire.

**Thinking for themselves?** If an AI can write an essay or solve a math problem in seconds, will students still learn how to struggle, make mistakes, and ultimately understand concepts deeply?

**The digital divide:** Not all Dutch schools have equal access to the latest tech. Students in wealthier areas may benefit more, while others miss out—creating a new kind of inequality.

**Information overload:** With AI generating answers instantly, how do students learn to question sources, spot bias, or think critically about what they're told? A recent survey among Dutch teachers revealed mixed feelings:

**We have to find a balance.**

→**The key, say experts,** is to use AI as a tool—not a replacement for human teaching or independent thought.

In the Netherlands, some schools are leading the way by integrating AI with traditional methods. For example, students might use AI to draft an essay, but then work in groups to debate the ideas, fact-check sources, and refine their arguments. The goal? To teach them how to use technology wisely, not just rely on it.

**What's next?** Preparing students for an AI world!

The future of education isn't about choosing between AI and human teachers — it's about combining the best of both. Dutch educators are calling for more training in "digital literacy," helping students understand how algorithms work, how to evaluate information, and when to unplug and think for themselves. An Amsterdam colleague said: "AI can help you find the answer, but it can't teach you to ask the right questions. That's our job." What I face at the moment at our vocational schools right now is that students use AI without questioning the answers. It's often not because they're lazy, but because they haven't been taught how to evaluate what AI gives them. This is a skill that needs to be actively developed, especially in vocational education, where Practical, real-world knowledge is so crucial.

**Let's have a **KISS (keep it short & simple) method: teach students to use AI wisely****

**Know the Tool:** *What to do:* Start by explaining what AI can and can't do. Show students examples of AI mistakes or outdated information.

**Example:** Ask AI a technical question related to their field, then compare the answer with a trusted textbook or industry standard. Discuss the differences.

**Why it works:** Students see that AI isn't perfect and learn to approach it with healthy scepticism.

**Investigate the answer:** *What to do:* Teach students always to ask: \* Does this answer make sense? \* Where did this information come from? \*Can I find this in another reliable source?

**Example:** Have students use AI to draft a response, then research one key fact from the answer to verify its accuracy.

**Why it works:** This builds critical thinking and research skills, making students active learners rather than passive users.

**Sharpen your skills:** *What to do:* Use AI as a starting point, not the final product. Assign tasks where students must improve, adapt, or apply AI-generated content.

**Example:** In a vocational class, ask students to use AI to generate a list of tools or steps for a task, then have them explain which ones are most relevant and why.

**Why it works:** Students learn to use AI to enhance their own knowledge and skills, not replace them.

**Share and discuss.** *What to do:* Make the evaluation a group activity. Have students present their AI-assisted work and explain how they checked and improved it.

**Example:** After using AI for a project, students present their process: What did AI get right? What did they change? Why?

**Why it works:** Peer discussion reinforces learning and shows that questioning AI is a normal, important part of the process.

**Final thought: The power is in how we could use AI in DKG.**

AI and digital tools are here to stay, and they offer incredible opportunities to write and learn more engagingly and effectively. The real value lies in how we use them.

Let's focus on DKG. What will be the best practice to use AI (please use a EU Mistral Le Chat) !!!

**Make critical thinking part of the process:**

\*After using AI for an answer, does it explain your reasoning or present your findings?

\*Assign tasks where AI is used as a starting point, but you must verify, adapt or improve the outcome.

\*Define when and how AI can be used in prompts (your text given to AI).

\*Be a professional in your field to use AI—responsibly and critically.

\*And maybe invite guest speakers to your chapter (e.g., from local businesses) to talk about how they evaluate information in their work with AI.

**Lot's of success in using AI ; )**

**Jacqueline van Meeteren**

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# Norway



## **Kristiansand - known as the Capital of the South**

We are excited about welcoming you to the European Forum Conference in Kristiansand, Norway, 11th- 13th of June 2027

Kristiansand blends its rich maritime history with modern city life, offering idyllic beaches, beautiful island landscape, historic sights, lively food and nightlife scene, cosy shopping streets, vibrant art and culture, and beautiful natural surroundings.

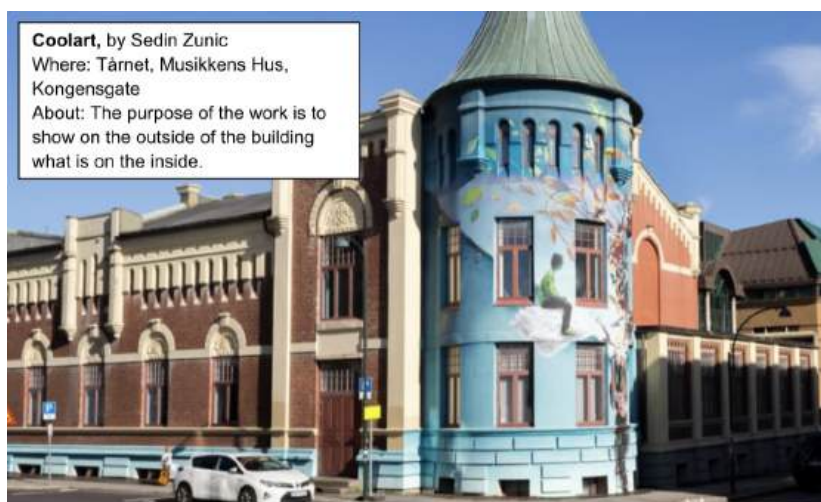


Getting here is easy: fly into Kjevik International Airport, take the ferry from Hirtshals straight to the city centre, or arrive by bus or train.

## **Street art in Kristiansand**

Street art is a vibrant, noncommercial form of visual expression that transforms public spaces into open-air galleries. Once rooted in graffiti and often dismissed as vandalism, street art has evolved into a respected artistic movement where creators communicate powerful social or political messages or simply add beauty to urban environments. Whether legal or illegal, commissioned or spontaneous,

street art speaks directly to everyday passersby, bringing creativity and commentary into the heart of the city. Some of my favourite pieces in Kristiansand, all photos taken by: Yaman Konuralp © Visit Sørlandet:



**"Equilibrium"** by Martin Watson  
Where: Fiskebrygga  
About: "The art of living" festival  
2021.



## Teams-meeting

Thank you to Maarit Kostamo for reaching out and asking if I could hold a Teams meeting to present some of the main sights in Kristiansand. I would love to!

I'll share the date with you all soon, and the presentation will take place no later than June.

Until then, check:

<https://en.visitorslandet.com/destinations/kristiansand/highlights-in-kristiansand/>

**Helga Kristine Bates**  
State President, DKG Norway



# Sweden



## Fluctuat nec mergitur

Revitalisation of  
Sweden State

For all of us life may have its  
ups and downs. So also, for  
organisations and  
societies.

Some chapters of DKG,  
Sweden State have been  
close to resolution, but  
thanks to strong  
commitments of members  
they have managed to  
make a restart and come  
back to a vital activity.

Helas, this has not always  
been the case. Single  
chapters just gave up

and were dissolved. From twenty-three chapters in the year of 2005 Sweden today  
have decreased to six chapters. The reasons for this situation are several like aging  
members that are retired as educators, unwillingness to take on missions or offices,



the difficulty in recruiting new and younger members, increased working load at school also recently the geopolitical situation. All these factors lead to a critical situation at the Swedish State Convention in Uppsala in 2025. It turned out that the National Nomination Committee had not succeeded in finding members willing to step into a new Administrative Board. Two members of the departing board stepped forward to be part of an incoming Administrative Board.

At the moment there were voices suggesting dissolving Sweden State. Other voices suggested that due to the geopolitical situation Sweden should separate from the mother organisation and create a Sweden DKG. Other voices again suggested the creation of a Europe DKG. After many discussions it was suggested that the critical situation of DKG Sweden State needed further discussions, and during the summer 2025 two virtual meetings open to longstanding members were held and the situation that had arisen was discussed. These discussions made it clear that many members had a wish to continue the DKG Sweden State as earlier. One running point was the international dimension of DKG.

In autumn 2025 an Extra State Meeting was carried out and at this occasion it was decided to continue the involvement in Sweden State, and a New Administrative Board with experienced leaders coming forward and was accepted by the members. The Administrative Board of 2025-2027 was determined to do its utmost to activate the chapters and its members. Several meetings were held in the coming months among others two State Executive Board meetings.

The measures taken were contact with the chair of the International Revitalisation committee, Betty Sedowski and with the International President Dr. Beverly Hall-Maughan. Four state committees have been appointed to support the Administrative Board and the chapters: Constitution Committee, Finance Committee, Educational Excellence Committee, and Information/Communication Committee.

Based on the current situation, the board in Sweden has decided to implement a Swedish revitalization process, preferably with support from international. In the revitalisation process, which has now started has a power point presentation, in the Swedish language, been put forward where the DKG history, purposes and benefits

of a membership are presented. Further a Strategic Action Plan has been produced and decided as well as a Communication- and Information strategy. These documents are being processed in the chapters to put them into action. We believe that it is crucial that these documents are being used and alive in every chapter. Further the chapters will be encouraged to analyse the situation of the chapter in a SWOT analysis. The State President has settled a plan to visit all six chapters in the near future and then take the opportunity to have thorough dialogues with the chapter presidents and the chapter members. The starting point for the conversation is the SWOT analysis and the sent power Point material. For the incoming chapter presidents there is an introduction and leadership programme under development and will take place on September 25 – 26 in Stockholm. For the moment it seems that the critical situation for Sweden State is overcome!

Fluctat nec megitur! (Tossed by the Waves but does not sink).

**Marianne Skardéus and Ewa Johansson**

State secretary 2025-2027 and State president 2025-2027



# Finland



## News from Finland

Having served as President of the DKG Finland State Organization since last summer, I must admit that although I am genuinely excited about my new position, it has by no means been a piece of cake. We all want to carry out our duties as well as possible, perhaps even perfectly, but the Presidency, with its wide range of responsibilities, is certainly no small task. The President prepares and leads the monthly state meetings, takes part in the meetings of the European State Presidents (SOPs) under the leadership of the European Regional Director (ERD), and tries to keep up with the constant stream of messages pouring in on Basecamp, the headquarters' communication platform. The President represents their country at international and national conferences and conventions, a task I personally enjoy, and maintains international connections. The role also calls for looking ahead and being willing to think about, shape, and co-develop new strategies for both the chapter and state levels.



After saying all that, I feel deeply grateful to DKG, and to my friend and former colleague, Virpi Matala, who first invited me to join, for everything it has brought into my life over the past ten years. I have met wonderful educators from Finland, from across Europe, and from around the world, and even grown close to some of them. I have gained experience working on committees in English alongside native speakers, served on the Steering Committee of the 2023 International Conference in Tampere, and taken part in conferences in Tallinn, Reykjavik, Brighton, and New Orleans. Next summer, I will embark on my very first Convention trip, where I will have the opportunity to participate in the Executive Board Meeting, the flag ceremony, and the voting sessions. Exciting! Why don't you come and join us, too?

### **Greetings from Joensuu and Epsilon chapter**

January was very cold here, between -18 and -30, so we did our planning then. The theme for the spring is creativity, and in our chapter, it means music this spring. In February, we had our annual meeting and meeting talk was given by Ms Ella Kinnunen, who explained and told us about her work as the teacher of classical singing in the Joensuu Music Conservatory. We shall have several gatherings around music this spring, and we are planning to go and see an opera [Malanja](#), which is sung in Finnish and Karelian languages in late May. The libretto is based on a novel *Kuokka ja kannel* (A Hoe and a Kannel) by Heikki Turunen, a North-Karelian writer.

We are also planning to visit and get acquainted with the Joensuu Music Conservatory <https://www.joensuu.fi/konservatorio> and get acquainted with violin studies, especially how to teach the young ones. One of our members is a violinist and a violin teacher.

We shall visit [Pyhäselkä Lutheran Church](#) in April, and after that, stay and observe a choir rehearsal getting ready for their concert.

A teacher from Joensuu works at the moment as a special education teacher in Doha, Qatar. We shall have an online connection with her, and she will tell us

about her teaching experiences there in March. Life in Doha is challenging at the moment due to military activities in the area. She is able to tell about these special situations there, too. Let us hope the connections work.

In June, we have traditionally had "summer coffee" in someone's garden, and an exchange of seedlings – some of us are enthusiastic gardeners, so they can give, e.g. tomato seedlings, etc., and exchange them for something else. We are looking forward to seeing the snow melting and meeting other Finnish members in Tampere at our DKG annual meeting in April.

**Pia Nyman**

Finnish State President



# Estonia



## **Beyond Survival: Building a Lifeline for the Next Generation of Teachers**

The Estonian education system currently finds itself at a critical crossroads, where an ageing workforce and the rapid departure of young talent threaten the long-term sustainability of schools. National statistics reveal a sobering trend: the average age of a teacher in Estonia has reached approximately 50, and the share of educators aged 60 or older has climbed from 17% to 24% in less than a decade.

Simultaneously, the proportion of qualified teachers has seen a noticeable decline, dropping from 87% to 81% between 2017 and 2022. Perhaps most concerning is the

sentiment among newer arrivals to the profession; international studies indicate that 41% of Estonian teachers under the age of 35 are considering leaving the field within the next five years, which is the highest such figure among all countries surveyed by TALIS. This instability was further compounded by the aftermath of the pandemic, which saw teacher attrition rates in 2021–2022 rise by nearly a third compared with just two years prior.



In response to these challenges, an ambitious two-year initiative has taken root in DKG Estonia Beta chapter, spanning from September 2025 to May 2027. This project focuses specifically on early-career educators who have entered the classroom within the last three years and require both professional and psychological support during this vital transition. The core of the programme is built around monthly learning circles, which serve as a circle of trust and companionship where young educators can safely reflect on their experiences and collaboratively explore solutions to real classroom challenges. These sessions are not merely informal chats; each meeting is supported by a guest expert, such as a coach, psychologist, supervisor, or teacher education specialist, who guides discussions on essential themes like self-care, time management, conflict resolution, and classroom management.

What distinguishes this initiative is its commitment to immersion and shared resources. Complementing these discussions is a book-exchange initiative, supported by members of the DKG Pärnu Beta chapter, which has established a professional library for participants to borrow and use as a springboard for deeper pedagogical inquiry. Now five sessions into the programme, we may report that the initiative has successfully fostered a supportive network where teachers feel safe speaking openly about sensitive professional topics.



The ultimate success of the project is defined by a clear and bold benchmark: ensuring that by May 2027, every participating teacher remains in the profession without a single dropout. The goal is not only to retain these individuals but also to demonstrably increase their professionalism and sense of self-efficacy so they can thrive despite the complexities of school life. Beyond individual support, the project aims to establish a functional, lasting professional network that continues

to support colleagues long after the official programme concludes. By developing transferable strategies, such as structured learning circles and a sustainable book-exchange model, we create a replicable toolkit that other educational communities can adopt to safeguard teacher well-being and foster long-term professional growth.

**Katrin Saks**

Member of the EEC committee

## Great Britain



In DKG UK, 2026, we had a musical start to the year, opening with a wonderful talk from Kenneth Xiaoling Jiang, an excellent concert pianist and teacher. He shared the story of his early life in Shanghai and his



musical journey after moving to America at age nine. Through perseverance, he earned a place at the world-renowned Juilliard School of Music, where he studied piano performance.



*Kenneth Xiaoling Jiang*

In February, several of our members enjoyed a visit to the Fashion and Textile Museum in London. The exhibition showcased costumes from television programmes and films, many of which had never been displayed publicly before. It was a fascinating glimpse into the creativity behind the screen.



Our State AGM and conference will take place in Dulwich Junior School on April 18th. Many thanks to Claire Purcell (headteacher) for her hospitality in hosting this important event. Huge congratulations to Unity Harvey (*picture to the left*) on the publication of her article:” The Importance of Geography in the Classroom” in the Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin. This is a wonderful achievement and a testament to her passion for education.

We are pleased to announce that Unity will be our next ‘Artist in the Spotlight’ and we look forward to sharing more about her many creative talents soon.

**Aileen Dickson**  
UK, State President

# Iceland

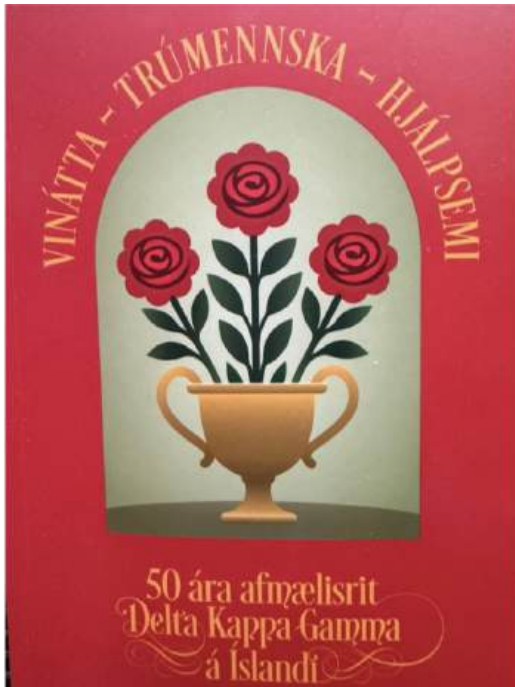


## **Winter greetings from Iceland and a few notes from our work**

Delta Kappa Gamma in Iceland celebrated its 50th anniversary last year. Many events were held to mark the occasion, both by the State Organization and by the individual chapters. Work was also carried out on an ambitious action plan, with special emphasis on strengthening the Organization, empowering the members and increasing membership.

The largest anniversary project of the State Organization was undoubtedly the publication of a book covering the 50-year history of the organisation. A special editorial committee worked on this project: Dr. Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir, chair of the editorial committee and member of Alpha Chapter; Ingibjörg Elsa Guðmundsdóttir, member of Alpha Chapter; Pernilla Rein, member of Iota Chapter; and Sigrún Jóhannesdóttir, member of Delta Chapter.





*The Cover of our book*

The year began with a festive book launch celebrating the publication of our book *Friendship, Loyalty, Service – 50th Anniversary Publication of Delta Kappa Gamma in Iceland*. The event took place on January 16, 2026 at “Veröld”, the House of Vigdís, named after Ms. Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, former President of Iceland. Dr. Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir, chair of the editorial committee and member of Alpha Chapter introduced the book and described its preparation. Unfortunately, Ms. Vigdís was unable to be with us that day, although we had hoped to present her with the first copy of the book. Instead, her friends, Alpha Chapter members Ragnhildur and Marta Guðjónsdóttir, accepted the first copy on her behalf.

A young musician entertained the guests with guitar playing and singing, and State President Hrund Logadóttir gave an address. The book was offered for sale, and the presidents of several chapters took books with them to sell at chapter meetings. Last but not least, members enjoyed refreshments and meaningful fellowship.



*Dr. Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir, chair of the editorial committee*



*DKG members celebrating the publication of our book.*

Dr. Silja Bára Ómarsdóttir, Rector of the University of Iceland, honoured DKG with her presence at the event. Among other things, she spoke about how, during her studies in the United States, she became acquainted with

the DKG International Organization and its work, including the scholarships awarded by the organization.

Last summer, the European Forum Conference was held in Brighton, United Kingdom. One of the keynote speakers was Louise Evans, who presented her lecture known as Five Chairs. Louise Evans has worked with schools and institutions around the world. The aim of the Five Chairs approach is to strengthen communication, social and emotional skills, and professional confidence — both in working life and in personal life.



*Louise Evans and her "Five chairs"*

The Icelandic participants at the conference were very impressed by Louise's presentation, and the Icelandic Education Committee, led by its chair Bryndís Jóna Jónsdóttir, worked to bring Louise to Iceland to give a workshop for Icelandic women in the field of education. This was successful, and the workshop was held on March 13 at Edda – House of Icelandic, University of Iceland. Our European President, Marie-Antoinette, came to Iceland to attend the workshop, as she has a strong interest in Louise Evans and her work.

There was great energy and enthusiasm at Edda – House of Icelandic when the speaker Louise Evans held a workshop on her method Five Chairs. The method is based on five symbolic chairs that reflect the attitudes we face in everyday life: attack, self-doubt, observation, proactive response, and compassion. The aim of the methodology is simple yet powerful – to strengthen emotional intelligence, build stronger relationships, and develop leadership from within.

The workshop was highly successful, and the participants were generous in their positive feedback. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming, and the participants truly felt comfortable at Edda. Louise Evans captivated the audience with her clear approach, warmth, and engaging presentation style.



*Enthusiastic participants at Louise Evans's workshop"*

The interest in the method was clearly strong. Several ideas emerged about exploring the possibility of translating at least the children's book connected to Five Chairs, The

Fantastic Five, and thereby making the approach accessible to Icelandic schools. If such a project were to begin, it could even provide a good opportunity to invite Louise back to Iceland, for example next autumn, to give a course for

professionals. It would certainly be a feather in DKG's cap if the organization could contribute to such a development.

In addition to the workshop, the DKG Education Committee, which organized the event, took Louise and Marie-Antoinette, our European President, out for dinner and on a day trip in South Iceland. On Friday evening after the workshop, we went to the restaurant Ráðagerði in Seltjarnarnes, where the committee enjoyed a pleasant evening with them in a private room upstairs.



*Louise,  
Marie-Antoinette,  
Bryndís Jóna og  
Svanhildur  
Svavarsdóttir*

The following day we set off on a small adventure to Þingvellir in beautiful weather, had lunch in the greenhouses at Friðheimar, where Louise claimed to have tasted the best tomato soup of her life (and even managed to get the recipe from the waiter!), and finally relaxed at Laugarás Lagoon before returning to Reykjavík.

On Sunday Louise and Marie-Antoinette left the country by airport bus, pleased with their visit and with the warm Icelandic hospitality they received.

In the DKG Action Plan for 2025–2027, one of the goals is the systematic recruitment of new members in all chapters, and the chapters have been working purposefully toward that goal. Several women have already been admitted into a number of chapters, and additional initiations are planned during

the spring months. It is not unrealistic to expect that 10–15 women will be initiated during this administrative year. It will be exciting to see how many new women will have become members of DKG in Iceland by 2029, when the Organization celebrates its 100th anniversary.

**Hrund Logadóttir**

The Icelandic State President

