

Euforia

Editie 49, Februari 2017

Dear friends,

Here is your spring Euforia 2017. There are of course contributions from the Regional Director Bjørg Nakling and the Chair of the European Forum Kathrin Hodgson. You will also find contributions from all the participating countries: Erika Puusemp from Estonia, Kaija M. Teikari from Finland, Dagmar Ullman and Jean Säfken from Germany, Kathrin A Hodgson from Great Britain, Eygló Björnsdóttir from Iceland, Cor Wolff, Nora Schade and Marie Balvert from The Netherlands, Anne Marie Solstad from Norway, Elisabeth Starner and Ingela Högberg from Sweden. Enjoy reading!

Riet Smits, The Netherlands

Europe



Hi from the Regional Director

Dear sisters in Europe!

Educators are more important than ever, worldwide!

Are we taking care of our teachers?

From all corners of the world we hear how they have to deliver more and better. That is good, but also a great challenge!

DKG can be the difference so that a lot of teachers will stay on as teachers.

! We offer a professional and personal growth that in my opinion is unique.

* Scholarships

* Leadership Development

* Networking, worldwide

* Opportunities to publish, to make presentations, attend conferences, conventions.

* Friendship, worldwide

* Professional Development.

* Opportunity to make a difference!



I am sure you all can add to the list, thinking of the benefits you have, being a member in DKG. Let us share our stories on why we are members ,to new teachers. In Estonia I was invited to a

group of young teachers and they wanted to know how and why I became a member. Since I live in a small populated country, the opportunity to communicate with teachers worldwide is priceless! I am sure that for many of you this is one of the most exiting part of being a member.

This summer you will again have the opportunity to attend 5 different Regionals and to bring with you a guest. We are working hard to make the regional in Tallinn a special and worth while experience for you.

Not only will you have the chance to listen to good speakers, meet new friends, but also enjoy a historical and beautiful city!

Come and meet your old friends in DKG and make some new ones!

See you there and welcome!

Bjørg Nakling

Hi from the Chair of the European Forum

At the beginning of November, the first European Forum Committee Meeting of this biennium was held in a small town called Stabekk, just outside Oslo. We were very lucky to be invited to stay in Bjørg Nakling's home; not only did this save the Forum our accommodation costs, but it also meant the eight Forum committee members and our Regional Director were able to work very closely together – and have fun! When you're having a good time, working is a pleasure – and our weekend together was proof of that.



We had previously agreed our agendas for Friday evening and all day Saturday, so we were able to begin discussions immediately. Daniel von Essen (Germany) and Iida Hyvönen (Finland) agreed to be jointly responsible for taking the minutes of the meeting. For reasons of access to Euros for refunding expenses, we also decided to have joint treasurers - Anne Marie Solstad (Norway) and Ria Logtenberg (the Netherlands) had previously agreed to take on this responsibility.

I have to admit that I was nervous about chairing the meeting, having not been a member of the Forum Committee before, but I should not have worried. Although seven of us were new, we were supported by Lilia Oberg (Estonia) – the only person present who was previously a member. I had also had a great deal of help from the previous treasurer, Heli Piikkila, and the previous chair of the Forum, Ingrid Stjernquist.



For a full report of the meeting, please look at the EF Minutes for November 2017.

Kathrin Hodgson



Estonia



Hi from Estonia !

DKG Estonia's 8th anniversary was celebrated at our annual conference "Innovation in Education" in March 2016 in Pärnu. We enjoyed several presentations; and directions for the forthcoming European Conference by our guest of honour, the then International President Lyn Babb Schmid.

Unfortunately, the Gamma Chapter exists no more but a few new members have joined the Beta Chapter.

Two of our members – Erika Puusemp and Margarita Hanschmidt – participated in the International Conference in Nashville.

While the Beta Chapter meets monthly and tries to influence the educational environment

in Pärnu, specifically through the appreciation of senior teachers and student research in the field of education, here is a list of some meetings of the Alpha Chapter:

- a visit to the Estonian Pedagogical Archives/Museum
- an etiquette discussion led by Tiina Tšatsua, a leading specialist in this field
- joining 18 Finnish DGK members at their inspiring seminar in Tallinn
- a discussion about bullying at school
- welcoming visitors from DKG Tampere Chapter to Tallinn
- visiting the Beta Chapter for a traditional Christmas dinner + the exhibition "The Best of Rao Heidmets (a filmmaker)".

Organising ERC 2017 has been the main issue at our meetings recently, three times so far under the direction of the DGK European Director Bjørg Nakling. We would like as many DKG sisters from Europe to come and participate in ERC 2017 as possible. The event takes place on 26-29 July at Nordic Hotel Forum in Tallinn, and you are all welcome☺

Erika Puusemp, State President

Europe Regional Conference 2017

26 - 29 July

Tallinn, Estonia



Finland



Hi from Finland!

What's up – from Finland

What I know about the total number of DKG members is a piece of encouraging news. The four Finnish chapters are made up of members as follows: Alpha (Helsinki) 29 regular+1 honorary, Gamma (Turku) 33+4 reserve, Epsilon (Joensuu) 19+1 reserve, Zeta (Tampere) 18 regular members – so: 99 regular + 5 reserve and 1 honorary all together!



Having just finished the compilation of State President's annual report I can tell that our chapters have more YES- than NO-answers. Folks read the DKG-News, but The Journal and The Collegial Exchange were not applicable to some chapters. All the chapters were busy in delving into www.dkg.org. The following projects were listed: Women's Bank, Helping women entrepreneurs in Africa , Schools for Africa and Teaching Finnish for immigrant women. All the chapters considered support and information from the international Society as adequate.

Then a few 'private' comments:

My chapter Alpha is keen on going to the theater: members sell tickets to their friends so trying to get extra euros for the chapter (prices are a little bit higher!). By doing so we have been able to give scholarships for the members who have finished their academic studies or, for example, present immigrants with useful household utensils or sports requisites. Reading books (both professional and fiction) is also appreciated: once in two months we get together on one book and discuss and criticize it!

On January 14th, 2017, any member from any chapter was welcome to Tampere to join a 'home-made' educational event. We talked and learned about collaboration, got news from International DKG, Golden Gift Leadership Seminar and Speakers' Fund. And sisters, did we really know what a chapter is? The best way of getting new members? Before going to the theater in the evening, all chapter presidents had gone to one corner of the room, secretaries to the other and treasurers anywhere they liked! I'm sure that many questions were made and many responses given!

Quite a few of us Finns will travel to Tallinn in July – and hopefully, together be allowed to provide a Take Away of ten minutes to inform the audience about *Finland 100!*

Best wishes from Finland!

Kaija Teikari, State President



Germany



Hi from Germany!

We may still be in the throes of an unusually cold winter, but spring is in the air and we are already looking forward to the new and interesting get-togethers and discussions Delta Kappa Gamma has to offer. The need to talk about current developments in Europe and the world is evident, - a need reflected in our chapter meetings. And this applies especially to discussing the values we stand for, the goals we define and the active approach we decide to take. We look forward to a stimulating exchange of ideas with our DKG members from other countries!

The various State Conferences planned for the spring and the European Regional Conference in Tallinn in the summer offer good opportunities for discussion and intensifying contacts. And, of course, at this point here in EUFORIA we would especially like to draw your attention to our **German State Meeting** that traditionally takes place at our 'Ascension weekend', - this time



Heidelberg

Photo made by Dagmar Ullmann

round, from **26th-28th May 2017 in HEIDELBERG.**

We would very much like to invite you to visit one of Germany's most beautiful cities, idyllically set on the River Neckar at the heart of the 'Rhine-Neckar-Triangle'. The city is renowned for its university founded in 1386, the romantic, historic part of the city with its old palaces and hidden courtyards, its castle and extensive gardens and the 'Old Bridge' built of Neckar Valley sandstone in the 18th century. A walk along the 'Philosopher's Path' on the edge of the "Heiligenberg" offers a superb view of the city with its castle, the river and the surrounding hills. The feeling of being on a journey into the past however is complemented by today's vibe of a very young and dynamic city with more than 30,000 students. Countless cafes and restaurants invite the guest to linger and taste the regional specialities.

We shall begin our conference midday on Friday, 26th May with a guided tour of the city, rounding off the day together in the relaxed atmosphere of a traditional restaurant. Our Business

Meeting, followed by various talks, is scheduled for Saturday. We are very happy that Bjørg Nakling, our European Regional Director, will be taking part in the conference as International Representative.

For Sunday morning, we'd like to suggest a short trip on the Neckar: either on the "Neckarsonne", a solar-driven catamaran that just glides through the water or on one of the 'Weiße Flotte' pleasure steamers that offers, for example, a trip to Neckarsteinach, boasting four castles.

For accommodation we have chosen the centrally located NH-Hotel in Heidelberg, a modern hotel attached to an historic building, once a Heidelberg brewery and dating back to 1907. We are convinced that this mixture of old and new will meet with the approval of our members!

The official invitation to our conference with further details and registration form will be sent out in due course. Heidelberg is not far from Frankfurt Airport and there is an excellent train service. We look forward to welcoming lots of DKG members from home and abroad to a wonderful and interesting weekend together!

Dagmar Ullmann, State President and Jean Säfken



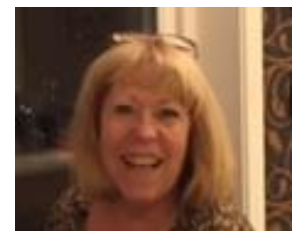
Great Britain



Hi from Great Britain!

Great Britain State is currently at its lowest membership, following the closure of one of our chapters; I wrote about this in October.

We have an ongoing and seemingly insurmountable problem of recruitment of new members. The workload of British teachers seems to escalate weekly and people are simply too tired to commit to yet more meetings, especially if they happen to be at weekends. Our most reliable source of new members is through personal contact, and we continue to pursue this course.



On a brighter note, our state conference at the beginning of April promises to be an upbeat occasion. As with many countries in Europe today, we are experiencing the arrival of refugees and asylum seeker, many of them unaccompanied children. Our speakers all have experience of these situations.

One is returning to update us on her work with young Afghani refugees. She will give an account of her work, and the difficulties her clients face in settling into a new and alien life. When we heard her speak last year, we were moved by her stories and inspired by her humanity.

Two more of our speakers work for an organisation called KRAN – Kent Refugee Action Network. This is an independent charity supporting young, unaccompanied asylum seekers and

refugees; they will talk about the projects that KRAN operates and their work within the organisation.

Finally we have an Ethiopian artist and singer who came to Britain as an asylum seeker, finally being granted permission to stay. She sings in the Amharic language and will be entertaining us with her music.

So, we are still very positive, despite being smaller than we would like, and still learning.

Kathrin Hodgson, State President



Iceland



Hi from Iceland!

Time flies. My two years as a State President are almost over. This has been a very rewarding and informative time. I have learned a lot, made many new friends and I am very thankful for this opportunity. Last summer I enjoyed my first International Convention which was held in Nashville, Tennessee and it was a pleasure to meet old friends from previous ERC as well as meeting new ones, both from Europe and other areas.



On the 5th of October, the International Teachers Day, Beta- and Mu Chapters in Akureyri organized a „dialogue seminar“ where teachers from the schools in Akureyri and local educational authorities met and discussed in what way we best can support Early-career Educators. The meeting was well attended and Beta- and Mu Chapters received



compliments from attendees for taking the initiative. Almost 70 people met and had a lively dialogue.

Some of the attendees at the dialogue seminar. Gamma and Lambda Chapters had their October meeting together

Our membership here in Iceland is growing; most chapters have already initiated some new members this year or will do so in the coming months. All chapters are also working very well, many of them have 8 meetings a year and some even more. Their projects are various, and while some of them are focusing on refugees and the education of immigrants, others are focusing on

different aspects of education and culture. Some Icelandic members are also European representatives on International Committees.

Our membership committee has been very busy last months working on installing a new chapter at the North-West part of the country, a rural part where there is no chapter now. Their hard work is now coming to an end and in the beginning of April we will be installing the 13th chapter here in Iceland and therefore increase our State membership with 19 new members in Nu chapter.



Akureyri, Iceland

The preparation for our State Convention, which will be held 6th–7th of May in Akureyri (up in the North), is coming along fine. Beta- and Mu Chapters will host the convention and they are very busy preparing with our Educational Committee which will take care of the Educational Program on Saturday. The convention theme will be „*Leadership and Professional Learning Communities*“. We hope that we will have many of our members attending and maybe some DKG members from abroad? At least they are very welcome☺. Our International Society representative at the Convention will be Beverly Helms, former International president. We look forward to have her with us. She visited us at our State Convention 2007 and many of us remember her from that time and look forward to renew the friendship.

Eygló Björnsdóttir, State President



The Netherlands



Hi from The Netherlands!

Time to tell what has happened after we celebrated our birthday in May 2016. Photographs can be seen on the European website. We got € 200,- among other presents. What to do with this gift? The decision was made to start a small fund to support members who are not able to visit a general meeting or state convention.

And we did what we always do in The Netherlands: we started a committee that should formulate some aims and suggestions how to use the money. It is something that you have to handle with care.



In March there is a weekend in the Netherlands that everybody, including members of the Royal family, can do work as a volunteer. Last year members of the Delta chapter assisted in an elderly home in Amsterdam. The members enjoyed it so much that they have decided to go for it this year again.

On May 20, during our State Convention, our guest from Headquarters will be Dr. Rhonda R. Anderson. She is the NW Regional director. The place where we have the convention is an institute for persons with any form of mental, physical or brain damage. The invitation for the convention will be sent soon to every state president in Europe. Another highlight of the convention will be the installation of the new administrative board.

Epsilon chapter has contacts with Estonia and Germany. Members of Epsilon will tell about their experiences and plans for a meeting with **Bèta chapter, Pärnu (Estonia)**. What I have heard about it sounds exciting. Read more in this article.

We hope to meet you all in Tallinn.

Cor Wolff-Heins, State president

Educational exchange between Epsilon chapter, Groningen (The Netherlands) and Bèta chapter, Pärnu (Estonia).

From April 19 to 22, 2017 the Epsilon-chapter of DKG Netherlands will receive seven members of the Beta chapter (Pärnu) from Estonia. This visit is part of the exchange between Epsilon and its sister chapters in Germany and Estonia. Epsilon offers our "sisters" from Estonia an attractive program with opportunities for attending classes on different school types. On the Hanze University of applied sciences students will provide a presentation with discussion on the Dutch educational system and the vision for the future.

Last year March six Epsilon members visited Pärnu during the Estonian State Conference. There we enjoyed an interesting program with a school visit, a visit to an educational center and the University of Pärnu. We do remember the warm hospitality and inspiring encounters we had and we are looking forward to receive our sisters from Pärnu in Groningen.

For this visit, we have the following program:

- A visit to an elementary school, where classes will be attended. After the lessons, discussions about the methodical approach and dealing with differences among pupils;
- A visit to The University of Applied Sciences, in particular the department Basic Education Teacher Training Institute, where we will learn about the Dutch education system and the vision for the future of education in the Netherlands (project 2032);
- Visit to a science park, where children are given the opportunity to playfully explore the wonders of science.
- A visit to an elementary school, which is sustainable in the curriculum and sustainable in building and business;
- A visit to a school with vocational training at secondary level, in particular the departments Care and Welfare, Tourism and Food;
- Guided tour through the Hanze city of Groningen.

Nora Schade and Marie Balvert



Norway



Hi from Norway!

Anna Handeland – a Norwegian DKG member

We think it would be interesting to give voice to members who have been in DKG for a considerable time. In this edition of Euforia we will present one of our members in **Epsilon, Norway**. She celebrates her 25th anniversary as a DKG member this year.

We have challenged **Anna Handeland** to share her story of what DKG has meant to her, both professionally and personally.



In my ten years as a secondary school teacher of English, French and History, I gradually came to realize that I was more interested in English as an academic subject than the school job gave me scope for, so I decided to qualify for a university job and to see where that would lead me. One year at University College London helped me on the way to the job I was to hold for the rest of my professional career. Before that, I had spent one year at a university in the US and one half-year working and studying in Paris, so the international scene and the English language was not a challenge.

I became a member of Epsilon, Norway early in its history, but I was not a “founding member”. Several things attracted me: I was *asked* to join; members came from a broad variety of teaching jobs; the feminine perspective was important; and plans were afoot to help girls and women in poorer countries to get an education. That these projects are alive and well both locally and internationally, is a *raison d’être* for DKG and it makes me proud to belong to this active society. Let me also say that our chief executives in the US have been flexible so that we “foreign” members can adjust rules and practices of secondary importance to fit in with our European situation.



After a while, I was ready to assume responsibilities, first as a president in Epsilon (2000-2002), next as state president (2001-2003). Since 2008 I have been state parliamentarian, jointly with my Scottish friend and former colleague, Marjorie Lorvik. I can mention that we have edited and translated the Norwegian state bye-laws into English.

My international experience has been as a member of the committee for Personal Growth and Services and later the Nominations Committee, both under very capable and supportive chairs. There is no denying that the Nominations Committee meant a challenge in some ways, but I am very grateful for the insight I was given into the inner workings of the Society.

I have attended most Conventions since Little Rock and have enjoyed all of them, with the Jubilee in Minneapolis as a possible highlight. Nobody surpasses DKG in the ability to plan and carry out a splendid event!

The university level has not been strongly represented in DKG Norway, so topics and activities have centered around the school system. Though I have missed the more academic

perspective, I am a citizen of my country and the world and am interested enough in the things going on around me to appreciate the ideas emanating from all our DKG concerns: education at all levels, children and young people, the feminine perspective, personal growth.

I have particularly enjoyed going to the Regional Conferences in Europe. I have attended them all, so far. Across the borders, we have so much in common and it is interesting to compare our systems and our ways of thinking, and to have a chance to see other countries.

Which leads me to a most important point: the opportunity to make friends! I am grateful for a lot of people who are now my friends and who would have remained outside my scope if it had not been for our sisterhood. I could mention names, but better not: I want everybody to feel included. "A friend is an unknown person I haven't yet met." When and where is the next Conference?

Anne Marie Solstad, State President



Sweden



Hi from Sweden!

What's up in Sweden? In September 2016 we had the pleasure to meet almost all our new chapter presidents and chapter treasurers for one day of training. We also started a web committee, representatives from most chapters who together with our State Secretary are going to work with our national website and also set up a website for each chapter. Our host was Sigma Chapter in Skövde. At the first meeting in our National Executive Committee we decided to adjust our Strategic Action Plan (SAP). The key word in adjusting the SAP is simplicity.

On May 5th-7th 2017 we are going to have our State Convention in Uppsala. The theme will be Newly arrived students, it's amongst others going to be about their learning and inclusion in Swedish schools. We are going to have the benefit to listen to "student voices" – refugees are going to talk about their experiences from Swedish schools. We also hope to have a speaker from Norway who is going to talk about how to teach traumatized refugees. The program for the State Convention in May will be accessible on Swedens website by the end of January. (www.dkgsweden.com) and of course on the European website too.

Elisabeth Starner, State President

Trip to the Oasis of Siwa, October 2016



Once again, we find ourselves on the local bus heading for the Oasis of Siwa 900 km away in the Libyan desert of Egypt. Our Siwa Project started 11 years ago, and a lot has happened since then. Traditionally Siwi women cannot go outdoors without the company of a male family member. Recently distant studies have made it possible for them to study at university. Married women have been allowed to work, sometimes, like our teachers in their homes but also as employees of the Municipality of Siwa, which is the case with quite a few of the early students in our English courses. These are tiny, tiny steps forward but definitely an exciting development!

The Siwa Project was funded by the Educational Foundation on six occasions but the last few years we rely on the sale of craft products from Siwa and Egypt, contributions from an International Baccalaureate class with their own Siwa Project and last but not least by donations from generous individuals.



Here we are in a Siwi craft shop, in the home of a basket-making grandmother and in a gemstone shop in the bazaars of Cairo.

Three young women, Mobarka, Selma, and Leila have been teaching two classes each in their homes for several years. Initially they were teaching English to girls/young women but nowadays there is a great need to provide support for children when they start school, because they begin with two new languages, Arabic and English. Their home language is Siwi, a non-written language, not related to Arabic. Thus, the six to seven-year-old children meet two very different alphabets, the Arabic and the Latin. There is a risk that the poorest children, who do not receive support from home, leave school already here. Apart from this, we have also a literacy class for women from 16 to 60 and a class with English for young girls/women. Twice a year we visit our teachers and their students. We tutor them, provide them with material, and do some testing and teaching as well.



Here Mobarka, 22 and the mother of three, is teaching in her home. She is a very competent, young woman and provides for her family with the money she earns from teaching. Her husband is unemployed since a long time back. She is very keen that her three small children should get stimulation and her dream is that she herself in the future will be able to take up her studies. She wants to become a lawyer because "there's a need for a female lawyer in Siwa".



Here Selma, the mother of two, is teaching a group of children from primary school in need of extra support in English and Arabic. Little brother three years old has come to class with his sister. He is the most concentrated of them all. Selma was one of our first English students, married at 17, and could no longer join the course. "These are our customs! My husband doesn't allow it!" He allowed, however, that she became a teacher in her own home! Selma would "climb the walls without the stimulus," she gets through teaching.



Leila, 24 and unmarried has a father who has allowed her to work outside home for the Municipality of Siwa. She teaches two classes of young children and the salary she has received has funded her distant studies to become a teacher at Cairo University. She has now only one semester left. She is a role model for the young women of Siwa, and we hope others will follow!

Here she is teaching, dressed in nikab, about the different parts of the face. What a funny contrast!



Here is Selma or "Silver Selma", still another role model. She was 24 and definitely too old to "get married" in Siwa. She was independent and her father allowed her to study to become a teacher and to work, a clear obstacle if you want to "marry" in Siwa. Now she is married to a man from Cairo with a family tradition that everyone, including women, should study. "Silver Selma" has now rented a four-room-apartment, where she has started a collective for young women. Here you can find a silver smithy, a sewing workshop, sponsored by us, and two rooms left for future activities as well. We wish them good luck!



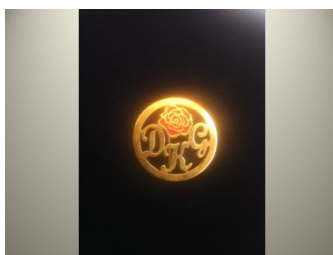
The girls produce jewelry in silver, copper, and brass, and get the opportunity to an income of their own. Selma's contacts in Cairo but also handicraft shops in Siwa buy their products. Besides the income, social interaction is an important part for the young women.

This is an ongoing, international date festival in Siwa. Silver Selma and her friends, selling their jewelry; were the only women from Siwa, we met there. This is what we had hoped for from the beginning, when we started our English courses. The girls themselves would be able to sell their products without male intermediaries. We eventually realized that we were very naive!

On the other hand, maybe not...?



We have placed an order on our fine DKG brooch from Silver Selma's team! Their first assignment?



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