



European Forum Meeting at the International Convention

National Harbor, Maryland

Friday, July 12 at 4pm

Agenda

- 1. Welcome – Marika Heimbach, chair EU Forum Committee 2022-2024**
- 2. Minute taker Muriel Marsh, Norway**
- 3. Minutes of last European Forum meeting in Tampere, July 29, 2023**
- 4. Report of European Forum Committee**
- 5. Finances – Carola van Zanen-van Rijn, treasurer EU Forum Committee**
- 6. Guidelines**
 - **Finances**
- 7. European Forum Committee 2024-2026**
 - **Chair and Members**
 - **Future projects, recommendations**

3. European Forum Meeting at the International Conference Tampere, Finland

July 29, 2023, 09.00-09.45 hrs

Marika Heimbach, Chair

Members of the committee present: Marika Heimbach; Carola van Zanen van Rijn; Evelyn Goodsell; Pia Nyman; Reeli Tänavsuu; Astrid H. Bie Skaaland; Marie-Antoinette Hubers, ERD

Absent: Helga Skeidsvoll; Anita Jonsdottir.

Minutes taken by Astrid

Minutes

- 1) Welcome** by Marika Heimbach, chair EU Forum Committee 2022 – 2024
Achievement Award, 2023, for her outstanding job over many years as webmaster for Europe.
- 2) Report of European Forum Committee**, by Marika:
 - Europa History has been revised and is constantly updated by webmaster. Members are asked to send information about their work, photos etc. to be put on the website.
 - “Artist of the month” to be continued every 2nd or 3rd month. Till now artists from Netherlands, Iceland, Finland and Germany have presented. Estonia or Great Britain will present theirs in October.
 - Educational topics: it was agreed by the EFC that four states present each year. Iceland, Finland and Germany have presented. Estonia or Great Britain will present in October.

- Celebrating Lucia-Day will be a tradition in December. All countries will be involved in a presentation.
 - At the leadership development meeting last year in Austin the chairs of the US Forum, the EU Forum, the Area Representatives of Canada and Latin America met and discussed the idea to have a joint meeting of the respective forums at international conferences and conventions. At the next international convention in Maryland the joint meeting will be prepared by all chairs.
- 3) **Strategic Action Plan 2022 – 2024.** The Forum Committee has been working with the plan, no major changes. Membership is still the main issue. Headquarters has ordered a survey among the membership to share our experiences, and develop suggestions for the future. The outcome will be available to all members.
 - 4) **Financial Report**, by Carola, treasurer, and Marie-Antoinette Hubers de Wolf, European Director and former treasurer. There is no money left. Flights are very expensive. There may therefore not be personal meetings next year. Marie-Antoinette suggested a new amendment at the convention in Maryland to ask for more money from HQ. The EFC will work on this to meet the deadline September money.
 - 5) **Guidelines.**
 Marika reported that the state presidents were sent the guidelines with highlighting in red and green which should be discussed and voted upon at this meeting.
 The EU Forum receives 3000 USD each year upon request for spending on travelling costs to a yearly committee meeting, and other expenses. But reimbursing all travelling costs is impossible. In the guidelines it is stated that the travel costs should not exceed 300 €. Since this is not sufficient for many members, the question to be discussed is if each state could use state-money to cover the rest of the travel cost for their EFC-member. There was a discussion about this, and a vote if this could be decided already now.
 It was decided to make an amendment to postpone the question till January. Each state will then get time to discuss this with their members, and State Presidents will then vote on behalf of their state.
 - 6) **Euforia** is looking for a new editor. Helga Thorlacius, who has been serving as editor for four years now was acknowledged and thanked for her outstanding job. Also, a “thank you” to Evelyn Goodsell for proof reading. The question was asked who would volunteer to be the next editor. All states were asked to put the question among their members.
 - 7) Marika pointed out that the committee serves the European membership. The work of the committee is good if it meets the members’ expectations.
 Therefore the committee needs the input: what do our members want us to pursue, which projects could be of interest.
 A survey will be worked out by the committee and sent to the state presidents to forward to each member. It is hoped that the outcome will answer the question: what next?

Astrid H. Bie Skaaland

4. Report

The European Forum Committee - Report of chair 2022-2024

- EFC met regularly via Zoom, once a year in person
- All agendas and minutes are on the European Website
- History of the Europe Region was finished by Editorial Board, chair worked closely with webmaster to constantly update the website
- At the first committee meeting important decisions were made:
 RD Europe is member ex officio with vote
 International President Debbie LeBlanc's key words for the biennium should be met

Vitality

- vitality has our group been; the EFC members are also members of their respective administrative board and should serve as a liaison and thus work closely together with their state members as well as with each other. I am grateful for having had such a great group of women to work with. Our vitality was fruitful which shows its

Relevance

– by working together with all states it was possible to set up an excellent program, all eight countries presented educational topics during the biennium, topics relevant to education today, and providing much food for thought and pursuing further actions beyond this biennium. Chapter to chapter meetings have been encouraged as well as state to state, not only within Europe but also beyond, e.g. Manitoba, Canada and Finland exchanged their school systems. Out of this experience the member states will be asked to present their school systems to the membership. Discussions have begun, and surely there is more to learn from each other, and there is hope that by the committee's endeavors necessary changes within the educational field can be encouraged. All presentations are available on the website for using at the chapter level and in the classroom, all conducted in our Lingua Franca, English.

Sustainability

– as outlined the members in Europe moved closer to each other, because of the programs which have become a tradition, e.g. Lucia Day on December 13, when all eight countries contribute. Regularly presented are the works of excellent artists. Look for “Artist in the Spotlight” on the website. As it proved difficult to present an artist monthly the committee renamed this feature.

The **EF session at the conference in Tampere in 2023** including a ceremony of remembrance was prepared.

During the session Helga Thorlacius was acknowledged and thanked for her excellent work as editor of Euforia.

With the help of Eyglo Björnsdóttir, our webmaster, we were able to find in Kristin Snaeland from Iceland a new editor for our newsletter. The EFC greatly appreciates that Euforia goes on.

The EFC presented at the conference in Tampere the **European Achievement Award** to Eyglo Björnsdóttir for her yearlong dedication as webmaster and her outstanding work to sustain our website and her ongoing support.

To sustain our numbers in Europe has not been achieved, the only exception is Iceland. More members are lost than gained. There is more work to be done to present ourselves as a modern Society that meets the educational challenges educators face today. Beside this the committee work shows sustainability in making itself more visible.

Survey

The US Forum conducted a survey among the US membership. The EFC was allowed to alter it to make it suitable to European members. 25% of our members answered which is a normal outcome. The result has been spread, but the next committee will go on working with the results to become relevant to our educators.

European Forum Guidelines

The EFC revised the guidelines. The document was sent to state presidents prior the Forum meeting at the conference in Tampere according to the guidelines. The document was not approved, more time to consider was needed. In essence the problem was Finances.

The EFC Finances (see Financial Report) do not allow full reimbursement for members' travelling expenses. The amount being paid was set at 300 € per member from the EFC budget. Members have to apply for monetary support within their states. .

European Forum **Strategic Action Plan** was discussed and no changes were considered necessary.

Amendements to the governing documents of the Society

The EFC worked closely together with the International Constitution Committee to ensure correct wording.

Zoom meetings cannot be compared to a meeting in person. It is adamant, being together for two days per year to share ideas and expertise, to prepare and lay the foundation for further work which will then continue via Zoom

Therefore the committee asked for an international contribution of 500 USD per country per year.

Annual planning meeting costs and communication expenses for the Canadian, European, Latin American, and United States forums shall be funded in the Available Fund budget. *The Canada and the Latin America forums shall each be funded at three thousand dollars (U.S. \$3,000) per year. The Europe forum shall be funded at five hundred dollars (U.S. \$500) per member country per year.* The United States Forum shall be funded at ten thousand dollars (U.S. \$10,000) per year. Annual budgets and accounting reports of funds shall be submitted to the president and to the assigned professional staff.

Rationale: The costs of the annual meetings in Europe are extremely high. When the fund is not raised or increased we cannot meet every year. Europe is working hard to expand and that is why we ask for money per country and not in total.

This was the original amendment. After discussions at the international administrative board in Austin it was asked to reduce the proposed amount to **400 USD per country** which was agreed upon.

The EFC did not ask for the amount of 3000 USD which the Canada Forum and Latin America Forum receive but asked for the amount of 400 USD per country because DKG Europe plans to expand, and would then automatically receive this amount for the new member country as well.

International Standing Rule 9.31

As the EFC is asked to prepare the international conference in Europe (former regional conference) monetary support is needed

The Canada Forum Conference, The Europe Forum Conference and The Latin America Forum Conference.

The conferences shall all be funded at five thousand dollars (U.S. \$5,000) per biennium each.

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Rationale: All the Forums will organize conferences every biennium and need the same amount as Latin America.

ISR 4.65 (new, proposed by M. Heimbach)

The chair of the Europe Forum Committee shall be reimbursed for travelling and other expenses when attending an international convention..

7. European Forum Committee



From left to right front: Marie Antoinette Hubers-de Wolf, Evelyn Goodsell (GB) Back: Astrid Bie-Skaaland (NOR), Pia Nyman (FIN), Marika Heimbach (GER), Helga Skeidsvoll (SWE), Reeli Tänavsuu (EST), Carola van Zanen-van Rijn (NL) – Anita Jonsdottir (ICE) is missing.



Astrid left the committee, and Muriel Marsh from Norway (far left) joined

The European Forum Committee members 2024-2026 are:

Carola van Zanen-van Rijn (NL) (chair), Marie-Antoinette Hubers-de Wolf (NL) (RD, ex officio),
Muriel Marsh(NOR) (secretary), Anette Nyberg (SWE), Vilborg Asa Bjarnadottir (ICE),

Diana Bell (GB), Henna Perätalo (FIN), Thi Finkemeyer (GER), Kadri Mettis (EST)

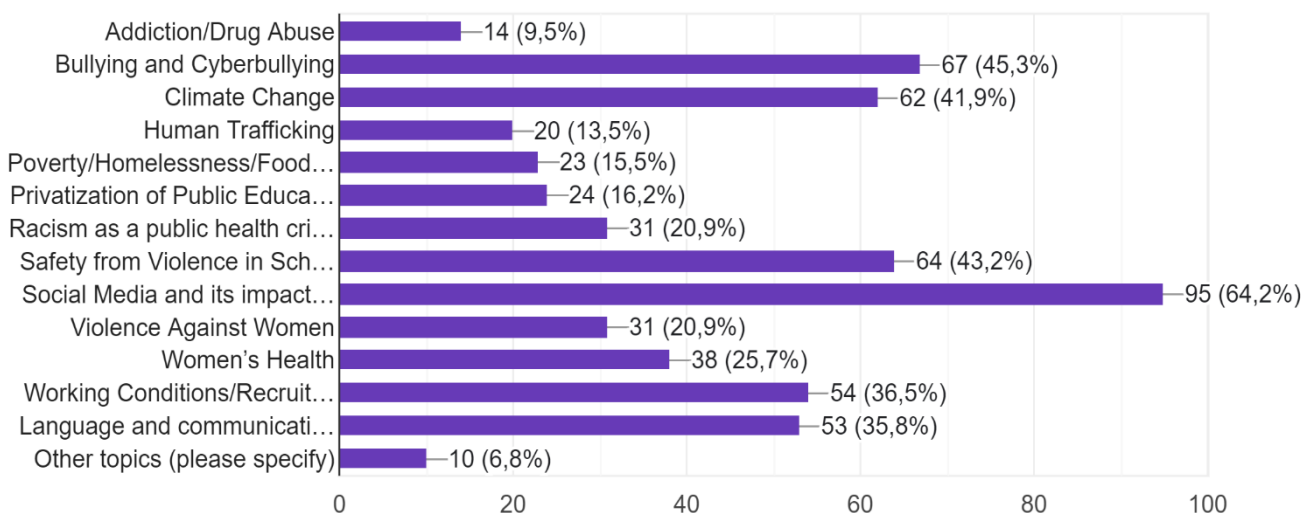
Future Projects, Recommendations

- Continue educational presentations
 - Continue Lucia Day
 - Continue presenting artists, now named “Artist in the Spotlight”
 - Eight member countries – eight different school systems – initiate presentations
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- The survey shows that “Social Media and its Impact” is of high concern, “Bullying and Cyberbullying” as well as “Safety from Violence” and also “Language and Communication” add to the problems teachers have to face and deal with.
The new committee is asked to address the problems, e.g. by writing letters to politicians responsible for the education.

Excerpts from the survey:

3. The purpose of the Europe Forum is to identify major issues affecting women, children, and education upon which European members may take a...are most important to you for study and action.

148 antwoorden



4. Which Forum Activities/Resources are the most beneficial to you—CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

148 antwoorden

