



The European Forum Committee

Report of Chair 2024-2026

It is with pride I write this report. I have been a member of the European Forum Committee for four years, the last two as Chair. It has been a wonderful educational journey, with enthusiastic and inspired key women in the Forum committee.

The highlight was helping organize the first European Forum Conference in Brighton, Great Britain. (see picture)



Together we are a great team and have made friends for life.

The European Forum Committee 2024-2026

Chair and members:

<i>Chair: Carola van Zanen van Rijn</i>	<i>(NL)</i>
<i>Treasurer: Henna Perätalo</i>	<i>FIN)</i>
<i>Secretary: Muriel Marsh</i>	<i>(NO)</i>
Annette Nyberg 2024-2025	(SWE)
Ann-Katrin Swärd 2025-2026	(SWE)
Diana Bell	(GB)
Kadri Mettis	(EST)
Thi Finkemeyer	(GER)
Vilborg Ása Bjarnadóttir	(ICE)
Marie-Antoinette Hubers- de Wolf	(NL)
Europe Regional Director	

Beverly Hall-Maughan, our International President this biennium has led with passion and purpose. She is an inspiration to us all and has participated in many of our meetings as well as being present at our European Forum Conference. Her words, - empathy, encouragement and mutual respect are very important and, in our team, have experienced this to the fullest.

What has the European Forum Committee (EFC) achieved?

- The European Forum Committee meets regularly via Zoom and once per year in person.
- All agendas and minutes of meetings are published on the European Website. (See website*)
- Together with our webmaster, Eyglo Björnsdóttir, the European website is continuously updated. (Many thanks to our webmaster for all her work and time.)
- Organized the European Forum Conference at the University of Sussex, Brighton, in Great Britain, July 2025. (Many thanks to all DKG GB members, with special appreciation for Diana and Kathy for their dedicated efforts.)

- Published an article on the conference in Brighton in the Collegial Exchange December 2025.
- Awarded the European Achievement Award to Marika Heimbach from Germany at the Conference in Brighton 2025.
- Started planning and organizing the European Forum Conference in Norway, June 2027.
- Discussed educational issues in our different countries.
- Planned, organized and celebrated St Lucia Day with contributions from all countries.
- Organized a variety of online Educational Topics. (See website*)
- Given tips on membership expansion
- Presented our creative members for “Artists in the Spotlight» on our website
- Published our newsletter “Euforia” twice yearly.
(Thank you to our editor, Kristín Snæland)

* Website DKG Europe: www.dkgeurope.org

GOALS

We have worked on several goals:

International SAP Goals and activities for the European Forum Committee

2. B Enhance existing global opportunities

2.B.4. Expand awareness of the partnership between the Society and all the members of DKG International

2.B.5. Generate interest in all Forum sponsored meetings and conferences.

2. B.6. Develop strategies to strengthen global connections among state organizations and chapters in member countries.

3.A Create leadership opportunities for members

3.A. 2. Utilize the talents of members to foster development of leadership in others.

3. A.3. Empower members to take leadership roles.

3. A.4. Provide networking opportunities for both established leaders and emerging leaders.

From the **European Forum Operational Guidelines**, we have worked on the following goals:

- unite European members, and celebrate their diversity
- give opportunities to discuss issues of educational importance
- find ways to accomplish these goals and turn them into action
- strengthen the links between the European Forum and the European Regional Director. (Thank you to Marie-Antoinette for an outstanding job. She has worked very closely with the European Forum Committee as a valued member of the team!!)

We have encouraged member- participation and cross-cultural learning, as demonstrated at the Brighton (GB) Conference.

A direct example is of the collaboration between our most well received speaker, Louise Evans from Florence Italy ("Five Chairs method") and Kadri Mettis from Estonia. They will research this method together with other Europeans. As an Erasmus + study, this kind of collaboration is truly in the DKG spirit.

Positive response from the conference indicates that this is a path to follow, as well as encouragement for expanding membership.

(Read more in the Collegial Exchange Dec. 2025.)

The Lucia day celebrations are a great example of uniting the European members. We always invite ***all*** international members to join us and have received much positive response indicating that there are many who appreciate this celebration.

We have begun the planning process of the conference in Norway, where we welcome you to Kristiansand in June 2027.

NB! Keep a close watch on our website to follow the latest news on the Conference in Norway.

Finally, I wish to thank the team of the EFC for working conscientiously with me and a special thank you for Henna and Muriel for their extra effort and time as treasurer and secretary, And of course thank **YOU**, members of DKG International for reading this report and helping the Forums throughout the world with their work.

I wish you an inspired, educational membership time of DKG International full of friendship and joy.

I close with words from our President, Beverly Hall- Maughan

-Lead with

- Courage to be authentic,
- Passion from the heart,
- Purpose from our intellect.

Warm Regards,

Carola van Zanen-van Rijn
Chair DKG European Forum Committee 2024-2026