

Strategy 5: CONNECT WITH INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Seven DKG International European Committee Members were invited to meet on Zoom with European State Organization Leaders to share their experience and to facilitate better understanding about their international committee work.

These meetings were a great success – state representatives were friendly connected and got to know in informal conversations what the goals of the committees are and how the work in the committees is planned. I am pleased to announce that our January meetings drew international attention and the meetings with European committee members were adopted as **one of the DKG Top 10 Chapter Strategies for a Post-Pandemic World**. These strategies will be introduced by the Members of DKG Administrative Board at State Organisation Conferences in 2021.

Here is the short summary of our January meetings:

Name	Reflection
Eija Liisa Sokka-Meaney from Communication and Marketing met with DKG Finland and DKG Estonia chapter presidents	The main goals of Communication and Marketing Committee are: • support members and communicate the value of membership • promote the use of Society resources • increase diversity and intercultural awareness • build resources and investigate current marketing strategies within and outside the Society. The C & M Committee publishes a newsletter Get Connected six times a year. Each of them addresses and discusses a theme, which the Committee has decided to be current. The first 2021 Get Connected dealt with the results of a questionnaire which was a virtual enquiry to map and investigate the needs which the Committee could answer to. The last Get Connected 2020 was about getting virtual in the Society which is a big challenge.
Ingrid Stjernquist From Membership Committee met with all SOPs and later with DKG the Netherlands chapter presidents	The Membership Committee • provides information through varied methods of communication on ways to mentor new members through blogs, articles in DKG News and Collegial Exchange, videos such as Pride in the Big Picture and break-out sessions at International Conferences. • communicates information about the scope and depth of the Society through various communications such as Facebook posts, Postcards from the Past, highlighting different regions. • recognizes the leadership potential of all members and provides connections to opportunities for member participation.

	• provide trainings for incoming state organization membership chairs highlighting resources available to members such as the Leadership Lab and DKG Communities and utilizing the data from surveys. • conducts a memorial for deceased members at each international convention.
Marianne Skardeus from EEC met with DKG Iceland and DKG Estonia chapter presidents	Marianne Skardeus started the meeting with a recollection that Europeans have belonged to the International Committees since the time when European Region was founded in 1998. The visions of Educational Excellence Committee involve: • support for early career educators and • empowering leadership through educational programmes. Every member of DKG International Society should feel the responsibility to market our Society. It is important that members are familiar with our Society and the best way of doing this is to make members familiar with DKG European and International websites. It is suggested to take 15 minutes at meetings to present some parts of the websites which have plentiful useful information.
Riitta-Liisa Arpiainen from Constitution Committee met with DKG Finland and DKG Estonia chapter presidents	The Constitution Committee work concentrates on DKG Society's governing documents: Constitution, Standing Rules and Bylaws, which were created and are maintained to help and support members in all activities and to make us a strong, solid society. Our Constitution contains the basic rules relating to itself as an organization, The International Standing Rules (rules of order) relate to orderly transaction of business in meetings and to the duties of officers in that connection. The main tasks of the Constitution Committee are: • to review State organization Bylaws • to review the proposed amendments to the Constitution and Standing Rules • to provide info for States regarding rule changes (electronic business meetings and Collegiate Member in Bylaws) • to market and communicate about Constitution and Standing Rules in DKG international publications, at workshops and co-operate with other International Committees. Our governing documents can be read on our webpages, you can also view there the Powtoon (Meet Marge) about a fictional amendment process, which has been posted just recently on the Constitution page at www.dkg.org
Elisabeth Stärner from Expansion Committee met with DKG Germany state representatives	The responsibilities of the Expansion Committee are to support and strengthen all existing state organizations and chapters in each member country. The committee will collaborate with the International Membership Committee on the development of the guidelines. There are three focus areas based of Society Strategic Plan: • Finding meaningful ways to support global connections for state organizations and chapters in other countries. The

	committee will also develop expansion guidelines to assist state organizations in expansion. • Promote diversity in membership selection. This is done through acknowledgment of the impact of diversity via blogs, committee representations and publications. • Recognize women leaders in different fields of education. The Expansion committee is going to choose a focus of topics of expertise, encouraging varying levels of depth within the topics and then collaborate with the International Speakers Fund Committee and the World Fellowship Committee as resources for promoting women leaders.
Ingibjörg Jonasdóttir from Leadership and Development Committee met with DKG Sweden chapter presidents	The focus areas for the Leadership and Development Committee based on Society Strategic Plan are: • to develop leadership connections • to expand offerings in native languages at events and in publications • to study and share leadership styles represented in member countries The Leadership and Development Committee members • plan a leadership development training for SOP's (in odd number of years). • plan and implement leadership sessions for state organisations and chapter presidents held at international held at international conferences (in odd number of years) and at international conventions (even number of years) The session for 2021 is called: <i>Maximizing Talents - Developing Leaders</i>
Bjorg Nakling from World Fellowship Committee met with DKG Norway and DKG Great Britain chapter presidents	The World Fellowship Committee goals are: • to educate members about World Fellowship Fund • to promote current financial resources. The smart goals will be created by May 2021. DKG has had an alliance with the Institute of International Education (IIE) since the 1958-1960 biennium. This organization works directly with <i>Fulbright Programs</i> in different countries. When students apply to study in the United States, they all do apply through the Fulbright Program in their own country. IIE sends applications to DKG for the International World Fellowship Committee to consider for some awards. Female educators (not DKG members) have the first option. Students cannot just apply to DKG. They must be accepted into the Fulbright Program first.

I would like to thank all International Committee Members from Europe for accepting my invitation to participate in these meaningful meetings. Thank you all for your time. It has been an endeavour, a purposeful undertaking to introduce the roles and tasks of committee members and strengthen the bond between chapters and international level.

In May, 2021, we are going to have the second session of meetings with European leaders in DKG International Committees:

Eyglo Bjornsdottir and Janny Kisteman – Nomination Committee

Gisela Baronin von Engelhardt – Non-dues Revenue Committee

Jona Benediktsdottir – The Chair of Golden Gift Committee

Gitta Franke-Zöllmer – Scholarship Committee

Charlotte Lindgren – Editorial Board

Gunilla Norden – Educators Book Award

A quote from Riitta-Liisa Arpianen:

‘The international field and activities are the core of our DKG Society. Based on my experience of several International Committees (2008 – 2021) as a member and as a chair, I strongly recommend to all members to consider different international tasks – you will be able to participate in the development of our society on international level and get a huge network and friends of brilliant women in education from many different cultures!’

Dear Members of Europe Region! Happy St. Valentine’s Day!



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