

A Happy New Year, dear Members of DKG Europe Region!

In 2020 we experienced unprecedented difficult times filled with health challenges, personal isolation, social disconnection, and continuing uncertainty about tomorrow. We were mostly in survival mode. Personal and professional struggles made our lives challenging, making it easy to fall into the trap of developing a negative mindset.

Tough times presented hard but valuable lessons that forced us to re-evaluate the meanings we had been attaching to our lives. We were not afraid of change. We learned how to adapt quickly to new circumstances, and we learned how to obtain new IT skills which seemed impossible to us some time ago. We paid more attention to our wellbeing, we understood that nothing can be taken for granted and the most important – we rediscovered the importance of togetherness.

On January 1, 2021 we opened a new 365-page blank book. We are going to write chapters there ourselves. Let us call the book ‘New Opportunities’ and its first chapter ‘To Improve is to Change’. Today we are ready to re-energize ourselves with a positive mindset as we anticipate good and desired results from the vaccinations that may soon allow us to hug our friends again and allow us to gather at different DKG events.

As we create the chapters for our 2021 book ‘New Opportunities’ let us continue with our biennium goals:

1. To Stay Closely Connected with Europe State Organizations.

All Europe states have had contacts through TEAMS or Zoom meetings and some states had been lucky to meet DKG members in person. In January 2021 we start zoom meetings where the representatives of DKG Europe States meet with the European Members of International Committees to get acquainted with our European leaders and get to know the goals of the Committees.

As some states chose the same committee member, some meetings have been merged and there are some changes in meeting dates. Please update your DKG calendar using the following chart:

11.01. – All Europe State presidents meet with Ingrid Stjernquist from Membership Committee, Ingibjörg Jonasdottir from Leadership Committee and with all other	
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European Members from DKG International Committees	
12.01. – DKG Iceland and DKG Estonia meet with Marianne Skardeus from Educational Excellence Committee	
18.01. – DKG Finland meets with Eija Liisa Sokka-Meaney from Communication and Marketing Committee and Riitta-Liisa Arpiainen from Constitution Committee.	
19.01. – DKG Sweden meets with Ingibjörg Jonasdottir from Leadership Committee	
20.01. – DKG Netherlands meets with Ingrid Stjernquist from Membership Committee	
21.01. – DKG Germany meets with Elisabeth Stärner from Expansion Committee	
26.01. – DKG Norway and DKG Great Britain meet with Björg Nakling from Fellowship Committee	
	Discussion points: 1. The role the members play on an international committee 2. The tasks they address as an international committee member 3. How does being an international committee member differ from that of a chapter or state organization committee member? 4. What is involved in selection to an international committee? 5. The committee's main goal for the biennium 6. What are the expectations for the Europe region? 7. How can the European Member of the Committee strengthen the bond between the Europe Region and International Society. The reflections on the meetings will be published in the spring edition of <i>Euforia</i>.

We meet the rest of European Committee members in spring.

The European Forum Committee is planning to meet in January.

2. To Share Best Practices on our Europe Webpage and in our Newsletter *Euforia*.

Encourage chapter members to visit our webpage: www.dkgeurope.org and subscribe to European mailing list to be more informed how DKG Europe Region is doing. Under the Educational Topics you find Riitta-Liisa Arpiainen's webinar '*Insights on entrepreneurship education*' and Ann-Marie Svensson has introduced Sweden-Mexico project on different environmental topics.

Marika Heimbach, the Chair of the Editorial Board of the webpage, calls for sharing more best practices.

3. To Encourage Membership Growth.

DKG Germany is in the process of finding new members to form a new chapter! Great news!

DKG Estonia, DKG Netherlands and DKG Norway are planning to induct new members at their spring conferences

4. To Foster a Greater Understanding of Diversity.

The Delta Chapter of DKG Estonia State has founded contacts with DKG El Salvador, DKG Guatemala and DKG Mexico. Fantastic experience to get to know what DKG members are doing on the other side of our Planet. Let's get more contacts with DKG members worldwide.

Dear Members of DKG Europe Region,

Let us enter this New Year of 2021 with a positive mindset. When we live in the present, we are more focused, and less likely to be distracted by *what ifs*.

Let us intentionally do the work to practise gratitude for our family, our home, our health, our life, invite positive people into our lives and keep strong our lifelong friendship with DKG friends all over the world.

To come together is a beginning,

To keep together is progress,

To work together brings success.

Best wishes,

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