

Dear Members of DKG Europe Region,

Successful Region Conferences in the U.S. and in Europe will secure the future of this important worldwide educational organization to which we belong. But the situation in Europe and in the world is totally different from that in autumn 2019 when the planning of the international conferences first began.

Globally, the incidence of new cases is currently highest in Europe and on the American continents. During the past month, especially Europe has reported an increase in cases. Finland has passed strict rules for entering the country. In Finland's neighboring areas, incidence rates have risen considerably in almost all countries, mostly in Estonia and Sweden.

In October, at each of the zoom meetings with DKG Europe state leaders, the types of conference – either face-to-face or virtual – were under discussion. Europe leaders prefer a face-to-face conference. Regional Conferences in Europe have always been wonderful events with long traditions where DKG members meet, hug, discuss issues, enjoy evening programs and take part in exciting tours.

Members of the Steering Committee expressed that organizing the conference should be rewarding and inspiring. If they place great efforts in planning a face-to-face conference and later find out that a virtual conference is the only feasible option, this aspect is lost.

The Steering Committee of International Conference in Tampere was only ready to organize a virtual conference. The virtual Conference, with the registration fee of 160 dollars, was not preferable for other seven DKG Europe organizations. The DKG Europe organization presidents stated that their members do not want to take part in a virtual conference with a registration fee.

On October 29 the pragmatic decision was adopted by the DKG Europe State presidents to postpone the International Conference to the summer of 2023 with Finland as the conference site. Please remember that the decision was not to cancel the international conference in Finland, but to postpone the international conference due to the circumstances connected with Covid-19.

Therefore, on November 5 as the Europe Regional Director and as a liaison to the Administrative Board, I moved the motion to the Administrative Board. The motion was approved by all Administrative Board members. No votes against. The DKG Administrative Board passed the motion to DKG Executive Board:

‘Due to the expectation that government restrictions due to COVID-19 will continue in 2021 in Finland and the consensus of Europe State Organization Presidents that a face-to-face event would be preferable, the Administrative Board is recommending that the 2021 International Conference be postponed to 2023.’

The Executive Board approved the motion and the ballot results were announced on November 19, 2020.

Dear Members of DKG Europe Region,

Unexpected obstacles enter our lives as unwelcome guests, but they bring valuable gifts. And once difficult times subside, the gifts remain – we have grown into a strong region with great leaders. These gifts are life’s true treasures, brought at high price, but cannot be acquired in any other way.

We will meet in Tampere in 2023!

Margarita Hanschmidt,

2020-2022 Europe Regional Director

Email: 1704rita@gmail.com

Phone: +372 5067858

