

Euforia

Edition 52, spring 2019

Dear friends,

Here is Euforia 2019, spring-edition. Euforia gives an inspiring look inside DKG-activities in all the participating countries. You can read about changing names for the Regional Conferences into International Conferences, about activities in the participating countries and in their chapters. There is information about contacting sisterchapters, attracting new members and a plea to re-enter the travelling lamp.

Thanks to Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir, Katrin Saks, Riita-Liisa Arpiainen, Kaija Teikari, Eija Liisa Sokka-Meaney, Marianna Sunnari, Sirpa Ruhanen, Sheila Roberts, Jóna Benediktdóttir, Marie-Antoinette Hubers, Cor Wolff, Barbara Carlsen.

Enjoy reading!

Riet Smits
The Netherlands

Europe



From the Regional Director

Dear colleagues,

The conferences in the Society are not named regional conferences anymore, but international conferences with variety of topics. With this change there will be more emphasis on conferences as international events and the choice of the members personal or professional passion and priority. Members can choose from five different topics in various parts of the world, i.e. Arts & Humanities, Leadership, Technology, Global Awareness and Professional Research and Practices.

We are now planning the 2019 International Conference in Iceland and have the task to create a program with the title Professional Research and Practices. We are preparing a wonderful event, full of professional insight, fun, networking, inspiration and culture.



All the constitutional changes last summer at the Convention in Austin, will have an effect on the DKG Society in various ways. There will be changes in the next years and I am certain they will be moving us forward as they aim to allow more flexibility.

The Headquarters in Austin are reorganizing the project teams and reworking applications forms i.e. aiming towards using more technology.

I am looking forward to visiting three European countries this spring. Since serving as a state president in Iceland 2009-2011, and as a member of the Forum Committee and then a chair in the years 2010-2014, and since then being a member and chair in international committees, I have made wonderful connection to many of the European members.

We are educators, with a vision, the same goals and enthusiasm towards education. We are ready to encourage and strengthen each other both personally and professionally. To draw attention to what is working and work together to accomplish excellence in education.

Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir
DKG Regional Director 2018-202



Estonia



To Become a Teacher

Why Not?

According to the report of OECD in 2014, the teaching workforce is rapidly ageing in many parts of the world including Estonia. Like many other countries, such as Italy, Bulgaria and Latvia, Estonia may be facing a shortage of teachers ten-fifteen years from now. The small number of young teachers in Estonian schools is a direct result of a lack of interest in the teaching profession among young people, which in turn may be the result of the low level of prestige of the profession

in society. This may lead to a situation where large numbers of retiring teachers are difficult to replace with new recruits, which may further worsen existing teacher shortages.

Having that in mind, the Inspiration Day for gymnasium students „To become a teacher – why not?“ was organised by DKG Estonia Beta chapter in January 2019. The aim of the event was to popularise the teaching profession providing the best examples and advantages of the profession. The day started with the greeting of Vice-Mayor of Pärnu, Mr Marko Šorin which was followed by gymnasium students' sample debate on „To learn to become a teacher – yes or no“. The students were very inventive to bring out all possible advantages and disadvantages of the profession. However, the affirmative team sounded more convincing, and apparently, managed to persuade the young audience to consider the teaching career. Next, the floor was taken by two



young teachers, Kristi Mumm and Indrek Lillemägi, whose inspiring insights into their everyday work and amusing stories from school-life nailed the listeners for the next half an hour. Being energetic and attractive, they managed to draw the youngsters in, encourage them to ask questions and discuss the issues that the teaching job involves.

After a brief refreshment pause, the day continued with design-thinking workshops carried out by DD StratLab. The students, divided into teams, had to find solutions to different problems using the design-thinking method. The exercise was useful in different ways. On the one hand, it made students think and solve problems arising in everyday school-life, on the other hand, they learned to apply design-thinking as a problem-solving method.



Seeing the students' interest in the Inspiration Day, and listening to their questions and thoughts about the teaching career was encouraging for us – teacher's job is still valued by young people and hopefully, there were people who now consider becoming a teacher one day.

The organisation of the Inspiration Day was supported by Pärnu Municipality. The event was hosted by Pärnu Koidula Gymnasium.

Katrin Saks
State President



Finland



Sunny spring regards from Finland!

We just had our annual state meeting and seminar in Tampere on April 13 and were so happy to welcome the 1st international president Becky Sadowski and five members of DKG Estonia as our guests! The official state meeting went well and now we have a nice plan to apply for the next 2021 International Convention of Europe to be organized in Finland! Our theme of the annual meeting's afternoon seminar was very interesting: *Small is Beautiful - Survival Stories of Northern European Cultures* and we heard great stories from Iceland, Estonia and Saame! We wish to get a nice group of Finnish DKG-members to attend the Iceland Convention – hopefully we all meet there again!

Riitta-Liisa Arpiainen
DKG Finland State

Alpha Chapter at school and abroad 2018-19

Most of our chapter members have left school (=our place of work), but we want to learn new issues about it. That's why we really visited schools or heard presentations about *inclusion, phenomenal learning, computerized matriculation exam, flipped learning, or a school counselor's work in Cambodia*. The word **abroad** in the title refers to our visit to *Vantaa International School*, where the knowledge of English of our Alpha-Iida's students gets benefit from tens of ipads sponsored by DKG! Another Alpha-member Riitta told us about her three-year-period of educating *Moslem female teachers* in Arab Emirates. The course reports/certificates of this program consisted of references to Western pedagogy and leadership. A live trip abroad was made to Austin convention in July 2018 by Iida and Kaija, both of whom also gave their presentations there. Kaija also had a poster presentation on Ethics & Leadership in ICERI Congress, Seville, in November 2018. And now, of course, a few Alpha-sisters are looking forward to the regional congress in Reykjavik in July...

We adults are never too old to learn more – even through analyzing theatre performances or good books! One recent presentation really amazed our Alpha-members. Dr Laura Arppe mentions in her dissertation (2009): 'Give me your teeth and I will tell you who you are.'...And so we heard about isotopic study on mammoth teeth and climate change...DKG-sisters sometimes give scholarships for those who have taken a degree or –as we did in April 2018 when celebrating a birthday party – donated certain sums of euro to Women's Bank after taking walks of 5-10 kilometres ! Couldn't we next time donate something to protect nature?

Kaija Teikari

Epsilon

Epsilon chapter in Joensuu usually meets once a month. We are aiming at having new member by inviting them to come and listen to an interesting theme or doing something in a special place.

In the autumn we had three meetings and members joined the Women's Bank Walk in September. Dr Kaija Teikari visited us in October, and we had invited colleagues from other organizations and colleagues. We have a possibility to send invitations and information also through their email listing. In late September Ms Katri Tiainen told her experiences in Nepal, where she has been working and visiting several times. There one of her partners was Women's Bank.

In late November we were making Christmas party food and goodies together in a cookery classroom. One of the ideas in our organization is to contribute to the common good also. A group of us and two singers from a choir went to sing Christmas carols in two senior citizens' residences and then we could all sing together.

The latest research shows that games are a good way of relaxing and learning. So we had a get-together where we brought games – both social games and learning games e.g. a language game for learning Russian.

Our annual meeting was in the new premises of craft teacher training building. Dr Tarja Kröger showed us around and told about the premises, tools and equipment there. In connection with the annual meeting we gave a small encouragement scholarship to Ms Milja Kantinkoski, who is going to be a craft education and special education teacher. She has been an active student pursuing her studies strongly and she has international interests – Milja has done two periods in South-America in connection with her studies and many other activities.

Our members are active in presenting their special skills and experiences. Ms Merja Tukiainen told about her trip to Gambia and the local needs and ideas for developing e.g. small village. And

later in spring in April Ms Kaija Iljala will be talking about and perhaps also we can try acupuncture exercises for self-help in stress situations.

Ms Hilkka Sidoroff told about Greek-Orthodox Easter traditions and habits. She has studied in the Orthodox seminar and after that graduated in nursing and teaching. Greek-Orthodox religion is strongest in North-Karelia and Helsinki area. In North-Karelia it has influenced life in many ways actually inhabitants not even noticing it.

We also aim at going to sing again in senior homes but this time spring songs.

In summer some members are planning to come to Reykjavik and meet sisters from other countries. We look forward to that a lot.

We share the same worries about women having so many activities and work stress, and therefore one of the aims is to try and offer something different and relaxing.

Eija Liisa Sokka-Meaney

Gamma Chapter

Gamma Chapter of DKG Finland, based in Turku, now has 34 regular members and two reserve members, representing different levels of education from universities to primary schools. This year, our activities comprise meetings focusing on different themes of current interest, excursions and



trips to theater and other cultural events. In addition, five Gamma chapter members volunteer to offer Finnish language tutoring to immigrant women once a week. This is a long-term project carried out in co-operation with *Daisy Ladies*, an association aiming at improving the position of women who have immigrated to Finland and to contribute to their inclusion in Finnish society. We appreciate this opportunity to help making the voices of immigrant women heard in Turku and elsewhere.

Later this spring and in July next summer, we plan to take part in the Annual General Meeting of DKG Finland in Tampere and in the DKG International Conference in Reykjavik. It is always a pleasure to meet sisters from other chapters and countries. In September, we intend to pay a visit to Alfa chapter in Stockholm.

In July this year, Gamma will take over the Finland State Presidency for 2019-2021. While this means a new challenge to all of our members, we are prepared to join our forces to meet the purposes of DKG International and to continue promoting the professional and personal growth of women educators and their excellence in education.

Marianna Sunnari

Zeta

Our theme: Zeta in International Networks

The Zeta chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Finland continues to support and further the consciousness and recognition of female educators active in different fields of education, and adding their international unity. We also aim at supporting gifted female students during the year.

Events in 2018 and plans for the year 2019

In 2018 we met several times:

In February at Tampere Cathedral at a Gospel music concert (101 tickets sold by Zeta members), participated a national networking day with other chapters at Vantaa.

In April we had the annual meeting of Zeta at a comprehensive school and hosted the annual meeting of DKG Finland State combined with seminar program including a talk about Finnish taught in China.

We even took a hiking trip to a beautiful lake one May evening, and discussed education around the campfire.

The autumn brought a series of Studia Generalia on the theme Children's Books in Hands of Translators' at Tampere University, an evening at an artist's studio, and an evening with questions around alternative education paths offered in our region.

In December we had the pleasure of organizing the inauguration ceremony for three new members of Zeta. Unfortunately, two long-time members decided to leave the chapter at the end of 2018, so the number of members settled at 17.

Spring 2019, done and planned:

January 29th:

a cosy evening at Pia's brought together the majority of our members to enjoy each other's company and discuss the plans for the new year.

March 13th

the annual meeting of Zeta chapter at the Hervanta campus of Tampere University, followed by the plans for hosting the spring seminar of DKG State.

April 6th

A number of DKG Zeta members are participating the Saturday session of learning about Iceland and its language organized by the Association of the foreign language teachers in the Pirkanmaa region.

We will also educate ourselves on the personal history of a local business woman and art patron at an event with the author of the biography "Hyvä Saral", taking place at our main library Metso on the 9th.

At the weekend 12th to 14th of April Zeta is hosting 5 sisters from the Tallinn chapter in Estonia, and at the same time hosting the annual meeting and seminar of DKG Finland State. The theme for the seminar is "Teachers in Foreign Lands".

May 2019

Zeta is going to have a tour at a new comprehensive school at Vuores in Tampere, and take a refreshing art walk in this housing area which has been profiled for street art and environmental art.

July 2019

As many as eight Zeta members will attend the European Seminar in Iceland

Other plans for the year:

- Reading session at establishments for supported living
- Starting the autumn sharing experiences and ideas from Iceland
- Planning cooperation with DKG Sweden/Norway/Iceland/the Netherlands
- 2020 will be the 30th anniversary of Zeta - plans for the celebration
- Acquiring new members is a key issue

Sirpa Ruhanen



Great Britain



Revitalisation update for website

We, in DKG GB, have been concerned at the drop in membership in recent years. Phyllis Hickey attended our State Conference in April, 2018 and we discussed the problem with her. Her enthusiasm for DKG was inspiring and contagious and, at her suggestion, we followed up by contacting Carolyn Pittman as part of a Revitalisation programme. We set up a committee to analyse what we do well and which things are not working for us. We shared our findings with Carolyn prior to a visit to London by her in October. She led a very worthwhile day, where we brainstormed all of our ideas about DKG, and she told us to focus on the aspects close to our hearts: what attracted us to becoming members of DKG? She encouraged us to come up with ideas on how to move forward.

We decided to have a state project which would help schools near to us, and also serve to publicise DKG. Our project was to buy books and donate them to schools

Both chapters held brain storming planning sessions and formulated action plans. It was decided to donate books suitable for Key Stage 2 pupils (aged 7-11). Then the books were chosen and ordered. We decided what should accompany them, identified appropriate schools in the locality, and asked for volunteers to contact the schools with a time frame for the end of January.

The books chosen by both chapters as suitable for Key Stage 2 pupils to read were:

- Great Women Who Made History
- Great Women Who Changed the World

Additionally, Gamma added in 'Women in Science', which is a more challenging read, and may be best for the teacher to read to the class.

To accompany the books Kathy Hodgson designed and produced book plates to display the name of the donor.

Joan Carroll wrote a template letter addressed to the head teacher of each school, which the volunteers will personalise to their designated school, and include an invitation for staff to come to one of our meetings.

Elisha Hoggart designed and had printed new postcards, which give some details about DKG and its international character. A number of these will be given to each school for sharing amongst female staff.

Each volunteer agreed to tie up the books and accompaniments with red ribbon. They look really eye catching.

It's such a pleasure to say that both chapters are on target with the 'Books for Schools project'.

Gamma has begun delivering the books to the ten schools they identified. So far several volunteers reported delight from the schools and gratitude to be chosen for a special gift. One school asked our DKG volunteer to give a session to its young librarians, aged 9-10, about the history of the organisation. The children decided to dedicate its display board to us. Relationships were forged with the schools, which could lead to new members.

Anne Goldstein, Gamma's newest member, wrote a press release which led to a colourful spread in the local newspaper. She also followed this up with publicity for a meeting on a community website, which immediately sparked interest.

Alpha Chapter has decided to deliver to twenty schools – some of which have already been identified. Diana Bell and Penny Kinnear delivered a set to the school in which they had both

worked, over thirty years ago. The old school building has recently been demolished and a brand new, impressive, state of the art building is now in place. They were given a very warm welcome and the Head teacher was delighted to receive the books and give them to the school's new library, which was officially opened last week by the Duchess of Cornwall. Diana and Penny had their photographs taken with the books, and this will go on the school's website. More schools will be visited after half term.

We hope the end result will be that DKG becomes better known by women working in education in Britain and hopefully will want to come along to one of our meetings.

Sheila Roberts
Chair of Revitalisation Committee



Iceland



Winterhighlights

The current board made it a goal that the DKG would become a more active participant in shaping educational policies in Iceland, for example by sending in comments on bills connected to the field. The minister of education has now submitted a bill suggesting a change in the law regarding issuing licenses for teachers, which is most certainly appropriate for DKG to discuss and have an opinion on. As it happened, the board members did not agree on the utility of the changes in question and therefore did not find it right to send in commentary in the name of DKG. In stead we advertised the changes to the bill on our Facebook page and encouraged the members of DKG to look at them carefully and send in commentaries in their own names. This might be a reasonable way for such a big and diverse organization to encourage discussion among the members.

Major changes have been made to the Icelandic DKG membership list. We currently have 13 chapters who have close to 340 members. To make it easier for us to make connections and get to know each other we now have pictures of almost every Icelandic DKG woman on the chapters websites.

The DKG information booklet has also been reviewed and reprinted.

Coming up is the Icelandic DKG convention on the 4th of May in Reykjavík. The theme of the convention will be: “the path of life, guidance and learning”

The big project of the last months has been preparations for the international DKG convention which will be held in Iceland 25th – 27th of July. We have opened for registrations and the program is ready, here you can see the congress website:

<https://dkgerc2019.weebly.com/program.html>

Like most DKG members know there is more to the organizing of a big congress like this than

just putting together the program! We have also scheduled excursions and other leisure activities for those days, because in DKG education and entertainment always go hand in hand. We hope to see as many of you as possible at this fun and interesting event.

Jóna Benediktsdóttir



The Netherlands



Message from the Netherlands

This year is already a few months old. Winter is gone and spring is coming. 2019 is a special year. Two chapters have their anniversary. Delta started 40 years ago and Epsilon 30 years. We celebrated these birthdays and we had a lot of fun. Our state organization is now 43 years and I am very proud that one of our founders, Anneke Bolle, is still alive. Although her physical health is turning down, her mind is in a very good condition. She still wants to know what is going on in our society.

On the 6th of January we had a New Year celebration at my house. 20 members, some with their husbands, came to bring out a toast on this year. We had a Texan meal with fajita, corn soup, ice crème in honour of DKG International 90 years

The Netherlands is increasing and initiated new members, last year. That was one of our goals and we continue.

March 23 we organized a workshop about the purposes for the next biennium. First we had a small lecture about Annie Webb Blanton. What did she have in mind when she started DKG. Are the purposes then still up to date in the 21st century. Does it work for Holland. It was inspiring and we made a commitment to have a discussion about this subject minimum once a year in every chapter and on state level.

We also discussed the meaning of International, connect and contact with other chapters abroad. The Delta chapter found a chapter in Kristiansand. In June three members are going to visit them and they will start to make a program for exchange between both chapters. We hope that there will be more chapters, in Europe, who are interested.

May 25 we organize our State Convention in Nieuw Buinen. That is on the border of Groningen and Drenthe. Our main subject is Executive Functions. We have Martin Timmer as our keynote speaker. What is the definition, why do we, and our students, need these functions. Everyone is invited to come, please let us know.

We are planning our trip to the International Conference in Iceland and hope to see many of you.

All I need to say is that I will meet you in Iceland and maybe on one of the State Conventions.

Marie-Antoinette Hubers
State Organization President

The light, the lamp 2013 — 2019

In 2015 Marianne Skardeus, Regional Director, asked me to bring the benefits of the Regional Conference in The Netherlands of 2013, to the Regional Conference in Borås, Sweden. The idea was handing over a symbol, a little lamp, to the incoming state president of the country where the RC takes place and to continue that symbolic handover at each next RC.

How could I do this? How to visualize this? There is no possibility to put bright ideas, friendship, the spirit of the meetings in a box and bring the box with me and to open it there.

Thinking of this I looked at the DKG Crest. And there I saw the symbol of what I wanted to bring to you. The flaming lamp! The light.

Such little oil lamp is difficult to travel with. Especially at long distances. You can replace this little lamp for a safety-lamp, used by miners. This lamp also warns when there is pollution in the air saying "This is not the right moment and the right place to tell about our mission."

But times have changed. The lamp could burn with a bright, clear light. Time for a hurricane lamp. It will give light in storms, in adverse wind but how to bring this lamp across borders, by seas and oceans. No person is allowed to board an airplane with a burning lamp. But times are changing all the time. Now there is LED-light. That can be turned on and off at any moment but will never die out.

This light has been burning for the past six years. This is the lamp that will be handed over to the incoming state president of the organizing state with the request "Please, keep the light burning". Tell about DKG wherever you meet educators who are committed to education as you are.

***And last but not least; take this burning lamp
to the next RC in two years from now.***

Let's do it! NOW!!

For now an inspiring, sparkling and a fruitful RC.

Cor Wolff-Heins
The Netherlands



NORWAY



Greetings to you all

State Conference and projects supported by our chapters

As we wait for the spring to come to Norway, we are, as usual at this time, preparing for our national conference. This year in beautiful Kristiansand on the south coast. The theme is 'Equality and integration.' We look forward to being inspired by Åsta Lovise Elinstadbland, Dean of Studies in equality studies at the University in Agder and to having some interesting discussions afterwards.

We are fortunate to be welcoming and hearing from Ingibjörg Jonasdóttir (our official DKG representative). It will be interesting to hear her views on the status of the European Region. I



understand that we are the only region to be experiencing growth! Since we will need to discuss some of the changes in the Constitution and Standing Rules, her input will undoubtedly be very useful.

During the conference we will also be hearing from each of our three chapters about the special projects/charities they support, and everyone will be selling or raffling items to raise additional funds for their projects.

Delta has financially supported a college education for a young woman from the oasis of Siwa in the Western Desert in Egypt. Siwa is nearly 50 kilometres from the Libyan border and 560 kilometres from Cairo. It is a very traditional society in which education for girls is not a priority. Our young woman was not considered a good candidate for marriage, but with Delta's financial support she is now a qualified teacher and will be returning to Siwa to teach. This is a project Delta became involved in through their sister chapter, Chi, in Borås in Sweden. Delta is now committed to supporting another young woman from Siwa.

Zeta contributes to Kubala Girls in Zambia. They are also supporting a young woman training to be a teacher. The project is aimed at helping orphans and vulnerable girls to get an education and plan and prepare for a future. They receive uniforms, shoes, bags, socks and books. School fees were also paid for them. Computer lessons are very popular with the girls. Kicking Aids out is an integral project. The girls are given knowledge and practical skills about how to lead a positive and healthy life. Girls who cannot make it into college are encouraged to get skills training so they can work on their own or find a job.

Epsilon works through Women Support Group Kristiansand. This involves support for girls and women in Rajshahi, Bangladesh which is a town twinned with Kristiansand. After a group of young girls from Kristiansand visited and saw for themselves the plight of many women in this region, money has been raised to hire premises where different groups can be educated in their rights, building selfconfidence and helping them to be the boss in their own lives. There is also a focus on creating jobs. They learn a variety of skills from embroidering bags for different firms, the use of a sewing machine to sew clothes, design clothes, make plant dyes etc. Courses last from 3 weeks to 4 months and new courses are frequently being added. Epsilon's contributions help pay for salaries for teachers and assistants, rental of premises and purchase of equipment.

All three projects are truly in the spirit of Delta Kappa Gamma!

Barbara Carlsen
StatePresident

