



EUFORIA

Edition 61 AUTUMN 2023

Dear friends, here is EUFORIA, the Autumn edition of 2023. In this Issue, you can read about committee works and various activities of the participating countries. Thanks to all the members who contributed to this issue with their interesting articles. Many thanks to Evelyn Goodsell (GB) for her proofreading of the articles, she has been a great help. I would also like to thank Helga Thorlacius for her editing work and help to me as I take over her role. I am a founding member of the NU chapter which is the newest DKG chapter in Iceland. I was the chapter's president from 2020 - 2022. After moving to Akureyri last spring I transferred to Beta chapter. I have been a teacher since 1997 and mostly taught children from 10 - 16. I love long walks in nature, reading, and being with friends and family. I'm married and have one daughter who is making me a grandmother in January. I'm looking forward to my new involvement in the DKG society by becoming an editor for Euforia.



Enjoy reading! Kristín Guðbjörg Snæland, Iceland

Europe

Letter from your Regional Director

It was an awesome summer!!

We had a wonderful International Conference in Tampere, 26th -29th of July. Tampere Tallo was a great venue and the staff did their best to make the conference a success. In the schedule, we were able to plan outstanding keynote speakers and around 40 different workshops. The members of DKG Finland welcomed 178 members and partners to have a great learning experience and fun. We had a variety of entertainment, the opening visit at the Vaprikki, the Night at the Park with the Girl Scouts, accordion music, jumping shoes, sausages and drinks, and two partners from members from the Netherlands played all kinds of folk music. We were very lucky with the weather, warm, sunny and dry. During the grand dinner we had music, dance and the members gave us a peak view inside "*Teaching in the Past, the Present and the Future*".



At the conference there was also the opportunity to meet old friends and to make new friendships. The luncheon between the Canadian State Presidents and the European Presidents is a good example. We agreed to have a new ZOOM

meeting between Europe and Canada in January 2024. The food was fresh and delicious, and every day another menu. Everyone could choose what they wanted.

Birgitta Johansson received the European Award 2021 and Eygló Björnsdóttir received the European Achievement Award 2023.



Now we are planning our new Conference 2025 in Great Britain.

After this summer there is business as usual. The nominations for the administrative board 2024-2026 are announced on the website. You will see familiar names and new ones. Not every position is filled. We miss a candidate for the position of a European member at the Nominating Committee and the

Finance Committee. I hope that there will be a member who is willing to serve on one of these committees. As you can see I am nominated again as your Regional Director, and I am honored that I may represent Europe again for two extra years.

If you have any questions about this position please send me an email. (mac.dewolf@gmail.com).

December 1 is the deadline for the application of Ignite, a Leadership Management Seminar at the University of Texas. It is a life-changing program with seminars and presentations of great professors of Macomb Business School. The application form you can find on the international website. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeT65N1UeEt4THdMhmlJ8vzwVPTDRv-UCgOxnLvyTnzW7HYog/viewform>.

Every first Tuesday of the month you can join Inside International. You find the link on the international website. Every even month you can join us at 6.30 pm in Iceland and Great Britain, 7.30 pm in Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, and Germany, and 8.30 pm in Finland and Estonia. You can come in contact with headquarters, Nita, Debbie, Victor, Peggy, and Trish. You can ask questions and

sometimes there will be a special theme. Every uneven month they start at 5.30 pm CT so it is in the middle of the night here.

On December 13 we will celebrate Lucia Day. This evening we will have a ZOOM meeting at 6 pm for Iceland and Great Britain, 7 pm Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands and Germany, and 8 pm Finland and Estonia. The theme for this year is handcrafted Christmas decorations. Every country can send in their contribution to me before December 1. You can find the link on the European website at the beginning of December.

Visit the European website regularly to see what is new.

I hope to see you at one of my visits to your country.

Marie-Antoinette Hubers de Wolf

Europe Regional Director



Germany



The Europe Forum Committee

Thanks to our webmaster Eygló Björnsdóttir we have a new editor for our European newsletter: Kristín Guðbjörg Snæland from Iceland. I am very pleased and grateful that Kristin is taking over from Helga Thorlacius who we thank again for her excellent work editing Euforia.



Our new Artist of the Month is Bettina Kulsdom from Great Britain who is a dedicated painter in different styles. When the forum committee decided to create this new section for the website we were really thinking of a monthly change of artists, but it has been proven that larger intervals are more feasible. So we are hoping for a new artist to show her works at the beginning of next year.

The European Forum Committee has continued meeting via Zoom. The agendas and minutes are to be found on dkgeurope.org. On the website you will also find all educational presentations which have been organized so far. To my regret the only one that does not work any more is the link to Marion Blumenthal Lazan`s speech. We are working on the problem, and I do hope that the video can be restored. Ingvi Hrannar Ómarsson presented at the convention in New Orleans, you can find his speech under this link on the website: https://www.dkg.org/DKGS/Leadership/DiscoveryCenter/Ingvi_omarsson.

When Tiia Rüütemann was elected president of the International Society for Engineering Pedagogy in 2021 she said the following: "No one calls into question the fact that the teaching of students in a technical university must be science-

based. When it comes to masterful teaching, the topic of educational entertainment is often brought up. Didactics is a science, not entertainment. Masterful teaching must, therefore, be science-based, motivating and interesting, and the applied methodology modernised.

My priorities as president are to develop the international curriculum for continuing the education of engineering educators in order to support modern teaching, enhance research in engineering pedagogy, and to share best practice. I wish to bring internationally accredited educators to our university.” (Quote taken from <https://igip.org>)

Then on December 13, 2023 there is our continued tradition: Lucia Day. This year the theme is „Typical Handcrafted Christmas Decorations of our Member Countries“.

At the conference in Tampere it was agreed that DKG Europe would connect with DKG Canada. A Zoom event will take place in January 2024. As always Regional Director Marie- Antoinette Hubers de Wolf will provide us with the link for our Zoom events. The European Forum Committee is looking forward to the results of the survey to serve you better.

Enjoy the autumn season.

Marika Heimbach
EFC chair 2022-2024
mariakath49@gmx.de

Friendship across borders

In loving memory



In DKG we celebrate friendship across borders. By doing so we are working towards a world in Peace and we find the roses who support us in our membership. The rose is a magnificent creature of nature. The red rose signifies love, friendship, and strength which we all need in our lives, and to me, the red rose is the best symbol for Jeanne Morascini, February 7, 1929 – September 3, 2023. As the Founder of the Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Jeanne has set an admirable example for dedication, love, and support. She is dearly missed and never forgotten.

The internationality of our Society has been a great enrichment for me. One of the most important encounters that my participation in international conferences has made possible is my friendship with Jeanne Morascini from Connecticut.

Ever since I got to know her I have deeply admired her for her great personality and unswerving commitment to serve DKG.

Jeanne has been a member for 57 years. She served in numerous positions in her state and was a guiding force and mentor for many members. In 1985 she founded the standing committee; Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World; focusing on promoting peace, protecting the environment, and celebrating diversity. The mission of the committee has been to study and promote critical thinking, conflict resolutions, and cooperative learning skills which will help to move forward to a peaceful world. Since the beginning, the committee has been publishing three newsletters per annum which provide teachers with numerous resources, materials, ideas, and valuable advice to be used for their daily work in the classroom and for organising projects. In each newsletter, the reader finds links to information focused on global peace, human rights, personal skills, and environmental issues to foster health, education, and a sustainable planet for all humankind.

While still teaching I was grateful for the enormous amount of material and ideas provided in the newsletter, tremendously useful for preparing lessons. This is the reason why the newsletter is on our European website. Jeanne wrote her last foreword for the fall issue of the newsletter shortly before her death. It is added to this newsletter because she speaks her mind openly. With information about Jeanne provided by members of DKG Connecticut, I was able to submit a recommendation for her to be honoured in the Spotlight, and she is on the first page of the international website. (visit dkg.org)

It was thanks to Jeanne that Marion Blumenthal Lazan became an honorary member of our Society. To quote Jeanne: „I know this for sure, the hope for a peaceful world depends on each and every one of us. Education leading to interfaith understanding, belief in human rights for all, and respect, caring, and compassion for everyone is vital to our survival. Every person on this planet is going to have to stand up and fight the evil that is trying to overtake the good.“ Timely and wonderful words of wisdom.

Marika Heimbach

<https://www.potterfuneralhome.com/obituary/Jeanne-Morascini>

Yes, you are a leader!



As a member of DKG, each of us is a leader, and you can enhance your skills in your chapter and state. There is not only face-to-face leadership training but there are also opportunities provided by the International Membership/Expansion Committee through blogs and podcasts. You'll find the links on the International website. Basically "leadership" describes the competence to inspire and motivate people with one's own vision. Leaders have certain values and convictions and live up to their function as role models. Leadership and management are often mixed with one another. But there is a big difference between a manager and a leader: managers are administrators and

leaders are visionaries. A leader is able to infect others with her/his enthusiasm and inspire them through her/his own actions. She/he will make a difference and achieve real change. Leaders take responsibility and thus take a certain risk. They are willing to leave old structures behind and tread new ground. For leaders, it's important to reach new goals together with other people. They don't delegate but mobilise their collaborators to become active themselves. They believe in their colleagues and empower them to exploit their full potential. The leader always serves the team, not the other way around.

Leaders focus on the 'bigger picture'. Their characteristics are:

inspiration through visionary thinking, motivation, team-building, controllability, integrity, empathy, and decisiveness. These characteristics are mainly feminine traits. Even so, the majority of women hesitate to take leading positions. They lack self-consciousness and confidence in their skills and strengths. DKG promises its members to leverage their potential and strengthen their self-esteem. Key women leaders in DKG will encourage everyone in the Chapter, State or International to share a vision, creatively to expand that vision, and then to celebrate what has been possible. As key women educators, we must mentor younger women to think about their own personal and professional goals and become the leaders of tomorrow in our organisation, at the workplace, and in society. The principles of leadership are:

- Leads by example
- Takes responsibility
- Listens actively
- Communicates
- Embraces change
- Makes everyone feel important
- Promotes a diverse environment.

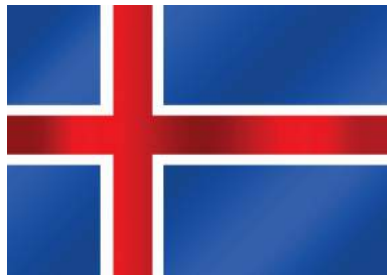
Leading others is a privilege that is earned, not a right.

Gitta Franke-Zöllmer

SOP Germany

International Membership Expansion Committee

Iceland



DKG in Iceland: Opportunities to impact

At the beginning of September, The State Organization Executive Board had a full-day meeting with the chapter leaders, committee chairs, the past president, the treasurer, the webmaster, and the parliamentarian. The subjects covered were e.g., practical information, leadership, the handbook for chapter leaders, how to activate the chapter and committee members, and how to run meetings and ceremonies. Furthermore, the treasurer and the webmaster gave presentations.

The board's draft for the action plan 2023-2025 was agreed upon after enthusiastic discussions and group work. The main goals are the following:

1. Survey the member's attitudes and opinions towards DKG practice in Iceland.
2. DKG is more visible in Iceland.
3. DKG has more impact on education in Iceland.

At the end of the meeting, we listened to an inspiring presentation, *The Tulips in The Snow*, from Dr. SharMc Gowan, DKG Leading Women Educators international Speaker and DKG State President in Canada. The day was extremely engaging for the new board to start activating their plan. The State Organisation Administrative Board meets monthly from July to May/June each year either in person or on Zoom as we have some members attending the meeting who live outside the Reykjavik area.





In October the president participated in an induction ceremony in the Epsilon Chapter in South Iceland. Six outstanding women became members. The ceremony was graceful and elegant. Furthermore, in the same month, the chapter invited teachers and other interested people to an impressive seminar on reading. The board welcomed Epsilon's initiative and urged other chapters

to establish similar projects that promote DKG visibility and impact education. The chapters can apply for funding from the board.

Our survey on the members' attitude will be sent out in November and we will use the results to improve our activities. The president plans to visit all 13 chapters in her years in office and hear how they keep current members engaged and active. Delta Kappa Gamma sisters in Iceland are looking forward to connecting and making an impact this winter.

Best wishes

Árný Elíasdóttir

State Organization President



The Netherlands



Dear members of DKG Europe

Making plans for the future of DKG in the Netherlands.

Looking back on our meeting in Irving Dallas, I can conclude that we are taking a more focused look together at how we are going to shape a newer form of DKG in the Netherlands. We live in different times than 30 - 40 years ago and new times require new goals. Elsje, Ria, and I, have been working on a concept in Irving called Teach to Lead.



It works like this:

1. Problem of practice
2. Describe causes
3. Theory of action
4. Inputs, actions, outputs
5. Outcomes in short and longer terms

It has helped us a lot to determine the focus for the future of DKG Netherland and to decide to make certain decisions. We also see our members going along with the change because you can clearly argue why this is necessary. On Basecamp, where we can post and receive messages from DKG International, you can view and reflect on each other's plans. It helps to see what other chapters are struggling with and how they think they can improve. Teaching to

lead is a useful skill for all kinds of situations that require careful reflection. This way you can see how you can be more targeted and efficient in a short time, guided by a plan.

I share this with you and hope we can inspire each other to step into a more future-proof DKG. Feel free to mail me and give suggestions, or advice to help each other. I want to thank DKG International for giving us this opportunity to learn so much.

In addition to all this, we are busy organising meaningful meetings and trying to encourage each other by giving everyone a chance to take on a role within your chapter. It's called "changing opportunities" and a testing ground is now Epsilon in the north of the Netherlands. At every meeting, someone different is the chairman, secretary, workshop holder, and hostess. This way everyone can experience what it feels like to take on a role. In the future, you can fulfil such a role nationally or internationally. Practising takes place in a friendly environment and making mistakes is allowed. I've got a good feeling about our experiences.

I hope to meet many of you at LUCIA DAY, December 13th, our European Christmas Event.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2024.

I greet you from The Netherlands on a stormy day, storm Ciaran is coming over us. I don't know about you but there are some other storms in the world that reflect our thoughts and feelings these days.

PEACE and HOPE for Everyone!



Warm regards
Jeannine de Jong
SP the Netherlands

Estonia



I am Siiri Vimberg, the State President of Estonia for the next biennium. I have been working as a teacher for almost 20 years and still consider the profession one of the best. I became a member of the Delta Kappa Gamma organisation in 2019 and I feel honoured and privileged to be among such inspiring and successful women educators. Not only are they academically excellent, but also charismatic and approachable women. Our members are our strength, and therefore, the most important goal is to retain and value the members we already have and invite new ones as well. Unfortunately, the pandemic has taken its toll and one of the most pressing concerns is the decline in membership. In addition to being active in their respective fields, the question is how to motivate our key women to find time and prioritise our organisation as well. It is easy to become passive, but the idea is to ensure the contributions to the educational field. Our founding members, who have made immense contributions to the state chapter's growth and success, deserve special recognition and appreciation. The main goal is to unify our members under a shared vision and sense of belonging. Togetherness and focus on people are the keys. We are committed to continuing to promote the teaching profession and teacher succession, as Estonia, like many other

countries, still faces a shortage of teachers. In addition to researching teacher persistence and attrition and introducing the teaching profession to high school students, we regularly bring inspiring speakers to meet our teachers and support their professional development.

Another purpose is to find a way to support Ukrainian war refugees in the Estonian education system so that they can adapt and cope until they are able to return home. There are excellent Ukrainian educators, teachers, and special educators, whom we invite to share their professional experience and the challenges they have encountered when working in Estonia. On our part, we introduce our organisation to them and give them the opportunity to learn and practise the Estonian language.

Membership, focus on people, continuing to promote the teaching profession, and supporting Ukrainian war refugees are the focus for the next biennium. It is essential that we rekindle the spirit of fellowship that has made our organisation thrive for years and continue to contribute to the field of education.

Siiri Vimberg

The State President of Estonia



Great Britain



During the Covid pandemic, we got used to using Zoom for our monthly meetings and we were pleased that it allowed European members to join us. Continuing with Zoom presentations has meant a much greater range of speakers. Anne Goldstein records most of our meetings on YouTube giving members a chance to catch up if they miss the presentation.

Thanks to our planning group we have had a variety of excellent speakers. Duncan Lustig-Prean told us about his time in the Royal Navy and how he had to leave because of his sexuality. He was interviewed on television that week as well. Barbara Kern spoke about her volunteering work with dementia patients and the use of reminiscence therapy. Granville Hancox MBE talked about the role of music and its importance in education. Our last Zoom was listening to Jess Levine, an abstract artist who now lives in the Lake District, speaking about her life and Art Therapy.

We were delighted to resume our visits. The Great Exhibition Road Festival, showcasing art, science and medicine gave us plenty to do and see with all the museums, university and the Royal Geographical Society opening their doors – a date for the diary next year.



Somerset House, Courtauld Gallery also proved interesting, with many famous pictures to view and unexpectedly a whole section about fakes. Babara Kern guided us on a tour of the Kings Cross area, which has been revitalised. Even some of the old Gasometers have been turned into flats and a garden. Well worth another visit.



Sheila Roberts revitalised us by planning outings. Sissinghurst Gardens in Kent on a wet day was still very interesting, especially the tower where author and poet Vita Sackville-West worked. The wonderful Marc Chagall windows were seen at Tudeley Church. Catching COVID meant I missed the trip to Ightham Mote, a Medieval Manor house – everyone said it was wonderful. One highlight was a piano recital by Gamma's Aileen Dickson. I watched the recording of her playing, it was magical.

Reporting back to GB members on the wonderful DKG Conference in Finland - what a joy that was – brought back some delightful memories of a really good, well-organised, and enjoyable conference. I'm not sure we can live up to it in 2025, but we will try!



Seeing Bettina Kulsdom's art on the European website is a real pleasure. A flavour of our activities can be found in our new brief version of GB News. Do have a look. www.dkgyb.org.uk

Diana Bell
State President



Finland



Greetings from Finland

It was such a pleasure to have so many of you at the DKG Tampere Conference at the end of July. There were about 180 participants and about 20 companions. We had not only lots of members from all European states, but we also had a large group from the US and about ten Canadian members, so we were truly international. All this made us



really happy! We could meet and greet old friends and make new ones. I think new ideas for keeping in touch between states, chapters, and members were initiated. Here is the conference website once again



<https://dkgtampere2021.weebly.com>

Some European DKG websites had photos and texts of the conference – thank you for doing it.

<http://www.dkgyb.org.uk> (DKG GB News number 2)

<http://www.deltakappagamma.nl>



No one can make it alone! The original plan was to have it in 2021, but as we all know, Covid came and mixed and



stopped all our plans. The conference was a big and long effort from the Finnish members and the regional directors Margarita and Marie-

Antoinette in action, but we must not forget the support and backup that Debbie and Nita and all in the headquarters gave us. Thank you! I can truly say that it made our resilience grow! The Zeta Chapter members in Tampere on the location knowing the city and its places gave

great contributions and they brought their know-how to us all. Alpha, Epsilon and Gamma chapter members were also

arranging all kinds before, on the spot, and after the event. It is not only what we did in Tampere but also beforehand because for various reasons all could not attend. The Tampere Hall staff were very helpful and all things ran smoothly. The opening ceremony and the Tampere City reception at Vapriikki were an excellent launch for the conference.

The deputy mayor of Tampere, Mr Ilkka Sasi, was a great host for us and gave an insight into Tampere life.



Our outstanding keynote speakers covered large areas of interest and the latest innovations and research. We were really happy that they agreed to come to talk to us and share their expertise on education and research, international exchanges,



children's literature, new innovations, and several other contents. They gave us a lot to think about. We want to thank our speakers from the bottom of our hearts and wish them all the best for their future work.



Prof. **Minna Huotilainen** of Helsinki University talked on Friday about what is Well-Learning, Changing education with a perspective from well-being and global learning, and she gave us a new term to think about what it can mean to us and what research with really interesting methods has contributed to this development.

Ms **Sirpa Holmström** from FNAE talked about what internationalisation can mean to us and how it can help us. Enriching Lives – Opening Minds – that is what Erasmus+ does! She also had an Erasmus+ workshop, where she introduced possibilities of what Erasmus+ can offer to schools, universities, and other educational organisations.

Ms **Kaisa Laaksonen**, director of the Finnish Institute for Children's Literature, talked about how they work in order to promote children's and young people's reading, and what kind of supportive projects they have – like tips for adults. The audience was given some great tips to use in their work or as parents or grandparents!

We had two speakers from the Tampere University of Applied Sciences.

Dr **Carita Prokki** talked about education export, her experiences, and what the university has done. Teachers for the Future – Experiences and Ideas opened us more about international dimensions in education. Her talk and Ms Holmström's talk were nicely complementary to each other.

Dr **Ulla Häggblom** talked about the experimental work on oats and what she has been doing with her students for sustainable development and the use of oats. Her talk was the last one and strongly reminded us of sustainable and environmental responsibilities.

In addition, the 27 workshops on offer covered a wide variety of topics and perspectives reflecting the broad range of interests and professional know-how of DKG members. The workshop presenters brought us their expertise in art,



literature, international relations, history, creativity, society matters, celebrating members, leadership, excellence in education, classroom activities, and sustainability just to mention some. Thank you for coming to Tampere sharing your ideas and knowledge with us and enriching our lives.



We were so happy to have nice feedback

and nice words from you. Many

of you told us positive

comments on food,

arrangements, and keynote

speeches and workshops. We do

hope you could get new professional ideas and new

inspirations for your chapters to take back home.



The Finnish group

The photos are by Jaana Tanskanen, Anneli Casey, Kenneth Meaney, Jaana Hanninen, Pia Nyman and Eija Liisa.

News from Finnish chapters



We have four chapters in Finland. We all are back to our regular activities.

Alpha Chapter has been active already in late summer and now in Autumn 2023. In August Alpha Chapter toured Tammisaari to see the new art museum Chappe. Some of us took the train, some drove to the beautiful old seaside town.

The museum was really worth seeing. We walked around the old city and had lunch in the nice restaurant Fyren on the sea. The first September meeting was organised by our member Kaija Teikari who had invited us to her hometown, Hamina (180 km from Helsinki). First, our book club gathered around a cup of coffee and Kaija led the discussion about Joel Haahtela's novel. After that, we attended a concert organised by the local concert society. Our member, Satu Haime visited South Korea in the spring and had promised to tell us about her experiences there. So in our second meeting in September, we gathered together to listen to Satu. The world is full of exciting places! In October our newest member Raini Sipilä (we are really fortunate to have her in our chapter!) told us about her experiences in Chinese schools. She has spent time in China training teachers and getting acquainted with the Chinese school system. It was really interesting and eye-opening to listen to her. In November our theme will be 'Artificial Intelligence and schools'. We have invited an expert to help us to discuss the matter. In December we'll celebrate Christmas together and of course, join the Lucia evening.

In the **Epsilon Chapter** in Joensuu, we discussed the conference and remembered what we did and liked in all the other chapters. In early September some took part and contributed to a walking event organised by Women's Bank. We find it important to support women and network with other women's organisations. Some other chapters in Finland are also actively cooperating with Women's Bank – think globally, act locally – a well-known phrase. Later in November, we are going to meet some international students and in December

go to the theatre to see Bulgakov's play Master and Margarita, and of course join the Lucia event.

In September we had a lingonberry picking trip, which ended up drinking coffee in Jaana's, chapter president's house, because it was pouring down with rain and thundering. In October we also had a successful beauty evening, where Noora-Liia, our new member last year, gave us nice tips. We have two new members this autumn and we are very happy about that and wish them welcome.

In September, the **Gamma Chapter** visited the premises of the Martha Association in Turku and was introduced to their history and present activities. The Martha Association, founded in 1899 under the name Education in the Home, is working today for a sustainable lifestyle within households, the economy, and ecology. Their advisors share knowledge in courses and lectures. The November meeting will take place in a local handicraft shop that specialises in Finnish and Icelandic knitting wool. We also plan to participate in the joint European Lucia Day event. About the coming events. Like Gamma members, we all are looking forward to the Lucia event online on the evening of the 13th of December and also to the coming European online lectures. The Finland state annual meeting will be on Saturday the 13th of April, 2024. We are not yet quite sure of the place, but we will be informed. We shall decide later this year! You are warmly welcome.

Zeta Chapter in Tampere members have met already several times e.g. over an enjoyable lunch at the conference hotel reminiscing about the conference and making new plans for the autumn. They have four new members and three took part actively in the conference in the summer. It was so good to see new and younger members' contributions and expertise at the conference. Zeta Chapter is going to have the initiation of new members on the 22nd of November. Warmly welcome to all new members! The members are also planning to join the Lucia Event. Pia Nyman, our energetic European Forum representative, is in the organising group and bringing in the Finnish dimension for Christmas decorations!

With best wishes to you all – looking forward to seeing you

Eija Liisa Sokka-Meaney
DKG Finland State President

Sweden



Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence in Education: Delta Kappa Gamma Sweden

Dear Delta Kappa Gamma Sisters in Europe,

As Delta Kappa Gamma Sweden eagerly approaches the remarkable milestone of our 50th-anniversary celebration in our country, we reflect on a half-century of dedication to excellence in education. March 23rd, 2024, marks not just a date on the calendar but a testament to the collective passion and commitment of each member who has contributed to Delta Kappa Gamma's journey in Sweden since 1974.

A Journey of Growth and Impact

Fifty years ago, a group of visionaries embarked on a mission to enhance education in Sweden, laying the foundation for Delta Kappa Gamma Sweden. Today, as we will celebrate this golden jubilee, we will honour the growth and impact we have collectively achieved. From the early days of our organisation to the present, Delta Kappa Gamma has been a driving force in promoting teaching and learning excellence.

Gathering in Stockholm for a Jubilant Lunch

To commemorate this momentous occasion a group is in the process of planning. We would like to talk about DKG Sweden, reconnect,



share stories, reminisce about the memorable meetings we've had over the years, and exchange ideas about our bright future. It is an opportunity to celebrate the friendships forged, the challenges overcome, and the shared passion that unites us all.

Reflecting on Memories, Looking Forward with Purpose

However, as much as we treasure the past, our gaze is firmly fixed on the future. The world of education is ever-evolving, and our role in shaping it is more crucial than ever. Let us engage in conversations about the current state of education in today's society. What challenges do we face, and how can Delta Kappa Gamma Sweden continue to be a force for positive change in Sweden, in Europe, and in the world?

Warm regards,

Charlotte Lindgren State President

Martina Lundström State Secretary

Delta Kappa Gamma, Sweden



Charlotte Lindgren



Martina Lundström

Norway



A brief greeting from Norway, some reflections on the European Conference



From the first planning meetings we had concerning the Conference, it was obvious that many members wished to attend. With the generous support of ca 80 Euros per member from our own State fund, twenty members left Oslo on a bright, sunny morning in July for Helsinki. Finnish efficiency worked a treat, with flight, train, and taxi all bringing us to the Conference hotel in Tampere in good time! Many had been looking forward to these days; it had been four long years since the last meeting of Europeans.

Many Norwegian teachers are familiar with the Finnish education system, as our test results in reading and mathematics have constantly been compared to Finland's. Our neighbour in the east has been "top of the class", for quite some time! Despite a rigorous test regime for our youngest pupils, we still lag Finland.

Two excellent speakers provided a lot to ponder over, especially in a Norwegian context. Dr Carita Prokki and Kaisa Laaksonen shed light on both professional competencies, as well as the importance of reading and encouraging reading for pleasure. Norway and Finland have a common negative trend. Many pupils read very little for pleasure and in both countries, authorities are concerned about in-depth reading skills). Kaisa Laaksonen's lecture title reflected this concern -

"Reading children's literature in Finland, projects on promoting reading and some ideas for every adult".

(Norwegian teachers must also hold a master's degree to teach at all levels, just as their Finnish counterparts. Sadly, there is a great shortage of teachers at the primary level, and applications at universities are critically low this year, especially for grades 1-7. Let's hope this will be rectified and that a teaching degree will again be highly respected.)

Many of us were fascinated by Dr Minna Huotilainen's lecture concerning her research on the brain's activity in the learning process. Together with the final lecture of Dr. Ulla Haggblom, "Sustainability actions in TAMK", we felt that the Conference had given us all an impressive start and a lot of questions to be answered! We must give the organising committee in Finland a huge round of



applause for their choice of speakers and their excellent communication skills. Thank you all for giving us a better insight and the opportunity to "Moving forward with vitality, relevance, and sustainability into our changing world".

The Norwegian delegation, ready for festivities in Tampere!

As the new President of DKG Norway it was a great pleasure to experience one of our newest members, Hanne Elisabeth Bie Sund, give a workshop presentation on "Challenges and new ways of working with refugees". This was in true DKG spirit, with Hanne sharing her working and personal experiences. Here we must applaud all educators who have had to adapt their everyday tasks to the vast number of Ukrainian refugees who have entered schools and education facilities in many countries. Many also highlighted the workshop "Teaching History for Russians in Estonia" with Saskia Sadrak, as being extremely relevant.

Finally, as many of our members reflected:

"We have met old friends, gained new acquaintances, and been inspired by all the wise words we've heard and all the fun and energy we have felt throughout our stay. You must experience and take part in an international DKG Conference to understand the breadth of the organisation."

A big thank you again to DKG Finland!

On behalf of all participating members from Norway in Delta, Epsilon, and Zeta Chapters,

Muriel Marsh

President 2023-2025



Our Canadian Delta Kappa Gamma friends were so nice to send US their newsletter from their trip to Tampere. Enjoy.

South Vancouver Island Chapter of DKG, Women's Educators Society International in B.C. had its chairperson, Lennor Stieda head to the summer conference in Tampere Finland in July 2023.

“My take away is strong friendships, community building across different cultures, and renewed energy for creativity.” (L. Stieda)



I arrived in Copenhagen airport where my friend of 70 years, Erika v. Buxhoeveden who lives in Sweden met me.

We then waited together for my “Congo Daughter”, Sylvia to arrive from Paris. She adopted us as Canadian parents while attending the UWC



Pearson College on Vancouver Island years ago.

Together with Erika's son Patrick driving us we drove across parts of Denmark to the fjords. Past beautiful fields and small communities we finally made it. Our purpose was to find the fjord close to which my husband and siblings as children had been interned and the three brothers had escaped one summer day to

swim in the fjord. We found it!



After several days together Sylvia had to head back to work in France and Erika and I to the DKG International conference in Tampere. Every day we were gathering in this



big space to listen to amazing key note speakers. Some topics lend themselves to interactive communication among us listeners. We were enriched. Carita gave a talk on teachers for



the future.

Donna McCormick from Vancouver and I found each other quickly. And then Gisela v. Engelhardt from Germany and I were thrilled to meet each other again.





While Erika met up with several other attendees from European countries.

And not everyone had the chance, like I did, to talk with and stand next to our International president.



Everyone had opportunities to attend workshops and head to the



museums near by.



The
Fairy Tale museum was great to experience
and many of us enjoyed the Moomin displays as well in the Gift
shop and museum.



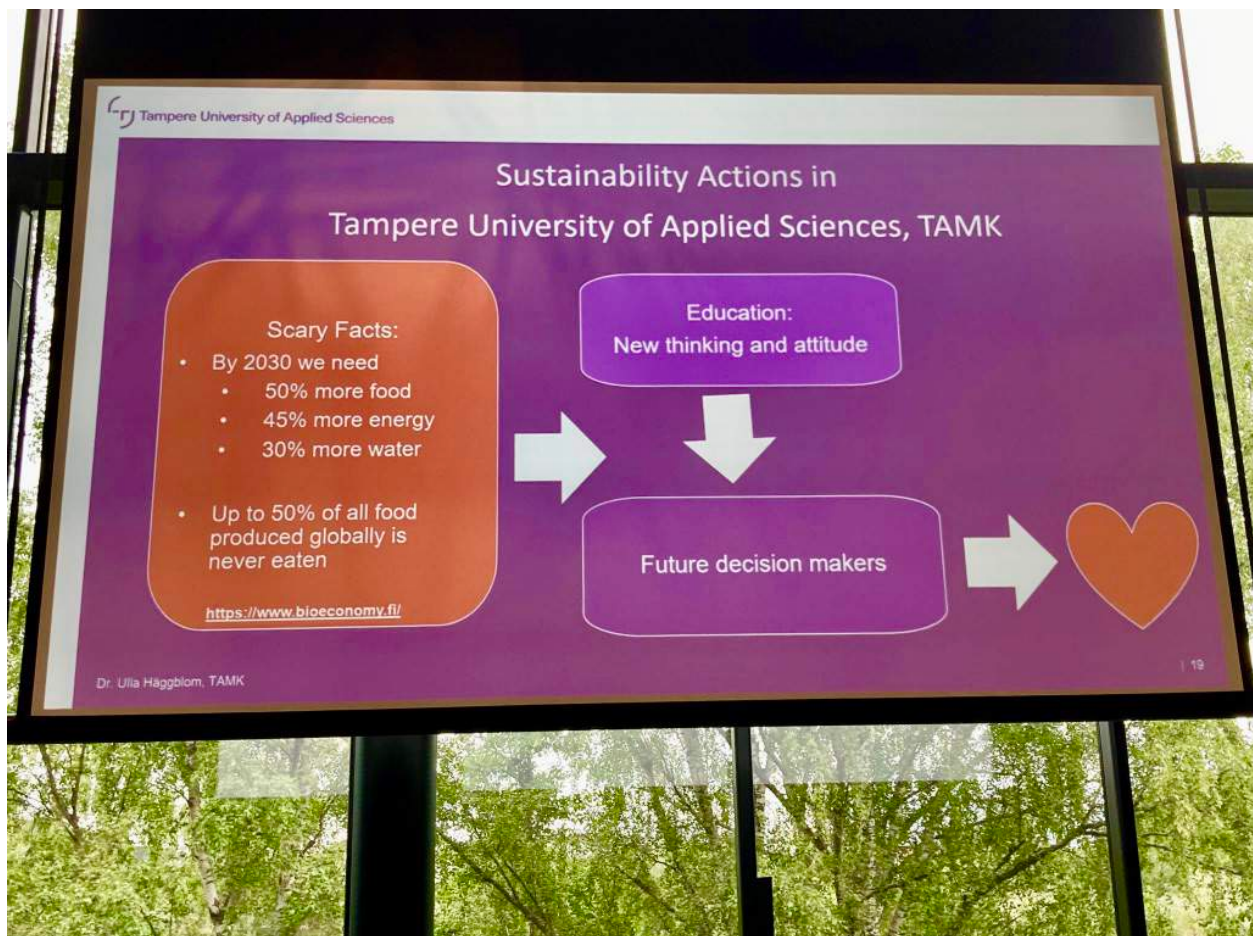
A small group of us listened to the life struggles of Scandinavian female authors. Tove Janson is the author of the Moomin Stories. One of my favourites is Selma Lagerloeff who wrote Nils Holgerson a story about a boy who learns about his country and being kind to animals by becoming a thumbling and travelling with the geese.



This young woman, Lovely, was not only a Newbee but also a presenter. She shared ideas on how to be a Buddy, not a Bully.

I ended up in a workshop that I really did not want to be at because of

mistaken language. This was about how an organization in the Netherlands with many volunteers helps disabled adults. It was advertised as Daycare...so I thought it would be about pre schoolers...Learning Curve once again, right?



This was one of the keynotes. How to solve the 'scary facts'.



Sirpi informed us about the EU's Erasmus Projects. Very interesting with projects from politics, to education, to sports. Check out the website

Erasmus+ Enriching lives, opening minds

The new Erasmus+ starts here

[Explore the Erasmus+ programme](#)



We had rather cloudy and rainy days as you can see here.



After workshops and inspirations at museums we had a most wonderful evening in the park next to our hotel.

While folk gathered there were interesting photo displays to check out and





figure out. (you can spot Joan Wolf, Gisela v.E. and Anita observing) Erika is checking out another one.

Much of the entertainment had been organized in conjunction with the Scout



Movement. Thus dancing, story telling, music were all a delight. The Finish friends sang for listeners.





The final day had most of the Canadians meet in Lorna's room for socializing



And then we were greeted by three women representing the various decades of DKG. It was great. Each of us was presented with a charming wooden bracelet to commemorate this wonderful conference .





That photo of my dancing with Marika Heimbach sums up my feeling about this adventure.

~submitted by Lennor Stieda, S.V.I.



