INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™

EUROPEAN FORUM MEETING 2014

International Convention, Indianapolis, USA

Wednesday 30th July
10.45am-12.45am

European Forum Committee 2012-2014

Activate our goals – unite European members
- to unite the European members, and celebrate their diversity
- to give opportunities to discuss, in an open situation, issues of educational importance
- to find ways to accomplish these goals and turn them into activities.

Sharing Our Vision - Strengthening Our Society

Agenda

Welcome, Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir European Forum Chair (ISL)
Introductions, reporters, timekeepers, attendance sheets
Words of Inspiration: Anu Ariste (EST)
In Memoriam: Ingrid Christiansen (NOR)
Business meeting: Diane Bell chairs the meeting

- Minutes of Amsterdam 2013
- Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda
- Financial Accounts
- Matters arising from the finance
- European Forum Report for 2012- 2014
- New DKG song
- Matters for AOB / Proposals
- Other business

Close of business meeting

Educational issues in Europe,
Ann-Katrin Swärd (SWE)
Discussions
Close of meeting


Dr Ann-Katrin Swärd

European Forum Committee 2012-2014

Denmark	Kamini Nielsen
Estonia	Anu Ariste
Finland	Heli Piikkilä
Germany	Dagmar Ullmann
Great Britain	Sheila Roberts
Iceland	Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir (Chair)
Norway	Oddny Damsgaard/Ingrid Chrtistiansen
Sweden	Catherine Bringselius Nilsson
The Netherlands	Riet Smits

Marika Heimbach, Regional Director

Minutes of the European Forum Meeting in Amsterdam 2013

The meeting started at 8.30

Welcome: Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir, the European Forum Chair welcomed members to the Forum.

Introductions of reporters: Anu Ariste (Estonia) and Kamini Nielsen (Denmark);

Timekeepers: Oddny Damsgaard (Norway) and Dagmar Ullmann (Germany);

Attendance sheets: Catherine Bringselius Nilsson (Sweden) and Heli Pikilla (Finland).

Ingibjörg introduced the other members of the European Forum Committee: Sheila Roberts (Great Britain) and Riet Smits (The Netherlands).

Words of Inspiration: Marianne Skardéus (Sweden) spoke about the challenges of the 21st century in education - every individual should be given the possibility to have an education, we should question if the 21st century is the century of the child, what kind of an education we want for the 21st century?

In Memoriam: deceased members were honoured, Catherine Bringselius Nilsson read a poem and a white rose was presented.

The European Achievement Award: Sheila Roberts presented Kate York (Great Britain) as the recipient of the 2013 European Achievement Award and said that she has raised the profile of the European region. Kate York, in accepting the award said: ”DKG has given me more than I have ever given the organization”.

Introduction of the European members serving on International Committees, presented by Ingibjörg.

Changes on voting: Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir (Iceland) introduced the new voting system (electronic voting – one member/one vote) and changes that have to be carried through the next year which means that the constitution has to be changed also. One of the difficulties facing the new system is that only half of the members have an email address which means new costs. Members were encouraged to follow the discussion and take their stand.

Changes on nomination: Birgit Svensson (Sweden) and Kate York (Great Britain) introduced the changes in the nomination procedure. The deadline for new nominees is October 15 this year.

Business meeting chaired by Diana Bell (Great Britain).

1. Minutes of New York 2012: the minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting.

2. Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda: there were no matters arising.

3. Financial Accounts: Heli Piikillä introduced the income statement of the European Forum of 2012-2013 and the budget for the next year 2013-2014.
4. Matters arising from the Accounts: addressing a question about regional directors travel costs Heli Piikillä explained to the members how the RD costs are presented in the statement.
5. Report about the role of the European Forum, its aims, goals and SAP was presented by the chair of the European Forum Committee Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir.
Ingibjörg stressed that many ideas have been shared, now it is time to get something done, get actions. The pre-conference seminar in Amsterdam was held in a good atmosphere with lively discussions which enhances the aim of the Forum – its role as a platform for discussions. We have to be aware of the technical possibilites for communication and should encourage communication between member countries - transparency is important. We have to support each other, the forum is the voice of the European region. We have the website where we can do wonders.
6. Communication, Management Committee for European Website.
In Spokane 2010 it was decided to a have an EF web committee. Members of the committee were introduced by Eygló Björnsdóttir (Iceland), the European Webmaster. The committee had a meeting in May where it was discussed how to use the website as a link between countries, how to get material from members. It was suggested that each country would send material one month, other media besides the website could be used, such as a closed Facebook group, blog, etc.
7. Euforia, Joan Carroll editor (Great Britain) – apologies from Joan Carroll who was not able to attend the meeting. Diana Bell forwarded her words to the EF meeting: Euforia is a means of communication, as such rendering articles about the European countries, members enjoy reading the Euforia, and ideas from members are greatly welcome. The deadline for 2013 autumn edition is September 23.
Marika Heimbach suggested that members on international committees send photographs and a short description of their work to Joan Carroll.
8. Matters for AOB / Proposals:
- It was motioned to hold a competition to find an alternative DKG song, proposed by Jess Curtis (GB), seconded by Gail Gladwin (GB). Jess Curtis explained that we need to keep up with the spirit of the times, a style and tempo our young members would appreciate. The language of the song will be English. A vote was taken on whether the competition should be held – 39 of the members present voted for the motion, the motion will go forward. The European Forum Committee and the Regional Director will decide how to continue with

the procedure.

- Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir proposed, seconded by Mary Wardrop (GB) that the editor of Euforia, Joan Carroll was invited to be a member of the European Forum web committee. This was agreed. Ingibjörg suggested that the name of the committee should be changed as the communications committee.

9. Other business: Marika Heimbach said that we should encourage young members, we should have a forum/ network for young members, they need to be heard. The matter should be put on the agenda for the EF Commitee meeting in November.

Diana thanked Ingibjörg for her work as the EF chair.

Close of business meeting at 9.57.

Numbers attending: 82.

The business meeting was followed by a lecture “Rethinking Education” presented by Gitta Franke-Zöllmer (Germany).

Kate York - European Achievement Award


In Memoriam - Catherine and Ingibjörg

European Forum Operational Guidelines

I. European Forum

II. Goals

- to unite the European members, and celebrate their diversity
- to give opportunities to discuss, in an open situation, issues of educational importance
- to find ways to accomplish these goals and turn them into activities

Each biennium the Forum Committee agrees its own goals to work towards and report on.

These goals should be set at the first meeting of the Forum Committee; they might be revised at the next meeting.

III. Membership

The European Forum is made up of members from each of these countries: Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, The Netherlands, Great Britain, Germany, Denmark and Estonia. The representative group is called the Forum Committee.

IV. Finances

a) The fiscal year is July 1st – June 30th. A budget prepared by the chair, is agreed by the European Forum Committee each year and submitted to the International President.

b) The European Forum budget of currently 3, 000.00 U.S.D, is allocated from the Available Fund by the Administrative Board. This supports the Forum committee members for a proportion of their travel and accommodation costs at the Committee meeting. (The amount payable relies on members choosing the cheapest travel arrangements and staying in member's houses, with an amount being paid to the host for food provided). The rest of the money is spent on other expenses, such as communication (EuForia, website) and administrative costs.

c) A completed reimbursement of expenses form and receipts are required.

d) Members of the committee are working on behalf of their states and are entitled to reimbursement of the difference in their travel costs between the payment from Forum funds and the overall total from the funds of their respective states. (This item should be built into state budgets).

e) A financial report, prepared by the committee chairperson, and agreed by the committee members in June, is presented at the European Forum in July. A copy is then sent to Headquarters by November 15th. There should not be any money left over at the end of the biennium.

f) Each country should decide how to facilitate participation in their state conferences by members in other countries.

V. Organizational Structure

a) Each country selects a representative to serve on the Forum Committee for the biennium. Nomination forms are submitted to the current Forum Committee Chair by March 1st of even numbered years. The Chair circulates the names of the new representatives to the state presidents, existing Forum Committee and new Forum Committee members.

b) The new representatives send their vote for committee chair to the current Forum chair by May 1st. The name of each country's representative is submitted on a nomination form to the current chair of the European Forum by March 1 of even-numbered years. The current chair then circulates the names of the new representatives to: all state organization presidents, current Forum representatives, and incoming Forum representatives. The names and brief biographical details of those incoming representatives who would be willing to become the next Forum chair* are then circulated to the new representatives by the current chair. Each incoming member then informs the current chair by May 1 of even-numbered years who they wish to be the new chair.

(*Note: The nomination form will ask this question.)

c) The chair organises the committee meetings and reports on the work of the Forum to International Headquarters. The chair selects two members to take the minutes.

d) Each committee representative is accountable to, and reports to their state organisation.

e) The Forum committee decides the theme and format of the pre-conference seminar at the European Conference. They inform the conference steering committee and give guidance on costs. Details are published by the end of January of the conference year.

f) Activities of the European state organizations, and all minutes of Forum meetings, are put on the European Forum website, run by the European Webmaster. A committee of five members, agreed by the Forum, supports the webmaster. The committee members are: The Forum Chairman, Regional Director, one state webmaster, European Webmaster, and a representative of the Communications Committee.

g) The agenda of the Forum meeting should be distributed electronically on the website, and the minutes of the previous meeting should also be available online one month before the date of the meeting, together with the itemised agenda

h) Guidelines for Forum meetings and reports will be developed.

VI. Officers

a) Any European Forum committee member who is not the state president, nor a member of her state organization executive board, becomes an ex-officio member of her state organization executive board.

b) The Forum Committee serves for the period of one biennium.

c) The Europe Regional Director is an ex-officio member of the European Forum Committee. A chair and a treasurer are chosen by the committee members for a two-year period. The Forum Chair changes in even-numbered years.

VII. Areas of Activity

a) The European Forum holds two general forum meetings each biennium. The meetings take place during the European Regional Conference and International Convention.

b) The European Forum Committee meets annually for planning and discussion preferably in the first weekend of November.

c) The European Forum committee plans and organizes a pre-conference programme for the regional conference. The Forum may select a project agreed by member countries to be carried out in the European Region.

d) European Achievement Award. This specially designed pin / pendant is awarded biennially at the Regional Conference, in recognition of distinguished service given to DKG in Europe.

e) The name of a member from any European state may be submitted on the recommendation form by European State Executive Boards to the chair of the European Forum by October 15th in even-numbered years. A decision is made on the recipient at the November Forum Committee meeting.

f) Each state contributes €25 biennially from their own budget to the award via their EF committee member in November.

g) Travel costs of the European Director. All nine countries agreed to contribute €1 per member annually from their own budgets to facilitate travel around the Region by the Regional Director. Money for this purpose in included in state organizations´ annual budgets. The Regional Director receives the allowance from the EF Committee members in November, and submits an annual financial report on her expenses to the EF Committee meeting.

VIII. Amendments

Updated 10/5/ 2013
Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir, European Forum Chair
Administrative Board Review – May 17, 2014

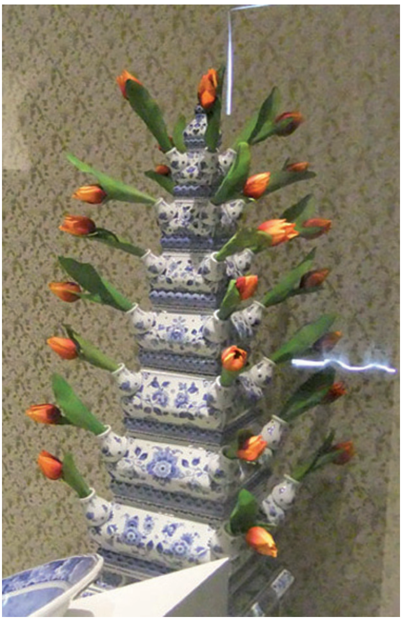
Preconference Amsterdam 2013

Education for everyone was the theme of the European Forum Preconference in Amsterdam, August, 6th 2013.

In our Forum Preconference some aspects with which the countries in Europe are dealing when making sure that education is for everyone was discussed. What do the countries have in common? What are they doing differently? How do we Europeans accommodate the diversity of methods and experiences in schools or school systems, multicultural education and teaching? There were inputs from a number of countries and we had lively discussions amongst the participants.

Europe is a multilingual continent, where the diversity of languages, cultures and traditions is highly valued. This diversity is evident in the education systems, culture, assessment methods and values.

In the end we discussed how to enable more people to attend and also how we can discuss in depth our common educational aspects in the future.



European Forum 2012-2014 Strategic Action Plan

A. Service

<u>Results</u>

1.	**The European Forum Committee plans and organizes the activities for the biennium.** Accomplished	
i.	Meets annually for planning and discussion.	Accomplished
ii.	Decides the venue of the meetings.	Accomplished
iii.	Plans online sessions for committee discussions.	Accomplished
iv.	Chooses, in Nov 2012, from submitted names, a woman who receives the European Achievement Award.	Accomplished
2.	**Plan Regional and International European Forum sessions both years**	Accomplished
	Plan pre-conference seminars or workshops the first year.	Accomplished
i.	Ask members in each country for ideas.	Accomplished
ii.	Encourage members to attend state, regional and international conferences.	Accomplished
iii.	Introduce European Forum in each country.	Accomplished
B.	**Communication**	
1.	**Strengthen the member countries by using social media.**	Continue
i.	Encourage members to send material to the website.	Accomplished
ii.	Encourage the Web Committee to organize online meetings.	Accomplished
iii.	Publish projects for DKG members on the website.	Accomplished
iv.	Establish discussion groups on the website, with focus on relevant subjects.	Continue
2.	**Encourage cooperation between member countries, international Committees and Regional Director.**	Continue

i.	Start a Web page for each International Committee for communication.	
ii.	Plan a meeting at the Regional Conference for all European members of International Committees.	
C.	**Membership**	
1.	**Consider new strategies for gaining members and encourage diversity within chapter/state/region.**	Continue
i.	Publish a list of various educational fields on the website.	Accomplished
ii.	Offer to find support for other countries. (Iceland and Sweden could be mentors).	Accomplished
2.	**Encourage expansion, interaction and assistance.**	Continue
i.	Support chapter expansion in other countries, by publishing good practice on the web.	Accomplished
ii.	Suggest expansion into other countries to the International Expansion Committee.	Accomplished
iii.	Encourage all Committees (present and past) to use the website.	Accomplished
D.	**Finance**	
1.	**Present Report at the European Forum in July *with* a copy sent to Headquarters by November 15th.**	Accomplished
i.	Budget and report agreed by the Committee Members.	Accomplished
ii.	Collection of 25 Euros in odd number of years for Educational Achievement Award and 1 Euro per member for Regional Director every year.	Accomplished

From the European Forum Chair

Europe has lost one of the newest member countries, Denmark. We are so sad and will miss our dear Danish members and friends. We hope we will find a way to keep in touch and send our best wishes to them all.

The European Region is unique. We are different countries with different languages and culture. The European Forum aims to unite our European DKG members and encourage discussions between our countries. We aim to find ways to stimulate educational discussions and support each other within the DKG Society.

Our communication has been through Euforia, our European Newsletter. Euforia enables us to share our news three times a year and keeps us up to date with each other. For daily information our website should be an important means of communication but has failed to be used as much as we would like. We have tried to encourage members to use the website to post news of interest, such as DKG activities in different chapters and countries.. We aimed for more discussions about educational matters and social affairs, but other media, like Facebook and Twitter, have taken over and are more suitable for that sort of information. I believe that not working with technology means loss of opportunities.

At our committee meeting in November the committee had ambitious expectations. We have not got as far as we wanted, but we believe we have made some progress. We are proud to mark as "Accomplished", almost all of the goals in our SAP. We know it is necessary for us to keep up the good work of the European Forum in supporting each other and exchanging ideas and inspiration.

Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir, European Forum Chair 2012-2014

Layout Catherine Bringselius Nilsson