

Dear DKG Europe members

Thank you for supporting me for the position of DKG Europe Regional Director. It is an honor and a great responsibility to facilitate continuing collaboration among the DKG Europe state organizations.

I feel like a writer to start a new story or a constructor to build a new house. How we will end our story in 2-year time or how strong our house will be depends on our passion, how I can drive you by doing and how much I can fuel you to become a contribution to the Europe Region. Despite 8 cultural differences we are ONE. Our ONENESS is evidenced by our similarities – our similar values. These similarities have no relationship to where we were born or where we live. These similarities are born out of our desire to achieve a better world for ourselves and for the next generations and to promote DKG Europe Region.

Regional Director steps on 2 roads:

One road leads to the International Conference in Tampere next July. I already have a good co-operation with the hard-working Steering Committee and other leaders of DKG Finland State Organization. The theme of the conference is ***Wellbeing and Sustainability in our Changing World***. The theme has 3 subthemes: *Wellbeing and Sustainability in Nature, Wellbeing and Sustainability in Education, Wellbeing and Sustainability in Relationships*. DKG International Administrative Board has approved our theme.

The other road drives me to 8 state organizations in Europe. I have dreams, but dreams stay dreams if we do not have goals for actions. Today, I have following goals in my mind when I meet with representatives of all 8 State organizations in coming zoom meetings in October:

1. **To Stay Closely Connected with Europe State Organizations.** The current situation has given us the best tools for it – Zoom or TEAMS meetings. I would like to meet each State with a larger audience including the President, the Board members, Chapter presidents: more heads and more hearts to discuss the issues.

The calendar for meetings:

15.10. – Estonia

16.10. - Finland

17.10. – Iceland

19.10. – Germany

20.10. - Great Britain

21.10. – the Netherlands

22. 10. – Sweden

23.10. – Norway

29.10. All State presidents meet to summon meetings.

2. **To share best practices.** Every state organizations in Europe has its niche. Why not to collect these best practices on our DKG Europe webpage under ***Educational Topics*** where members have access to get ideas how to revitalize our Chapters.

3. **To Encourage Membership Growth** I wish that each European organization find an innovative way to recruit 1-2 collegiate members during the biennium. Young people's energy plus our experience equals a productive synergy.
4. **To Foster a Greater Understanding of Diversity and start communicating also with the non-European States in our Global DKG Society.** The cultural diversity of different cultures is a privilege not very common for other educational organizations. I encourage you to become curious of what the members in Guatemala (1975), Puerto Rico (1976), El Salvador (1978), Costa Rica (1980), Panama 2009, Japan 2012, and the United States are doing thus enriching our own chapter activities.

And finally, let's focus on **YOU** as the DKG International President Becky Sadowski stressed in her speech at International Convention in Philadelphia. **YOU** is every member in our Europe Region. **YOU** as driven by doing, **YOU** - grabbing the opportunities and becoming **YOU** as a contribution which can have a big impact on our Region and DKG worldwide

I promise I will give my time and energy to the well-being of the DKG Europe Region. I will do all I can to continue Europe Region forward movement for the next biennium.

Margarita Hanschmidt

10.10.2020.