

Merry Christmas, dear members of DKG Europe!

There is no other holiday celebrated throughout the year that dresses the world with the most beautiful decorations, the most colourful illuminations and fills people's hearts with such good feelings as Christmas time does. We are dreaming more than usual at Christmas time and enjoy beautiful music.

I recently heard the song 'Somewhere over the Rainbow', and I recalled the story of 'Wizard of Oz'. I started to think whether Dorothy's searches for home and her friends' searches have any lessons for DKG. The Cowardly Lion was seeking courage. We need more courage as a Society to make our voice heard by those in power and focus more on environmental activities. The Tin Man wanted a heart. Heart is something that many of us feel within our organization. Still there are members who are not sensing the heart that DKG has to offer. We can do better, can't we. The Scarecrow wanted a brain. DKG has an abundance of brainpower. Together we can think through challenges, propose actions, and help solve problems.

Hans Hoffman has said 'The ability to simplify means to eliminate the unnecessary so that the necessary may speak.' DKG International committees are working on amendments in the Society constitution to make them clearer, simpler, 'so the necessary may speak'. The voting for these amendments takes place at the Convention in New Orleans in July 2022.

Let's consider how we may spur one another on towards good deeds, respectful attitude, not giving up meetings together, keeping to life-long learning. We had 78 participants at our joint Christmas event on December 13, organized by Eija Liisa Sokka-Meaney from Finland, where we could listen to various interesting Christmas traditions from all our DKG Europe states and feel that special valuable warmth when being together. Our DKG members from Sweden, the Netherlands and Germany offered us very interesting educational topics in 2021 and new presentations are due soon in 2022. The invitations are uploaded on our dkgeurope.org webpage and you will get an email from Eyglo Bjornsdottir if you have subscribed to Europe mailing list on our webpage. Zoom links are sent out a week before by me. Please put new Europe meetings into your calendar:

Iceland – January 27; *Professional Community of Peers*

Estonia – February 10; *Environmental psychology from an educational perspective*

Norway – March 9; *Global challenges on education until 2030*

Great Britain – April 23; *Women in IT.*

Finland – May; *Well-being*

Dear members, let's prepare to celebrate one of the most beautiful Christmas we have ever had, so let us open our hearts and share all the feelings that we find inside. We are welcoming 2022 with new opportunities and contributions.

Margarita Hanschmidt, Europe Regional Director 2020-2022.