



DKG EUROPE CONFERENCE CELEBRATED WITH WISDOM, JOY AND A LOT OF WONDERFUL MUSIC.

***TÄNAN* (thank you) TO OUR ESTONIAN HOST.**

170 members of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society from 10 different countries met in Tallinn, July 26-29, 2017 for the 10th Europe Regional Conference. From the USA came 20 participants amongst them Barbara Day. During her presidency Estonia State was founded 2008.

The warm welcome from the Estonian members made this gathering one of the most successful European conferences. The organization was superb and it was wonderful to be able to share all the different activities with each other, not to mention the fantastic Old City.

For the Swedes, Estonian is very special as Estonia was under Swedish rule for about 150 years (1561-1721).

It is easy to fall in love with the Estonian capital and this is no wonder. The City has a wonderful mix of east and west and the inhabitants are warm and helpful. The City is very well kept and the contrast of medieval and modern architecture is striking. Scandinavians appreciate the influences from their own countries and that so many places worth seeing still are so well kept.

Traditionally the opening ceremony started with the ceremony of the flags. This time the DKG flag was carried in and out by the Godmothers of Estonia State: Anne-Marie Asker Badersten and Marianne Skardéus.



The Godmothers International president Carolyn Pittman and Minister of Education Mailis Reps

International President Carolyn Pittman gave after the flag ceremony an inspirational speech at the opening session, when also the DKG anthem was sang. And then an interesting speech given in a sympatric straight forward way about education In Estonia by the Estonian Minister of Education Mailis Reps.

The four-day event included keynote speakers from the Estonian Academy of Music and Theater. These speakers were specialist in educational policy making, teaching methods for music and in music didactics.

PhD *Rain Miler* lecture about the importance of the extra curriculum giving students the possibility to discover music and arts and thus getting a more meaningful leisure time.

The message of education should via clips from interest of music



PhD professor Kristi Kiilu was that music start as early as possible and demonstrated YouTube different ways to stimulate the amongst pupils and students.

PhD Anu Sepp presented the importance of teachers' thinking and demonstrated three levels of how the thinking of a teacher can be developed. Thinking and reflections is of great importance for a teacher, she claimed, to understand if a learning process has been successful or not. Lifelong learning is a part of the professional behavior of a teacher.

PhD Urve Läänemets concluded the conference by summarizing of the goals of the conference: Enriching life at schools, educational research and educational leadership through learning environments.

Other DKG conference speakers included *Meeri Sild* expert, who introduced modern virtual environments for different age groups and PhD *Tiia Rüütmann* from Tallinn

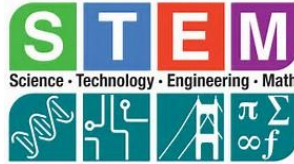
University of Technology

STEM – science,
mathematics – which

the engineering

and students by starting

rather than in theoretical studies.



introduced the teaching model technology, engineering and aims to stimulate an interest for profession amongst young pupils in a problem-solving environment

From Helsinki University came recognized researcher in main message was how music to learning in other subjects as



PhD Mari Tervaniemi, a very well Neurosciences and cognition. Her a large extent can contribute to well to a person's well-being.

Sandra Melk from the Estonian Museum of Architecture gave a resume of how the school buildings and the classrooms mirrors the learning attitudes throughout the centuries.

This lecture was followed up by a visit to the School Museum in Tallinn. The dresses of the teacher and the pupils as well as the location with long tables were á la 19th



DKG: members at the School Museum in Tallinn

century. After a short introduction, the participants experienced a school day as carried out in 1884. During this time under the rule of Tsar Alexander Iil it was forbidden to speak Estonian and if the pupils so did they were put into the corner with the sign Donkey on their neck or even spanked. A school day started with morning prayer and ended up with a praise of the Tsar.

Children were sent to school for three years from the age of ten till thirteen. The school year started Octo 15th and went on until April 15th. The school day was just a couple of hours long. The parents payed a fee and the children brought their own food.

In 1913 Estonian got an educational system of its own and in 1918 the national language was Estonian!

New at the conference was the replacement of the Info Fair into so called Take away sessions, where information about the work of different committees were given.

The Breakout sessions provided participants with information about Downs syndrome, Adult learning being different from teaching children, the Importance for schools to bond with institutions outside the school and Cyberbullying with Rhonda Andersson and Elisabeth Wood,

SD



Cyberbullying: Rhonda Andersson and Elisabeth Wood both SD left

Daniella von Essen, Germany, computer support /in the middle

and “Muddling through together” with Kaija Teikari, Finland.

Estonian Night and Night on the Town gave an excellent demonstration of the strong musical tradition of Estonia. At Estonian school 21 the students gave a highly professional performance singing mainly music by Estonian composers. The performance of the Collegium Musicale Chamber Choir was breathtaking and gave samples of music from renaissance to contemporary music.

The concert program began with ancient songs from "the forgotten peoples", Ingrian evenings, arranged by Veljo Tormis, followed by other well-known Estonian composers, such as Arvo Pärt, Erkki-Sven Tüür, Urmas Sisask etc.



Liisa Peltonmaa

At the Europe Forum meeting *Liisa Peltonmaa* from Finland was decorated with the Europe Award..

At the Forum *Monika Huber*, Germany and *Gudrun Nylander*, Sweden reported about the situation and measurements taken to help the newly arrived in Europe.

Product from the Siwa project was purchased during the conference.



Ingela Högberg and Margareta Gronander in Siwa



Estonia is a singing nation and when Estonia and the other two Baltic countries regained their independence in 1991 music has played a great role in their struggle for freedom and in 1989 the singing revolution started with the chain of hands from Vilnius to Tallinn. No wonder that at the closing ceremony in Tallinn began with a solo on an old Estonian instrument, the bagpipe, played by a very talented Estonian lady.

The best remark from the conference: “Now I know a lot more about Estonia and Estonians.”



Thank you all DKG members
returned home with many
and this special button
Estonian members with the important message “Make a Difference...”

in Estonia! We
good memories
produced by you



Incoming state presidents in 2017



We were all very pleased to greet Kate and Ton York GB, at the conference!



Excursions: Palmse Manor



Saaremaa Island

Anne-Mari Asker-Badersten, Margareta Grolander, Marianne Skardéus