

EUFORIA

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Dear DKG members of the Europe Region

In December the horrifying news about the senseless killing of innocent victims at a school saddened people everywhere. It was a time when DKG members became closer, and the members of the DGK Connecticut state organization expressed their gratitude for expressions of sympathy and encouragement. Now we look towards to the new year, in the hope that 2013 will be a peaceful, and happy year for all.

The last issue of EuForia was very interesting to read and I hope you all enjoyed the reports and articles as much as I did.

I would like to thank Joan Carroll for her dedicated work as editor of EuForia and Eygló Björnsdóttir for taking such good care of our website.

EuForia is on the website, but sometimes some of us forget to look for it. In future, therefore, EuForia will also be sent by e-mail to the state presidents who are asked to forward the newsletter to their chapters.

On our website DKG is excellently described and it is a useful tool not only for members but also for non-members' information about our society.

In former years money for the **Emergency Fund** was collected at one of the luncheons held at the regional conferences. For this year it was decided to ask the states to bring the collection to the conference. The Emergency Fund was founded after a disastrous flood in Oregon in 1948. Non-American members might think that the fund only helps when a natural disaster occurs in the USA but that is not the case. E.g. Hurricane Alex destroyed members' houses in Mexico and they were grateful to have received \$500US from the fund. So far European members have been the lucky ones, not having been affected by nature's escapades. Contributions to the fund demonstrate the genuine spiritual fellowship amongst all DKG members.



Europe Regional Conference 2013
Amsterdam, August 7-10
DKG International Society for Key Women Educators

„ Mark your calendar for an unforgettable event!“ This is the title of the article published in the latest issue of the DKG News. The steering committee has been working hard since last fall to make this statement come true.

The Europe Regional Conference will be held August 7-10, 2013 in the biggest city of The Netherlands which is -according to World Traveller - the second most beautiful city in the world: Amsterdam – the Dutch Venice – a pulsating city offering renowned sights full of history, numerous famous museums and all kinds of opportunities for new experiences.

2013 is the year to celebrate the 400 year old canals, and the reopening of the Rjksmuseum after extensive renovation which turned out beautifully.

Located only 10 minutes by metro from Schiphol Airport and only two metro stops from the city center is the conference hotel, the Holiday Inn Express, Sloterdijk Station. A few steps away the conference venue, ROC College, can be reached. Sloterdijk Station is one of the main train stations in Amsterdam and the hotel is just across the street. The hotel offers special DKG rates and the steering committee is trying to keep prices affordable.

Leadership sessions for incoming state presidents and officers will be held two days before the conference begins.

The Europe Forum will offer a pre-conference seminar entitled „Education for everyone“.

A special session -„Strengthening Chapters“- will take place on Wednesday afternoon.

Pre-conference tours take you to The Hague including a visit to a Delft porcelain factory and the „Peace Palace“, the International Court of Justice.or to typical Dutch villages. The unique three day tour after the conference will take you round the IJsselmeer. Experience beautiful sculpture parks and mansions and learn about the history of man-made land, the polders, and the importance of locks and dykes; stay at beautiful hotels in the centres of picturesque cities.

To give the members the opportunity to explore the city’s famous and interesting sights one can choose from a variety of organized walks.

Interesting speakers and presentations are awaiting you, general sessions and workshops are planned to nurture spirit and soul.

In order to make this conference as attractive as possible, the steering committee welcomes every input from our members of the different countries. Please do not hesitate to offer your talents such as music, art, designing fashion or accessories, any talent is welcome either for presenting or showcasing at the conference market place. A week ago the Administrative Board agreed on a sliding fee for vendors, so a table is better affordable. Visit the DKG website to find application forms for workshops (deadline Feb.15) and vendors (deadline April 30).

Come to Amsterdam to become acquainted with canals, cheese, Delft tulips, windmills, and wooden DKG shoes.

Come to the Europe Regional Conference to experience excellence in education and to renew and establish friendships across borders!

Tot ziens!

Marika Heimbach

Welcome to Amsterdam 2013



LADIES DON'T HESITATE! MEET ME IN THE MARKETPLACE!

Do you need a new outfit/a piece of art/a speciality from The Netherlands?

Maybe you have something special to offer yourself?

Come to the Marketplace and you will be surprised about the variety you will find here!

FROM THE EUROPEAN FORUM CHAIR

European Forum Committee 2012-2014

From left: Oddny Damsgaard from Norway, Kate York representing Sheila Roberts from Britain, Catherine Bringselius Nilson from Sweden, Anu Ariste from Estonia, Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir Chair from Iceland, Riet Smits-Hoenderken from The Netherlands, Kamini Nielsen from Denmark, Heli Pikkila from Finland and Dagmar Ullmann from Germany.



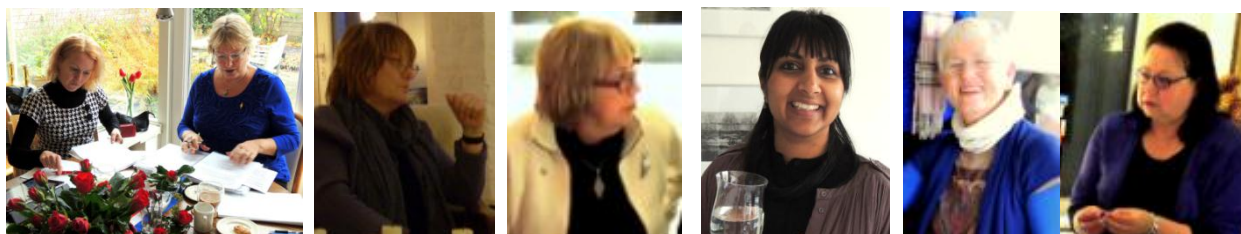
The committee met in Paterswolde in The Netherlands the first week-end in November. Our host was Riet Smits-Hoenderken. She did a wonderful job organising our stay and well-being, both



concerning food and culture.

Here is a glance at the table which awaited us on the Friday evening when we arrived.

We started the meeting on Friday evening, and continued on Saturday. At lunch break Riet took us to a very special museum, not normally open to the public. During the meeting we had very good discussions. The minutes of the meeting are available on the website <http://dkgeurope.org/page/minutes-of-the-ef-meeting>.



One of the topics discussed at the meeting was the Pre-Conference the day before the European Regional Conference in Amsterdam next summer.

The European Forum Pre-Conference takes place on Tuesday 6th of August, at 9:00 – 16:00.

The discussion will be, *Education for everyone*. DKG Members and their guests, will have the opportunity to discuss questions like:

Are we taking care of everyone in the educational system? Why do we allow bullying in society?

Are second language individuals doing well enough? How are we supporting them?

Are we prepared for the future concerning digital literacy? How do we meet the students with disabilities? How do we support migrant women? How is inclusion, integration in our educational system?

These are questions that go over borders. How can we strengthen the links between the European countries? How can we connect and support each other?

Let's also think of the education outside school, e.g. adult education. Education does not end in schools any more. We are going to learn as long as we live. Of course we cannot address all these questions in one day, but every single question is worth reflecting on.

We want your participation, an opportunity to be more active. Tell us about your successes, difficulties and worries. We want to make a platform for discussions about the various things the DKG members are dealing with, a platform for the European DKG Members to be in contact.

At the Pre-Conference in Baden Baden 2011, I presented, along with Ingibjörg Einarsdóttir, her project about „The Big Reading Contest“, a countrywide project she has lead in Iceland for the last 17 years. On 1st January this year the President of Iceland awarded Ingibjörg Einarsdóttir the Order of the Falcon, the Knights Cross in recognition of her work. This was an honour that a number of DKG Members have received in Iceland and shows us the high standard of women we have within our DKG Society.



There are so many DKG Members in Europe working on various projects or studying at all levels. For example in Iceland, Kolbrún Pálsdóttir finished her doctorate* in December last year and Elín Ólafsdóttir finished her doctorate** last spring at the age of 73. These are just a few examples of outstanding efforts and contributions by our DKG Members which will enrich our Society. We should recognize fine performances by our DKG Members for if we do not



inform each other about our successes, research and projects, we cannot be inspired by them.

Let us look around and open our eyes to what is going on around us. What are our Members accomplishing? We need to hear about competent programs and we need to keep the discussions more visible on our website. It is a link in the chain of ways of creating a successful DKG Region. Let us use it. Let us be strong together. Let us find ways at all levels to work together – ways to **act**.

Looking forward to seeing you in Amsterdam
Ingibjörg Jónadóttir
European Forum Chair 2012-2014

*Care, learning and leisure. The organisational identity of after-school centres for six to nine year old children in Reykjavík.

** Metabolic and environmental conditions leading to the development of type 2 diabetes and the secular trend in mortality risk between 1993 and 2004 associated with diabetes.

ESTONIA

DKG Sweden Annual Conference 'In Town and In the Countryside' in September 2012. The representatives of DKG Estonia took part in DKG Sweden Annual Conference 'In Town and In the Countryside' in September 2012.enary session was held in Stockholm University on September 22, where the lecturers delivered presentations on leadership and saving nature. We had a fantastic opportunity to visit Bergiuse Botany Garden which was opened to visitors in 1995. What marvellous



flowers and plants we could admire! At the festive dinner in Gondolen Slussen we met many friends

from different parts of Sweden. The evening closed with birthday songs to Margarita, Anne-Mari and Merike.

September 23 was organised in town. We started our tour from Haymarket with the legendary guide Mr. Åke Malmberg and then we walked through Norrmalm District. On our way there was a luxurious NK department store, and we could not resist stepping in. Afterwards we had a picnic in Berzelius Park where our Swedish sisters kindly treated us with cakes

and coffee. In the National Art Museum we visited the exhibition 'Modern life'. The farewell lunch was held on an old Nordic Ljus boat.

Thank you DKG Swedish Alpha sisters, for your kind hospitality and excellently organised conference. Special thanks to Alpha past President Merike Sild who hosted us and took care of us. Long live our friendship!

Reet Soosaar DKG Estonia Beta Chapter



Hilda Taba 110

Hilda Taba 110 International Conference on Curriculum Theory and Practice took place on December 7 and 8 as planned by Estonian State Organization of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International in cooperation with the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, Tartu University, Tallinn University, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonian Association of Pedagogy, Estonian Pedagogical Archives-Museum, the US Embassy Tallinn and the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research.

The number of participants was 92, of those 20 from abroad. The DKG sisters from Finland, Sweden, Norway, Germany attended and greetings from Kate York (UK) and DKG European Director Marika Heimbach were read out at the festive opening together with opening speeches delivered by Mr Margus Pärtlas (Vice-rector of the Academy), George Gilchrist (Head of the mission in Tallinn), Mr Janar Holm (Chancellor of the Ministry), Ms Mailis Reps (Deputy Chairman of the Estonian Parliamentary Commission for Education and Culture) and Ms Margarita Hanschmidt (President of Estonian State Organization of the DKG Society International). All the scheduled speeches were delivered by invited speakers at plenaries.

A brief academic biography of Hilda Taba. Edgar Krull, Tartu University

A slideshow Places and people related to Hilda Taba.
Karmen Trasberg, Tartu University



- *Hilda Taba 1902–1967.* Epp Jaansoo, Stockholm Estonian School
- *The Achievement of Hilda Taba.* William Pinar, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
- *Taba and Concept Development* Walter Parker, University of Washington, Seattle, USA
- *The Recurrent Question of the Subject: Bildung, Psychoanalysis and Curriculum Theory.* Tero Autio, Tallinn University, Estonia.
- *Modern educational thinking and Hilda Taba.* Cathy Fagan, Glasgow University, UK
- *Hilda Taba's heritage for Estonia.* Urve Läänemets, Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, Estonia.

The plenary session was followed by 4 workshops about educational policy making and philosophy of education, curricula for different target groups, music education in curricula and socialization and social sciences.

We also compiled the following products for the conference:



- exhibition of Hilda Taba's life and works
- 4 banners and a selection of books by Hilda Taba
- 250 flyers with photos and the full text of the exhibition in English
- 200 copies of books of abstracts and texts prepared by invited speakers

- 50 DVDs with a slideshow of places where Hilda Taba has lived and worked in America

There were four musical presentations during the conference, and a reception at the end of the conference.

The feedback of the conference was positive and it helped to keep alive the tradition of celebrating the decade birth anniversaries of the Estonian-born world-famous American educator Hilda Taba, started at Tartu University, and provide participants with opportunities to listen to outstanding specialists in the field and discuss educational issues which would support them in their aspirations towards educational excellence.



Our sincerest gratitude goes to all those supporting this event financially (DKG Educational Foundation; Estonia Ministry of Education; US Embassy Tallinn) and offering good advice at the preparation phase of the conference. This conference has made our organization visible in Estonia and beyond and we would be happy to share our experience as educational conferences are an excellent means for dissemination of new information and expertise.



Margarita Hanschmidt, DKG Estonia State President

Urve Läänemets, DKG Estonia Chair of Educational Excellence Committee

GREAT BRITAIN

Greetings to all from Great Britain.

Many of you have had plenty of snow but here in England we are still suffering from too much rain. I am fed up with squelching in deep mud as I walk the dog every morning, so I am really looking forward to the first snow of the year. (We have had more than enough snow to last us for this Winter since Sheila wrote this! – Ed.)



Like all of my fellow European Presidents, I have been busy organising GB's State Conference for 23rd March. This year we will have a day conference in Tonbridge, Kent. If any of you are free to join us you will be warmly welcomed. We are happy to offer you accommodation in our homes.

The theme of the conference is 'Recognition and Support of Pupils' Needs in Mainstream Schools'. Our programme is superb with Dr Adriana Fishta-Bejko as our International Speaker coming from Canada to talk about teaching students in our schools whose first language is not English. Her talk is entitled 'Equality in Education, Teaching Everybody's Children'.

The next two speakers are British and leaders in their fields. Kate Weedon is a Speech and Language Therapist working in London who will talk about 'Identifying and Supporting Children with Communication Difficulties. She will refer to Autism, particularly Asperger's Syndrome which we meet so frequently in our schools and which is such a barrier to communication and social inter-

action. Pauline Maddison is Director of Children's Services for a big region of outer London and will present the case 'Improving the Life Chances of the Most Disadvantaged Children'. (She has been an advisor on high profile and tragic cases of child abuse).

We have timetabled a Panel Discussion where our three speakers will be joined by our European Regional Director, Marika Heimbach, when all four will answer questions from the audience. We are looking forward to hearing the German perspective from Marika. Later on, she will of course update us on news from Headquarters.

We will finish off the day by having dinner together at a local pub. So, come for the programme, come for fun, come for the camaraderie! If we don't see you in UK, then we are so looking forward to seeing everybody together in fabulous Amsterdam

Best wishes for 2013

Sheila Roberts GB State President

GERMANY

At our last general meeting in May in Leipzig we decided to change our bylaws with regards to being able to have a quorum even if there are not enough members present at the general meetings. Additionally we wanted to change our nomination process for the election of the executive board for which we adopted the British system to our rules. So these decisions had to be registered with the German public authorities which was quite complicated and time-consuming! But, thank God, it's done now.

In February we are going to have our executive board meeting in Berlin. I am very much looking forward to meeting some of our Berlin members so it will not only be a "working weekend". We will have to plan our **State Meeting** in detail which will take place on **10th and 11th May in Braunschweig**. Our Delta Chapter in Northern Germany is organizing it.

This city has got about 250.000 inhabitants and thus is the biggest city in the area between Hanover and Berlin. It is a modern city with a long history of traditions which is closely linked with that of the Guelphs and the Hanseatic League. The so-called Lion City offers a lot of historical sights and authentic districts, post-modern architecture, top-class research and a lively cultural scene as well. As it is the leading shopping city of this region it offers a wide spectrum of shopping opportunities in its medieval pedestrian area.

I hope that many of our European sisters will join us from Thursday evening until Sunday. The registration form will be available via our website up from the middle of February, together with information about the speakers and the various activities that are planned during the weekend.

On the private level I am still and more and more involved in working with asylum seekers in our town. In the last year many people have come here from Iraq and Syria. Teaching German to adults, finding schools for the young, filling in the many forms needed, getting winter clothes and shoes, finding lawyers to help them through the jungle of German laws and so on are our main activities. In order to improve integration we started a project called "Mittendrin", "In our midst". I got to know this project in Switzerland. Its aim is to bring together children and young people with a migratory background with German host families and individuals for two to three hours per week.

While playing, reading, tinkering, cooking or getting help with the homework, the children improve their language skills and at the same time become familiar with the habits in Germany. Meeting each other across the cultures at an early stage of life is not only an advantage for the migrants but also very much so for the hosts!

We are cooperating with kindergartens and primary schools and first contacts between families have already been established.

As I have heard from the European Forum that “**Education for all**” will be its topic in Amsterdam this project will quite well fit into this focus. I am very much interested in getting to know similar projects in our European member states and would like to exchange experiences.

With best wishes

Monika Huber, State President Germany

SWEDEN

Siwa, October 2012

What a contrast! From cold Sweden, we landed in 35° Cairo. Margareta Grolander, Kristin Mårdh, and me, Ingela Högberg. In Tahrir Square, three buses were on fire Friday evening and the atmosphere was tense when we had dinner at venerable Café Riche a block away. We were very unsure what happened even though the TV roared out live a few yards away, but at the next table sat the North African correspondent of Der Spiegel and we soon had full information about the events.

Peace was restored, however, and the day after we went “sewing machine hunting”. Sewing, particularly embroidery, is an ancient tradition in Siwa. With increasing tourism, women's products have become popular and they have been trained in an Italian project among others, which ended last spring. Now they no longer have access to modern sewing machines, but rely on their mothers' old hand-cranked ones. With this in mind, Chi chapter has raised money for sewing machines, fabric, and sewing material. To our delight, Delta in Bærum, Norway contributed here as well. We start in short a sewing workshop for young women. The room is repaired, furniture is ordered from a local carpenter, and a young Siwi woman will become “manager” of the workshop supported by a Norwegian friend in place. We bought the first sewing machine in Cairo and transported it the 900 kilometers to Siwa. The women's desire is to make children's and women's clothing for sale, mend clothes, and maybe in the future to open a shop for fabric and sewing material. The profit goes to the purchase of new materials and, we hope, by extension, to the women themselves. We have great hopes for the development of this new project part.



Which one?



The expert Christina is scrutinizing.



Ready for the 900 km long trip to Siwa.
carried...



Kristin and Margareta carried and carried and
carried...

In Siwa we visited, like so many times before, the class with the mentally handicapped children and their young, male teacher. The developments in his classroom really impressed us! The atmosphere was bright and warm and the furniture nowadays perfectly suited to children. We were met by soothing music and the kids seemed calm and happy. Note, that we came unannounced! One innovation was impressive, a female assistant, who helped the children with hygiene, food and with their studies. Today even the parents are involved to support and to improve for their children. We can observe a clear development, since we first met!



Here you enjoyed yourself!



New fantastic help in the classroom



He didn't want to let go of the football from Fristad Golf! Ali in his wheel chair from Chi. Happy and alert!



The fifteen young women and their two teachers from Siwa had now completed the first year of the English course. Nine of them took part in the final exam and all nine qualified for the next course. Three students had finished because they had married and then no activity outside the home is possible. Another three girls had work that left no time for studies.

Margareta carried out an oral evaluation in small groups and everyone was very pleased with the course. Especially important was the social aspect, to meet and to learn English at the same time. Kristin Mårdh held a lecture on health, fitness, and well-being, which was much appreciated. Now course two has started and we hope to start another Intro Course, for a new group of girls, who are already lining up.

The contact with the class is kept up by Chi members visiting the oasis twice a year, through e-mail and Skype and by helpful friends in Siwa.



Kristin is lecturing on health, fitness and well-being.

Direct aid to many persons in need is another important part of our project. One example is seventeen-year-old Moma, who has been given the opportunity to resume schooling, which she finished at eleven, when her mother became ill with diabetes and there were four younger siblings to care for. Moma has now completed her repetition year successfully. She will continue secondary school, still sponsored by Delta, Bærum.

Very exciting and new for this year are the contacts we started with the University of Borås and Siwa Association, which promotes the society and culture in the oasis, in terms of waste management and recycling. This would certainly be a benefit for all people in Siwa and promote the burgeoning tourism.

Our Siwa project has gratifyingly four times been sponsored by Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation. We have also since its inception in 2006 organized lotteries and bought handicrafts from women in Siwa and sold in Sweden and abroad. The profit goes directly and without intermediaries back to business.

International Baccalaureate classes at Sven Eriksonsgymnasiet, a high school in Borås, have their own Siwa project. They have raised money in various ways. Their contributions have paid the Siwi English teachers' salaries and some of the course literature. Two Young Enterprise Groups from the same school allow their profits go into the project. One group is trying to import organic dates from the oasis to sell to businesses in the Borås area.

It is quite extraordinary how continuously “new threads are spun” and how our Siwa project is constantly evolving.



Chi members in the Oasis of Siwa in October 2012.
Margareta Grolander, Kristin Mårdh och Ingela Högberg

Ingela Högberg, Head of projekt

Chi

Borås, Sweden

NEWS flash January 2013

Just a short time and it will be August 2013: The European Regional Conference. We are very glad to have the conference in our country. For those who do not know yet: The conference takes place in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. We found a location on a strategic place in the city, near towards public transportation and near to the airport (Schiphol).

There are so many interesting attractions in Amsterdam you surely don't want to miss, like the rebuilt 'Stedelijk Museum' and certainly the 'Rijksmuseum' and so many more objects of interest!

Theme of the convention is: 'Education across borders'. There are still 7 months to go but we all know: time flies! The steering committee is working hard already behind the scenes to make this convention work!

We expect a lot of members from our European countries to join us in August and we would like to have a big participation from the European countries for workshops! You will get an official invitation to send an application but if you have got a good idea already, please don't hesitate to send us a message!

How far are we?

The location is a fact. We have a – new built- hotel to offer for a very reasonable price. A lot about the program is also clear. We found some very special places for our "night on the town" and the

banquet. We have a lot of interesting tours to offer, in and around Amsterdam. So you see: We are on the right track!

Thank you to all the contributors to this edition. What an active region Europe is! And there is so much to look forward to this year. The deadline for contributions to the Summer edition of EuForia is 27th May 2013. I look forward to hearing about what you have all been doing again then.

Joan Carroll Editor