



## **EUFORIA**

### **EDITION NO. 47**

### **February 2015**

#### **From your Regional Director**



Hallo all DKG members!

It is such an honour to be allowed to serve as your Europe Regional Director. I am very much looking forward meeting you at your State Conventions this spring.

I am also looking forward welcoming you in Borås , Sweden, where the Europe Regional Conference will take place , August 5-8, 2015.

The planning for the Europe Regional Conference is proceeding and here some important information for your visit: Closest airport is Landvetter Airport and from there it is easy to reach the First Grand Hotel by taxi (about 500 SEK). Direct bus shuttles from Landvetter Airport are not very frequent but there are buses from Landvetter into Gothenburg and from there you will find buses to Borås. This will be a somewhat cheaper alternative.

The conference is held at the First Grand Hotel and to be sure to have the very reduced price for accommodation there please try to book before March 27<sup>th</sup>! Please visit <http://erc2015.weebly.com>

Or the Swedish website: [www.dkgsweden.com](http://www.dkgsweden.com)

We are planning to have an interesting visit to NAVET Science Center on Thursday followed by Night of the Town with an interesting and a little different fashion dinner. Theme is: Be yourself!

Realizing that not everyone knows me although I have been a member of our Society for 26 years, I have been asked to tell a little about myself.

I have been Sweden State President and have been on several committees nationally and internationally. The latest I served on was the Educational Foundation, Board of Trustees, actually as the first European. A great experience. It has been such a joy to give awards to teachers helping them to fulfill their educational dreams.

The Europe Award was given to me mainly because of my efforts starting DKG in Estonia and Denmark. I have also helped to start and re-start chapters in Sweden.

I am Swedish but I always felt that I was a cosmopolitan. Professionally I started as a teacher of German and Swedish but soon I became the head of an Upper Secondary School and after a while I was recruited to the National Agency of Education and the Swedish Ministry of Education in Stockholm. It was natural to me that my tasks were to deal with the international aspects of

education and when Sweden joined the European Union I was appointed responsible for the Educational Programmers for the Union. My last job was as International Director at the University in Borås and thus I feel very much at home in Borås and want to give you the best of this city with its long tradition of textile and design.

In my spare time I love to play golf with my very supportive husband.

Looking forward meeting you all

**Marianne**

**The members of the European Forum wish you a very good 2015 !**



The new year has begun. A new year with good intentions and the courage to leave bad things behind. With hope for the future, whatever that may be. With ideas that are worth realising. Do you make new resolutions? I always do and regarding DKG I have them for sure. I like that a lot of members meet and inspire each other, that many chapters make contact with chapters in other countries to experience the cultural differences, and last but not least that we will have a good Europe Conference 2015 in Borås. Education is a wonderful instrument to create solidarity.



This photo was taken at the Forum committee meeting November 2014 in the Netherlands.

Riet Smits-Hoenderken (chair) Lilia Oberg, Barbara Kern (substitute for Diana Bell), Heli Piikkilä, Dagmar Ullmann, Krístrún Ísaksdóttir , Ingrid Christiansen,( Ingrid Sternquist), Marianne Skardeus (RD)

## **The Forum Meeting November 2014**

As you know the meeting was held on November 7/8 at my place, Paterswolde. The members of the Forum offer a wide range of experience in education: teaching, guiding/counselling, administrating, managing, planning and organising, all at different stages of the educational system. As Ingrid Sternquist could not join, we were glad that Marianne Skardeus, our Regional Director, replaced her and Barbara Kern represented Diana Bell for Great Britain.

One question already gave an interesting discussion: What can the European Forum Committee do? Globally we see the following items:

- work on increased visibility of DKG in Europe,
- make efforts to add milestones to the history of DKG in Europe,
- think and act 'outside the box',
- encourage chapters to find a "sister chapter" in another country to work with for a certain period of time,
- collect good ideas which have been used to get more members and share them.

The website will play a very important role in this.

The theme the Europe Forum will work on in Borås was decided and will be 'Who wants to be a teacher?' This subject is hot in all countries in Europe and it will be looked at from many perspectives! The Forum also decided to skip the pre-conference session as there is nothing in the Constitution and in the Standing Rules that says this is a must. It would be better to focus on the Forum meeting and the theme itself.

It was inspiring to hear about good projects in different countries. So we need a News section on the web with the title 'Good examples'. Interesting examples were mentioned including:

- a project for seniors that drama teacher Marja Leena Halonen is running in her chapter in Finland.
- a national project on Values at a school in Norway.
- research about how students relate to their teachers in Estonia.
- educational support for Syrian refugee children and their mothers in The Netherlands.

And last but not least, we want to celebrate at Borås, not only the person who is going to win the European Award, but also special members and founders.

I hope you all will help to develop our goals.

Hartelijke groet,

**Riet Smits-Hoenderken, Forum Chair**

## Who Wants to be a Teacher?

As you have just read, this question will form the theme for the Forum session at Borås. It was triggered by an initial survey carried out by Estonia, described in their report in the Autumn edition of EuForia. I believe the work they started is important and merits examination throughout our region in view of the growing and changing population in all countries. Now, more than ever before, we need excellent educators in all areas of our education systems, and more of them! We have, therefore, to find out how we can attract the best students from our schools and colleges and to do that we need to find out their perception of our profession. I asked Estonia for permission to circulate their survey questions to all State Presidents and invited them to carry out the same survey in their own country so that we could analyse and compare the results. I am currently carrying out this task with the responses I have so far received in Great Britain. I am attaching a copy of the questionnaire with this edition of EuForia and would ask each country to consider participating in what I consider could be a worthwhile piece of research and an excellent subject for the 2015 Forum meeting.

**Joan Carroll Great Britain**

### Dear members

We as teachers are hit so deeply by the recent terrorist attacks in Paris. Teaching is preparing and supporting young people to be a member of an open democracy. Dagmar Ullmann, Forum committee member on behalf of Germany, wrote the following words to us, to express her feelings about the terrible terrorist attacks. Her words touched us and the members of the Europe Forum want to share them with you all.



'This is a special Sunday for me after those days when the terrorist attacks happened in Paris and we were all shocked and felt so sad about the terror victims. I am watching TV now and see the European and international solidarity in Paris. Among the more than one million people there are about 40 world leaders who want to set a signal and support the essential values: freedom and human rights. Time to say: Je suis Charlie.

You might know that I am teaching French and, of course, I have good friends in France who are there right now, in the streets of Paris, Rennes and Lille, with their children and grandchildren. But it's not only solidarity with them, here we stand as Europeans! We will continue with our work to stabilise democratic rights, I am glad to know you all as partners and friends in Europe and I look forward to our discussions.' With many greetings from:



Riet Smits-Hoenderken (chair) – The Netherlands  
Liilia Oberg – Estonia,  
Diana Bell - Great Britain,  
Heli Piikkilä – Finland  
Dagmar Ullmann – Germany  
Kristrún Ísaksdóttir – Iceland  
Ingrid Christiansen – Norway  
Ingrid Sternquist – Sweden  
Marianne Skardeus, Regional Director

## Great Britain

Looking back over the year it is fascinating to see the wide range of topics and learn about meetings and visits to places of interest covered by our members. I can see how much work has gone into organising interesting and varied speakers, visits, events and generally keeping everything together.

The GB Conference Committee has also been hard at work preparing for our State Conference. The Viceroy Suite, Columbia Hotel, Lancaster Gate, is now booked for Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March. Room rates are very good for those wanting to stay in Central London. It is possible to share a room for four, paying less than £40 each with an English breakfast included!



The conference theme **Flourishing Education : Wider World**, reminds us that education takes place all around us. Dr Tim Wreghitt OBE, a leading British Microbiologist, has agreed to share with us his gold medal-winning Chelsea Flower show experiences on behalf of the Royal College of Pathologists. Sonia Birch-Woodcock, headteacher of Flora Gardens Primary School, will explain the implications of the three OFSTED (Office for Standards in Education) frameworks she has worked with since becoming headteacher in 2006, and Pat Walker, retired headteacher and Alpha Chapter Member, will update us on her *Southside* Project, inspiring young black boys to be future leaders.

We are also delighted to welcome Marianne Skardéus, our European Regional Director, who will give us all the latest information from headquarters and tell us more about plans for the European Regional Conference in Borås, Sweden.

More GB Conference details and registration forms are available on our website [www.dkggb.org.uk](http://www.dkggb.org.uk). We hope to have a good turn-out.

It was pleasing to see that our GB website, [www.dkggb.org.uk](http://www.dkggb.org.uk), run by webmaster Gloria Redston, received a special mention for some interesting projects in the second issue of DKG's **Get Connected** newsletter.

A special thank you to Joan Carroll for putting EuForia together and Eygló Björnsdóttir for running the European website, it is their hard work that keeps us in touch and up-to-date with European matters and events.

As this is an 'odd' year we will all be electing our new State President and Vice-President. It is a very special job; fortunately there is plenty of help, training and real support out there.

**Diana Bell, State President**

## Germany

On our last State Meeting in May we decided to have a new website instead of the blog we had before. So we asked for professional help and I found a former colleague who was willing to design it with me. Claudia, our webmaster, submitted the application for certification to HQ, but it first was rejected because some criteria were not met. We have, however, now got the certification and you can now find us at [www.dkgger.de](http://www.dkgger.de).

At our State Meeting last May, Rosemarie Menke, the longtime Alpha chapter's president and treasurer announced that they wanted to dissolve their Berlin chapter. We were all very sorry about this, because many of their members had attended national and international meetings and we really had become friends and cooperated very well with them. I still remember, for example, the hospitality and the interesting program at the board meeting in February 2013 which the members had organised.

Ulrike Gottlob was State President, as I joined DKG and organised very interesting state meetings or offered workshops in which she presented us her work for Solwodi, the organisation for women in distress. Rosemarie Menke was always a very loyal and qualified adviser during my time as State President and I regret very much that they will not support us at the board meetings any more. Dr. Sabine Krause organised a very interesting and diverse State meeting in Leipzig in 2012. All Berliners a big 'thank you' for their commitment. Ulrike and Sabine Krause will still stay members and Rosemarie assured me that they would like to come as guests to our future state meetings.

In February we are going to have our executive board meeting near Frankfurt. I am very much looking forward to the meeting, because it will not only be a working meeting as our Beta members are planning an outing to Frankfurt's famous museums.

We will have to plan our **State Meeting** in detail which will take place on **15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May 2015 in Fulda**.

Founded back in 744, Fulda has a lot of sights and art treasures to offer. There is the famous baroque cathedral and the Romanesque St. Michael's Church. The Royal Palace, the mansions, the Orangery and other buildings are worth seeing in the Baroque district. Lovingly restored half-timbered houses, hidden places, flowering gardens and parks, old craft shops, quaint courtyards, exciting museums, cosy restaurants and cafés invite you to enjoy your stay.

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

**Monika Huber, State President**



## The Netherlands.

In November we had our general meeting in Zwolle. Our guest speaker was Albert Weishaupt. He is a lecturer at the Professional Education Organisation and Head of the Roelof van Echten College. The title of his speech was "Autonomy of the teacher". Ruby Trebels of Epsilon chapter wrote a report about his speech. You will find it below.

### ALBERT WEISHAUPT: "Autonomy of the teacher"



On 15 September in the newspaper *Dagblad van het Noorden* was an article entitled "The quality of education has to improve". It was an interesting article. The more so because Dutch teaching professionals were invited to attend a meeting of Noordelijk Onderwijs Peil (Northern Educational Level). Guest speaker Albert Weishaupt would speak on the subject "Better teachers, better education". Unfortunately I hesitated a day too long and was too late to subscribe. I was pleasantly surprised when I heard that Albert Weishaupt would attend as a guest speaker at our general meeting of members of DKG in Zwolle. Completely excited I travelled to the capital of Overijssel. My expectations were fulfilled.

When Mr. Weishaupt came forward and spoke to us, I immediately noticed his energetic enthusiasm. I saw an inspirational person with a good sense of humour. Albert Weishaupt is a lecturer at the Professional Education Organization and Head of the Roelof van Echten College. As an education manager his opinion is surprising. He states that the autonomy has to return to the teacher and the teacher has to take her responsibility. What does education need? Weishaupt says: normative professional teachers and creativity. What does he mean by this? What is a normative professional teacher? A characteristic of a good teacher is that the teacher should strive to become a better teacher. In addition, the teacher should use norms and values. The teacher must use research and reviewed knowledge. Know what you are doing and why you are doing it. The teacher is part of the team. Education is a shared responsibility.

The question remains whether we take our responsibility. Weishaupt states that education does not do this. The problem, however, does not lie with the teacher but with policy makers. Weishaupt is charmed by the book *Leiding geven aan professionals? Niet doen! (Managing professionals? Don't!)* written by Mathieu Weggeman. Weishaupt agrees with Weggeman's statement. He also says: "Ask the teacher. She knows ". Policy makers need to position professional competence better. Weishaupt believes that research should directly contribute to solutions in education. The research should be linked to daily issues. The organization must be considered as a working area and less as a business. "Education is not malleable". The result of malleable thinking is that a make-believe world has been created for government and politics.

The conclusion of Weishaupt is that attention must be paid to a professional organization. What is a professional organization? The attitude of a teacher must be an inquisitive attitude, a behaviour that puts the highest demands on her. The teacher should claim her space and should be responsible for

good education. A tool to assess this is not about the teacher but by the teacher. Create educational moments and not reviews. Give the teacher space and trust. As a manager, don't be a control freak. Albert Weishaupt concluded his speech with the call: "Take the accountability of your responsibility. Know what you should be responsible for. Put children in the first place. We focus on them and we are giving our power to the children. Good figures for the inspection will follow, because each teacher strives for good teaching." I agree that I should go for good education. For me this means seeking a dialogue with teachers and see class visits as a collegial consultation.

### **Ruby Trebels, Chapter Epsilon**

#### **Dutch Epsilon Chapter makes a modest contribution to an inclusive society: Our way of being Charlie**

Last year our Epsilon Chapter from Groningen, The Netherlands was already determined: next year we will aim to be in line with one of the DKG goals, contribute to the community. We looked at projects in Africa and China and also in our own community and decided for the latter. We wanted to help out in our community and at the same time make this local community more familiar with DKG.



Once that was decided we got in touch with different organisations and in the end chose to collaborate with the association "Lezen en Schrijven" (Reading and Writing ) for three reasons:

1. The association is convinced, just as our Epsilon members are, that poverty and exclusion from a community can often be solved by educating people. Education starts with making sure everybody knows the local language such as immigrants, refugees and people asking for asylum in our country.
2. People from abroad can only be really included in the Dutch community if they read and write the local language.

Thus the link with education and DKG is evident and important to our chapter .

3. The contact person of the organisation "Lezen en Schrijven" was agreeable and the association with a Dutch princess as a patron proved to be very reliable and energetic.





In order to make money for a contribution a committee was installed in the first chapter meeting this year and one of our long time members Meemanaat, driven by her own experience as illiterate (in Dutch) when coming to The Netherlands, was literally unstoppable and very efficient. She decided to make and sell Christmas decorations on two occasions: the national annual meeting and the third chapter meeting of the year close to Christmas. She managed to convince retailers to give her, or rather our good cause, massive discounts, she hired (for free) a professional to help members make beautiful Christmas decorations, hired a room (for free), and brought materials, drinks and snacks. The rest of the committee and the chapter were "allowed" to help and did so with great pleasure.

Both activities were good fun and generated a profit of over 500 euro, a modest contribution that can only grow since our national committee has encouraged us to ask for a grant. It has already been decided that the money is to be spent on the purchase of books for the asylum seekers, immigrants and refugees in our part of The Netherlands

*Photos : Right Meemanaat Arashvand, Riet Smits & Betsie de Jonge. Left National Annual Meeting 2014*

#### **Our State Convention May 30, 2015.**

Our theme for this biennium is "durability" and in connection with this item our State Convention will be held in Groningen at the Brederoschool. It is a school where they work with durability in many aspects. Marike Venema from Epsilon is head of school there. The committee is working hard to get an interesting program for the whole day. More information will be in the next EuForia or by separate mailing. Below are a few pictures of our general meeting in November. Thanks to Ank Janssonius, who was our photographer.



**Cor Wolff-Heins, The Netherlands.**



## Estonia

### **Achievements contributing to educational excellence!**

On September 12, 2014 Anu Sepp defended successfully her PhD dissertation ***From music syllabi to teachers' pedagogical thinking: a comparative study of Estonian and Finnish basic school music education*** at Helsinki University. This study represents comparative education research focusing on music syllabi and the pedagogical thinking of music teachers of basic schools in Estonia and Finland. Music in Estonia is a compulsory subject throughout basic schooling, in Finland the subject is optional from grade 8 onwards. The main objectives of the music syllabi in both countries confirm the idea of musicianship: engaging pupils in the real world of music by singing, playing instruments, listening to various styles and genres of music, and expressing their own ideas through improvisation, composition and movement. The pedagogical thinking and use of music practices in the two countries also revealed similar tendencies. The thesis has provided a model that can be used for researching on all teachers' pedagogical thinking and opportunities to improve teachers' professionalism. The thesis was supervised by Inkeri Ruokanen and Heikki Ruismäki (Helsinki University). Anu's research activities were supported by DKG A. Margaret Boyd scholarship.

On October 28, 2014 Katrin Kalamees-Ruubel defended her Ph D thesis ***The role of Estonian and Literature in the curricula for general comprehensive schools (with instruction in Estonian) in 1917-2014. Historical-analytical approach*** at Tallinn University. The research provides an overview of historical development of learning the Estonian language and literature, its foundations and principles of the selection of the content by the analysis of educational documents regulating school practice. A well-argued analysis of three historically different periods provides context for comprehension of the developments. As a result, she presents principles for selecting the content for learning the mentioned school subjects, which can be used for future curriculum development, not only for Estonian general comprehensive schools but also for teachers' pre-service as well as in-service training for future. The thesis was supervised by Leida Talts (Tallinn University) and Urve Läänemets (Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre). Katrin enjoyed the support of DKG International Annie Webb Blanton scholarship.

Congratulations to both of them! They have demonstrated by their achievement that DKG sisters deserve to be called key women educators.

**Urve Läänemets DKG Estonia Vice-President**

### **DKG Estonia annual meeting**

Our annual meeting takes place on March 7 at Ääsmäe School located near Tallinn. We welcome our Regional Director Marianne Skardeus as the Society Representative. The theme of the conference is "Sharing our stories - teachers' narratives". Our speakers are Riitta-Liisa Arpiainen from Finland who will talk about entrepreneurship education in Finland, Ann-Katrin Swärd from Sweden who will discuss educational issues in Sweden and our DKG member Anu Sepp who will address the topic of developing teachers' critical thinking.

A warm welcome to you all – the conference programme will soon be available on our website.

**Anu Ariste DKG Estonia President**

## Finland

The Finland state is going to have its annual meeting in Joensuu in Eastern Finland, North-Karelia on the 11-12th of April 2015. The venue will be in the city centre in an area where some of the wooden houses still stand and are actively used for various purposes. The building where the meeting is going to be is called "Perheen talo" – "Family house" meant for activities for parents and children. The whole area consists of several wooden houses which offer premises for the local Craft Centre, small shops, craftsmen, an art gallery, a restaurant etc. <http://www.taitopohjoiskarjala.fi>

We welcome all to our annual meeting in Joensuu!

Several times a year it is possible to organise a pop-up restaurant or a cafe in Finland on certain days. The organisers are often small societies, private people with a special interest in something (like cakes) or e.g. young people in order to raise money for a good cause etc. The Epsilon chapter in Joensuu organized a summer cafe on the 17th of August in a private garden to raise money for activities and the Society project Schools for Africa, as well as Women's Bank. In a small chapter like Epsilon half of the members were involved in baking and making cakes and coffee. We had 70-80 customers, which made it profitable. We also had some friends making music and contributing to the nice atmosphere there. The weather was very favourable for us too. This is an example of the activities which bring members together and enable us to support a good course.

**Anna-Kaisa Räsänen, Finland State President**

**Eija Liisa Sokka-Meaney, Finland State Secretary**



Photo:

Anna-Liisa Peuhkurinen, Epsilon president and Annikki Hämäläinen, Epsilon treasurer and membership rep. Getting ready to open the pop-up restaurant.

### From the editor

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of EuForia. I look forward to reading about the state meetings in each of our member countries that are currently being planned in your

contributions to the Summer edition of EuForia 2015. This will be published in the first week of June and the closing date for items for inclusion in that edition is 25<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

Best wishes to you all for an enjoyable and stimulating Spring term.

**Joan Carroll, Editor**