



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™

EUFORIA

Edition 55, Autumn 2020

Dear sisters, we still are dealing with the Corona virus and in this Issue of Euforia many of the articles reflects the affect it has on our community, schools, meetings etc. But you also can read about committee works and various activities of the participating countries.

Thanks to all the women who contributed to this issue with their interesting articles. Best wishes to you all.



Helga Thorlacius, Iceland

Europe

From the Regional director

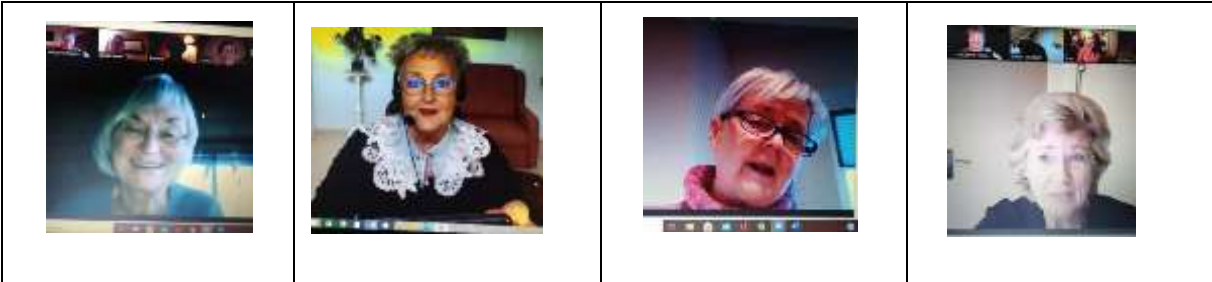
A Dynamic Partnership with DKG Europe State Leaders



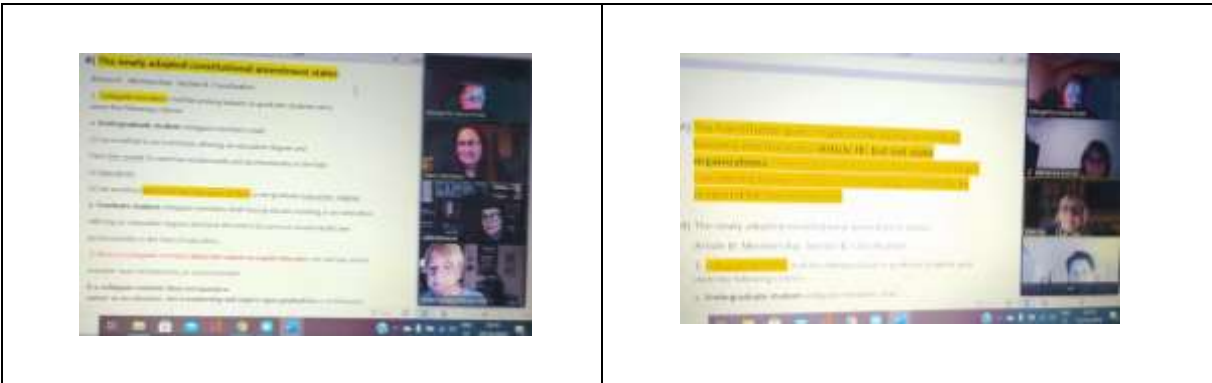
Each evening from 15 October through 29 October I facilitated Zoom and TEAMS dialogues with the presidents, board members and chapter leaders of the DKG Europe States. The aim was to share a clear understanding of where we are stepping together in Europe and introduce the outcome-oriented goals for the next biennium. Amid challenges and uncertainty lie opportunities and resilient Europe State leaders are a driving force in helping their state organizations navigate through this harsh Covid-19 period.

In every DKG Europe state organization there is a group of dedicated enthusiastic members whose main concern is to keep chapters' health in good condition and trigger less active members to become more

engaged and more connected. Zoom and TEAMS meetings keep a positive chapter environment and make it possible to ‘meet’ more distant members.



Hereby are some pictures from ZOOM meetings with the State Presidents from Iceland, Great Britain and Norway, and the leaders from Finland and Germany.



Many states have already made great plans for recruiting new members, among them Iceland, the Netherlands and Norway. And Germany has renewed interest in strengthening its state organization. Great Britain has invited Germany state leaders on Zoom in order to share the Great Britain revitalization plan. Estonia State has recruited the first Collegiate Member.

Actions need goals – what to achieve in order to grow personally and professionally. The European states and members seem to agree that it takes life-long learning to collect intangible benefits related to effective integration of knowledge into leadership and decision-making processes.

It is trust and strength of the relationship that allows us to react, course-correct and feel consensus. One thing that will not change – we have a dynamic partnership among our European state organizations that will align and focus-on a shared vision for the future.

Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is a progress, working together is a success!

Margarita Hanschmidt
Europe Regional Director 2020-2022
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Sweden



Utbildningsmöte i Skövde (Epsilon), Sweden State.

New Chapter chairs and treasurers had an education the 19th of September in Skövde. We were so happy that several could meet face to face, and the rest participated by Zoom. Thanks to technical knowledge in Epsilon Chapter, we could work it through perfectly.

We met the night before to get acquainted and to have a nice meal together. Epsilon wishes us welcome by a presentation of an active organisation (4H have much in common with DKG), the DKG's history and the young enterprise work in the region. We could feel the wings of the old time, passing the present time, and pointing out the new times.

After looking at DKG from different perspectives on Saturday morning we had lunch in Balthazar Science Center.



The Science center was located in a big factory building that had turned to be a really science center plus a lots of other activities. All from Volvo testing new robots to childrens birthdayparties. Impressive! And in the middle of everything: education and entrepreneurship!

We got a very exciting lecture about Material Connexion. When we think about all man-created pollution and miserable environment mankind are responsible for, it was really exciting to see man also can create new technique to benefit our surroundings. The cowork with big companies as Volvo, small lokal companies and the science give a hope for the future

<https://materialconnexion.com>

ust what we need in DKG: Hope for the future! Even if it seems that we will have to live with this virus for a time, our organisation will still go on and find ways – like women allways have done!

Greetings from Sweden

Helga Skeidsvoll

State President



Educational award within the chapter Epsilon in Uppsala

Several chapters in Sweden have a recurring educational award and we, within the chapter Epsilon in Uppsala, aimed to develop such a price. The idea was to distribute the award in the odd years - when Delta Kappa Gamma Sweden did not distribute its educational award. The Board 2018-2020 asked a working group to consider the matter. The working group came up with a proposal to offer the teacher who would be selected, one year to 'broaden her educational perspective' instead of a purely pecuniary award. The teacher who would be chosen would have the opportunity to attend a full year - and not just a couple of meetings - for free, and get to know the association and its members. The Board found this to be a very good idea and therefore decided to award an "invitation to a broader educational perspective" instead of a



diploma. The ad was distributed in the fall of 2019, in preschools, schools, universities and through members. The selected teacher for 2019 is Lotta Gidhagen, a high school teacher in Mathematics and Natural Sciences who also teaches as a lecturer at Uppsala University, Department of Education, where she teaches the subject Didactics in Mathematics for future high school teachers, and makes visits during the school based part of their education. We in the chapter are very proud to have been able to give our invitation to her and we look forward to her participation and presence at our meetings!

Charlotte Lindgren, President for 2018-2020

Uppsala chapter in Sweden



Digital Freshmen in a Society Affected by Corona

The Swedish restrictions in connection to education have affected not only the professional lives of educators, but also the DKG society and the local chapter Epsilon. Here's how:

When I was first invited as a guest in 2018 to join a local meeting in the chapter *Epsilon* in Uppsala Sweden, I had no idea what Delta Kappa Gamma was. Now I know more. I am a member of a professional society for key women educators and a proud board member of our local chapter. When joining the meeting it turned out that this chapter consisted of a group of very competent women. They came from diametrically different fields of education and are of different



ages, and some of the members were retired since long but were still following the development of education by engaging in our chapter. Joining this society meant a possibility to exchange experiences and to share our competence with each other. It gave me the possibility to be inspired by not only the members, but also by guests and lecturers and by taking part in different form of field-studies and conferences. What has struck me the most is the fact that, no matter age or field of education, I have learned so much from

these women, especially in these troubled times.

Right now, as in the rest of the world, we have had to change our ways of living our everyday lives due to the restrictions connected to the spreading of the Corona virus. In Sweden, the restrictions meant, among other things that from March 18, 2020, all Upper Secondary Schools and all higher education such as universities, had to close and change all teaching from campuses to online. Since I work as both an Upper Secondary Teacher and an Adjunct Professor at Uppsala University, everything I did had to be flipped around. Teaching methods, exams, everything. Over just one night, many of us had to change and re-arrange all teaching from working in an ordinary classroom to working online. These restrictions have of course not only affected our professional lives, but also affected other parts of our society, for example our ways of keeping in contact in our chapter here in Uppsala, Sweden. These changes come with both pros and cons.

The challenges we face are many. It has turned out to be hard to book lecturers for the coming term since they do not know their situation for the coming fall term and do not want to sign up. Members who are isolating themselves to avoid catching Covid-19 miss social interaction and might experience an unwanted solitude that can be hard to deal with. Seeing each other in real life chatting over a Swedish “fika” and listening to an interesting lecturer is no longer possible. (Fika = usually coffee and something sweet or a sandwich. Watch this humoristic clip <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRleytEXGhQ>



for better understanding.) Many of us who are still active working in pre-schools, schools and universities are exhausted and have had to deal with a completely new way of teaching and therefore may not have the energy to engage in a society such as DKG on their spare time right now. Members may have lost members of their families or friends in Covid-19, and are of course suffering. Despite all these challenges, there are some positive outcomes as well.

Firstly, we all seem to appreciate the small things in life much more now than what we did earlier, no longer taking things for granted. Social interaction online is after all, a good substitute for IRL meetings, and can help members to feel that they are a part of something bigger, despite isolation. Our society now seems more important than ever.

Secondly, we have been given a chance to develop our digital skills since we now hold both our board-meetings and chapter-meetings with our members in Zoom. We teach each other how to use these digital tools, and it may sound strange, but we seem to get an even closer connection between the members than before when meeting on Zoom. Our retired educators now experience online meetings which they have not done before and therefore, they can still keep in touch with the society and the sisters in the chapter.

Reflecting on all this, I see that we have started a more active sharing and caring in our chapter Epsilon, by teaching each other about our different fields. I had, for example, the opportunity to hold a small lecture on my experience of online teaching and of this sudden

transformation that we have been going through in Sweden on our last meeting. This fall, I will hold a lecture on Leadership in the Classroom since this is one of my fields where I teach at Uppsala University. This is just one example of how we share experiences and competence within our chapter, no matter age or form of education.

In Epsilon here in Uppsala Sweden, we all seem to be developing from *digital dinosaurs* to maybe *digital freshmen*. However, we are still far from the *digital natives* we teach in schools today, but together we grow and learn. In these troubled times, our society is more important than ever.

Carina Tångring
Member of Epsilon,
Uppsala Sweden

Norway



Greetings from Norway, in the time of corona.

The colourful autumn is well on its way. This morning many Norwegians woke up to a white world. Not in Kristiansand though, in south Norway where I live. Here it's raining and mild.

The pandemic is unfortunately still over us. Not so badly in Norway at the moment as shown on TV from many other European countries. But the threat is lying over us all as a dark cloud. It makes it difficult to make plans ahead.

I was sorry when the convention in Philadelphia was cancelled, as I had looked forward to meet many of my DKG sisters there. And what will happen to the conference in Finland this coming summer, may be uncertain for many of us. It is not quite the same to meet you virtually.



The same uncertainty is what to do with our state meeting in April. All depends on the general situation, and the developing of a vaccine. But let us stay optimistic!

Epsilon, which is my chapter, has had our first “normal” meeting since March. We had some problems to find a large enough room for 24 people, as we needed to keep the distance of one meter between us. The schools do not want to let out rooms to groups in the afternoon, due to Corona restrictions. Both our summer meeting and first meeting in August was kept outdoors, in my garden.

This October meeting was very important to us, because we had, already before the corona lock- down in March, invited 8 young women to visit our chapter. Now they came, and some of them seemed motivated to join us. We think it is important that there are more than one new, and around the same age, as we want them to have an impact on the program. We are now optimistic planning for our next meeting in November.

I wish you all the best, and hope you stay healthy! I also hope to see many of you soon!

On behalf of Norway,
Astrid H. Bie Skaaland, State President



Home school in corona times – thoughts from Norway

12 March 2020 school life and life as we know it in Norway, and many other places, was turned upside down. All our schools were closed in an attempt to halt the spread of Covid 19. No time for preparation, how did we manage? How did you manage? Although schools slowly opened again before the summer, we still live with the consequences and with the constant worry that we could be closed again at short notice.

‘We have never been in a comparable situation and rarely have we made such far-reaching educational decisions with such potentially significant consequences without thorough research beforehand!’ Greta Björk Gudmundsdottir, University of Oslo.

It is very early days to draw any definitive conclusions, but some research has been carried out and is available. I shall try to summarise some of their findings. I don’t think there will be any surprises here.



The University of Oslo surveyed teachers in both Norway and the USA. Their report showed that 92% of the American and 67% of the Norwegian teachers had little or no experience with providing completely digital teaching – they were accustomed to using digital learning platforms and teaching resources, but it was a huge step from this to being completely digital.

When asked about their experience in this field teachers answers indicate that the majority of answers were related rather to the tools they had available and used, than how prepared they themselves actually were to make this quantum leap.

In many municipalities in Norway pupils are provided with either a laptop or a tablet as an aid to learning. This was a crucial element in being able to transfer to distance learning. In my municipality pupils in primary and lower secondary schools use iPads and Upper Secondary Schools use pc's. However, no matter how much these were integrated into teaching and learning in the classroom, nothing had prepared schools for the abrupt and dramatic change.

It was also clear that another group were not prepared for the demands of digital home school, this was the software providers. The day after schools closed, Showbie (a platform for communication, submitting assignments and for receiving instruction), widely used by over 1000 schools in Norway alone and many more in Europe, crashed as huge numbers of pupils all tried to log on at about the same time! Teachers were not the only ones scrambling to get up to speed! The apps and software used have developed rapidly during the past months due to the demands being made.

It is evident that few teachers gave any consideration to the ethical consequences of teaching digitally - such issues as protecting their own and their pupils' privacy, copyright, digital mobbing and the possibility of pupils sabotaging for other pupils. In fairness it must be acknowledged that in this extraordinary situation, the first priorities were to keep school going for their pupils and to support their students in the situation they now found themselves.

One report concludes that in the future, teacher education must have a greater focus on the pedagogical aspects of distance learning and how to create good digital teaching plans, irrespective of platforms/tools available.

Two factors appear to have contributed to how successful teachers felt they were in the follow up of their students. One was access to digital resources, the second was a satisfactory home office solution!

Not only were schools closed, but many parents also had to work from home. Some felt that this made for a more relaxed daily routine since there was no stress in the morning to get everyone out of the house and to school and work on time. Others felt that the working day became incredibly long trying to fit in all the needs of the household. A major challenge for those teachers with school-age children, was that their own children also had to have home schooling. This had to be fitted round their own fulltime teaching commitment and responsibilities.

Many parents actively tried to create an alternative and positive school routine at home, dividing the day with breaks for physical activity, lunch etc. as well as having some sessions with art and handwork or similar activities. It was quite common to hear that despite the good plans from teachers for how to organise home school, it was still not always easy. Many parents struggled to find time for their own work.

Teachers in primary and lower secondary schools found that they used much more time on preparation than they would normally do for their classroom teaching. Many experienced that the dividing line between work and leisure time was erased. It was often difficult to set a limit on being accessible for both pupils and their parents round the clock.

How did teachers know that pupils were studying/learning as they wanted? There are clearly differences of opinion as to how strict and clear the teachers were in their expectations of their students, it was not uncommon for parents to feel that teachers were not strict enough. About 82% of the teachers of younger classes reported that pupils had to log on or prove that they were working, by completing a specific exercise. The discrepancies in parent and teacher perceptions of how demanding the teacher was, could be explained by a mismatch in the teachers' intentions and what it was possible to achieve with younger pupils. Another reason could also be that many of the platforms that are used with the younger classes are not designed for direct communication.

It was a challenge to actually make contact with some students and there have been issues trying to maintain motivation and to have some sort of classroom environment.

A major concern seems to have been how to have one-on-one talks with the youngest pupils, perhaps because it has not been so usual for them to have an iPad or a smartphone. Teachers frequently had to call via parent telephones which gave a much higher threshold for making contact.

In a minority of student homes, the lack of digital infrastructure such as broadband and computer equipment has been a hindrance in carrying out distance learning.

Some of the research indicates that there are significant variations in how much contact there actually has been with the teacher, what demands were made regarding attendance and to what extent schools had actually used digital technology.

Motivation and follow-up of older students could also be a challenge, there were those who had a tendency to log on, and then turn off the camera and microphone, so that they 'disappeared'.

Many teachers have recounted how their pupils/students were unprepared for the demands of home school. Students initially thought this was going to be easier than normal school, in reality it was far more intense to work completely digitally.

It is still too early to say how much pupils learnt during home-schooling compared to what they would have learnt being in school, whether we have achieved embedded learning or whether learning has been more superficial. About 17% of children in one report feel they

learnt more because there were not as many distractions at home. Others found that their parents were not necessarily as good as their teachers at explaining things!

Here are just a few of the children's thoughts:

- in school they have to share one adult among many, at home they often have one adult each, so they got more attention than in the classroom
- In the classroom they can get an answer from the teacher straightaway
- parents do not always understand the schoolwork the children are being asked to do
- Difficult not to be able to be with friends, they can get lonely, perhaps it will mean that they appreciate each other more when they can be together again
- Can be some arguments when they are all together in the one house for long periods. They miss their friends!
- The children are very aware of the reason for not being together in school,

Several reports stress the importance of parents understanding what pupils are learning in school. About 20% of parents mentioned that they now had a far greater understanding of their child's/children's schoolwork, what level they were working at and the challenges they faced with schoolwork. Many were unable to help their children with the assignments given. There was also a greater appreciation of the job being done by teachers!

A recurring theme in every report /account of the period of home school is a very grave concern about vulnerable pupils, those with special needs, however mild, and who need very close follow-up. They can well be the biggest losers in this situation. Many have struggled with a worry that they were not able to provide adequately for pupils with extra challenges.

In conclusion, there are clear indications that the role of the teacher is even more important the more technology we use. There is an urgent need for more research in this field.

Teachers have been incredibly adaptable. The great majority had little or no experience with distance learning, but they stepped up to the plate and gave it their best shot. There has been a very steep learning curve for teachers since the spring and it is no surprise that they have absolutely risen to the challenge! Great job everyone!

Originally I am from England, I have lived in Norway for over 47 years. My teaching career here started in Norwegian lower secondary schools and then I moved on to the International School of Oslo, where I taught a variety of age groups before I spent 12 years as head of school. For the last 11 years I have been working at a local authority adult education centre in a role that combines administration and teaching. A member of DKG since 2010, have served as Chapter President and State President and is currently on the Norwegian State Board as past president.

Barbara Carlsen

The Netherlands



From the Netherlands

We face a lot of challenges. In the Netherlands we have a major number people who are infected with Covid-19. There are a lot of problems at schools because of sick teachers. Luckily there are no infections in our organization.

What does this pandemic mean for our organization.

Unfortunately we can't meet face to face. We really miss it. We meet on ZOOM or Jitse. It's a new way to connect and we are very happy that we can. Meeting virtually brings new opportunities. One of our chapters, Delta, had a virtual meeting with the Upsala chapter from Sweden. Maybe that had never happened when there was no Covid-19. Referring to the words of our famous football player, Johan Cruyff, "Every disadvantage has its advantage". I'm very proud that our chapters tried to go on and they succeed.

What is going to happen in the Netherlands this coming year:

On November 21 we will have a virtual state meeting. Every month our chapters has there virtual meetings. We hope that we can connected with more chapters abroad.

We are planning our 45th anniversary in May 2021, on the 29th. We hope that we can have a big party. When it's possible and safe, you all are invited and we will find you a place to stay.

Although the world is changing and we don't know what tomorrow brings, I hope that we can stay connected.



With lovely regards
Marie-Antoinette Hubers
State Organization President



My motivation for the golden gift

I am Jeannine de Jong and I want to tell you about my application for the golden gift.

I want to share my speech with you because it tells you my motivation for the golden gift.

On the question how do you feel this DKG Ignite Leaders empowering leaders will help me reach my future goals I have the following answer to give you

I'm a DKG member for several years now and enjoy my membership very much.

Since 2019 I'm an executive secretary of DKG and for me this is a new role.

I'm a teacher for more than 30 years and I always see teaching is a sacred art. Teaching is a dialogue in which the teacher is granted the right and obligation to change their student's inner being.

You need for this to start a relationship first with your students before they allow you to reach them.

The relationship for me is the most important thing in teaching.

I realise that when you touch the student's mind and spirit you may inspire the future. I experienced this many times and their success and thankfulness means a lot to me.

I see myself as a student for life and want to be touched by the Leaders empowering leaders and to be changed in my inner being. I've never tried leadership training because I wasn't ready for it. I am now.

It is an education I didn't experience yet and I hope to get the dialogue and learn skills to be a good DKG executive secretary in our country and abroad.

I really feel I have to do this for being a complete person in and outside DKG. Now is the time!

And if the time is there we don't know yet because of the corona crisis.

If it will not happen in 2020 I'm sure I will follow the Golden Gift in the near future. What it will bring me I hope to share with you soon.



Warm greetings
Jeannine de Jong

Report of the Zoom-meeting with Uppsala Chapter Sweden on Wednesday October 7/ 2020

A few weeks ago Marie Antoinette Hubers, our state president, asked us if we wanted to take part in a Zoom-meeting with a DKG Chapter from Sweden.

Through our contact, Charlotte Lindgren from the Upsala chapter, Delta Chapter in the Netherlands, had received a Zoom-invitation.



Our Chapter already had been in touch with the Sweden chapter before the Corona crisis. Arrangements had been made for collegial visits, dates had been set and travel reservations had been made by some of our members. On our side we had the intention to have DKG members from Sweden as our guests in The Netherlands. To our regret the Corona crisis put a stop to that for now.

It doesn't mean however, that we just sit. There are more ways to contact one another. Although we prefer life contact, Zoom also offers opportunities. Wednesday night, October 7, we took part in a meeting of the Sweden chapter. Six members of our Delta chapter were present in the Zoom meeting. Charlotte gave us a warm welcome and we got the opportunity to introduce ourselves. We also provided some general information about our chapter and country.

It was great fun to see so many Swedish sisters in their own homes. After the introduction a presentation by one of the Swedish members followed. The subject was "Stages of group formation: Forming-Storming-Norming-Performing" .

This is a psychological model from the group dynamics. This model is used to provide insight into the group development. A "good" group prevents many behaviour problems. The teacher can, enabled by this knowledge, transform a group into a positive, well-functioning group, The presentation was in Swedish, but it will be translated into English, so that it can be shared with other DKG members in the Netherlands and, perhaps also with other European chapters.

I thought it was very special to be in such direct contact with other European members in these hectic days, with everyone being in their own Corona bubble.

I therefore call for organising this kind of meetings far more often!
Many collegial DKG greetings from The Netherlands ,

Thea Hoogeland,
(with gratitude to Ria Bleeker for her support)



Quote for State Leaders, from Margarita Hanschmith.

A lit red lantern with a yellow flame, positioned on the left side of the quote box.	<p><i>You are the light. In many situations you are the lantern holder that lights the way for others to see the path.</i></p>
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Iceland



Turbulent times are challenging but they also bring opportunities

The year 2020 will be remembered for being different from past years. The reason is of course Covid 19. Most plans fell apart and still nothing can be planned with certainty. Plans always have some degree of uncertainty, but now we feel extremely lucky if we manage to carry out a planned event.

We all know about the difficulties we have been juggling with in the society, because they are the same everywhere. The conference in Philadelphia was cancelled as a face-to-face event. But we had the opportunity to participate online. In

Iceland we delayed our spring conference and ended up cancelling it in autumn. An extra Executive Board meeting in spring was cancelled. The Executive Board meeting planned in September was delayed for a couple of weeks. It was finally held it as a hybrid meeting in October, a face-to-face meeting with a virtual possibility on Zoom. Those that wanted to meet face-to-face could do that in a very secure way and those that did not want to travel were able to stay at home. Many chapters have had to cancel meetings. Some have started to use the virtual possibilities as Zoom or Skype, others have not done that yet. The board of Iceland State organization has used Skype for majority of meetings for the last three years and our business has been carried out as usual. We started to use Zoom in October 2020 when preparing for the Executive Board meeting.



We tend to focus on the negative impact of these difficulties on our society, but I am going to focus on the learning and positive changes this period has brought us.

Keep it simple

I want to start by saying that it is important to follow the rules and recommendations of the authorities of infection control as they are at each point in time. And they may change. It is therefore important to plan face-to-face meetings as simple as possible, preferably in a big location so social distancing can be carried out. It is also important that travelling for participants is as simple as possible with few types of transport and as few connections points as possible. Refreshment needs to be served in a secure way, not at buffets where participants need to use the same utensils, but preferably carried to the tables of the participants with hand sanitizers on each table and masks according to rules.

But even in the case of careful planning, taking into consideration all the above things, you may still be confronted with a new situation when the date approaches. This happened in Iceland with the Executive Board meeting in Reykjavík. Reykjavik was declared a red zone because of increase of Covid 19 few days before the meeting was to be held there. Some of the participants were asked by their employers not to go to Reykjavik. Although all precautions were to be met we had to respect that people from other parts of the country could not or did not want to visit Reykjavík.



After doing a survey among the members of the Executive Board it was decided to change the meeting that had been planned as a face-to-face meeting to a hybrid meeting. Those that wished to stay at home would be able to attend through Zoom. We had 14 members in

the face-to-face meeting and 8 members online on Zoom. This was our first experiment with this type of meeting. And we had not used Zoom in this context before. It was challenging to decide last minute to do this. It was a great pleasure be able to interact with all these women. Was the meeting flawless? No definitively not. We had some technical problems. But we, the organizers, managed to achieve our goal. We found out that a hybrid meeting is more complicated to carry out than a face-to-face meeting or a virtual/an online meeting.



Online meetings have advantages?

Since organizers need to be ready to cancel face-to-face meetings it makes sense to plan a virtual/an online event in parallel. Not all members feel good about virtual/online meetings and for sure they lack a lot of the qualities of face-to-face meetings. But to be fair online meetings also have their own qualities. It is easy to invite members to Zoom meetings and it is even easier to attend the meetings. There is no investment in travelling; neither travelling hours nor cost of tickets. It is easy to learn enough to be able to teach the participants how to act in the meeting. You are pretty close to the people you meet on the screen and actually it is even more face-to-face than our so called face-to-face meetings that often are face-to-back meetings or face-to-some/back-to-many meetings. And gradually these meetings become comfortable for most people. I have now considerable experience with Zoom and I have started to like it a lot. The technical aspects have most often been at peace when. You can see all the attendants in picture and all can participate, speak and chat. The biggest advantage of all is that virtual/online meeting have made it possible to meet with people that you would not have dreamt of meeting on a regular basis some months ago.

It was a surprisingly new and nice experience to meet the State presidents of the European region in a meeting organized on Zoom by the President of the European region. Now the plan is to continue and meet several times during the coming year. This is possible because Covid 19 challenged us and we changed our attitudes and habits to grab the opportunity. This is such a gift in a society like ours, where we gain so much from interacting with each other. It has been possible to meet virtually/online for a long time now, but Covid 19 has put a pressure on us to start using online tools as a regular part of our activities. And it has opened up new possibilities!

If you feel defeated, can you turn things in your favor?

The Icelandic State Organization decided to focus on media-literacy 2019-2021. We intended to follow up on the meeting of the Executive Board in 2019 and invite two acknowledged lecturers to speak on the matter at the Spring-conference; the director of the Icelandic Media Commission and a well known author and reporter at the Icelandic National Broadcasting Service. In the conference we would be reaching out to a good number of members of our society with this important matter. But as said above the conference was first delayed till autumn and then cancelled shortly before it should be held. What could we do with our emphasis on media-literacy and fake news? Should we just give up on it?

We had expected 80 -100 participants to the Spring-conference. As the conference approached and Covid 19 appeared again in our lives, we thought we might get 50 participants. And then we had to cancel. But we decided that we would not give up on our emphasis on an important matter. We decided therefore to record the two lectures and put on our website, the part of the web that requires a password. We made an agreement with the lecturers that we would have access to the lectures for a year. The first lecture is already on the website. Now it is in the hands of the Chapter presidents to show it to the members and take it up for discussion. They have one year to put it into their plans. We now have the potential to reach all, approximately 300 members, of the Icelandic State Organization. We can at least hope that this online method will bring more attention to the theme than the conference would have been able to do. And by doing it this way we hope to encourage the Chapters to have an online meeting with the topic.

I know that many, especially elderly women, might be hesitant to use the online possibilities. I am one of them, so I know. But in our lives we are confronted with big changes that we need to respond to. Besides Covid 19 we are also being confronted by the fourth Industrial Revolution with automation and technical advances in the center. We cannot lag behind we have to develop these competencies and be a part of the change. One way to do that is to start meeting online. Let's take these small steps. It does not mean that we will not meet face-to-face when the opportunities come up again. Until then let's enjoy the new way to meet.

Ingibjörg Elsa Guðmundsdóttir
State President of Iceland

Birthday wishes from Margarita Hanschmidt ERD to:

DKG Norway on the 50th birthday
DKG Iceland on the 45th birthday
Epsilon Chapter in DKG Sweden on the 35th birthday



Moving forward in a challenging situation

As my time as Regional Director has come to an end, I find myself reflecting.

Covid-19 has changed our lives in so many ways. We could focus on the negative sides, but there are silver linings. Although the situation is difficult it is also changing our world, as educators and leaders are finding creative ways to respond to the challenges. We live the unthinkable and must do what we thought was impossible.



Since spring, I have met with state presidents in Europe several times online. We had beforehand had a few online meetings, but in the first wave of Covid-19 we met more often and discovered technology moving fast forward. We connected, inspired each other, were there for each other. We noticed that this way we got even closer. Meeting for an hour, with no travelling involved can sometimes be convenient.



All presentations will be available for up to 1 year from the event date. To view videos, election results and more click below:



The international Convention last summer was online, and we also held a European meeting in July online, where we included the Forum meeting. We recorded the session, and it is still available online. There we introduced the new Forum committee and the new Regional Director. During these



times it was important to make it possible to meet, to connect, to carry on in our society.

https://zoom.us/rec/share/amgT0RorRkqbvcgekAMKzfB6veuiciU1VE4wlsd1JndFgsuh72GoGNnMeYiDc0Qh.ZO-WMd7m_4y-XCXU?startTime=1597683607000
The Icelandic Soroptmist Union lent us the link and we are very grateful for that.

The five Regional Directors invited all state presidents in the Society to a virtual meeting where we gave them opportunity to connect and learn, from each other's experience. For us who participated it was a great experience.

“The world is round, and the place which may seem like the end may also be the beginning.” Ivy Baker Priest (1905-1975)

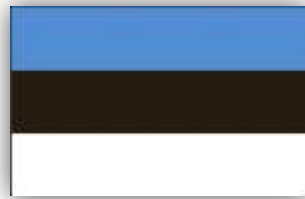
In this short but intense time we have learned how we can connect easily, not only within countries, but also between countries and other parts of the world. We can have visits, lectures, and make it come true what we always have wanted, to connect more. We now have the means, the technology. We see how easy it is to join in on meetings like this. It has changed our way of life and our way of communication. It has brought us closer together. But of course, we will be incredibly happy when we can meet in person again. Let us look forward to what the future brings.



Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir,

Europe RD 2018-2020

Estonia



DKG Estonia Annual Conference 2020

Estonian DKG organization held its annual conference on March 7, 2020 at Tallinn University of Technology (TUT) dedicated to the topic **“Teachers' Health and Safety”**.

The conference was traditionally opened with a musical greeting by Laura-Liisa Kiis from Tallinn Mustamäe High School, performing Teodor Nicolau's - Mississauga Suite op. 5, II part: Gioco capriccioso. It created the atmosphere of a forthcoming great day, full of new experience and shared information. There were three presentations, all meaningful for our practical activities at school.



The first presentation was made by professor Mare Teichmann from TUT, who talked about stress. There is a lot we can do ourselves to avoid stress at school and in our everyday activities. Interesting research data accompanied with good recommendations made us aware of “cultural vitamins” for avoiding burnout and of how to relax using different hobby activities and time spent with family and friends.

The second speaker was Jürgen Rakaselg from the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research, who talked about teachers' rights and responsibilities at schools in conflict situations. The topic has become most relevant considering ever-increasing expectations expressed by parents and learning environments that have greatly changed in recent years. There are more and more problems with students' capabilities to focus on learning, diminishing motivation and behavioural problems. Understandably, all teachers should be better informed about laws, decrees and other legal documents shaping our school life and responsibilities of all concerned.

The third presentation was about development of teachers' professional skills for offering more adequate support to students with special educational needs. Their number is constantly increasing, and therefore, teachers' observation and communication skills should be further developed. The main thing is to understand when specialist help must be called for.



After lunch there was a business meeting, where Jelena Rootamm-Valter discussed our financial operations, outgoing chapter presidents made reports about their annual activities.

ew chapter presidents and new DKG members were introduced and awards recognising good work of some individual members were handed over.



The president Katrin Mill summarised all the activities and information concerning the year of DKG Estonia in 2019 and offered some insights into future activities of 2020.

The conference contributed greatly to all participants' professional excellence. (However, global pandemic that struck Estonia as well, has made some corrections into our initial plans.)

Urve Läänemets

Alpha Chapter



DKG Estonian organization autumn event - walk in Paldiski

In 1718, Russian Tsar Peter I began to build a powerful sea fortress and a city, now called Paldiski. Throughout history, Paldiski has been an important military and commercial city. During the Soviet period, Paldiski was a strictly closed military zone. The port, originally named Rogerwiek, was renamed Baltiiski Port in 1762. In 1718, the foundation was laid with 5 bastions for Peetri Fortress (Muula hills), the moats which have been cut into limestone.



Almost the entire **Pakri peninsula** is bordered by the magnificent North Estonian Klint terrace, which is the highest (24 m) on Pakri Cape, where the klint descends directly into the sea. **Pakri lighthouse** is the highest in Estonia (52 m). Paldiski holds many important sightseeing destinations: Amandus Adamson museum, Paldiski Radonezh Vaga Sergi Church, Pakri bank and lighthouse.

Amandus Adamson, legendary Estonian sculptor and painter, bought a plot of land in Paldiski for the construction of a house and a summer studio in 1896. and immediately set up a studio building there. Amandus Adamson originally used the studio probably during the summer months as a modeling, painting and summer resort for smaller statues.





After World War II, the family used the summer studio as a residential building, as the house was burnt down by the military in 1944. In 2005, Amandus Adamson's daughter Maria Maddalena Carlsson donated the house to the Estonian state and it became a branch of the Harju County Museum - the Amandus Adamson Studio Museum.

The construction of the **Paldiski Radonezh Vaga Sergi Church** was financed by the Boris Chaplegg Memorial Fund. The opening and consecration of the church took place on June 13, 2015. There is a baptistery next to the altar on the lower floor of the church, where the baptized person is completely immersed in water. The church building, built on the basis of V. Šadrin's project, corresponds to the canons of wooden church architecture.

Event was organised by DKG Estonia Alpha chapter



Katri Mettis,

Chapter President of Delta chapter, Estonia

