



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™

EUFORIA

Edition 59, Fall 2022

Dear friends, here is EUFORIA, the fall edition 2022. In this Issue you can read about committee works and various activities of the participating countries. Thanks to all the members who contributed to this issue with their interesting articles. Also many thanks to Evelyn Goodsell (GB) for her proof reading of the articles, she has been a great help. Enjoy reading!

Helga Thorlacius, Iceland

Europe

Letter from your Regional Director

In August 2022 I started as the new Europe Regional Director 2022-2024. I am very honored to have been asked for this position.

For everyone who doesn't know me:

I am Marie-Antoinette Hubers de Wolf and I am 66 years old. Before I became a teacher in 1993, I was a creative therapist and a nurse in a hospital and later in a nursing home for people with Dementia. After 29 years of teaching nursing to young and adult people, I

retired on September first from this year. I got a lot of hobbies, gardening in my vegetable and fruit garden, knitting, crochet, sewing, eco printing, cooking and traveling.



Working with the state organizations from Europe is exiting. I will meet the State Organization Presidents every six weeks.

The most important goal for this biennium is to encourage the members of Europe to connect, learn from each other, share good ideas and meet in person or on Zoom. This is hopefully the key to more members.

In order to realize this connection, the European Forum started the idea of sharing educational topics in 2021. Each country was instructed to hold a seminar or discussion on an educational topic through a ZOOM meeting. We will continue these educational topics in this biennium. The recorded topics from last year are still on the European website and are available for everyone and English spoken. This opportunity brought members closer together. The first one will be on in January 2023 and will be organized by Germany.

This year we will again hold a joint Christmas celebration on Lucia Day (December 13). During this gathering all countries share their traditions around Christmas with songs, recipes, costumes and much more.

There is still the exchange program that Daniela von Essen developed in 2016-2020.

Moving forward with Vitality, Relevance and Sustainability in our Changing World is the theme of the three International Conferences. Yes, our world is changing. The war in Ukraine turned the world upside down. In Europe we have a lot of refugees, especially women and children. First, they needed a safe home and after that, education and work. In many countries in Europe special classrooms have been set up for this group. Ukrainian teachers were asked to continue teaching in person or online so that all children still could follow lessons: both in Ukraine and in other European countries.

The Steering Committee had their first meeting in Tampere. We visited the Tampere Hall and the conference hotel. Arrangements are being made and hard work is now on its way to make the International Conference in 2023 a great success.

The conference will give participants the opportunity to meet, learn and promote diversity in our society. Moreover, we will also have a lot of fun. Tampere is now the most popular city of Finland. I hope you will consider coming July 26th-29th, 2023.

If you want to ask me a question, please do so. You can send it to your State Organization President or directly to me: mac.dewolf@gmail.com

Warm regards
Marie-Antoinette Hubers de Wolf
ERD

The Netherlands



Dear members of DKG Europe.

This year we have enjoyed the physical meetings.

Meetings when you see your members in person and allowing to hug and kiss each other, comforting each other if needed., have joy, or sing together or what is necessary for that moment. Nothing is better than having real social contact in person.

Besides the meetings we are thinking in DKG Nederland about the future and how to increase new members and enjoy meaningful meetings. “What’s in for them” is a quote I learned on the Ignite training.

I want to tell you a little bit of my experience this summer on the IGNITE 2022 Training Ignite; Leaders empowering leaders!!



In January 2020 I heard from headquarters I was selected for the Ignite training. It took until June 2022 that I was able to go to Austin. I was very excited to make this trip after being elected two years before.



In Austin we were staying in the dorms of the students of Austin. I shared the room with Anita of Iceland. I felt a student again staying and eating in the same places as the students.

The Ignite training was for one week from 8.30 am until 9 pm. Long but very interesting days.

We've got the lessons in the business school Mc Combs and were lectured by the best professors.

The items were:

Leading organizational change; Influencer Marketing; Memorable Leaders Advocacy; Leadership and Zoom;

Myers-Briggs Typing indicator and how to work together; Negotiation; Self care and nutrition

Conflict management; Listening, learning and leading ; Pitching and leading into the future

We've got to know the other students because we ate together our breakfast, lunch and diner in the restaurant of the university of Texas.

On Saturday evening we've got our certificate from the university and we enjoyed this with meals and dancing.

They've said before it would be a life changing event and it is.

I want to thank DKG very much for this opportunity.

I learned so much about leadership and also about DKG international.

I hope I can put everything I've learned into practice for DKG.

I end by saying I wish every member could take this opportunity to develop yourself for life and DKG.

I'm the only Ignite sister, because in New Orleans Convention they decided to name in Golden Gift again.

Don't hesitate to ask me questions about my experience.

I hope to see many members on our European Christmas meeting on the 13th of december.



Stay safe

Warm greetings

Jeannine de Jong



A shortage of teachers



During the last Europe Forum Committee meeting via Zoom we discussed which topics might be interesting for our membership.

I would like to share something that is of concern to us in the Netherlands. We have a shortage of teachers. For example, at the elementary school where I teach, we don't have a teacher for every day for each of our classes. So other teachers work extra hours and sometimes a class is sent home. For the principal every day is a struggle to have a teacher for each class.

We also have teachers teach a class with no diploma yet. They are still learning. Many of them experience a lot of stress and end their career at an early stage. That's a pity.

Also, at the higher education level there is a shortage of teachers. Children have no English or Math lessons for several weeks for example.

Do you have the same problem in your countries?

Are there solutions to solve this problem? In the Netherlands the teachers at the elementary school will now earn more money. Still, I think this is not enough to solve the problem.

I am looking forward to receiving any comment.

Carola van Zanen-van Rijn.

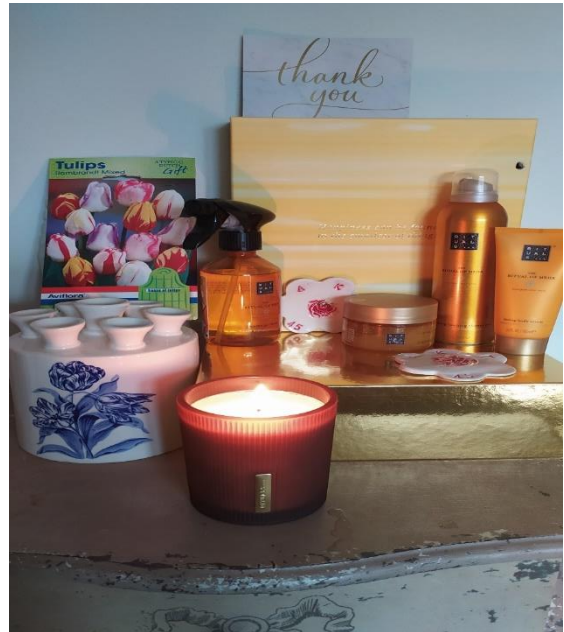
(c.vanzanen@icloud.com)



Visit to Margarita Hanschmidt in Tallin

When I was in Helsinki to meet the Steering Committee in Tampere, Eija Liisa Sokka-Meaney and I visited Margarita Hanschmidt in Tallin. The Finnish Steering Committee, the Dutch members and the European Forum wanted to thank her for all the work she did during her biennium as Europe Regional Director.

From the Netherlands she got the memorial porcelain layers with the rose (made by Ank Jansonius) and the tulip vase with tulip bulbs. Margarita sent us a happy birthday video during our State Convention, we celebrated our 45th anniversary. She was not able to come in person. The European Forum thanked her with a Rituals set including items for body and spirit, for all the hard work, setting up the ZOOM meetings and expressing the European opinion during the Administrative Board Meetings.



We were very excited that she was doing better. We had a great lunch and hopefully we can meet in Tampere in 2023.

Marie-Antoinette Hubers de Wolf

Europe Regional Director

Finland



Greetings from Finland – Getting prepared for the 2023 conference

We are busy arranging the **DKG Tampere International Conference for 26-29 July 2023**. The theme is *Moving forward with vitality, relevance and sustainability in our changing world!*



Opportunities, Contributions, Impact – Debbie LeBlanc, DKG President, has her motto in the title, and covers well the ideas about the program, and gives guidelines.

Like we all know the conference was postponed from 2021 because of the pandemic. The steering committee has met face-to-face in Tampere in September, when Marie-Antoinette Hubers de Wolf came to Finland to work with us. Digital possibilities offer good opportunities for us do planning online, which is practical. We already had many plans and ideas earlier, because the planning was going on though the situation was uncertain in 2021. The modern technology has and will help us a lot.

The premises at Tampere Hall are very nice, comfortable, and visually attractive. The program will include keynote speeches by experts and workshops will have many opportunities to interact, talk and find new ideas. You can also offer a workshop later this year/early 2023, if you wish to offer a workshop.

You also have a possibility to make a visit to the Moomin Museum for a special price. Sorsapuisto Park offers a nice place to take photos in front of the Moomin statue.

Photo: Virpi Matala

Tampere has a lot of interesting places to visit during your stay, so perhaps it's worth coming a day early or staying a day later. Tampere is a busy conference city, and therefore it is suggested that you reserve your accommodation i.e., hotel, hostel etc. early. The link to the conference hotel Courtyard Marriott will come soon.



The conference website is under construction and more updated information will come gradually.



Photo: Visit Tampere, Laura Vanzo



Finnish members are involved in the preparation activities and later there will be an email asking for volunteers to help during the conference.

Welcome to Finland in summer 2023

Eija Liisa Sokka-Meaney

DKG Finland State Organization President 2021-2023

<http://www.deltakappagamma.org/finland/>

Dear DKG members!

Tere tulemast!

Tervetuloa! Willkommen!

Welcome! Velkomnar!

Welkommen! Välkommen! Welkom!

On Tuesday the 13th of December 2022,

in the evening, come and join the common

European Christmas, Seasonal, Holiday greetings online

at 8 p.m. in Finland and Estonia,

at 7 p.m., Sweden, Norway, Germany, and the Netherlands

and at 6 p.m. Great Britain, and Iceland.

FI EE SE NO DE NL GB IS

DKG European Forum is arranging a common Christmas party for all European members and internationally. This is the second time Lucia evening or Christmas party is organized. The link will be sent closer to the event. Please share the invitation. Join the party in your home or with your friends. Enjoy it!

Eija Liisa Sokka-Meaney

DKG Finland State Organization President 2021-2023

Norway



Greetings from Epsilon chapter, Norway.

Challenges we are facing, and how we are working to deal with them



Challenges:

1. How to bring new members into the organisation
2. How to promote the organisation
3. How to create a website where you can find relevant information

Epsilon chapter, located in Kristiansand in southern Norway, was founded 1990. For the first two decades it was a lively chapter with many devoted members. But slowly, over the years, the number of members declined, for many reasons, but also from old age and death.

About 10 years ago, we understood that something had to be done, more than just inviting friends to join the meetings. An ad hoc group was formed specific to work for recruiting new members. They made a good job and had some success, but not enough, and the tendency to decrease continued.

Then, at one point, when all the active members were retired from work, we understood that if not something radical changed, Epsilon would within few years cease to exist.

Once more, two members from the former ad hoc group started to work. They invited teachers from the local university and high schools to a coffee- and information meeting, and also an invitation to join a chapter meeting. Seven teachers came, and we were very optimistic.

We planned for another meeting, sent out the invitation, and then the pandemic came.

This felt as a blow to us, and we were very disappointed at the time. When the society slowly opened up again, almost two years had passed, and many changes had occurred. But we are, nevertheless, grateful, for after all, three of the seven potential members are now inaugurated, and are willing to serve.

We are still facing the same challenges and continue to work on it.

In this process we became aware of one important aspect, the importance of having a good and informative website. Young people today use the social media in a different way than the older generation, and we got a clear message from them that our website was not good enough when they wanted to learn more about us.

Another ad hoc group were formed, this time to create an up-to-date website.

We decided to get some external help to do the technical work on the website, and got some advice to contact the IB line (International Baccalaureate) at Kristiansand Katedralskole, where students were supposed to do some practical work during their studies. We were lucky to get free help from this school and their students.

This arrangement has now existed for nearly three years. Two members from Epsilon are administrating all material coming from all the Norwegian chapters, and attend the meetings with the students, normally once a month. There it is decided where the new material should be placed, what needs to be moved or removed, etc.

This arrangement has been a “win-win” for both parts. The students fulfil their syllabus and get a small monetary gift from DKG Norway, and we get a website up to date.

We wish all our European DKG-sisters good luck with your work!

Astrid H. Bie Skaaland

Great Britain



Great Britain

We have been living in very strange times recently. Although we in GB have enjoyed some really super talks, thanks to our brilliant planning committee, we have not been able to resume our usual Chapter meetings. Schools, where we have met regularly before the Pandemic raised its ugly head, have proved to be reluctant to let us back in again.

The Zoom meetings have been very enjoyable, and some say they have been better, as it saves members travelling great distances, and it also enables those who would not be able to be present, to participate-especially our European Sisters and even some who live in the USA. But, sadly, as a consequence of that we have not been reaching out into a wider area and growing our membership. This we must do if we are to survive. We, in Great Britain have, in the past three years, have lost three of our long-standing, highly respected members and we have a big hole to fill.

So, enough of this rather gloomy report, let us not let them down but adopt a more positive approach to finding a venue where we can meet 'face to face' once again and can welcome new members to share in the advantages, and opportunities, of this Society.

In the meantime, we will continue to enjoy our Zoom meetings and be thankful that we have a 'planning committee' willing to arrange them.

Evelyn Goodsell

Great Britain.



Retirement Rebel – we meet Siobhan Daniels



The phrase ‘life journey’ is familiar but Siobhan Daniels, former BBC reporter, presenter and producer did it literally. Approaching retirement, after various tough challenges and job frustrations, she decided to turn her life around, sell up and live in a motorhome called Dora the Explora.

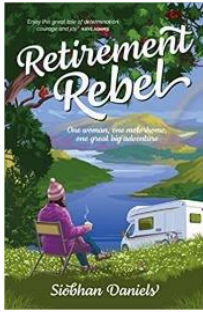
DKG GB, along with our European friends, were delighted to hear about Siobhan’s new book ‘Retirement Rebel’. It tells her story of determination and pluck – she even ran the London Marathon and took on the demanding Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge.

Her message of coming out of your comfort zone to take on new challenges touched us all. “She was fascinating and inspirational,” said one of our members. The talk was accompanied by pictures of her adventures, including one at Glastonbury rock festival, when she and friends dressed as sparkling ‘Menopausal Mermaids.’

Siobhan talked from the heart about her life lessons learnt, the importance of facing fears and the need for positive ageing. “When you age, you do not beige” she stated, saying that retirement should be replaced by “*refirement.*”



We felt uplifted seeing Siobhan’s pictures of her motorhome Dora in serene vistas in the Outer Hebrides and experienced some of the joy she felt, totally free, witnessing the beautiful Northern Lights.



Siobhan's book 'Retirement Rebel' can be ordered on Amazon <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Retirement-Rebel-Siobhan-Daniels/dp/183981179X> and her website is www.shuvonshuvoff.co.uk

Annie Goldstein, Gamma Chapter prresident,
Great Britain

Germany



International Membership and Expansion Committee



At the Convention in New Orleans the duty of the former Expansion Committee – expanding into a new country- was fully assigned to the Administrative Board. Membership and expansion within the Society are closely related. So, the new International Membership and Expansion Committee deals with expansion within the states and of course with membership in DKG.

I'm the European representative on this committee for the biennium 2022-2024. Communication with the membership chairs or the state organization presidents is our mutual and personal concern. The committee met in Austin in mid-September and discussed a variety of topics related to membership with view to the Strategic Action Plan. Main objectives for the committee are:

- Communicate the value of membership
- Promote diversity in membership
- Identify and address barriers within the Society's culture
- Identify and minimize barriers within the Society's structure.

Committees as well as Headquarter staff and the Administrative Board have SMART goals. These must be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound. When the committee members have developed and updated their SMART goals, I'll share them with the European state organizations. The International President mentioned that DKG is considering hiring a consultant to look at membership and data and make recommendations. We will inform all members about this project.

For this biennium the committee will communicate information about the value of membership in DKG by various actions:

- Blogs
- DKG publications (Collegial Exchange, DKG News)
- Flyers/Brochures for international conferences
- International social media outlets

In addition, we offer a 3month new member Zoom. So let me know when new members have joined your chapters or when you plan to charter a new chapter (there are step-by-step instructions available). I'm happy to deal with any other questions as well. Please follow our actions.

Gitta Franke-Zöllmer

g.franke.zoellmer.vbe-nds@web.de



The Europe Forum Committee



Browsing the world wide web I happened to come across a statement about Euforia.

There Euforia stands for idealism, creativity, passion, flexibility, diversity, integrity....even spicyness, joie de vivre and wholebeing are mentioned, and I thought, whow, this is what we in DKG try to pursue and achieve with our many endeavours! I am sure this new edition of our European DKG newsletter showcases again these attributes!

As for the work of the Europe Forum Committee it can be said that we are ready to roll up our sleeves working for those good things to happen.

In representation of Ewa Johansson Gudrun Edda Bentsdottir from Iceland had done a great job putting together the invitation and agenda for the forum meeting at the international convention in New Orleans. It felt so good to be able to experience fellowship and friendship once again in person after the restrictions the pandemic had imposed on us.

The members of the Europe Forum Committee 2022-2024 were announced in New Orleans:

Astrid Bie Skaaland from Norway (ahskaaland@hotmail.com)

Helga Skeidsvoll from Sweden (helga.skeidsvoll@gmail.com)

Pia Nyman from Finland (Pia.Nyman@tampere.fi)

Anita Jónsdóttir from Iceland (anita.jonsdottir@outlook.com)

Carola van Zanen van Rijn from The Netherlands (c.vanzanen@icloud.com)

Evelyn Goodsell from Great Britain (eve.goodsell@gmail.com)

Reeli Tänasuu from Estonia (reeli28@gmail.com)

Marika Heimbach from Germany (mariakath49@gmx.de), chair

Marie Antoinette Hubers de Wolf (mac.dewolf@gmail.com), ERD, ex-officio

Please contact us, we would like to collaborate with the members in Europe be it a topic which needs attention, a question you have, any suggestion will be welcome.

Also the committee wishes to express the hope that connections with chapters will be going on. There have been exchanges in the past, and participants reported enthusiastically about the meetings.

One of the things the pandemic taught us is the good use of the new technologies, so the committee decided to go on with regular Zoom meetings.

Under the auspices of the DKG Communication and Marketing Committee a very special meeting was arranged before Christmas last year. It was a successful event, and the forum committee decided to take over this effort. We are grateful that Eija-Liisa Sokka-Meaney and Pia Nyman agreed to care for the invitation.

During this biennium the presentations of the member states on topics of interest will go on. Germany is the first one this biennium to arrange the meeting. The announcement is to be found in this edition of Euforia.

The Editorial Board had been working on the History of the Europe Region, and we gladly announce that it is finished. Our webmaster Eyglo Björnsdóttir works unceasingly on updating.

Ank Janssonius from Amsterdam has been the first „Artist of the Month“, and Jaana Tanskanen from Finland is our next one! Please visit the EU website and look at her marvellous works.

We would like to encourage you all to send photos , reports, whatever might be of interest to members and guests to Eygló at eyglob@gmail.com

The best to you all!

Marika Heimbach
EU Forum Committee, chair



Marion Blumenthal Lazan

When writing this, on November 9, 2022, the November program of 1938, the Reichs Kristallnacht, is remembered in Germany and throughout the world, it is the International Day Against Facism and Antisemitism.

There are still women and men among us who bear witness to the unspeakable, terrible events of the years when the Nazi regime reigned Germany.



As one of them **Marion Blumenthal Lazan** incessantly advocates for tolerance and respect when she addresses her audience of students and adults all over the USA and in Europe while speaking of her family's odyssey during the years of 1939 to 1948.

Four Perfect Pebbles is the award winning memoir in which Marion recalls her childhood spent in concentration camps. It is a story of horror and hardship, but also of courage and the will to survive.

Marion Blumenthal Lazan is an honorary member of our Society.

The DKG members of Germany are honoured to present a virtual visit with Marion and her Holocaust story, it is a message of perseverance, determination, faith and hope.

The presentation will take place January 27, 2023, at 5pm CET.

In order that more people can participate Victor Trisnadi from Headquarters in Austin will organize the meeting via webinar. The link will be sent in a timely manner.



A Visit to Hoya - Marions story

Marion's story begins in Hoya, a small town at the river Weser in Northwest Germany.

She was born Marion Blumenthal in 1934. Her family owned a successful store, and had been well respected which radically changed after the Nazis had announced the boycott against businesses owned by people of Jewish belief. This led to her family leaving Hoya. After the Kristallnacht the Blumenthals decided to emigrate but they were taken by the Gestapo and.....



In Hoya, in the 1970ies, young Heike Huth and her husband decided to inquire about the fate of the Jewish families who had been citizens of Hoya. They found out about Marion and her family living in the USA, decided to get in contact, and a deep friendship developed.

After attending the state conference in Connecticut in 2019 I learned more about Marion, our Honorary member, and having talked to her several times I decided to pay a visit to Hoya.

This became possible on November 15, 2022. Heike Huth and Frauke Giese-Claus from the Marion Blumenthal Lazan Oberschule agreed to meet me.

Because I was a bit early I strolled down the street and some old photographs caught my eye, displayed in a shop window.

Sure or not I recognized the Blumenthals. The window belongs to the small lovingly designed museum reminiscent of the Jewish families of Hoya.





During the few hours of my visit I learned a lot about the past. It is amazing what great things Heike her husband and her colleagues have achieved. Heike showed me around Hoya: Marion's family home and store, the Stolpersteine, we even visited the family's grave at the Jewish cemetery which sadly had suffered from senseless destroying but the stones are there.



Again I have to put emphasize on the fact that I am most grateful for the opportunities I have had ever since I was introduced to our Society. Without being a member I would not have met so many extraordinary people, especially women!

Now we are looking forward to Marion's virtual presentation on January 27, 2023. In hope to see you there,

Marika Heimbach
Germany

Iceland



The Sayings of the Vikings - Hávamál

Words for reflecting



Hávamál, in English the Sayings of the Vikings, is an old Icelandic poem believed to have been composed in Norway before the settlement of Iceland in the 9th century as it was known to the Norwegians at that time. The poem deals with the Vikings' philosophy of life and values and can be described as the wisdom of the north compared to the wisdom of the east described in the book of Tao, The Way. The poem is heathen as

there are no Christian values to be found in it. However, the attitude of speakers of the poem Hávamál, who could be more than one as the poem is that old, towards happiness in life, successful life and towards the concept of death is interesting as it is from a pagan point of view and despite that resonates well with the ideas of modern man about same values.

According to Hávamál, the happiness of life lies in living a carefree life and man should be happy and cheerful until he dies and keep away from worrying. People should refrain from lying awake at night worrying about tomorrow because despite doing so nothing will have changed in the morning. The problems that cause the anxiety in the first place do not vanish by building up anxiety around them or by man keeping himself awake overnight worrying about them because neither the anxiety nor the problem will be solved in the morning, anyway. Modern man could quite well adopt this, but it is remarkable how in 2022 many people suffer from anxiety, both children and adults. It as if modern times have robbed us of a carefree, happy and cheerful living, the real happiness of life.

The speakers of Hávamál say that a successful life consists of every man being independent and his own master being able to support himself with all his basic needs of living. It's important for every man to have a roof over his head, even if it's not a few hundred meters villa palace. It's good to have a car, but it doesn't have to be the latest Tesla. The main thing for man is to be able to get between destinations without too much trouble. Neither is it a necessity to wear the latest and most expensive designer products of the year to be happy and enjoy life to its fullest. The most important thing for man is to have clothes to cover himself and keep him warm. According to this, modern man of 2022 should think more about the fact that it is okay to reuse clothes and trade them on a thrift market. You can also avoid always buying the latest and most expensive type of phones or other technical devices. It is also perfectly fine to buy things at all kinds of utility markets like The Red Cross for instance. Living in a simple home condition is also fulfilling if you can thereby be independent. Modern man is facing the great threats of climate issues, wars and world economics so he really must rethink his way of living when it comes to simple things as needs of basic living.

The poem Hávamál reflects the pagan view of there is no life after death. The only thing man leaves behind when dead is the reputation he has earned. It is also said that it is necessary for every man to have descendants to be remembered and to build a tombstone or monument for him to be remembered. Ideas about life after death are nowhere to be found there, as in Christianity, which is why the poem is universal. There is no hope given for the eternal life of the soul after death. It is quite poignant because when you look at Christianity, there is hope. In this way of looking at life and death there is no hope. Hope, however, is what man need at all times.

Viewing this, it can be said that ideas on the value of life in Hávamál is still valid today. Man often seems to go in circles in his values. In 2022, people tend to be willing to simplify their lives. It is not particularly desirable to live in large, detached houses with large gardens, therefore people look for smaller ones. The concept of renewal and recycling has gained wings and recycling centers and reuse centers are now to be found and a big part of dealing with climate issues. Man has become more aware of his environment and the importance of simplifying his life. He is beginning to realize that happiness does not lie in having but in being, and therefore Hávamál is in full force today. Ideas on afterlife differ, even among those who consider themselves Christians, but most people honor the memory of their loved ones. I have only ruminated on three stanzas in the poem under the theme of happiness, worthy life and death, only three themes

of many. The conclusion is: Live well, happy and cheerful without worries, keep your life simple, and make your life worth remembering because that is all you have got as that will be your memory, your legacy, when you are gone.

Þorgerður Ásdís Jóhannsdóttir,

Nu Chapter, Iceland



The European Highlights of the International Convention in New Orleans on July 12 – 16, 2022

As a State Organization President of Iceland this biennium I attended the DKG International Convention in New Orleans on July 12 to 16, 2022. I want to thank DKG for this opportunity to take part in this magnificent convention in which „only“ 900 members of DKG participated.



One of two keynote speakers was Ingvi Hrannar Omarsson, educator and entrepreneur from Iceland, who earned huge applause for his input and we, the Icelandic participants were proud to get our picture taken with.

Two events were specially organized for the European participants which helped to strengthen the ties and bring us closer together.

The *Europe Regional Breakfast* was held in the Sheraton Hotel in which the convention took place on Fri. July 15 at 7:00 to 8:30.



All the seventeen European participants at the conference were present. Marika Heimbach directed the event in the absence of the outgoing Europe Regional Director, Margarita Hanschmidt, with the assistance of Marie-Antoinette de Wolf, Astrid Bie Skaaland and Evelyn Goodsell, all members of the European Forum Committee. After a delicious breakfast

of *Pain Perdu* plated New Orleans style, Gunnila Norden told us about the work of the *DKG Educators Book Award Committee*. All participants provided packages for a raffle with Scandinavian gifts. The sum collected amounted to 200\$ which was donated to the DKG Emergency Fund.

The European Regional meeting at the convention was held on Sat. July 16. at 14:00 – 16:00. I was given the honour of directing the meeting since Ewa Johansson, the outgoing chairwoman of the European Forum Committee (EFC), was unable to attend the convention. The current European Forum Committee had met on Zoom about five times during the winter months and managed to meet once in-person in Amsterdam on April 29 to May 1 which was a great pleasure to all of us who were able to attend.

At the meeting in New Orleans, we reviewed a summary of the activities in the past biennium. Following goals for the Forum were set in the beginning and these were the topics of most of our agendas and discussions on how to put these into action:

- Strengthen members to take leading positions in DKG
- Unite the European members, and celebrate their diversity
- Develop new digital forms for meetings between members within DKG Europe
- Give opportunities to discuss issues of educational importance
- Find ways to accomplish these goals and turn them into action
- Strengthen the links between the European Forum and the European Regional Director

Our chairwoman, Ewa Johansson, had brought up the idea of *the DKG Europe Education Series* since we had to postpone the regional conference in Finland in 2021 due to the pandemic. Each country prepared a presentation on a topic that took place on Zoom once a month. These interesting presentations did

strengthen the ties between the European members who attended the Zoom sessions and celebrated the diversity of our members, but many participants wished to have more time for discussions and the result was to propose to divide the presentations between two years. Most presentations are available on The [EF website](#).

Marie-Antoinette de Wolf, outgoing treasurer of EFC, presented the financial report for the biennium. In addition to traditional matters the EFC decided to make a reservation of €400,00 to help educate Ukraine refugee students, preferably located in Poland or Estonia.

At the end of the meeting the next Europe Forum Committee was presented that will consist of Marika Heimbach from Germany – chairman, Reeli Tänavsuu from Estonia, Pia Nyman from Finland, Ewa Johansson from Sweden, Evelyn Goodsell from UK, Astrid H. Bie Skaaland from Norway (additional 1 yr. then Helga Skeidsvoll), Carola van Rijn from the Netherlands and Aníta Jónsdóttir from Iceland.

Becky Sadowski, the outgoing International President of DKG, attended most of our meeting and complimented our small group on the enthusiasm and driving force that was evident among the European participants. We were utmost grateful for her compliments and support.



The European participants at the International Convention in New Orleans

Gudrun E. Bentsdóttir, SOP of Iceland 2021-2023

