



## Minutes of the European Forum Committee meeting 2014

### held in Paterswolde, The Netherlands

November 7-9, 2014

#### **Present:**

Estonia – Lilia Oberg

Finland – Heli Piikkilä (Treasurer)

Germany – Dagmar Ullmann

Great Britain – Barbara Kern (representing Diana Bell who could not attend the meeting)

Iceland – Kristrún Ísaksdóttir

Norway – Ingrid Christiansen

Marianne Skardeus – European Regional Director – ex officio

#### Apologies:

Sweden – Ingrid Stjernquist who could not attend the meeting.

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### **Friday November 7, 2014 – Session 1**

The meeting started at 19:00

#### **1. Welcome and opening of the meeting**

Riet opened the meeting and welcomed all those present to the meeting and to her home where the meeting was held. She introduced the agenda, which was organised in three sessions. Riet suggested two members taking the minutes of each section.

Dagmar presented words of inspiration by the German poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe who emphasised the motif of education and the challenge to inspire other persons to achieve their potential in life.

#### **2. Introduction of the Committee members 2014-2016**

Eachone introduced herself briefly. It became clear that within the group there is a great diversity in educational and professional background of the members besides the experience from work within the DKG society nationally and internationally. There is an expertise in the field of education in the broadest sense: teaching, guiding/counselling, administration, management, planning and organisation of general and special education at different stages of the educational systems as well as of art education, vocational education and training and adult education or lifelong learning in general. This „fund“ of collective knowledge and experience was seen as promising value for the cooperation of the committee members for the next biennium.

#### **3. DKG purposes and Forum goals**

Riet reminded us of the DKG purposes and read through the Forum goals. It was accepted to keep on with the three existing goals but decided to add a fourth goal to the list: *To support and collaborate with the Regional Director of Europe.*

#### **4. Minutes from EF meeting in Indianapolis**

The minutes from Indianapolis were accepted.

It was decided to take forward the comments, expectations and recommendations found in the minutes in connection with the appropriate points in the agenda of the Forum meeting.

#### **5. Expectations for the meeting**

To be a good group, to develop a friendly, relaxed atmosphere with the sense of collective responsibility for the Forum tasks for the next biennium. To come through the agenda in time and find common solutions that everyone can accept, preferably without formal voting.

## **6. Europe Forum today**

The most important thing in our work for this biennium must be to concentrate on what can help to unite members of Delta Kappa Gamma in Europe and emphasise the European dimension in our work. We all deeply miss Denmark as a member state. At the same time as we want new members and member countries, we have to celebrate the existing membership. It's important to support every attempt to make the work at both national and European level desirable for both the existing and coming members, apart from nationality, age and position in the working life and society as such.

What can the EF committee do? Among the *solutions* and tasks mentioned:

- To work for increased visibility of DKG in Europe. To analyse our utilisation of existing media and make efforts to use them more efficiently.
- To make efforts to add milestones to the history of DKG in Europe by mapping the development and contemporary situation nationally and at European level.
- To think and act „outside the box“. To work for extended diversity both in membership and choice of content and methods of DKG projects and DKG work in general to meet the expectations of ALL our members and to attract new members.
- To encourage chapters to find a „sister chapter“ in another country to work with for a certain period of time.

Conclusion of the first session: There were important opening thoughts about new ways of working.

The meeting closed at 21.20 h.

## **Saturday November 8, 2014 – Session 2**

The meeting started at 8.30

## **7. Europe Forum Operational Guidelines**

The forum went through the guidelines. Some minor changes have been made.

### **II. Goals**

Amendment. An extra goal suggested by Heli:

We are collaborating with, and supporting our Regional Director.

### **III. Membership**

Denmark is taken out.

### **IV. Finances**

b) as follows: The European Forum budget of 3000 U.S.D. annually is allocated to the available fund.

Riet emphasized: “A European Forum member should get refunded from her state what she doesn't get from the Forum for her travel.”

e) The last sentence was deleted: There should not be any money left over at the end of the biennium.

### **V. Organizational matters**

d) This item was stressed: “Each committee representative is accountable to and reports to their state organization”.

f) Ebba Gamstedt from Sweden was suggested to support the Forum webmaster. She is now the Swedish webmaster.

g) Alteration: The agenda of the general European Forum meetings should be distributed electronically on the website.

### **VI. Officers**

Riet will find out if the rules say that an ex-officio member is allowed to vote.

### **VII. Areas of Activity**

d) European Achievement Award form.

Barbara and Dagmar shall look at the way the form is made out before the next committee meeting.

g) **Travel costs for the European Director**

Correction as follows: All eight countries

Ingrid Stjernquist has written a suggestion how the rules may be in the future. Marianne will mail this to the members.

Proposal from Riet: Is it possible that the Regional Director could get travel costs from DKG in Austin? Riet will mail this proposal to the committee members.

**8. Financial Affairs**

**Regional Director's Expenses**

Travel costs for the Regional Director, biennium 2012 – 2014.

The last expenses for the 40 years Jubilee in Sweden in October 2014 will be paid to her as a special occasion. The rest, 216 euros, will be available for the new Regional Director.

Proposal: The Regional Director has to use the amount for travel costs within the biennium.

This proposal will be put forward at the EF meeting at the next European Regional Conference.

**Meeting budget**

The balance brought forward July 1, 2014, was corrected to 216 euros.

(The budget was to be discussed in session 3.)

A Pre-Conference will be discussed later together with the costs.

Heli will take care of both the European Forum costs and the Regional Director's travel costs.

**9. European Achievement Award for 2015**

Proposals were put forward, and it was decided who should get the award. The recipient of the award will be announced at the European Regional Conference.

The European Forum will also honour the founders of DKG in Europe with a certificate and put their names on the website. Each state has to send the names of their founders to Riet.

We also decided to celebrate the 15th anniversary of EuForia and also give Joan Carroll credit for all her work during all these years.

**10. SAP for European Forum 2014-16/goals**

The following issues were discussed:

**B. Communication**

Website:

Eyglo has agreed to continue to be the webmaster of the European website 2014-2016. (dkgeurope.org). We thank her for that. At the meeting it was also decided to have a group around Eyglo – editing – in order to collect material and come up with suggestions. Ebba Gamstedt from Sweden was appointed to be a member of this group. Marianne Skardéus promised to contact Ebba for her approval.

50€ was agreed to be set aside in the budget to cover costs for the web. Until now the web has been sponsored by an enterprise but it is not clear if this is going to be continued.

Euforia:

Joan has very clearly pointed out that it is the responsibility of the state presidents to see to that EuForia will be sent as a papercopy to those members who are not wired into space.

**C. Membership**

Amendment:

III. Collect all ideas which have been used to get more members and analyze the result. Which ways have been working?

**D. Finance**

1. II. Collection of 25 euros in even number of years for European Achievement Award and 1 euro per member for Regional Director every year.

End of session 2 – lunch

## **Saturday November 8, 2014 – Session 3**

The meeting started at 14.00

### **11. Planning the Forum Meeting 2015 in Borås**

- **Business meeting**
- **Lecture**

The theme for the Europe Forum in August 2015 in Borås was to be decided and the planning should then take a start. The theme was decided to be “Who wants to be a teacher?” To be covered from many perspectives!

### **12. Planning the Pre-Conference in 2015**

It was also decided that the Forum was not going to offer a pre-conference session as there is nothing in the Constitution and the Standing Rules that this is a must. The Forum decided that it would be better to put in the efforts in the Forum meeting and its theme itself.

### **13. Discussions and proposals for the future.**

The website will be the most important instrument to communicate.

#### **Actuality**

- The group will start to give information on the web about what is going on in the European States. (N B: No long articles). Marianne Skardéus agreed to help out as she will have to give information in the next issue of the NEWS (deadline Dec 1.) about what is happening in the Europe Region.
- She will also help to collect the dates for the state conventions 2015 to be put on the website.

#### **History**

- It could also be useful to have the history of the different European States on the website.

#### **Developments**

- The need of a news section on the web with the title “Good Examples” was discussed. Good examples could be “Schools for Africa”, “Special education” etc.
- Forum members will gather information about projects. Riet will send an e-mail to the states and ask for information. An interactive map for chapters and their projects was also suggested. As good examples were mentioned:
  - The project that drama teacher Marja Leena Halonen is running for seniors in her chapter in Finland.
  - National project on values at school in Norway.
  - Research about how students related to their teachers in Estonia.

#### **Celebrations**

We also decided to celebrate in **Borås** and honour:

- the Award winning member
- EuForia, the 15th anniversary

We’d also like to honour the founders, the first step must be to gather names, pictures and basic information about the foundation of DKG in each country and the European Region.

### **14. A DKG song**

We will gather what we have and discuss that later on.

End of session 3 at 17.30